



European Innovation Council Women Leadership Programme (EIC WLP)

Frequently Asked Questions

1. PROGRAMME

1.1. What type of support will I receive if I am selected to participate in the training?

The EIC WLP offers a skills enhancement programme comprising training events tailored to your needs; networking events to leverage on the EIC Community and expand your network; and a mentorship and a coaching scheme that will give you the necessary tools to solve specific challenges you are currently facing.

1.2. What skills will I obtain during the programme?

The programme will offer a catalogue of profile-based and tailored training sessions for participants to select from and to learn, for example, how to set up and grow a business, scout for and negotiate with partners, pitch in front of investors, etc. Specialised training sessions will be offered to women who are considering creating a business around their research and the ones who are already active in the entrepreneurial world. The skills will be further developed during the exchanges with personal mentors and coaches.



1.3. What will I gain during the mentorship and coaching programme?

Each participant will have the opportunity to work with mentors – experienced entrepreneurs, investors, innovators and senior managers who will share their extensive managerial experience and provide access to their diverse professional networks. Mentors will help participants define their career path, overcome the existing challenges and set the next steps.

Each participant will also work with a business coach, who will help researchers to discover innovation opportunities and provide insight in their entrepreneurship potential and companies' members to improve their business plans, implementation strategies and the market entry.

1.4. When and how will be the programme implemented?

The programme will be carried out between October 2021 and March 2022. Your participation in the EIC WLP will require around 10/12 working hours per month. The programme will be implemented in an online form, with a potential offline launching and awarding events, depending on applying COVID-19 restriction measures.

1.5. What are the obligations of the selected participants as regards to the participation in the programme?

The participation in the official launch of the programme and the awarding ceremony is mandatory. For all other events, we expect participants to participate in at least 75% of them.

The mandatory events are important steps that will mark your participation in the EIC Women Leadership Programme, so you should really strive to be present. If that isn't possible, please inform the organisation as soon as you can.

1.6. Do selected participants also receive funding?

No, no funding is associated to the participation in the programme.



2. APPLICATION PROCESS

2.1. What do I need for the application?

Besides simple personal and career-related questions, you have to elaborate on:

- your future aspirations as regards your professional career;
- the challenges you are currently facing on your professional path;
- motivation to participate in the Women Leadership Programme;
- expectations from the Women Leadership Programme.

You will also have to provide:

- the ID / acronym of the EIC project conducted by your company / research institution;
- your CV (max. 2 pages).

2.2. Only the members of EIC-funded projects under the EIC Pilot (2018-2020) and the fully fledged EIC (after 2020) are eligible, or also the members of projects funded under their legacy instruments under Horizon 2020?

Female members of EIC-supported projects under the following instruments are eligible:

- EIC Pathfinder (and its Horizon 2020 legacy instruments – FET Proactive and FET Open),
- EIC Transition (and its Horizon 2020 legacy instruments – FET Innovation Launchpad, Fast Track to Innovation, Transition to Innovation Activities (market) Pilot),
- EIC Accelerator (and its Horizon 2020 legacy instruments – SME Phase I and SME Phase II),
- EIC Seal of Excellence holders from the fully fledged EIC (Calls after March 2021).

2.3. To apply, I am required to provide the EIC project ID / acronym. Where do I obtain it?

The person who coordinated your company's or research institution's EIC project has the information on your EIC project ID / acronym. Please consult it with him or her.



2.4. I am employed by the EIC beneficiary but was not involved in the EIC-funded project. Can I still apply for the Women Leadership Programme?

No, during the application you have to explain your role in the EIC funded project, which is the precondition for your participation in the programme.

2.5. How many participants associated with the same EIC project can benefit from the programme?

The number of women participants associated with the same EIC project is not limited. However, each applicant will be evaluated on her own merit and not on the basis of the EIC project she has participated in.

2.6. Should the applicant be part of a team working on an ongoing EIC project or could the project be already finished?

The applicant can work both on an ongoing or a finished EIC project.

2.7. Who can I contact if I have a technical issue with my application?

Please use the "Contact Form" option on the side of the application tab to indicate us potential technical issues with your application.

2.8. What happens if I am no longer employed by the company which received EIC-funding – can I still apply to be part of the scheme?

The EIC Women Leadership Programme is dedicated to female members of EIC-funded companies and research institutions. You cannot apply for the programme if you are not anymore employed by an EIC beneficiary.

3. EVALUATION

3.1. How will you evaluate my application?

Your application will be evaluated based on your motivation, the expected impact of participation in the WLP programme on your future career path and your profile assessment.



3.2. Who will assess my application?

Your application will be assessed by a panel of external experts active in the community promoting women engagement in innovation and entrepreneurship. They all have hands-on experiences in leading their own businesses and mentoring prospective women entrepreneurs to grow their own businesses.

3.3. When will I receive the results of my application?

The results will be announced by the beginning of September. All applicants will be contacted by the organising team.

4. CONTACT

4.1. Who can I contact in case of further questions or comments?

In case of further questions, please contact joana.moreira@eura-ag.de, acting on behalf of the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA).