

Women TechEU

Frequently Asked Questions

1. APPLICATION

1.1 Who can apply for the Women TechEU?

Women TechEU targets early-stage deep tech start-ups founded, or co-founded, by women holding a top management position (CEO, CTO or equivalent) in the company at the time of submission. The company must be registered and established in an EU Member State or a Horizon Europe Associated Country for at least six months at the time of the submission.

1.2 What countries are associated to the Horizon Europe?

Association agreements are currently under negotiation with a number of third countries. Until these have been signed, the transitional arrangement set out in the General Annexes to the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2021-2022 is applicable with regard to the [following countries and legal entities established in these countries](#), with which association negotiations are being processed or where association is imminent.

Applicants established in Horizon 2020 associated countries or in other third countries negotiating association to Horizon Europe are treated as entities established in an associated country, provided that the Horizon Europe association agreement with the third country concerned applies at the time of the signature of the grant agreement.

1.3 My company is registered in the UK – can I apply for Women TechEU?

Yes. Until the UK's 'associated country' status enters into force, UK applicants are treated as if the UK were an associated country. However, grant agreements can only be signed once the association has formally entered into force. The same applies to all other associated countries currently negotiating the terms of their association.

In practice, this means that UK residents can apply for Women TechEU. However, the Commission cannot sign the grant agreement and issue the payment to a UK applicant until the process for the UK to become an associated country has been completed.

1.4 My company is not yet registered. Can I still apply for this call?

To apply, your company must have been officially registered and established at least six months before the submission deadline, so on or before 10 May 2021.

1.5 What do you mean by a start-up?

Under Horizon Europe, a 'start-up' should be understood as an SME in the early stage of its life cycle, including those that are created as spin-offs from university research activities, which aims to find innovative solutions and scalable business models, and which is autonomous within the meaning of Article 3 of the Annex to Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC(9).

1.6 What do you mean by an early-stage start-up?

Early-stage refers to the phase of start-up development generally preceding the rapid growth phase. On an indicative basis, for the purpose of the Women TechEU topic, we would consider - amongst others – the following criteria to define an early-stage start-up:

- start-ups that have been established and operating for not more than 6 years,
- start-ups that have raised limited funding (up to 1 million EUR),
- before reaching a high fidelity MVP (Minimum Viable Product).

1.7 What is understood by CEO, CTO or equivalent?

For the purpose of this call, we accept female founders holding a CEO, CTO, CFO or COO positions.

1.8 Could you please define requirements for female founders or co-founders?

If you are legally recognised as the founder or co-founder of the company in a Member State or Associated Country, you are eligible to apply for Women TechEU.

You should be able to provide proof of your status as founder or co-founder. Please upload this as an annex with your application form.

1.9 Does the founder of the company have to currently hold a top management position in the company?

In order to apply to Women TechEU, the founder of the company must also currently hold a top management position (CEO, CTO, CFO or COO) within that same company.

1.10 We are two female co-founders and we both hold top management positions in the company – can we apply jointly?

There can be only one application per company, however, two or more women co-founders can apply together. For administrative reasons you must nominate one person to be the 'lead applicant', representing your company towards the Commission.

In the application form please describe both of you, please submit CVs of both of you (and preferably also the rest of the team) and please record the video together.

1.11 What is your definition of a woman?

Women TechEU supports women in all their diversity. The word 'woman' equates to a cis woman, or a transgender woman who is legally defined as a woman.

1.12 What is understood by deep-tech?

Deep tech is technology that is based on cutting-edge scientific advances and discoveries and is characterised by the need to stay at the technological forefront by constant interaction with new ideas and results from the lab. Deep tech is distinct from 'high tech' which tends to refer only to Research & Development intensity.

Sectors, which are most fertile for deep-tech applications are life-science, computing, food and agri-tech, aerospace, energy and clean-tech, industrial technologies, telecom, new materials, chemistry. However deep-tech also includes, among other things, artificial intelligence, deep learning and machine learning.

We welcome applications from all deep tech fields of activity.

1.13 What documents should I provide to prove I am the founder or co-founder of the company?

We accept the company registration act, extracts from the national chambers of commerce, a capitalisation table.

1.14 What other documents must I submit?

You must submit the CV of the woman founder, 'Company ownership and capital structure' (capitalisation table) and an executive summary of your company's business plan. In addition, it is recommended to submit CVs of the core team, as well as 'Company financing history' specifying all the previous funding and equity history.

1.15 Must the video be professionally made?

No, we are not expecting high quality videos. These can be recorded on any device, even a phone camera. We want to find out more about you and your company.

1.16 In the application form, you mention questions to be addressed in the video. Should we answer all these questions in a total of three minutes?

The list of questions provided is a non-exhaustive list to help structure your pitch, but it is not mandatory to answer all of them comprehensively. The video should be a short teaser pitch, to introduce yourself and tell us why you are applying. You can develop your answers in the written part of the application.

Note: The video pitch cannot exceed three minutes. This is a strict condition to apply.

1.17 What language may I submit my application in?

Whilst the preferred language is English, you may submit your written application in any official EU language. The video message must be recorded in English.

1.18 I obtained previously an EU grant. Can I apply for the Women TechEU?

If you have previously benefitted from the EU funding, you can apply for Women TechEU. However, the application and any ensuing grant can cover only activities that are not / have not been funded by other EU grants.

2. EVALUATION

2.1 Who will assess my application?

Your application will be assessed by a group of external and independent evaluators with an entrepreneurial, investment or innovation background.

2.2 When will I receive the results of my application?

The results of the Women TechEU call will be communicated in early 2022.

3. PROGRAMME

3.1 What activities can we fund with the EU grant of EUR 75 000?

You are free to decide and indicate which activities needed to grow-up your business you see as the most appropriate for the development and sustainability of your company, taking into account your particular needs and requirements. You can spend this grant on e.g. business model upgrade, update and consolidation of business plan and growth strategy, business model validation, update of financial plan, certifications, IP strategy and freedom to operate, commercial plan, market analysis, customer validation and technical/clinical assessment, finding partners and investors etc.

3.2 Are the grants awarded to the woman-founder or to the company?

Grants will be awarded to the companies.

3.3 What type of support will I receive through the Women Leadership Programme (WLP)?

The Women Leadership Programme (WLP) provided by the EIC Business Acceleration Services 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 and negotiate with partners, pitch in front of investors etc. The skills will be further developed during the exchanges with personal mentors and coaches. Each participant will have the opportunity to work with mentors – experienced entrepreneurs, innovators, investors and senior managers who will share their extensive managerial experience and provide access to their diverse professional networks.

3.4 What will I gain during the mentorship and coaching programme?

Mentoring and coaching provided under the Women Leadership Programme (WLP) will give you the necessary tools to solve specific challenges you are currently facing. 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 improve your business plan, implementation strategies and the market entry. The WLP also includes dedicated networking and pitching events, as well as the possibility to participate in dedicated activities organised by InvestEU and the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN).

3.5 Is there a minimum and maximum duration for a "Women TechEU" project?

There is no minimum or maximum duration; however, we expect that projects should last between 6 and 12 months. This period should cover activities funded by the grant, as well as mentoring and coaching in the framework of the Women Leadership Programme.

3.6 Will this programme exist next year/in the future?

Women TechEU was launched this year as a pilot call. While it may be renewed in the future, we are not yet in a position to confirm this