



European Innovation Council Women Leadership Programme (EIC WLP) – 2nd cohort

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 dedicated to female EIC-funded innovators, in addition to Women TechEU and EIT participants. The entire programme comprises four elements listed below:

- a) **8 Training Sessions** tailored to your needs that will be virtually implemented in Zoom platform during the morning of business days, with the duration of 2 to 3 hours in total.
- b) **Networking Events** to leverage on the EIC Community and expand your network. We will invite keynote speakers to share testimonials and we will foster the peer-to-peer network among the EIC WLP participants.
- c) **Mentorship Scheme:** you will be able to scout for the most interesting and suitable mentor in our Pool of Mentors available on b2match platform to start the activity with a focus on your personal career growth. We ask that mentors and EIC WLP participants schedule at least 2h per month in the most suitable



virtual platform/communication channel for both (e.g. Zoom, Teams, Mobile calls, b2match and others).

- d) Business Coaching Scheme** to give you the necessary tools to solve specific business challenges you are currently facing. You will access the Pool of EIC Coaches to select the most suitable coach for your work area and expertise. This activity will entail a fixed total dedication of 3 working days of both in person or/and virtual interaction. *

**Please read point 1.4 to verify if you are eligible to receive the Coaching Scheme*

1.2. What skills will I obtain during the programme?

The programme offers 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, deal with intellectual property rights and other key topics for innovators to thrive. The skills will be further developed during the exchanges with personal mentors and business coaches.

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.

You will have ownership of your journey within the EIC WLP by being given open channel to select your preferred training topics in your application form. We will share some relevant topics and ask for your suggestions as well.

1.3. What will I gain during the Mentorship Scheme?

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 career challenges and set the next steps. You receive valuable inputs and advice to support you in your career progression by sharing your ambitions and fears with someone that has been in a similar position.

In addition, you will grow your professional network and expand your personal and professional perspectives by connecting with our Mentors. We already have a Pool of Mentors waiting to be paired with you in our dedicated page on b2match platform. In this page, you will see their profiles and background experience, scout for those that



will add more value to your career development and implement Chemistry Calls with them to better define your preferred Mentors.

1.4. How will the Coaching Scheme work?

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. The coaching support will be delivered only to researchers whose project is already reaching at least TRL 4, and for those entrepreneurs whose EIC beneficiary company still did not get any coaching from the EIC.

Once you are approved to join our EIC WLP 2nd cohort we will share with you a list of our Pool of EIC Business coaches composed of more than 350 coaches, identifying their area of expertise and what they can offer you to overcome your business challenge.

In a similar way to the Mentorship matching process, you will be able to scout for the most interesting EIC Coaches and let us know those that you would like to work with. We will assist you with the pairing process and you will work directly with the EIC Coach of your choice. Meetings can be implemented in the best suitable virtual platform for you and your Coach, or you can also schedule on site meetings, upon agreement with your coach.

Please keep in mind that the Mentoring activity is focused exclusively on your career progression, while the Business coaching will address only your business challenges.

1.5. When and how will be the programme implemented?

The second cohort of the programme will start by May 2022 and end on 31 October 2022.

A virtual Launching Event will celebrate the beginning of our activities in May. The date, agenda and details of this event will be delivered soon. By November we will have a virtual Awards Ceremony to acknowledge all implemented activities and concrete impact on your daily innovator life, being the milestone for the end of the EIC WLP 2nd cohort.

Following the end of the cohort, we will be adding all participants in an exclusive Alumni Group in the EIC Community Platform where you will be able to network, share relevant news and files and learn from your peers.

All activities (training sessions, networking events, mentoring and coaching sessions) will be implemented online. The possibility of having in-person events will be



considered and communicated in advance if applicable, depending on applying COVID-19 restriction measures. The programme does not entail financial assistance or compensation for any possible in-person meetings and events.

For Women TechEU participants: please keep in mind that your participation is subject to concluding your Grant Agreement with the EC under the Women TechEU scope.

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

By joining our 2nd cohort of the EIC WLP you agree with the following attendance requests:

- Mandatory participation in both Launching Event (in May 2022) and Awards Ceremony (in November 2022)
- Mandatory participation in our Kick-off call to be facilitated in early May (date to be confirmed) with all participants for Icebreakers, onboarding, share expertise and goals, explain the details of the EIC WLP elements and commitments, answer your doubts
- Mandatory attentive attendance and participation in at least 75% of the total of our Training Sessions and Networking Events included in your schedule*
- Optional participation in the Training Sessions and Networking Events not included in your schedule.

* We understand that being a female innovator is a full-time job! With this in mind, the EIC designed **two different dedicated curricular schedules** of tailored made events to fit the two profiles we have among our EIC WLP participants: (a) researchers and (b) leaders and members of companies. We will facilitate a total of four mandatory events for each profile, plus four optional events as well.

Please see more details below:

- Researchers:** we request your engagement to attend four mandatory sessions. Two mandatory sessions will be those addressed to the research profile needs, and the other two mandatory sessions be chosen by you from the catalogue of trainings on offer. The trainings will assist you on smoothing your transition to the market and support your abilities enhancement in that scope. You are also welcomed to join the optional sessions and expand your knowledges to increase your leadership competences!
- Company leaders / company members:** four mandatory sessions with key content for you to strengthen your business expertise and move to the next



level in your innovation company, in addition to four optional sessions that will surely add value to your abilities by increasing your female leadership.

The mandatory sessions 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.

Your attendance to the mandatory sessions will be linked to your conclusion of the EIC WLP, with the receipt of our EIC WLP Conclusion Certificate. Only the participants that achieve our attendance regulation will be able to claim their EIC WLP Completion Certificate.

1.7. Do selected participants also receive funding?

No, no funding of financial support or compensation is associated to the participation in the programme.

2. APPLICATION PROCESS FOR RESEARCHERS

As shared, the 2nd cohort of the EIC WLP is **ONLY** accepting applications from EIC-funded women with the research profile. We will not accept applications from those women that are company leaders and/ or company members.

2.1. What do I need for the application?

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

- Your future aspirations as regards your professional career
- 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 us with:

- ID / acronym of the EIC project conducted by your research institution/ organisation
- Your CV in English with a max. of 2 pages (CVs in other languages or/and larger than 2 pages will be disregarded).

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).

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

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

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 must explain your role in the EIC funded project, which is one of the requirements for your participation in the programme. Please keep in mind that you will need to keep being part of the EIC funded organisation for the whole duration of the WLP cohort.

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 based on 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 organisations 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 EIC 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 end of April 2022. 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 thais.soares@eura-ag.de, acting on behalf of the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA).