# Horizon Europe Pillar III Innovative Europe

## European Innovation Council & European Innovation Ecosystems

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# Horizon Europe

Horizon Europe is implemented through **work programmes** which set out funding opportunities.

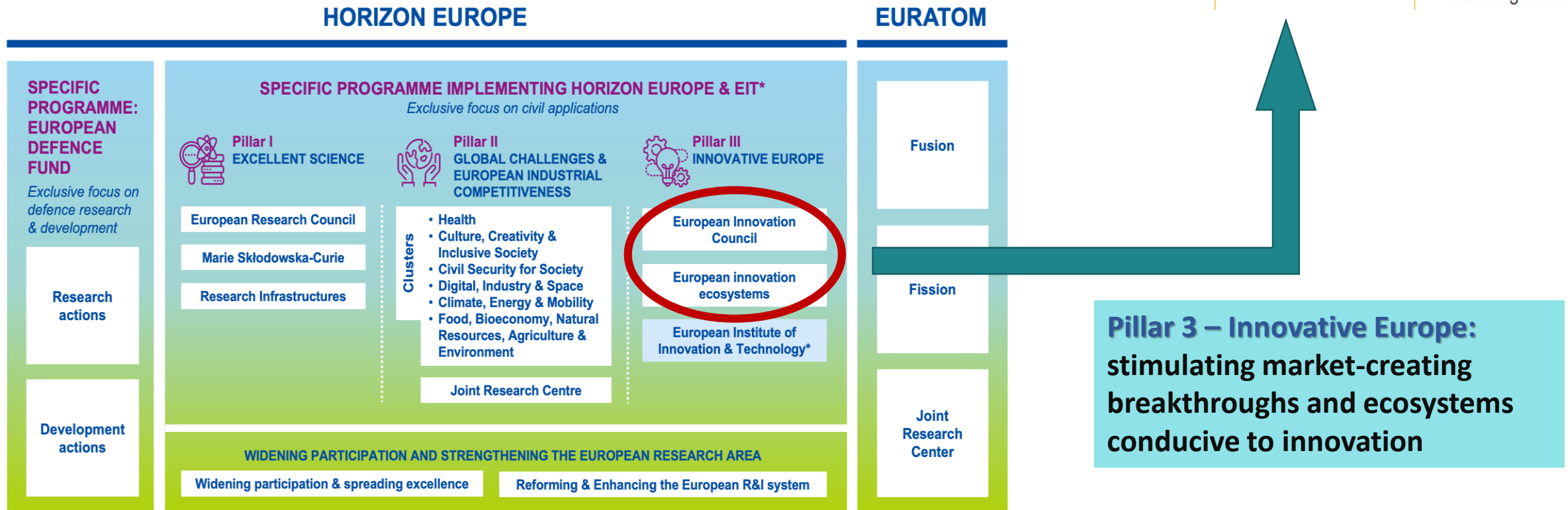**European Innovation Council**
- Support to innovations with breakthrough and market creating potential

**European innovation ecosystems**
- Connecting with regional and national innovation actors

**European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)**
- Bringing key actors (research, education and business) together around a common goal for nurturing innovation

## HORIZON EUROPE

### SPECIFIC PROGRAMME: EUROPEAN DEFENCE FUND
*Exclusive focus on defence research & development*

- Research actions
- Development actions

### SPECIFIC PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTING HORIZON EUROPE & EIT*
*Exclusive focus on civil applications*

**Pillar I EXCELLENT SCIENCE**
- European Research Council
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie
- Research Infrastructures

**Pillar II GLOBAL CHALLENGES & EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS**

Clusters
- Health
- Culture, Creativity & Inclusive Society
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry & Space
- Climate, Energy & Mobility
- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment

Joint Research Centre

**Pillar III INNOVATIVE EUROPE**
- European Innovation Council
- European innovation ecosystems
- European Institute of Innovation & Technology*

**WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA**
- Widening participation & spreading excellence
- Reforming & Enhancing the European R&I system

## EURATOM
- Fusion
- Fission
- Joint Research Center

**Pillar 3 – Innovative Europe:** stimulating market-creating breakthroughs and ecosystems conducive to innovation

* The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) is not part of the Specific Programme

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# European Innovation Council (EIC)

Work Programme Overview 2023

# EIC Work Programme 2023: Overview

**Europe's most ambitious innovation initiative**

Budget

€ 10 Billion

Unique

Combines research & accelerator for SMEs, startups, scaleups

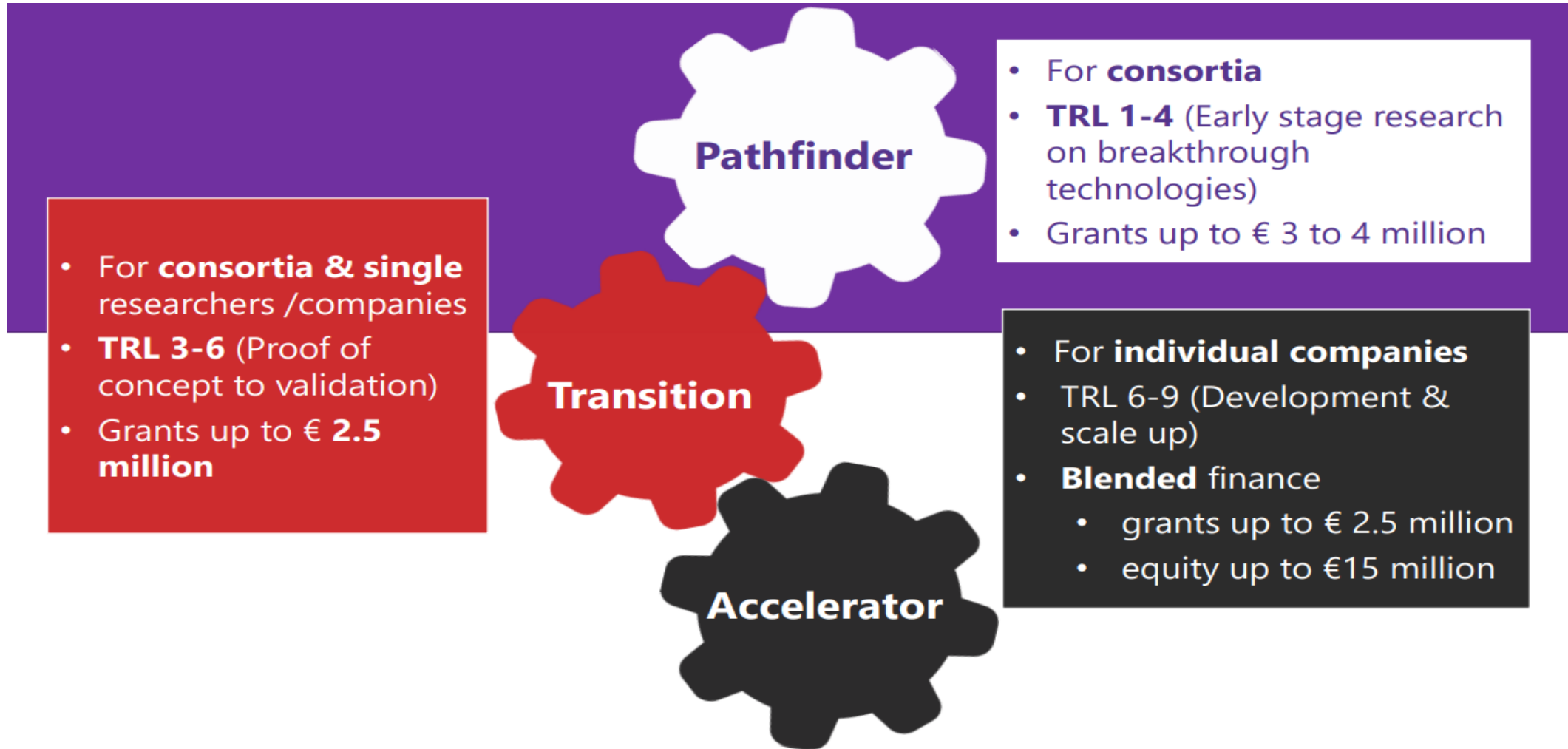Largest deep-tech innovator in Europe

Over €3 billion

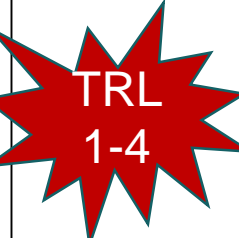Enhances the European Innovation Ecosystems

Partnerships with ERC,EIT regions…

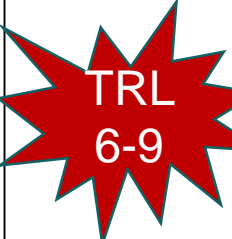Largest deep-tech innovator in Europe

- First WP (2021) adopted 18 March 2021, €1.5 billion
- Second WP (2022) adopted 7 February 2022, €1.7 billion
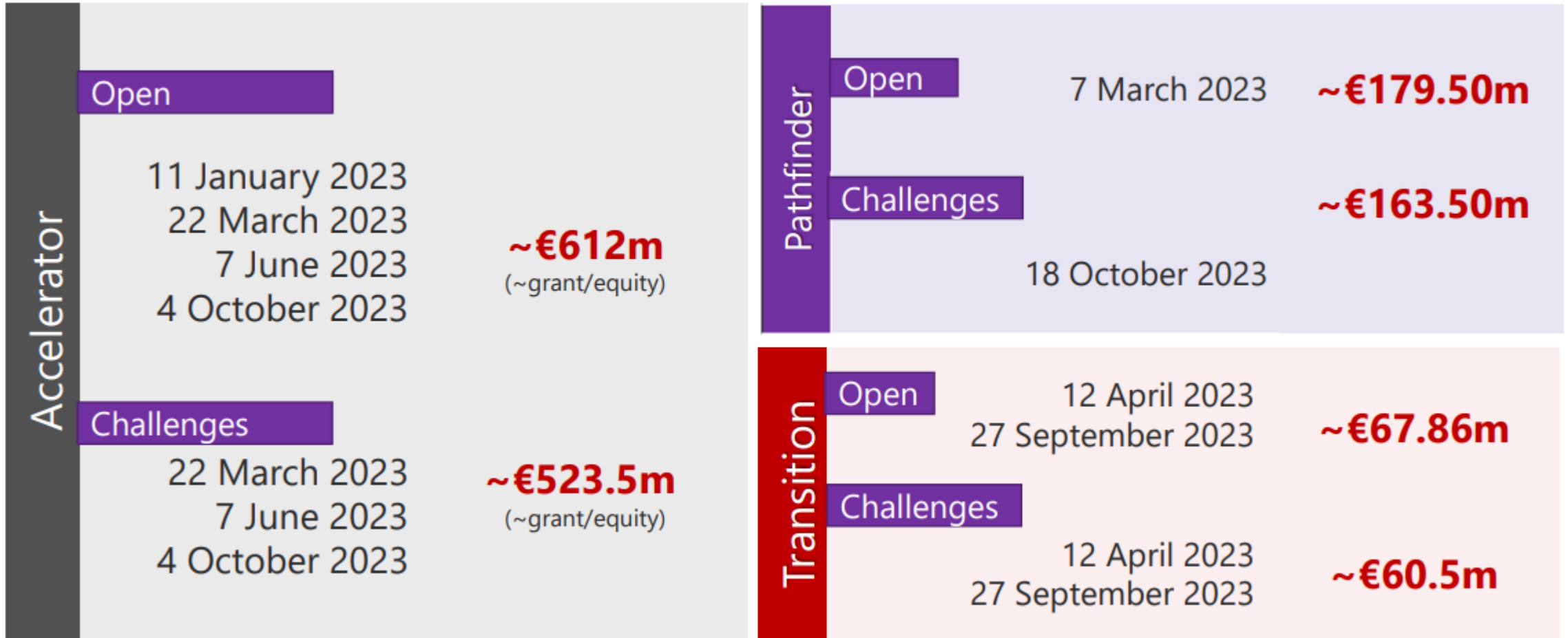- Third WP (2023) adopted 7 December 2022, € 1.7 billion

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# EIC Work Programme 2023: Overview

**Pathfinder**

- For **consortia**
- **TRL 1-4** (Early stage research on breakthrough technologies)
- Grants up to € 3 to 4 million

**Transition**

- For **consortia & single** researchers /companies
- **TRL 3-6** (Proof of concept to validation)
- Grants up to € **2.5 million**

**Accelerator**

- For **individual companies**
- TRL 6-9 (Development & scale up)
- **Blended** finance
  - grants up to € 2.5 million
  - equity up to €15 million

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# EIC Work Programme 2023[1]: Overview

| Call | Who can apply | What for | EIC Open | | EIC Challenge | EIC Challenges | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Deadlines | Indicative Budget (EUR million) | | Deadlines/ Cut-offs | Indicative Budget (EUR million) |
| **EIC Pathfinder** — *TRL 1-4* | Consortia of at least three different independent legal entities[7] established in at least three different eligible countries. Additionally, single applicants or small consortia (two partners) for EIC Pathfinder Challenges only. | Grants of up to EUR 3 million (open) or EUR 4 million (challenges), or more if duly justified, to achieve the proof of principle and validate the scientific basis of breakthrough technology ( Technology Readiness Levels 1-4) | 7 March 2023 | 179.50 | - Clean and efficient cooling<br>- Construction digitalisation<br>- Precision nutrition<br>- Responsible electronics<br>- In-space solar energy | 18 October 2023 | 163.50 |
| **EIC Transition** — *TRL 3-6* | Single applicants (SMEs, spin-offs, start-ups, research organisations, universities) or small consortia (two partners) or consortia of three to five different independent legal entities established in at least three different eligible countries. Proposals must build on eligible EU-funded project results (see call text) | Grants of up to EUR 2.5 million to validate and demonstrate technology in application-relevant environment (TRL 4 to 5/6) and develop market readiness | - 12 April 2023<br>- 27 September 2023 | 67.86 | - Micro-Nano-Bio devices<br>- Environmental intelligence<br>- Chip-scale optical frequency combs | - 12 April 2023<br>- 27 September 2023 | 60.50 |
| **EIC Accelerator** — *TRL 6-9* | Single start-ups and SMEs (including spin-outs), individuals (intending to launch a start-up/ SME) and in exceptional cases small mid-caps (fewer than 499 employees) | Grant component below EUR 2.5 million for innovation activities (TRL 5/6 to 8); EUR 0.5 up to 15 million[8] investment component for scaling up and other activities. Grant only, grant first and investment only component under certain conditions, namely for non-bankable SMEs, including start-ups, which have already received a grant-only support. | Short applications: continuous<br>Full applications :<br>- 11 January 2023<br>- 22 March 2023<br>- 7 June 2023<br>- 4 October 2023 | 611.75 | - Biomarkers for cancer<br>- Decontamination for pandemic management<br>- Energy storage<br>- New European Bauhaus<br>- Quantum or Semiconductor components<br>- Resilient agriculture<br>- Space technologies and services | Short applications: continuous<br>Full applications :<br>- 22 March 2023<br>- 7 June 2023<br>- 4 October 2023 | 523.49 |

1. EIC Work Programme 2023 | European Innovation Council (europa.eu)

# EIC main calls in 2023 - Overview



**Accelerator**

Open
11 January 2023
22 March 2023
7 June 2023
4 October 2023
~€612m
(~grant/equity)

Challenges
22 March 2023
7 June 2023
4 October 2023
~€523.5m
(~grant/equity)

**Pathfinder**

Open
7 March 2023
~€179.50m

Challenges
18 October 2023
~€163.50m

**Transition**

Open
12 April 2023
27 September 2023
~€67.86m

Challenges
12 April 2023
27 September 2023
~€60.5m

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# Plug-in Scheme

- A novelty under Horizon Europe and a specific scheme applicable only to the EIC Accelerator.

- Applies to applications that result from existing national or regional programmes.

- No direct application to the EIC Accelerator call. Instead, a **project review** at national or regional level assessing the innovation or market deployment potential of an existing project.

- Projects submitted to the EIC Accelerator, fulfill the following conditions:

  - the proposal meets the two first award criteria of the EIC Accelerator (excellence and impact);

  - there is no duplication of funding of activities and costs to be supported under the EIC Accelerator with the existing grant allocated at national or regional level;

  - the applicant meets the eligibility criteria for the EIC Accelerator.

> ➤ 21 Member States with certified programmes

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# Next generation innovation talents scheme

To allow eligible **researchers** (from Pathfinder, ERC, MSCA, RI, EIT) to carry out an innovation **internship in a hosting company** (EIC, EIT) for 3-6 months:

- Deep tech research talents (3-6 months) dedicated to highly specialised work on specific project, requested by the hosting company. This component is expected to attract the interest mostly of ERC, EIC Pathfinder, MSCA fellows along with EIT supported postdocs/doctoral candidates and EIT Alumni and EIT Jumpstarter beneficiaries;

- Aspiring innovators (up to 6 months) dedicated to more generic work in the host organisation. This component is expected to attract the interest mostly of EIT students and graduates.

# EIC Women Leadership Programme main goals and services

1. Participants ascending to senior and management positions

2. Participants creating spin-offs or spinouts

3. Ensuring follow-on investment rounds/IPOs/deals

4. EIC teams becoming more gender-diverse

**32% declare improvement in skills**

Mentoring

Business coaching

Joint trainings

Networking opportunities

**3rd cohort: spring 2023**

# Further Information

The **European Innovation Council Work Programme 2023** was presented in a full-day online event on **13 December 2022** dedicated to potential applicants, together with an overview of what has already been achieved under the previous work programmes

1. [Main EIC achievements & Novelties of WP23.pdf (europa.eu)](europa.eu)

2. [EIC Pathfinder.pdf (europa.eu)](europa.eu)

3. [EIC Transition.pdf (europa.eu)](europa.eu)

4. [EIC Accelerator.pdf (europa.eu)](europa.eu)

5. [BAS.pdf (europa.eu)](europa.eu)

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# EIE WP 23-24: Overview

**Objective**

Connected & efficient innovation ecosystems

➤ Support the scaling of companies

➤ Encourage innovation

➤ Stimulate cooperation among national, regional & local innovation actors

**Expected impacts**
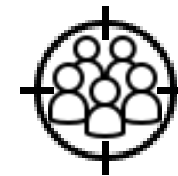
✓ **Interconnected, inclusive & efficient** innovation ecosystems across Europe

✓ Elevated **scalability potential** of business

✓ Innovative **SMEs growth** accessing markets & embedding in global value chains

Mostly **CSAs and Co-fund actions**, biannual WPs

**EUR 527 million** (2021-2027)

**All ecosystem actors**

wp-10-european-innovation-ecosystems_horizon-2023-2024_en.pdf (europa.eu)

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# EIE WP 23-24: Destinations

## CONNECT

Building interconnected & inclusive innovation ecosystems across the

Reinforcing network connectivity for sustainable business growth

Setting, undertaking & achieving collective ambitions towards challenges for the benefit of society

## INNOVSMEs

Thi... will su... conti...atio... Europe... Partnership o... Innovative SMEs

**The proposal must be submitted by the coordinator of the previous consortium**

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# CONNECT 2023

| Topic | Type of action | Timeline | Budget |
|---|---|---|---|
| HORIZON-EIE-2023-CONNECT-01-01: Organisation of the Women TechEU Scheme | CSA* | Opening date: 22/12/22 Closing date: 23/03/23 | EUR 15 M (1 grants) |
| HORIZON-EIE-2023-CONNECT-01-02: Preparatory action for setting up joint programmes among innovation ecosystems actors | CSA | | EUR 6 M (12 grants) |
| HORIZON-EIE-2023-CONNECT-02-01: Stimulating Experimentation Practices | CSA | Opening date: 08/06/23 Closing date: 21/09/23 | EUR 4 M (4 grants) |
| HORIZON-EIE-2023-CONNECT-02-02: Specialist Advisory Services to build capacities on innovation procurement | CSA | | EUR 4 M (4 grants) |

*Coordination and Support Action

# CONNECT 2024

| Topic | Type of action | Timeline | Budget |
|---|---|---|---|
| HORIZON-EIE-2024-CONNECT-01-01: Implementing co-funded action plans for connected regional innovation valleys | COFUND* | Opening date: 11/01/24 Closing date: 25/04/24 | EUR 55 M (4-6 grants) |
| HORIZON-EIE-2024-CONNECT-01-02: The African Union-European Union Innovation Platform | CSA** | | EUR 2,5 M (1 grant) |
| HORIZON-EIE-2024-CONNECT-01-03: Startup Europe | CSA | | EUR 12 M (6-8 grants) |
| HORIZON-EIE-2024-CONNECT-02-01: Expanding Academia-Enterprise Collaborations | CSA | Opening date: 06/06/24 Closing date: 19/09/24 | EUR 2,5 M (5 grants) |
| HORIZON-EIE-2024-CONNECT-02-02: Mutual learning and support scheme for national and regional innovation programmes | CSA | | EUR 1 M (10 grants) |

*Programme co-fund action
**Coordination and Support Action

# Actions for further consideration

**Stimulating Experimentation Practices**

- Identification of an area where innovative technologies emerge, justifying why experimentation in this area is essential
- Development of an action plan aiming to set up an experimentation space (regulatory sandbox, living lab, test bed) to examine the potential of a particular innovative solution
- Set up the experimentation space proposed in the action plan

**Implementing co-funded action plans for connected regional innovation valleys**

- Create **connected regional innovation valleys**, involving regions with lower innovation performances, by building on strategic areas of regional strength and specialisation, in support of key EU priorities

# Actions for further consideration

**Expanding Academia-Enterprise Collaborations**

- Creation of innovation ecosystems with educational & research institutions
- Support educational & research institutions to take a greater entrepreneurial role
- Leverage best practices of the P&P sector in the EU's well performing innovation hubs & enhance collaborations between businesses with R&I actors in educational & research institutions

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# Thank you

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