

EIC STEP Scale Up 2026

The European Innovation Council (EIC) is Europe's leading innovation programme for identifying, developing and scaling up breakthrough technologies and disruptive innovations. As part of the [Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform \(STEP\) initiative](#), the EIC STEP Scale Up scheme provides financial support in the form of investments to startups, SMEs and small mid-caps to scale up. The scheme aims to strengthen the EU's industrial competitiveness to ensure a sustainable and competitive future. And it targets companies with breakthrough innovations in digital & deep tech, clean tech and biotech.

Eligibility

A single start-up, SME or small mid-cap (up to 499 employees) established within a Member State or an Associated Country. An investor may submit a proposal on behalf of an eligible SME or small mid-cap.

Swiss participation

Swiss single start-up, SME or small mid-cap can participate in the EIC STEP Scale Up 2026 as beneficiaries.

Funding & Support

Equity support only

- Dilutive, € 10 up to € 30 million

EIC Business Acceleration Services

- Business coaching and advise
- Networking opportunities

Strategic technologies

The strategic technologies are covering:

- Digital technologies, and deep tech innovations;
- Clean and resource efficient technologies, including net-zero technologies;
- Biotechnologies, including medicinal products on Union list of critical medicines

Detailed information is provided in the [EIC Work Programme 2026](#) and in the [European Commission guidance note on STEP](#).

Who should apply?

The EIC STEP Scale Up can support your company to scale up if you:

1. Have a breakthrough innovation in the fields of digital and deep tech, clean tech & biotech
2. Seek major funding rounds from €50 to 150 million to scale up and become a global leader
3. Have a proof of initial market interest from a single qualified investor covering at least 20% of the total target funding round
4. Have received signals that commercialising and scaling your technology/ innovation contains significant risks which cannot be financed from market investors alone

Evaluation process

The application consists of:

- Proposal submission – apply anytime, but proposals are batched every 3 months: 11/02/26; 06/05/2026; 09/09/2026; 25/11/2026
- Interview, 6 weeks after the batch date (remote interviews with EIC Jury)

How to apply?

The calls are published on the [Funding and Tenders Portal](#) which contains all information about the calls, the templates, and the submission process. If you do not have an account, you need to [register on the portal](#). After that you can start your submission.

How can we support you?

Euresearch is the Swiss guide to European Research and Innovation. We support Swiss participation in international research and innovation projects and programmes. Contact your nearest [Regional Office](#) or the [National Contact Point](#) to find out about the conditions of the call and how you can benefit from our support:

- Eligibility checks
- Proposal-related questions
- Proposal reviews
- Interview training