

EIC Accelerator 2026

The European Innovation Council (EIC) is Europe's leading innovation programme to identify, develop and scale up breakthrough technologies and disruptive innovations. The EIC Accelerator supports start-ups and SMEs to scale up high impact deep tech innovations with the potential to create new markets or disrupt existing ones.

Eligibility

Single start-ups, SMEs, small mid-cap (can only apply for *blended finance* or *investment only*) or one or more natural persons or legal entities wishing to set up an SME or a mid-cap. In all cases, you must be established in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country.

Swiss participation

Swiss start-ups and SMEs can participate in the EIC Accelerator 2026 as beneficiaries.

Who should apply?

The EIC Accelerator can support your company to scale up if you:

1. Have the potential to create new markets or transform existing ones
2. Build on scientific discovery, radical thinking or technological breakthroughs ('deep tech')
3. Your innovation activities must have completed all elements of Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 5.
4. Require significant funding over a long timeframe before returns can be generated ('patient capital')

Funding & Support

Grant Funding

- **Grant only**
- Non-dilutive, up to € 2.5 million (covering 70% eligible costs) allocated in the form of lump sum
- For innovation activities TRL 6 to 8, to be completed within 24 months

Direct investment

- Dilutive, € 1 up to € 10 million
- **Blended Finance**, mix of non-dilutive grant and dilutive equity for market deployment
- **Investment only**

EIC Business Acceleration Services

- Business coaching and advise
- Networking opportunities

Evaluation process

The application consists of 3 steps:

- Short proposal submission - apply any time. Proposals are batched and sent for evaluation the first Tuesday of every month at 17h00 Brussels time
- Full proposal submission batches dates: 7/01/2026, 04/03/2026, 06/05/2026, 08/07/2026, 02/09/2026, 04/11/2026
- Interviews will be held in May and October 2026, and in February 2027

If you are invited to submit the full proposal you will have to choose between:

Open call - Innovations in any field of technology

Challenges call - Topics in areas where breakthrough technologies or game-changing innovations developed by start-ups or SMEs can have a major impact on EU objectives.

EIC Accelerator 2026 Challenges

1. Advanced Materials for Renewable Energy and Energy Storage Systems
2. Alternative Concepts and Key Enabling Technologies for Fusion Power Plants
3. Biotech for Regenerating Agricultural Soils
4. Boosting the European Critical Raw Materials value chain
5. Deep Tech for Climate Adaptation

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 Points](#)
(accelerator@euresearch.ch)

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