EIC Accelerator Pilot

Overview

European funding programme for start-ups and small and medium-size enterprises dedicated to support breakthrough innovation projects with market-creating potential. The EIC Accelerator pilot provides grant-only (as in former SME Instrument) as well as support in the form of blended finance (grant combined with equity investment).

There are no set topics.
Funded by the European Innovation Council EIC, part of Horizon 2020.

Goal

Boosting high-risk, high-potential small and medium-sized innovation enterprises willing to develop and commercialise new products, services and business models that could drive economic growth and shape new markets or disrupt existing markets in Europe and globally.

The EIC Accelerator pilot offers:
- Business innovation grants for innovation and demonstration purpose
- Equity financing
- Free-of-charge business coaching (optional) in order to support and enhance innovation capacity and help align the project to strategic business needs
- Access to other business accelerations services and facilitated access to risk finance

Eligibility

Individual for-profit SMEs (mono-beneficiary scheme), including young companies and start-ups, from any sector.
Legally established in the EU-28 or in a country associated to Horizon 2020. Switzerland is an associated country.

Other partners, such as research providers or larger companies, can be involved as third parties, usually in a subcontracting relationship.

Project Partners

Financial Support

Grant-only: in the indicative range of € 0.5 - € 2.5 million or more (covering up to 70% of eligible costs)
Blended finance: equity financing up to € 15 million for an individual innovation project

Time Frame

Time to grant: 8 months
Project duration: Around 1 – 2 years

Further Details/
Contact

- Grants will finance activities from Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 6-8. Activities above TRL 8 will be financed only through blended finance.
- Concurrent submission or implementation with another EIC Accelerator Pilot or SME Instrument Phase 1 or Phase 2 project is not allowed.
- The page limit of the proposal is 30 pages.
- Submission of proposal (stage 1) requires the inclusion of a financial statement.
- Pitch deck for jury interview (stage 2) needs to be submitted with proposal (at stage 1).

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