EIC Accelerator - what it is and what type of SMEs it supports

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NCP for EIC, ERC, MSCA

HNN3.0 Online Webinar on Funding & Collaboration Opportunities for SMEs in Health, Research & Innovation

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✓ **National Contact Point for Horizon Europe**
✓ **Enterprise Europe Network Hellas Coordinator**
✓ **Tech Transfer Unit of FORTH**

Mission

➡️ Enhancing innovation and competitiveness of the Greek ecosystem

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Why an SME should apply?

The EIC Accelerator supports companies (principally start-ups and SMEs) to scale up high impact innovations with the potential to create new markets or disrupt existing ones.

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

- ✓ Develop **high risk/high impact innovations**;

- ✓ Have the potential to **create new markets**, **transform** existing ones and **contribute to societal innovation**;

- ✓ Build on scientific discovery, radical thinking or technological breakthroughs ('**deep tech**');

- ✓ You innovation activities are currently at Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 6 or above;

- ✓ Require significant **funding** over a long timeframe before returns can be generated ('patient capital').

Can you apply?

You can apply if you meet one of the following **eligibility conditions**:

✓ You are a **single start-up or SME** (including spin-outs) established in an EU Member State or **Horizon Europe (HE) Associated Country**.

✓ You are a '**Small mid-cap**' (up to 499 employees) established in an EU Member State or HE Associated Country.

You need funding for rapid scale up and your activities are at TRL 9 (e.g.: commercialisation and market deployment).

You can only apply for blended finance or investment only.

✓ You are **one or more natural persons or legal entities*** willing to set up a SME.

What type of funding can you get?

The EIC Accelerator provides blended finance to support:

DEVELOPMENT
(TRL 6 to 8)

DEPLOYMENT

SCALE-UP
(TRL 9)

The blended finance consists of an investment and grant component:

Grant component	Investment component
Maximum of less than EUR 2.5 million (equal to a maximum of 70 % of total eligible costs).	Minimum EUR 1 million and maximum EUR 10* million *investments from 10-30 million available under the STEP Scale up call.*
Innovation activities supported should be completed within 24 months.	Usually in the form of direct equity or quasi-equity.
	Maximum 25% of the voting shares of the company.
Small mid-caps are not eligible for grant only.	"Patient capital" principle (indicatively 7-10 years perspective).

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Which type of funding can you get?

You may choose to apply to one of the following types of funding:

- **Grant Only**
- **Blended Finance**
- **Investment Only**

The application profile and corresponding activities should be well justified for the type of funding chosen.

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EIC Accelerator challenges

ACCELERATOR CHALLENGES		
	Advanced Materials for Renewable Energy and Energy Storage Systems	€ 50 million
	Alternative Concepts and Key Enabling Technologies for Fusion Power Plants	€ 20 million
	Biotech for Regenerating Agricultural Soils	€ 50 million
	Boosting the European Critical Raw Materials value chain	€ 50 million
	Deep Tech for Climate Adaptation	€ 50 million

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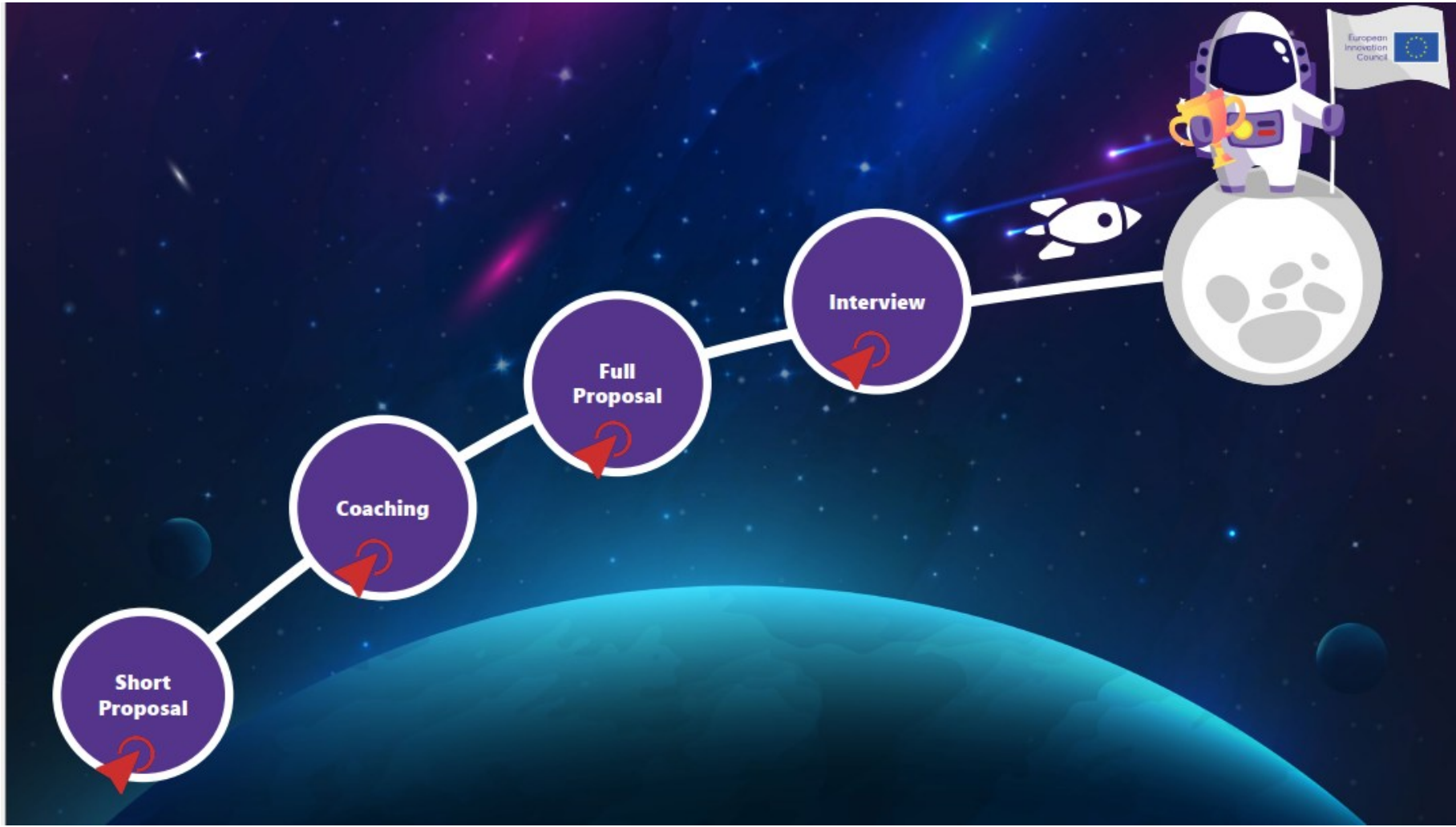
How do you apply?

How do you apply?

Short proposal submitted anytime
(batches every month- reply within 4-6 weeks of batching date)

Full proposal submitted anytime
(batches every 2 months- reply within 8-9 weeks of batching date)

Assessment by **technology expert** and **interview** with company
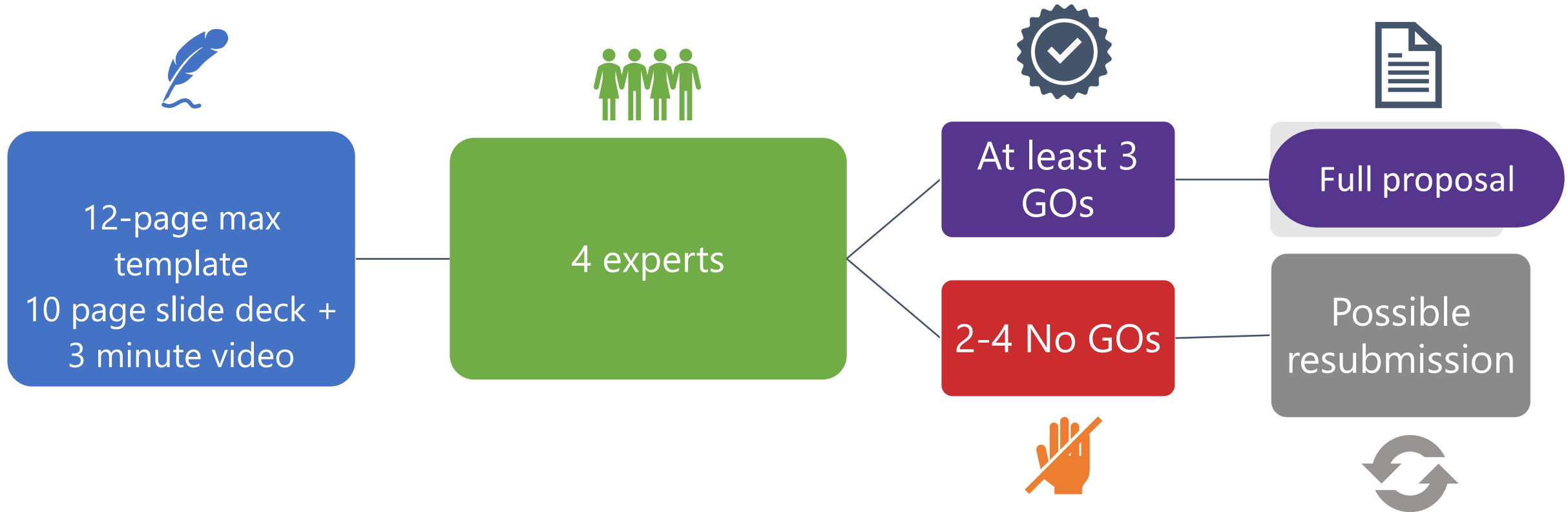
NEW

Evaluation panel assessment and **ranking list**

NEW

Interview with EIC Jury
(**3 sessions per year**- reply within 2-3 weeks of interview)

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Short proposal process

12-page max template
10 page slide deck + 3 minute video

4 experts

At least 3 GOs

2-4 No GOs

Full proposal

Possible resubmission

Submission anytime- evaluation results in approx. 4-6 weeks

Short proposal process

If you receive a GO on a short proposal under the 2025 or 2026 EIC Work Programme, you may submit a full proposal. This concerns all short applications submitted after the adoption of the 2025 Work Programme on 29 October 2024. Proposals which received a GO under the 2024 Work Programme and have already submitted a full proposal will be eligible to submit a full proposal in 2026 as long as they remain within their submission limitations.

Proposals will be batched at 5pm Brussels time on the follow dates:

7 January 2026
4 March 2026
6 May 2026
8 July 2026
2 September 2026
4 November 2026

Full proposal process

20 page Proposal

Pitch Deck (no limit on number of slides - 10 min max pitch)

3 Minute **Video**

Lump sum, Financial and

Implementation plan

Technology Expert Individual Assessment

+

Interview with Applicant, Tech Expert & EISMEA Moderator

Expert assesses proposal, verifies claims by applicant in interview and provides technical input for evaluation panel

Report

+

Preliminary score

Submission anytime – 6 batches per year

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Full proposal process

A Panel of at least 3 experts assesses a set of proposals taking into account the tech expert assessment. Evaluation panel will take the **final decision**, score and draft report

RANKING LIST

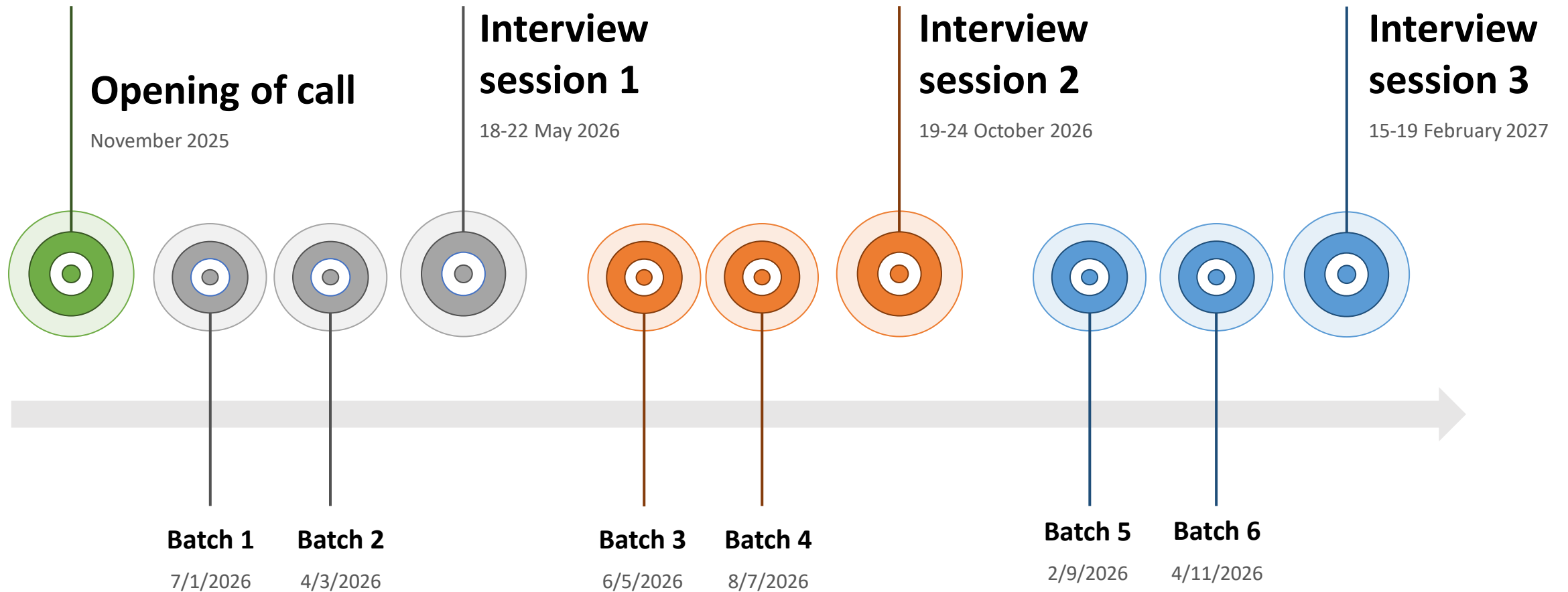2.5x grant budget invitation to interview – applicants informed

Rejected – ESR sent to applicants

(proposals above overall threshold of 13/15 receive SoE/STEP seal)

Information to applicants approx. 8-9 weeks after batching

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Timeline of batches and tentative dates for interviews

Opening of call
November 2025

Interview session 1
18-22 May 2026

Interview session 2
19-24 October 2026

Interview session 3
15-19 February 2027

Batch 1
7/1/2026

Batch 2
4/3/2026

Batch 3
6/5/2026

Batch 4
8/7/2026

Batch 5
2/9/2026

Batch 6
4/11/2026

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Short proposal process

Useful links

- Link to Short Proposal templates
- Link to Full proposal templates
- Link to Full Proposal annexes
- FAQs
- Work Programme 2026
- InfoDay

How can EIC NCPs help you?

Consulting and Strategic Advice

Extensive proposal review, Financial & legal checks of the proposal

Project implementation and networking opportunities

Short & Full Proposal Writing Phase

EIC Interview Preparation

Pre-Proposal Phase

Review and Pre-Submission Phase

Post-Grant Support

Guidance for structuring the proposals as well as Pitch Deck and Video

Mock interview and advanced Q n A

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PRAXI Network: EIC National Contact Point

Dr Maria – Christina Cheimonidi

Dr Ioannis Kortidis

Dr Panagiotis Lionakis

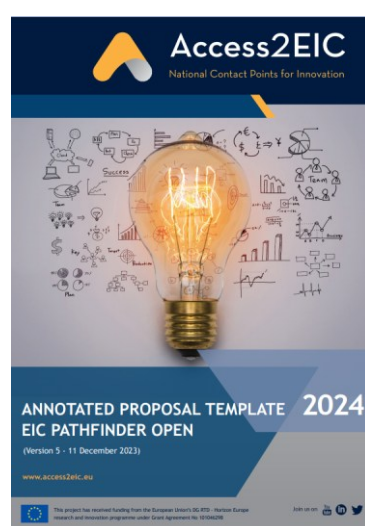Dr Konstantinos Vavekis

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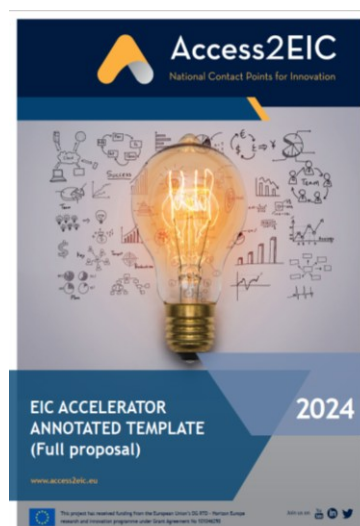help-forward network

A2EIC-network of EIC NCPs

ACCESS2EIC is a European project of the National Contact Points that aims to train and strengthen the capacities of NCPs, enabling them to provide effective support services to SMEs, RTOs
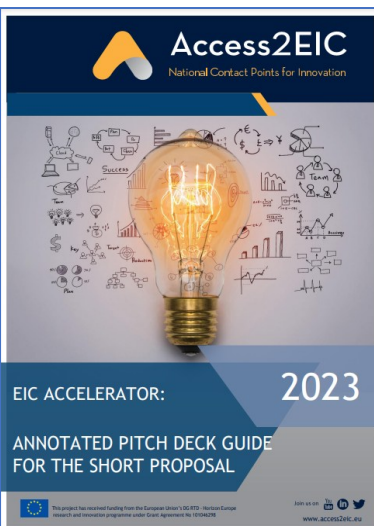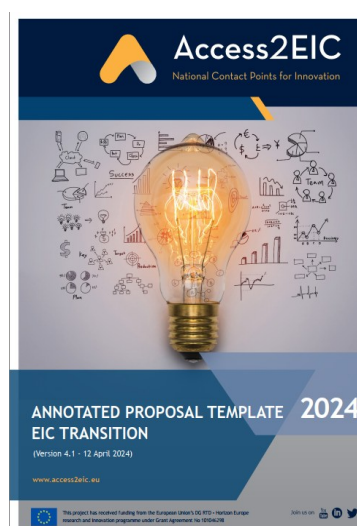
EIC Accelerator Annotated Pitch Deck for the Short Proposal

EIC Pathfinder Annotated Proposal Template

EIC Accelerator Annotated Template for the Full Proposal

EIC Transition Annotated Proposal Template

https://access2eic.eu

linkedin.com/company/access4smes/

www.Access2EIC.eu

The **focus** of EEN2EIC is to empower EEN network offices to support potential EIC applicants, increase the number of quality proposals to EIC calls with a specific focus in:

- **Widening countries**
- **Women-led innovative companies**
- **Seal of Excellence holders**

EEN2EIC Consortium

https://een2eic.eu/

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Thank you very much for your attention!

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SCAN ME