

# EMPOWERING EUROPEAN INNOVATION

## An innovator's guide to the EIC

### An opportunity to compete for significant funding

The EIC Accelerator is replacing the SME Instrument. Ireland has had 121 successful companies funded under the SME Instrument Programme. Seven Enterprise Ireland clients will receive funding of €16m representing over 10 per cent of the total funding awarded under the most recent call of the SME instrument. National Contact Points at **Enterprise Ireland** can assist companies applying for the EIC Fund.

Here is how the European Innovation Council can help innovators from the stage of idea and invention to investments and scale-up of their companies.



### ACCELERATOR:

#### Start-ups, SMEs and entrepreneurs

If you are a start-up, SME or an entrepreneur with a business plan to develop and scale up a high-risk innovation, then the "Accelerator" is the right way forward for you.

1<sup>st</sup>  
step

### APPLICATION

The EIC is open for ideas in any field of innovation and you can apply at any time of the year.

- › For development and scaling up of high-risk innovations by startups and SMEs
- › Grant funding of up to €2.5 million (70% of costs)
- › Option of equity investment of up to €15 million
- › Access to EIC coaching and mentoring services, pitches with corporates, VCs, etc
- › All funding is open (no predefined thematic areas)



The applicants with the highest overall assessments will be invited to **pitch to a panel** of experienced investors and entrepreneurs who will make a go/no-go decision.



2<sup>nd</sup>  
step



Applications to the accelerator will be assessed first by a set of independent experts based on their potential for **future social or economic impact or market creation, the high risk/ high potential nature of the innovation, and the business plan.**



3<sup>rd</sup>  
step

### Grant Only

Applicants will be informed about the result within one month and receive grants within a further five months.



### Grant + Equity

Applicants will be informed about the result within one month and receive grants within a further five months. For the equity, additional due diligence will be undertaken before receiving the investment.



## EIC one-stop-shop

Your application will be dealt with in an EIC one-stop-shop, bringing together **support for EU innovation across EU agencies and a dedicated investment vehicle** (for equity). All applications are assessed by independent evaluators with a tailored mix of research, technical and business expertise.



### PATHFINDER:

#### Researchers, technologists

If you are an innovative researcher with an idea for the next breakthrough technology, you should apply to the **"Pathfinder"**.

1<sup>st</sup>  
step

- › For radically new technologies emerging from collaborative research
- › Grant funding of up to €3 million (100% of costs)
- › From proof of concept to demonstration of commercial viability
- › Access to EIC coaching and mentoring services
- › Majority of funding is open (no predefined themes). Strategic breakthrough technologies are also supported (challenge based)

2<sup>nd</sup>  
step



Pathfinder applications must be **interdisciplinary**, offer a **radical vision** and a **breakthrough technology target**.

They will also be assessed on their potential to **create new markets and social and economic impacts**.



#### Grant Only

3<sup>rd</sup>  
step



Applicants will be informed about the results of the assessment by independent experts within five months of closure of the call, and successful applicants will receive the grant three months later.

## Deadlines

### Accelerator grant only and blended finance

**2019** – 9 October

**2020** – 8 January; 8 March;  
19 May; 7 October

### Pathfinder

**2019** – 18 September

**2020** – 13 May



### Find out more and apply!



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