



Support to Start-ups & Spin-offs

Discussion in Athens in the context of the Enhanced Dialogue

July 11, 2022

Points for discussion

1. European Innovation Council Work Programme
2. European Innovation Ecosystems Work Programme
3. InvestEU Programme

European Innovation Council Work Programme

European Innovation Council (EIC) Work Programme

Objective: Integrated, agile support across the full innovation spectrum from early stage edge research to the scale-up of genuinely innovative SME

Call	Who can apply	What for	EIC Open		EIC Challenges		
			Deadlines	Indicative Budget (EUR million)	EIC Challenge	Deadlines	Indicative Budget (EUR million)
EIC Pathfinder	Consortia of at least three different independent legal entities ¹⁴ established in at least three different eligible countries. Additionally, single applicants or small consortia (two partners) for EIC Pathfinder Challenges only.	Grants of up to EUR 3 million (open) or EUR 4 million (challenge driven) (or more if properly justified) to achieve the proof of principle and validate the scientific basis of breakthrough technology (TRL 1-4)	3 May 2022	183	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon dioxide & Nitrogen management and valorisation • Mid-long term, systems-integrated energy storage • Cardiogenomics • Healthcare Continuum technologies • DNA-based digital data storage • Alternative Quantum Information Processing, Communication, and Sensing 	19 October 2022	167
EIC Transition	Single applicants (SMEs, spin-offs, start-ups, research organisations, universities) or small consortia (two partners) or consortia of three to five different independent legal entities established in at least three different eligible countries. Proposals must build on results from eligible EIC Pathfinder, FET or ERC Proof of Concept projects	Grants of up to EUR 2.5 million (or more if properly justified) to validate and demonstrate technology in application-relevant environment (TRL 4 to 5/6) and develop market readiness	4 May 2022 28 September 2022	70.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green digital devices for the future • Process and system integration of clean energy technologies • RNA-based therapies and diagnostics for complex or rare genetic diseases 	4 May 2022 28 September 2022	60.5
EIC Accelerator	Single start-ups and SMEs (including spin-outs), individuals (intending to launch a start-up/ SME) and in exceptional cases small mid-caps (fewer than 499 employees)	Up to EUR 2.5 million grant component for technology development (TRL 5/6 to 9); EUR 0.5 up to 15 million ¹⁵ investment component for scaling up and other activities. Grant only/grant first under certain conditions. Investment component only for small mid-caps or as follow up to grant only.	Short applications: continuous Full applications : • 23 March 2022 • 15 June 2022 • 5 October 2022	630.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technologies for Open Strategic Autonomy • Technologies for 'Fit for 55' 	Short applications: continuous Full applications: • 23 March 2022 • 15 June 2022 • 5 October 2022	536.9

Successful examples to articulate the way forward

Greek performance under the EIC Pathfinder

- Between 2018 and 2020, Greek applicants presented 37 projects as coordinators, of which 4 were successful (10% success rate).
- Under Horizon Europe, to date, Greek entities participated with 72 proposals, with no projects currently passing through.
- EIC Pathfinder projects coordinated by Greek partners, under the EIC pilot phase: RAMONES, UroPrint, ARIADNE

Greek performance under the EIC Transition

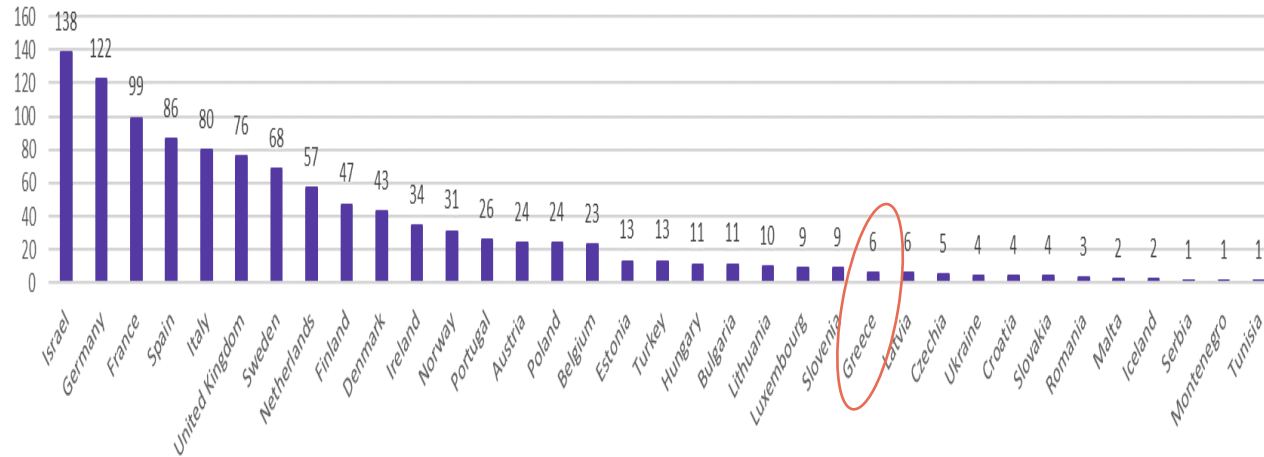
- Over the 42 EIC Transition projects selected in 2021, first year of implementation of this instrument, one is coordinated by a Greek applicant:
- Project L2D2: Laser digital transfer of 2D materials enabled photonics: from the lab 2 the fab, coordinated by the **National Technical University of Athens** – NTUA – Recommended EU contribution: € 2.5 M.

Greek performance under the EIC Accelerator

- From October 2019 to the end of 2020, 13 Seals of Excellence were awarded to Greek SMEs.
- 67 short proposals (step 1) in HE
- In 2021, over 41 short proposals, 6 passed step 1 and went to remote evaluation (step 2) but, none was successful.
- Only one Greek company, Brite Hellas SA, was selected for funding in 2020

EIC Accelerator 2022 cut-offs

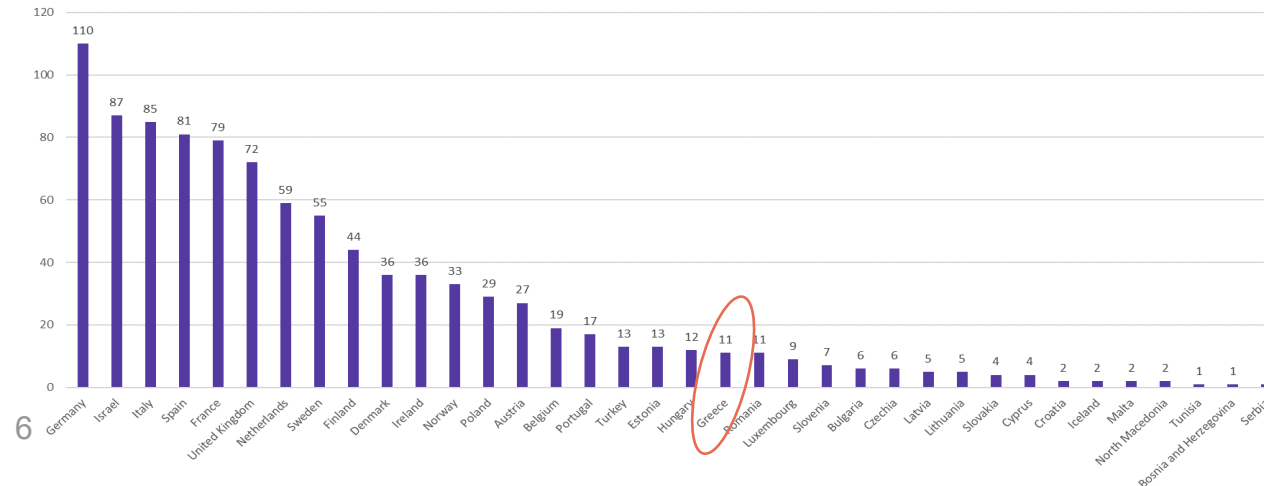
Number of Proposals for March & June cut-offs 2022



In 2022, to date (June), only **26 Greek short proposals** were submitted.

Full proposals reached:

- 6 for March cut-off
- 11 for June cut-off



Plug-in Scheme

- A novelty under Horizon Europe and a specific scheme applicable only to the EIC Accelerator.
- Applies to applications that result from existing national or regional programmes.
- No direct application to the EIC Accelerator call. Instead, a **project review** at national or regional level assessing the innovation or market deployment potential of an existing project.
- Projects submitted to the EIC Accelerator, fulfill the following conditions:
 - the applicant meets the eligibility criteria for the EIC Accelerator;
 - the proposal meets the two first award criteria of the EIC Accelerator (excellence and impact);
 - the proposal stems from a project supported by the funding/managing body responsible;
 - there is no duplication of funding of activities and costs to be supported under the EIC Accelerator with the existing grant allocated at national or regional level.

Plug-in scheme to the EIC Accelerator

- Assessment of 52 national/regional programmes - between November and February
- Assessments' results:
 - Certified with no conditions: 31
 - Certified with conditions: 5
 - Not certified: 16
- To date, Greek authorities have **not** submitted any national programme for validation under the Accelerator plug-in.

EIC Prizes

- **EU Capital of Innovation Awards**
- **EU Innovation Procurement Awards**
- **EU Social Innovation Competition - the challenge and impact prize**
- **EU Prize for Women Innovators:** deadline for applications 18 August. **6 prizes to award:**
 - 3 prizes of € 100 000 each to the most inspiring women innovators.
 - 3 prizes of € 50 000 each to the most promising young innovators under the age of 35 - to mark the European Year of Youth.

EIC Scale Up 100

- Identify and support 100 deep-tech companies with the potential to scale up as global leaders or potential unicorns
 - Portfolio of EIC supported and similar programmes at EU, MS & AC level,
 - Companies not being supported by national programmes as long as they meet the requirements for scaling up



European Innovation Ecosystems Work Programme

European Innovation Ecosystems Work Programme

- **Objective:** create more connected and efficient innovation ecosystems to support the scaling of companies, encourage innovation and stimulate cooperation among national, regional and local innovation actors
- **Target Groups:** all ecosystem actors
- **Expected impacts:**
 - Interconnected, inclusive and more efficient innovation ecosystems across Europe
 - elevating the scalability potential of business
 - help innovative SMEs to grow and successfully access European and international markets and to embed in global value chains
- **How:** Mostly CSAs and Cofund actions, biannual WPs
- **Budget:** EUR 527 million (2021-2027)

European Innovation Ecosystems Work Programme – Open Topics

Topic	Timeline	Budget
Implementing co-funded action plans for interconnection of innovation ecosystems	Opening date: 14/06/22 Closing date: 27/09/22	EUR 8 M (4 grants)
Stimulating innovation procurement		EUR 4,5 M (3 grants)
Expanding Investments Ecosystems	Opening date: 21/06/22 Closing date: 04/10/22	EUR 5 M (5 grants)
Women TechEU		EUR 10 M (133 grants)



CONNECT DESTINATION

To foster robust, inclusive, gender diverse & connected innovation ecosystems, via co-creation, co-planning and co-investments around European strategic priority areas



SCALEUP DESTINATION

Contribute to the enhanced competitiveness & global potential of the pan-EU ecosystem, support deep tech, promote female entrepreneurship, improve entrepreneurial education, and increase access to capital & investments of local start-ups in less connected innovation ecosystems

InvestEU Programme

A successful cooperation in 2021

- Support for high-impact private and public investments by the EIB & EIF totalled €4.85 billion, the largest in 59 years of operations in the country (previous record of € 2.8 billion in 2020)
 - EIB Group financing in Greece represented 2.7% of national GDP in 2021
- Engagement by the EIF of € 1.96 billion to back investment by companies across the country.
 - The EIF supported both guarantees to Greek national & regional banks to enhance access to finance by companies impacted by COVID-19 through the EGF & inclusive finance.
 - The EIF backed 5 equity finance transactions, including the first business angel equity fund.
- Greece to receive around € 31 billion from the EU (grants & loans) as part of the RRF.
- A cooperation agreement (MoU) between the EIB and the Hellenic Republic signed
- The EIB will manage part the of the RRF investments leading to private investments of more than €1 billion as part of Greece's National Recovery and Resilience Plan, known as "Greece 2.0."

InvestEU main components



Agreement*	EU Guarantee
	€ 26.2 bn

€ 370 bn mobilised investments

InvestEU Compartments



EU compartment

- Fosters EU level action and tackles EU level market gaps - not geographically ring-fenced
- Priorities set by the Commission
- Implementation based on guarantee agreements for guarantees, loans, equity investments
- 75% of the EU guarantee implemented by the EIB, 25% by other Implementing partners to be selected by the Commission

MS compartment

- Fosters MS level action and tackles local level market gaps - contributions are geographically ring-fenced
- Established voluntary under any of the 4 policy windows; 1 Member State = 1 sub-compartment
- Priorities, terms and conditions negotiated in a Contribution Agreement between the MS and the Commission
- Implementing partner nominated by the MS and selected by the Commission

Thank you



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Slide ¹⁹xx: **element concerned**, source: **e.g. Fotolia.com**; Slide xx: **element concerned**, source: **e.g. iStock.com**



Additional information

EIE WP 2021 call statistics

EIE WP 2021 calls: Statistics (1)

Table 1: Countries' participation per CONNECT topic (**proposals submission**)

(*as coordinator, partner, or associated partner)

