**EIC Article For Researchers**

The European Innovation Council (EIC) is Europe’s flagship innovation programme, established under the EU [**Horizon Europe**](https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe_en)programme, with a budget of €10.1 billion. EIC offers funding opportunities to universities, start-ups and SME’s, for the purpose of identifying, developing and scaling up breakthrough innovations. The program supports the development of innovations from early-stage research all the way to the financing and scaling up of start-ups and SME’s. It offers several funding opportunities, that consist of both open and challenge driven funding, each designed for a particular stage of innovation and business development. These are:

* **EIC Pathfinder:** this instrument supports research teams in the research and development of breakthrough innovations and technologies. The aim of the Pathfinder instrument is to establish the proof-of-principle, validating the research and technology behind the idea. These projects should be based on high-risk and high-gain interdisciplinary research breakthroughs. The instrument has both open (no pre-defined topics) as well as challenge-based funding schemes tackling specific technology developments. To qualify for the funding, projects need to have a consortium with at least 3 legal entities, each established in a different EU member state or associated country, with at least one of these being a member state. Projects can apply for up to €3 million and are also eligible for additional Ad hoc grants of up to €50 000. Each project can apply for this Ad hoc grant for a maximum of three times. Projects can also apply for the EIC Transition funding instrument or the EIC Accelerator through the fast-track scheme and get access to the Business Accelerator Services.
* **EIC Transition:** projects having previously received EU funding from the EIC Pathfinder, FET or the ERC PoC, are all eligible to apply for the EIC Transition funding. The EIC transition instrument focuses on project results from the above-mentioned funding schemes, that have the potential to create breakthrough innovations and new businesses. The aim is to validate and mature your previous project outcomes, within specific applications and a real-world environment. Researchers, entrepreneurs, start-ups and SMEs are all eligible to apply through either a single entity or a consortium of up to 5 members. Funding can amount to up to €2,5 million per project. Similarly to the EIC Pathfinder, projects can also apply for an Ad hoc grants of up to €50 000 (limited to one Ad hoc grant per project) as well as apply for the EIC Accelerator instrument through the fast track scheme and get access to the Business Accelerator Services.
* **EIC Accelerator:** this instrument is targeted for start-ups and SME’s that are seeking to scale-up high-risk innovations that are built on scientific or technological breakthroughs. These should have the potential to create high impact within the economy by create new markets or disrupt existing ones. Projects can apply for either a grant, an investment, or a combination of both. Grants can be up to €2,5 million and are meant for projects in which there is still a need for validating the technology or the innovation’s commercial potential. Investments should be a minimum of €0,5 million and a maximum of €15 million, and are meant to support the rapid scale-up of the technology. These investments are in the form of direct or quasi-equity, with a maximum of 25% voting shares within the company. Projects having received EIC Accelerator funding are also eligible to make use of the EIC Business Accelerator Services which offers advice through coaching, mentoring and training, but also opportunities to network with different business partners and innovation ecosystems.

For more information and details on current open calls you can go to <https://eic.ec.europa.eu/index_en>. We also encourage you to contact your University funding and innovation services if interested in applying.