



Deadline	Wed 21 May 2025 17:00 Brussels time (IOCB deadline Wed 14 May 2025)
Call name	EIC Pathfinder Open 2025
www	https://eic.ec.europa.eu/eic-funding-opportunities/eic-pathfinder_en Call: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-EIC-2025-PATHFINDEROPEN
Focused on	Realising an ambitious vision for radically new technology, with potential to create new markets and/or to address global challenges; early stage development of such future technologies (TRL 1-4); high-risk/high-gain science-towards-technology breakthrough research.
PI	Researchers of any nationality conducting their research in any EU member state or associated country
Eligible organisation	Universities, research organisations, SMEs, start-ups, industrial partners established in an EU member state or an associated country.
Target group	Consortium of researchers that includes at least three independent legal entities, each one established in a different Member State or Associated Country and with at least one of them established in a Member State.
Expected outputs	Open Access (J) reviewed specialist articles; movement of new technology up the TRL scale towards technology development
Call opens	20 Feb 2025
IOCB deadline	Wed 14 May 2025
Final deadline	Wed 21 May 2025 17:00 Brussels time
Evaluation results	Oct 2025
Signature of agreement	Jan 2026 (indicative)
Earliest date of implementation	Jan/Feb 2026
Latest date of implementation	-
Sustainability	None
Reporting	one report every 18 months
Project duration (min-max)	Up to 48 months (4 years)
Allocation for the call	142 M EUR (50 projects)
Project budget (min-max)	Up to 3 M EUR (0.5 – 3 M EUR) & additional EIC Booster grants of 50 000 EUR to undertake complementary activities to explore potential pathways to commercialisation or for portfolio activities
Success rate	4 % (2024)
Eligible costs	Direct costs: personnel costs, travel expenses, equipment, goods & services, outsourcing (subcontracting); indirect costs: overheads max 25% of the total eligible direct costs
Reimbursement	100 %
Mode of funding	Ex-ante
Language of application	English
Provider	European Innovation Council, https://eic.ec.europa.eu/ Frequently asked questions (https://eic.ec.europa.eu/eic-frequently-asked-questions_en#ecl-inpage-321) NCP: Technology Centre CAS, www.tc.cz ; Michaela Vlková: vlkovam@tc.cz , tel. 234 006 262
Call identifier	EIC-PathfinderOpen-2025
Call info	EIC Pathfinder Open grants are bottom-up grants designed to support the exploration of bold ideas for radically new technologies. It welcomes the high-risk / high gain and interdisciplinary cutting-edge science collaborations that underpin technological breakthroughs. Pathfinder goes beyond what is already known. Proposals must be submitted by consortia made of at least 3 entities from 3 different member states/associated countries.
Conditions / Restrictions	Proposal must be submitted by the coordinator, on behalf of a consortium that includes at least three independent legal entities, each one established in a different Member State or

	<p>Associated Country and with at least one of them established in a Member State. The legal entities may for example be universities, research organisations, SMEs, start-ups, industrial partners or natural persons.</p> <p>Sections 1 to 3 of the part B of your proposal, corresponding respectively to the evaluation criteria Excellence, Impact, and Quality and Efficiency of the Implementation, must consist of a maximum of 20 A4 pages. Excess pages will be automatically made invisible, and will not be taken into consideration by the evaluators.</p> <p>Main changes compare previous calls: Additional emphasis on the potential solutions to be provided in applicants proposals for technology visions.</p>
Proposal consists of	<p>On-line application on the Funding&Tenders Portal: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/cas/login</p> <p>1) Administrative form (Part A, on-line on the Funding&Tenders Portal): (i) General information: Abstract, Declarations; (ii) Administrative data of participating organisations: Organisation data, Department, Main contact person, Researchers involved in proposal and their career stages, Role of participating organisation, up to 5 publications relevant for call content, up to 5 previous projects, significant infrastructure relevant to proposal, GEP yes/no tickbox,; (iii) Budget – budget table; (iv) Ethics and security issues tables; (v) Other questions (applicant & Project Office)</p> <p>2) Research proposal (Part B, use template, max 20 A4 pages): (a) Excellence; (b) Impact; (c) Quality and efficiency of the implementation</p> <p>3) Other documentation (annexes) needed on ethics and security issues, on clinical trials or financial support to third parties, if relevant (Project Office & applicant)</p>
Evaluation criteria	<p>Remote scoring by EIC expert evaluators according to the criteria below:</p> <p>Excellence (Threshold: 4/5, weight 60%)</p> <p><u>Long-term vision:</u> How convincing is the vision of a radically new technology and relevant potential solutions, towards which the project would contribute in the long term?</p> <p><u>Science-towards-technology breakthrough:</u> How concrete, novel and ambitious is the proposed science-towards-technology breakthrough with respect to the state-of-the-art? What advancement does it provide towards realising the envisioned technology?</p> <p><u>Objectives:</u> How concrete and plausible are the proposed objectives to reach the envisaged proof of principle? To what extent is the high-risk/high-gain research approach appropriate for achieving them? How sound is the proposed methodology, including the underlying concepts, models, assumptions, alternative directions and options, appropriate consideration of the gender dimension in research content, and the quality of open science practices?</p> <p><u>Interdisciplinarity:</u> How relevant is the interdisciplinary approach from traditionally distant disciplines for achieving the proposed breakthrough?</p> <p>Impact (Threshold: 3.5/5, weight 20%)</p> <p><u>Long-term impact:</u> How significant are the potential transformative positive effects that the envisioned new technology would have to our economy, environment and society?</p> <p><u>Innovation potential:</u> To what extent does the envisioned new technology have potential for generating disruptive innovations in the future and for creating new markets? How adequate are the proposed measures for protection of results and any other exploitation measures to facilitate future translation of research results into innovations? How suitable are the proposed measures for involving and empowering key actors that have the potential to take the lead in translating research into innovations in the future?</p> <p><u>Communication and Dissemination:</u> How suitable are the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, including communication activities, for raising awareness about the project results' potential to establish new markets and/or address global challenges?</p> <p>Quality and efficiency of the implementation (Threshold 3/5, weight 20%)</p> <p><u>Quality of the consortium:</u> To what extent do all the consortium members have the necessary high quality expertise for performing the project tasks?</p> <p><u>Work plan:</u> How coherent and effective are the work plan (work packages, tasks, deliverables, milestones, timeline, etc.) and risk mitigation measures in order to achieve the project objectives?</p> <p><u>Allocation of resources:</u> How appropriate and effective is the allocation of resources (comprising person-months and other cost items) to work packages and consortium members?</p>
Research areas	Any
Call workshop	<p>Webinar EIC 2025 calls Technology Centre Prague – slides</p> <p>https://www.horizontevropa.cz/cs/kalendar/yiifcalendarevent/1206/webinar-jak-psat-zadost-eic-pathfinder...</p>

	<p>The recording and presentations of the EIC Work Programme 2025 info days: recording: https://eic.ec.europa.eu/news/recording-and-presentations-eic-work-programme-2025-info-days-are-now-available-2024-11-15_en</p> <p>FAQ: https://eic.ec.europa.eu/eic-frequently-asked-questions_en#ecl-inpage-321</p>
IOCB contact	<p>Please inform the IOCB Project Office about your intention to apply. Do not hesitate to contact us anytime for consulting, discussion or help. Jitka Šilerová, jitka.silerova@uochb.cas.cz, +420 220 183 229 Veronika Palečková, veronika.paleckova@uochb.cas.cz, +420 220 183 266</p>
Download documents	<p>EIC-PathfinderOpen-2025 summary EIC 2025 Work programme (pages 22-27) EIC-PathfinderOpen-2025 application form template EIC-PathfinderOpen-2025 topic descriptors</p>