
EIC ACCESS+ Open Call Frequently Asked Questions

For EIC Awardees and Seal of Excellence Holders

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This document aims to clarify the information included in the EIC ACCESS+ permanent open call to support the potential applicants to submit applications. This is an official document to be considered as a full part of the call documents set.

1 Who can apply and for which services?

Q1.1: Can I apply for EIC ACCESS+ financial support?

To apply, you must be an EIC beneficiary under one of the following instruments:

- EIC Pathfinder
- EIC Transition
- EIC Accelerator
- Seal of Excellence holder (Under Horizon Europe programme)

Q1.2: Can more partners of the same EIC project apply for EIC ACCESS+ financial support

Yes, all partners can apply individually. Even a start-up stemming from the project can apply.

Q1.3: Can the applicant make more applications?

Yes, but not for the same service. The applicant may apply from multiple services, within the same or different packages listed in the Open Call, until the grant amount threshold of € 60,000 is achieved.

Q1.4: What type of services can I apply for?

The services listed in the EIC Service Catalogue and offered by the EIC Partners, are grouped into the following 4 packages:

- **Service Package 1 - Research Package**
 - Access to Infrastructure and R&D support
 - Prototyping and Proof of Concept (PoC)
- **Service Package 2 - Business Acceleration**
 - Acceleration, Incubation and Venture building
 - Business Planning
 - Matchmaking
 - Internationalisation
- **Service Package 3 - Skills Improvement**
 - Coaching and Mentoring
 - HR & Talent
- **Service Package 4 - Access to Funds**
 - IP & Legal
 - Due Diligence
 - Support fundraising

Q1.5: Who can provide the services eligible for the EIC ACCESS + financial support?

Only the EIC Partners listed in the EIC Service Catalogue can provide the service, therefore a beneficiary may have access to the EIC ACCESS+ grant only in the case the requested service is provided by one of the Partners that is present in the Catalogue.

2 Financial Support

Q2.1: Which kind of financial support may the applicant receive?

The financial support is a lump-sum grant, allowing a reimbursement of up to 50% of the cost paid to the service provider. The considered cost is the one within the invoice issued by the service provider, with the exclusion of VAT.

Q2.2: Can one applicant apply to multiple services and therefore obtain multiple grants?

Yes, but it must justify their effectiveness for the company business strategy and within the threshold of € 60,000. The sum of grants for each company cannot overcome the mentioned threshold.

Q2.3: How is the financial support disbursed?

Financial support is disbursed in instalments. Services whose grant is equal to or less than € 10,000 will be paid in a single instalment at the end of service supply. If the grant is above € 10,000, it will be paid in two instalments, 50% will be paid after the FSTP Agreement signature and the remaining 50% after the service conclusion.

Q2.4: Is there a limit on the amount of financial support the applicant can receive?

Yes, the maximum amount of financial support the applicant can receive is € 60,000.

Q2.5: Are indirect costs covered by the financial support?

Indirect costs are not directly covered by the financial support. However, beneficiaries can claim a flat rate of 25% of eligible direct costs as indirect costs, excluding specific categories such as volunteer costs and financial support to third parties.

Q2.6: Can the financial support be used for services not listed in the EIC Service Catalogue?

No, the financial support can only be used for services that are explicitly listed in the EIC Service Catalogue and provided by EIC Partners.

Q2.7: What lump-sum grant mean?

Lump-sum grant means that the beneficiary of the grant doesn't need to provide specific financial reporting at the end of the services, such as time-sheets of employees, specific travel costs, etc.

3 Selection and Grant Agreement

Q3.1: What criteria will be used to select beneficiaries for the grant?

Applicants are selected based on eligibility criteria which are described in the EIC ACCESS+ Open Call. The selection follows a “first come, first serve” basis according to the timestamp of application submission.

Q3.2: How will the service quality received by the applicant be monitored?

Service quality will be monitored through the collection of feedback via questionnaires and impact assessments conducted six months after service delivery.

Q3.3: What happens if the applicant does not meet the requirements of the Grant Agreement?

If it fails to meet the requirements, it may lead to the termination of the grant. Applicants are expected to comply with all obligations outlined in the Grant Agreement to avoid such consequences.

Q3.4: How long does the selection process take?

The selection process duration can vary, but applicants are typically informed of the outcome within a few weeks after the application deadline.

Q3.5: Can the applicant appeal against the application rejection?

Yes, it can appeal the selection decision by submitting a formal request to the EIC ACCESS+ project coordinator, outlining the reasons for the appeal.

Q3.6: What documentation is required to finalise the Grant Agreement?

The following documents will be annexed to the FSTP agreement: 1) A pdf copy of the contract between the service provider and the applicant; 2) a PDF of the application form; 3) the declaration of honour (using the template provided by EIC ACCESS+); 4) The project coordination consent declaration if the application is made by a project spin-off.

4 Services Offered

Q4.1: Are there any specific eligibility criteria for the services offered?

Yes, services must align with the scaling challenges of deep-tech European innovators, and beneficiaries must demonstrate how the services will contribute to their project's success.

Q4.2: How are the services delivered to beneficiaries?

Services are delivered through EIC Partners, who will provide tailored assistance, workshops, and resources as outlined in the service agreements.

Q4.3: Is there a limit to the number of services a beneficiary can access?

While there is no strict limit on the number of services, the total financial support received by a beneficiary cannot exceed € 60,000.

5 Application Process

Q5.1: What is the application process for accessing services?

The application process involves submitting an online application through the EIC ACCESS+ platform, where beneficiaries must provide details about their project, the services they wish to access, and how these services will address their needs.

Q5.2: Are there specific deadlines for submitting applications?

Yes, it is on May 31st 2026, unless the project will be extended by the EISMEA.

Q5.3: What information is required in the application?

Applicants must provide information about their project, the specific services they are applying for, the expected outcomes, and any relevant information to demonstrate eligibility.

Q5.4: How will applications be evaluated?

Applications will be evaluated based on eligibility criteria.

Q5.5: Can I edit my application after submission?

Once submitted, applications cannot be edited. It is important to review all information carefully before submission.

Q5.6: What happens after I submit my application?

After submission, applications will be reviewed, and applicants will be notified of the outcome. Successful applicants will then proceed to finalise the Grant Agreement.

6 Monitoring and Reporting

Q6.1: What kind of feedback is expected from beneficiaries?

Beneficiaries are expected to provide feedback through a questionnaire on service quality, effectiveness, and overall satisfaction, which will be used to improve future service offerings.

Q6.2: What happens if a beneficiary does not comply with reporting requirements?

Non-compliance with reporting requirements may result in the suspension of financial support or other penalties as outlined in the Grant Agreement.

Q6.3: Will beneficiaries receive support in preparing reports?

Yes, beneficiaries will receive guidance and templates to assist them in preparing their reports and ensuring compliance with monitoring requirements.

7 Additional Information

Q7.1: Where can I find more information about the EIC ACCESS+ project?

More information can be found on the official EIC ACCESS+ project website.

Q7.2: Who can I contact for support during the application process?

Applicants can contact the EIC ACCESS+ project coordinator or designated support staff listed on the EIC ACCESS+ Open Call and the website for assistance.

Q7.3: Are there any workshops or information sessions available for potential applicants?

Yes, the project organises info days and matchmaking sessions periodically to support applicants and provide information about the services offered. These events will be promoted by the website and other EIC information channels.