



European
eic **INNOVATION**
Council

EMPOWERING EUROPEAN INNOVATORS

***Verso un approccio più operativo:
un'anticipazione del prossimo EIC***

23rd of February 2021 – Regione Puglia
Future in our hands: effective solutions for
complex challenges

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DG Research and Innovation / DG CNECT
European Commission

Research and
Innovation



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European Innovation Council

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Horizon Europe Structure



* The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) is not part of the Specific Programme

EIC Why

What's holding back European innovation?

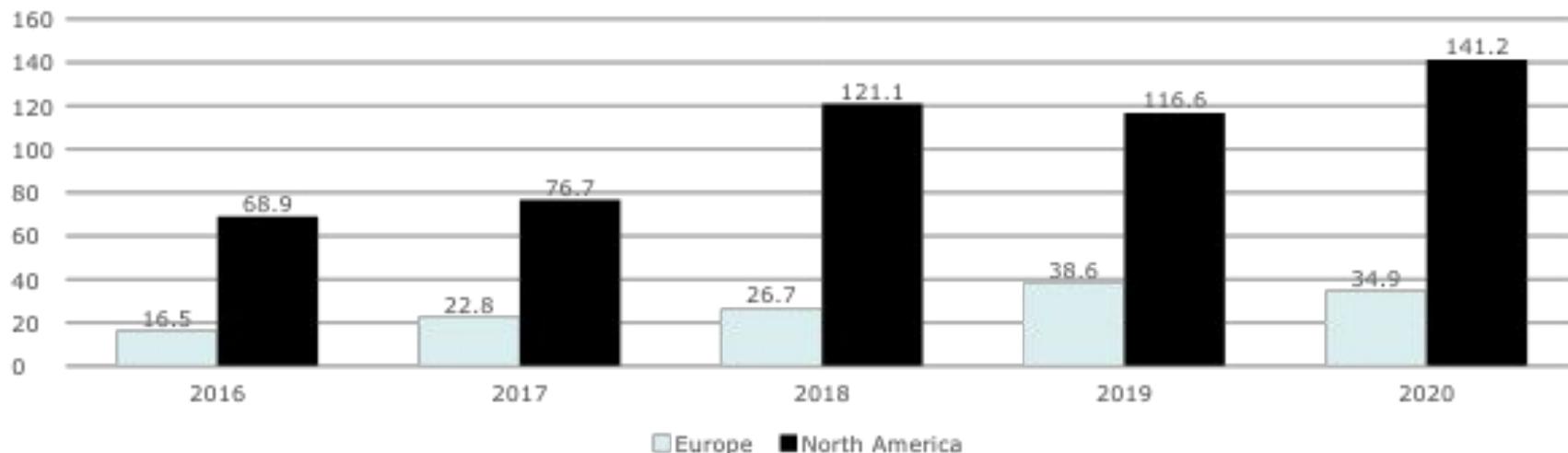
Innovation performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong research performance not translated into innovation• Lack of breakthrough/ disruptive innovations that create new markets
Innovation funding	Financing gaps (2 “valleys of death”) in <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transition from lab to enterprise• Scaling up for high-risk innovative start-ups
Innovation ecosystem	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Many national & local ecosystems, but fragmented at European level• Need to include all regions and all talent (especially female innovators)

EIC Why

Funding gap for scaling up highly innovative start-ups and SMES

US venture capital investments are 4-5 times higher than EU

Capital invested by year (B\$)

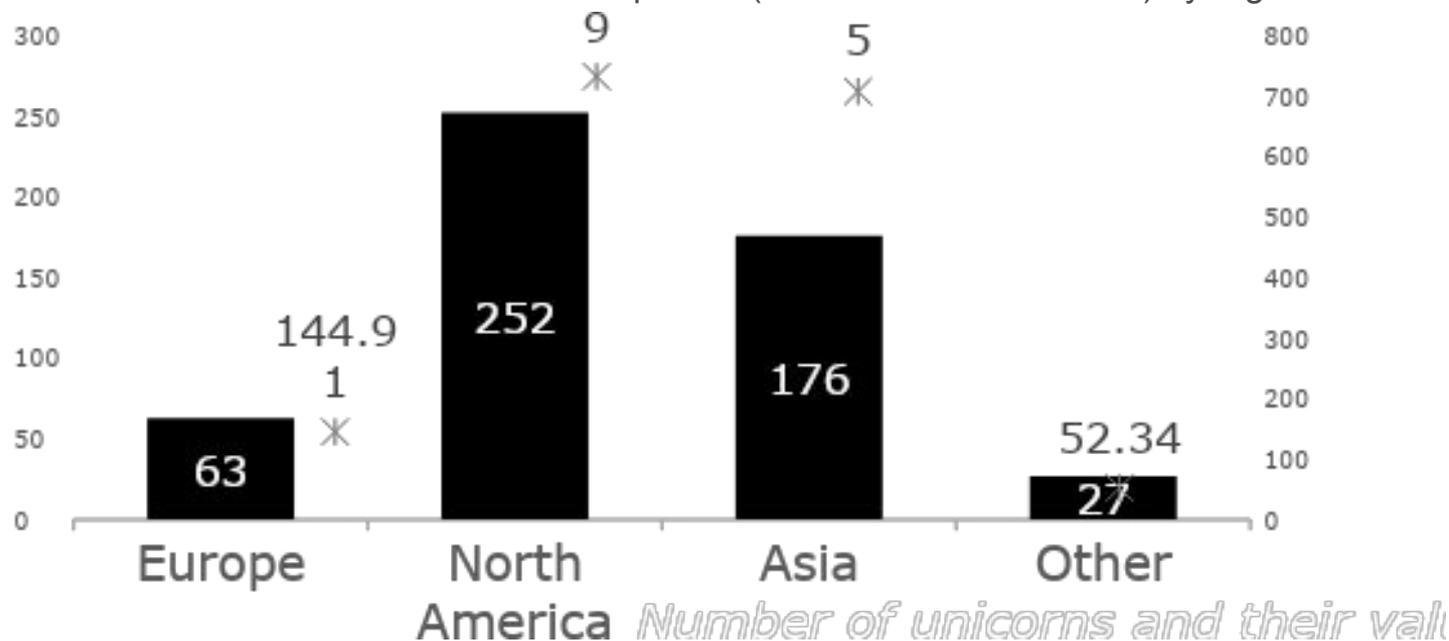


Source: [Invest Europe, Pitchbook]

EIC Why

What is at stake: will Europe be home to future ‘unicorns’?

Number and market value of “unicorn” companies (valued at over €1 billion) by regions



Source: CB Insights (Jan 2021)

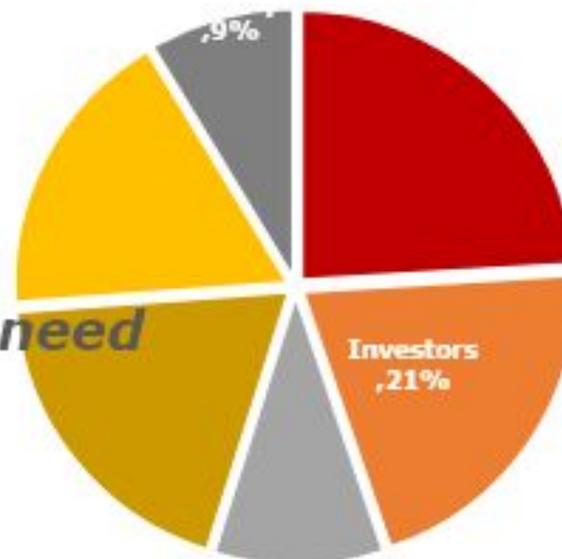
EIC Why

Gap to transition technologies from research to application

Universities consider their weakest ecosystem links are with industry, investors and startups

Universities

*Which actors would you **most need to connect** to within the European ecosystem?*



EIC experience

EIC pilot phase (2018-20) under Horizon 2020 programme

- **Reform of existing instruments** (Future Emerging Technologies, SME instrument) into **EIC pilot Pathfinder and Accelerator**
- **Budget of €3.5 billion (2018-20)**, €1.55 billion in 2020
- **Very high demand:** ~ 14000 applications from SMEs/ startups in 2020 with request for over €40 billion support
- **Highly competitive:** 2-3% success rate for funding (but also >3000 “Seals of Excellence” to facilitate applicants access to other funding)
- **Introduction of “blended finance” (grant + equity) and establishment of EIC Fund** to manage direct equity investments (pipeline of 159 companies, €600m+ investments). First two investments concluded (Corwave, NIL)
- **Special support for COVID relevant innovations:** 36 Startups/SMEs awarded funding of over €160m in May; **for ‘Green Deal’ innovations:** 64 startups/ SMEs awarded funding of over €300m in July; and **for women innovators:** at least 25% of start-ups/ SMEs invited to interview to have female CEO
- **First EIC programme managers** recruited: Iordanis Arzimanoglou (health & biotech), Enric Claverol (medtech & devices), Francesco Matteucci (materials for energy & environment); Antonio (Marco) Pantaleo (energy systems)
- Expanded **Business Acceleration Services** (multi-corporate days, procurer’s days, visits to innovation hubs, overseas trade fairs, etc.)

EIC experience

Impacts of EIC pilot Accelerator (including SME instrument)



Unique offer of funding & support

- Grant funding of up to €2.5 million
- Equity investments up to €15 million
- Coaching, mentoring, links to corporates, investors, etc



Growing portfolio of Startups & SMEs

- 5700 startups & SMEs supported since 2014 (including previous SME instrument)
- Increase in startups with female founders



90% addressing Sustainable Development Goals

Main thematics in:

- 30% in Green Deal
- 30% in Digital
- 30% in Health (*including COVID solutions*)



Proven impact:

- €5.3 billion follow up investments attracted to EIC supported companies
- 1 unicorn (value €1billion+); 43 centaurs (value €100m+)

EIC approach toward innovation

1) Europe's most ambitious innovation initiative

- **Budget of €10.1 billion** (2021-27)
- Mission to **identify, develop and scale-up high risk innovations**, with particular focus on disruptive, deeptech and market creating
- **Independent Board of innovators and President** to set strategy, oversee implementation
- **“One stop shop” for implementation (agency + EIC Fund)**
- **More agile, flexible funding**
- **EIC “Programme Managers”** to develop visions for breakthroughs and steer portfolios
- **Fast track access** for Horizon grant holders (ERC, EIT, etc) and certified national schemes
- **EIC Forum** with innovation ecosystem actors
- Together with **European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT)** and Innovation Ecosystems actions in “Innovative Europe” pillar of Horizon Europe

EIC approach toward innovation

2) One stop agile networked shop

The European Innovation Council

One stop shop for breakthrough, deep-tech, market-creating innovators

Open to all innovators, in any field, at any time

Complemented by **targeted funding** on **strategic technologies** and innovations

Highest potential innovators selected on basis of high-risk/high-impact idea, scale-up potential, and team

Agile funding from idea to investment

Pathfinder for advanced research on emerging technologies (<€4 million)

Transition from lab to commercial setting (<€2.5 million)

Accelerator to scale up innovations by start-ups & SMEs (<€2.5 million grant, <€15 million equity)

Building ecosystems and communities

Access to **business acceleration services** (coaches, mentors); to corporates & investors; to knowledge partners

EIC Programme Managers to develop visions for breakthroughs, manage portfolios, and connect to ecosystems

Crowding in other investors (VC, corporate VC, etc.)

EIC approach toward innovation

3) Advisory Board



CHAIR
Mark Ferguson
 Entrepreneur, Science
 Foundation Ireland



VICE-CHAIR
Hermann Hauser
 Co-founder of Amadeus Capital
 Partners



Kerstin Bock
 CEO of Opener



Jo Bury
 Managing Director of
 Flanders Institute of
 Biotechnology



Dermot Diamond
 Principal Investigator:
 INSIGHT Centre for Data
 Analytics, Dublin City
 University



**Laura
 Gonzalez-Estefani**
 Founder and CEO at
 TheVentureCity



**Jim Hagemann
 Snabe**
 Chair Siemens
 AG, Chair AP
 Moller Maersk
 A/S



Ingmar Hoerr
 Founder and
 Chairman of the
 Supervisory
 Board of CureVac
 AG



Fredrik Hörstedt
 Vice president
 of utilisation
 Chalmers
 University of
 Technology



Heidi Kakko
 Partner of
 BaltCap Growth
 Fund



Bindi Karia
 European Innovation
 Expert + Advisor,
 Connector of People
 and Businesses



**Anita Krohn
 Traaseth**
 Former CEO
 Innovation
 Norway



Jerzy Langer
 Physicist, Emeritus
 Professor at the
 Institute of Physics of
 the Polish Academy of
 Sciences



Ana Maiques
 Chief Executive
 Officer,
 Neuroelectrics



Marja Makarow
 Biochemistry/
 molecular biology,
 director of
 Biocenter Finland



Carlos Oliveira
 Serial Entrepreneur,
 Innovator, Executive
 President of José
 Neves Foundation



**Valeria
 Nicolosi**
 Chair of
 Nanomaterials
 and Advanced
 Microscopy



**Bruno
 Sportisse**
 Chair and CEO
 at INRIA



**Kinga
 Stanislawska**
 Managing
 Partner and
 Founder of
 Exporior
 Venture
 Fund



Roberto Verganti
 Innovation
 academic, former
 RISE group



Martin Villig
 Co-founder of
 Bolt (formerly
 Taxify)



Yousef Yousef
 CEO of LG Sonic

EIC approach toward innovation

3) Advisory Board vision statement (06/2020)

- 1. EIC to pioneer a European approach to global innovation challenges:**
 - **Unique** in combining advanced technological research (DARPA like) with innovation accelerator
 - **Hallmark of excellence** for innovators (like ERC for researchers)
 - **Overcome system biases**, e.g. in terms of high risk, gender, regions
- 2. EIC to crowd in private investors:**
 - **Filling market gaps** for financing high risk/ high impact ideas
 - **3-5 euro** for every euro allocated by EIC
 - Generating **impacts from other EU and national programmes**
- 3. EIC as funder & investor of choice for visionary ideas**
 - Targeting **deep-tech, interdisciplinarity, high risk** to achieve high impact
 - **Simple, fast applications** focusing on the innovator
 - High class **mentoring and advice**, as well as funding

EIC approach toward innovation

4) Work Programme Novelty

EIC Pathfinder

- Mainly open (“bottom”) + targeted call on health, energy and digital technologies
- Programme managers to steer portfolios of projects
- Additional 50k follow up grants to test feasibility and interact across portfolios

EIC Transition

- New funding scheme to bridge gap between research phase (proof of concept) and pre-commercial
- In first phase, for follow up to results from EIC Pathfinder and ERC Proof of Concept

EIC approach toward innovation

4) Work Programme Novelties

EIC Accelerator - funding options

- Mainly open (“bottom”)
- Additional funding for green, digital and health technologies from Next Generation EU budget
- Mainly blended finance (grant + equity investment), but options for “grant only” and “grant first” (with investment follow up)

Innovator friendly application process

- Apply at any time with short (5 page) form, video pitch and slide-deck => feedback within weeks
- If successful, support to prepare full application/ business plan
- Second chance to apply if unsuccessful at first

EIC Fund

- Faster due diligence and decision making
- Platform to crowd in other investors

EIC approach toward innovation

4) Work Programme Novelties – Next Steps

March – April 2021

- Formal adoption process of EIC Work
- Launch of EIC and launch of calls (date to be confirmed)

April – December 2021

- Deadlines/cutoffs for applications (from May/June)
- Evaluations, interviews, grants, due diligence for equity
- Autumn: launch of 2022 EIC Work Programme

EIC approach toward innovation

5) Hands on Approach & Programme Manager

- 1. First hands-on EC agency**
- 2. Programme Manager:**
 - 1. Research and Innovation thematic background**
 - 2. Envisioning the future Technologies where developing EU Tech Sovereignty**
 - 3. Portfolio-driven and steering approach (on-going, future funded-projects)**
 - 4. Nurturing thematic innovation in EU but also worldwide ecosystems**
 - 5. EIC Ambassadors**

EIC approach toward innovation

6) Major Novelties

Hands-on approach

One stop shop for innovation

Accelerator blended finance

Transition calls

Advisory Board

Programme Managers

EIC - Clean energy innovation low maturity level figures

Impact of EIC pilot Pathfinder Portfolio (including FET Open & Proactive)

Pipeline of projects across multiple technologies and application areas

		Applications					
		Health	Digital	Energy & Environment	Food & Agriculture	Manufacturing /Infrastructure	Sum
Technologies	Biotech & bioengineering	95	3	3	5	4	110
	Engineering	0	6	3	0	11	20
	Data	7	23	2	0	1	33
	Materials	23	69	41	2	38	173
	Sum	125	101	49	7	54	336

Proven impacts

- 590 innovations, 451 addressing new and emerging markets
- 2662 Peer-Reviewed Scientific Publications, 72% in high profile journals

Horizon Europe and potential Sinergy with Regional/National funds

- **EIC Forum**
- **Plug-in mechanism**
- **Propose joint actions (e.g. EU Pillar 2 Missions, ..)**
- **....**

Capacity building & Ecosystem development

- EU has an efficient Ecosystem of Research, but we need to train more innovation and community managers.
- We need to support both science-push and market-pull driven innovations.
- The path to establish an efficient Regional Ecosystem of Innovation is long and complex, but capacity building is one of the main pillars that has to be implemented asap (e.g. EIC finances deep tech breakthrough innovation projects).

Q&A Session



European
Commission

ec.europa.eu/research/eic

 **#EU_EIC**

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