



Innovate
UK

EIC Pathfinder 2023

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Innovate UK



Can UK Participate?

- **Yes**
- [EU response](#) – The UK is expected to become an associated country to Horizon Europe. The UK will have the same rights and obligations as other countries associated to the Programme
- [UK response](#) – UK-based applicants can apply – no need to wait until Association is formalised.
- [Guarantee Notice](#) and Guidance
- [Supporting the UK](#) R&D and collaborative research programmes beyond European Programmes.

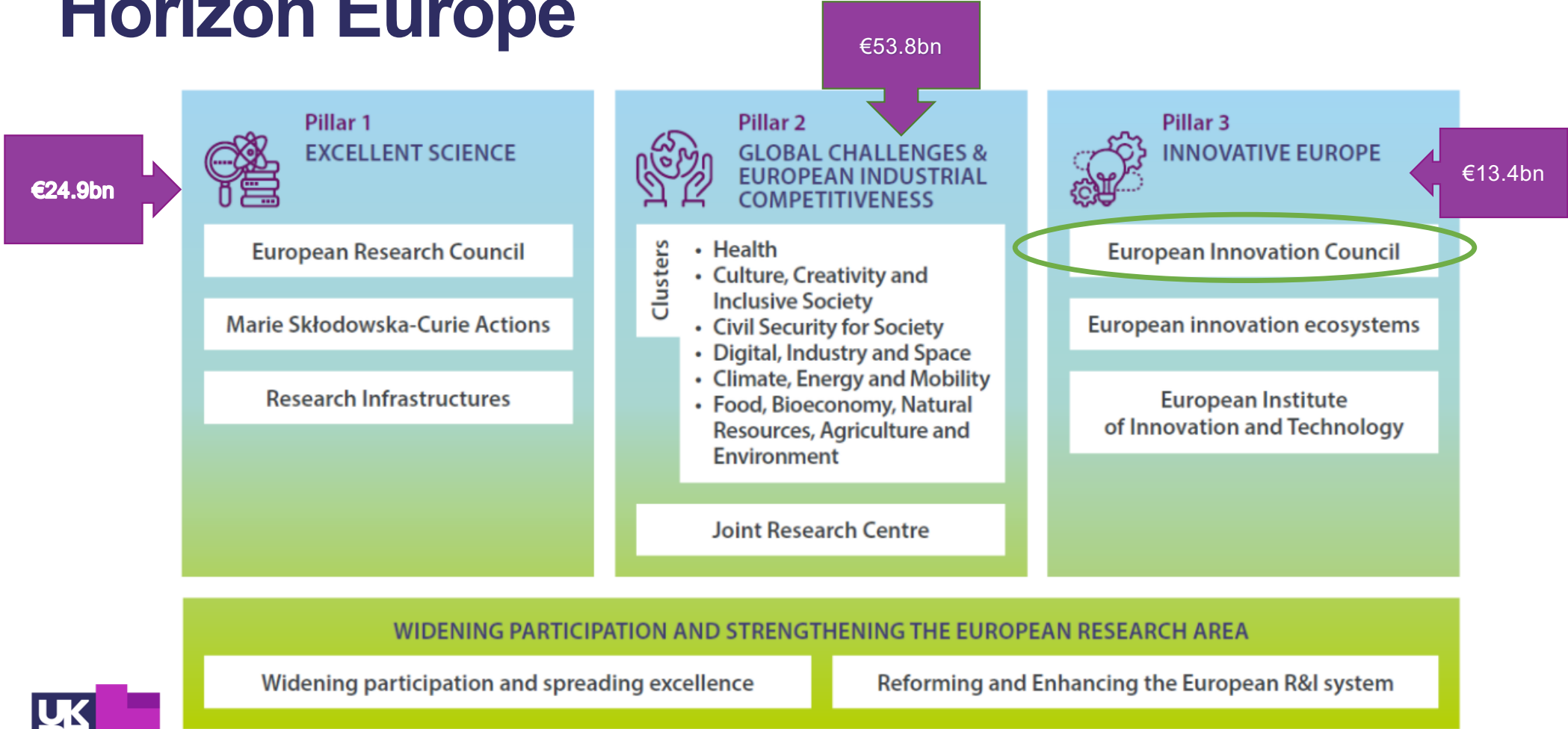


Can UK entities apply for EIC Funding

- UK entities may apply to calls of the EIC grants, including Pathfinder.
- However, UK entities will only be eligible for funding if the Horizon Europe association agreement with the UK applied at the time of signature of the grant agreement.
- UK entities also eligible to receive Business Acceleration Services – coaching, mentoring, events etc



Horizon Europe



Budget figures exclude UK and other Associate Country contributions

What is the EIC?

Europe's most ambitious innovation initiative

Budget

€ 10 billion

Unique

combines research & accelerator for SMEs, startups, scaleups

Largest deep-tech innovator in Europe

Over €3 billion

Enhances the European Innovation Ecosystems

Partnerships with ERC, EIT regions...

Annual Work Programmes (separate from Horizon Europe main WP)

- First WP (2021) adopted 18 March 2021, €1.5 billion
- Second WP (2022) adopted 7 February 2022, €1.7 billion
- Third Work Programme (2023) adopted 7 December 2022, € 1.7 billion

EIC Main characteristics

- Identify, develop and deploy high risk innovations of all kinds
- From Idea to Market
- Focus on breakthrough, market-creating, deep-tech
- Steered by EIC Board of leading innovators (entrepreneurs, investors, researchers, ecosystems)
- Business Acceleration Services (coaches/mentors, corporates, investors, ecosystem)
- Pro-active management (roadmaps, reviews, reorientations, etc) with EIC Programme Managers
- Follow-up funding for results from Horizon (e.g. ERC, EIT)



Pathfinder

- For **consortia**
- **TRL 1-4** (Early stage research on breakthrough technologies)
- Grants up to € 3 to 4 million

- For **consortia & single** researchers /companies
- **TRL 3-6** (Proof of concept to validation)
- Grants up to € **2.5 million**

Transition

- For **individual companies**
- TRL 6-9 (Development & scale up)
- **Blended** finance
 - grants up to € 2.5 million
 - equity up to €15 million

Accelerator

What are TRLs

Technology Readiness Levels

- TRL1 – basic principles observed
- TRL2 – technology concept formulated
- TRL3 - experimental proof of concept
- TRL4 – technology validated in a lab
- TRL5 – technology validated in a relevant environment
- TRL6 – technology demonstrated in relevant environment
- TRL7 – system prototype demonstration in an operational environment
- TRL8 – system complete and verified
- TRL9 – actual system proven in operational environment





HORIZON EUROPE

THE EU RESEARCH &
INNOVATION PROGRAMME
2021 - 2027

#HorizonEU



EUROPEAN UNION

EIC Pathfinder



What is the EIC Pathfinder 2023

- Funds **research** to develop the **scientific basis** to underpin breakthrough technologies
- Support **earliest stages** of scientific, technological or deep-tech R&D
- Aims to build on new, **cutting-edge directions in science and technology** to disrupt a field and a market or create new opportunities
- Realises innovative technological solutions to identify, develop and scale up **breakthrough technologies** and **disruptive innovations** in Europe

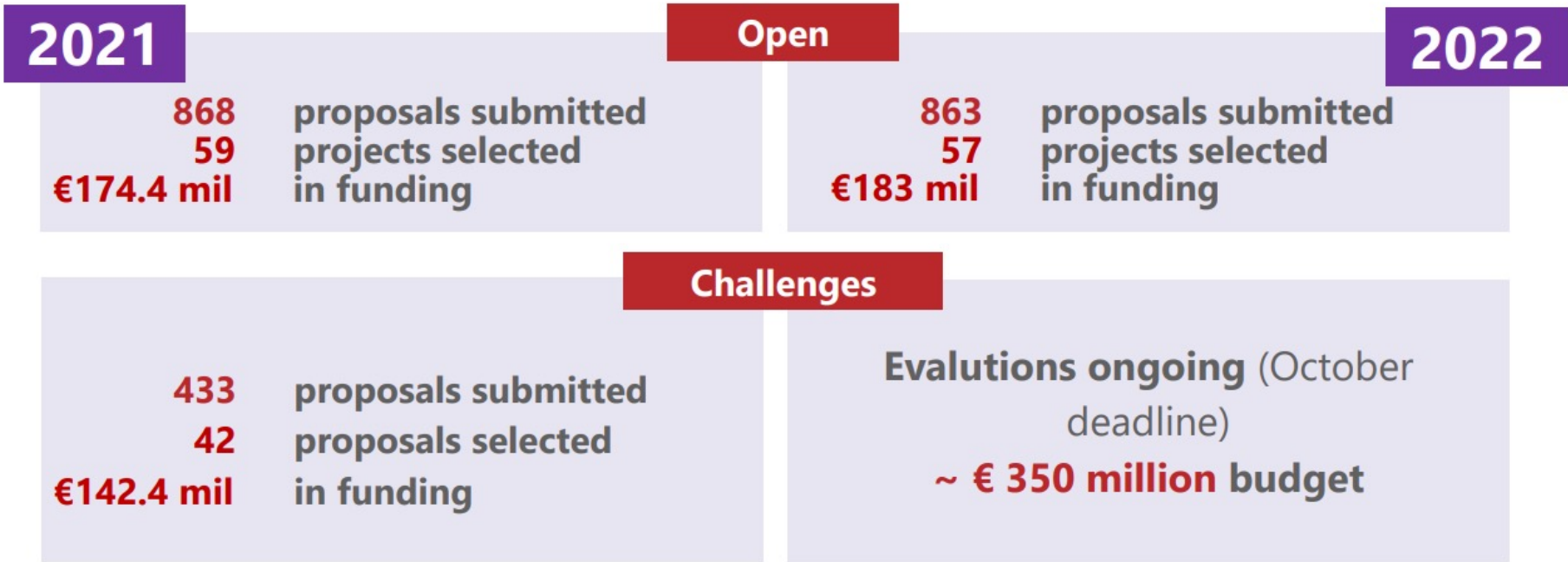


Funding Schemes 2023

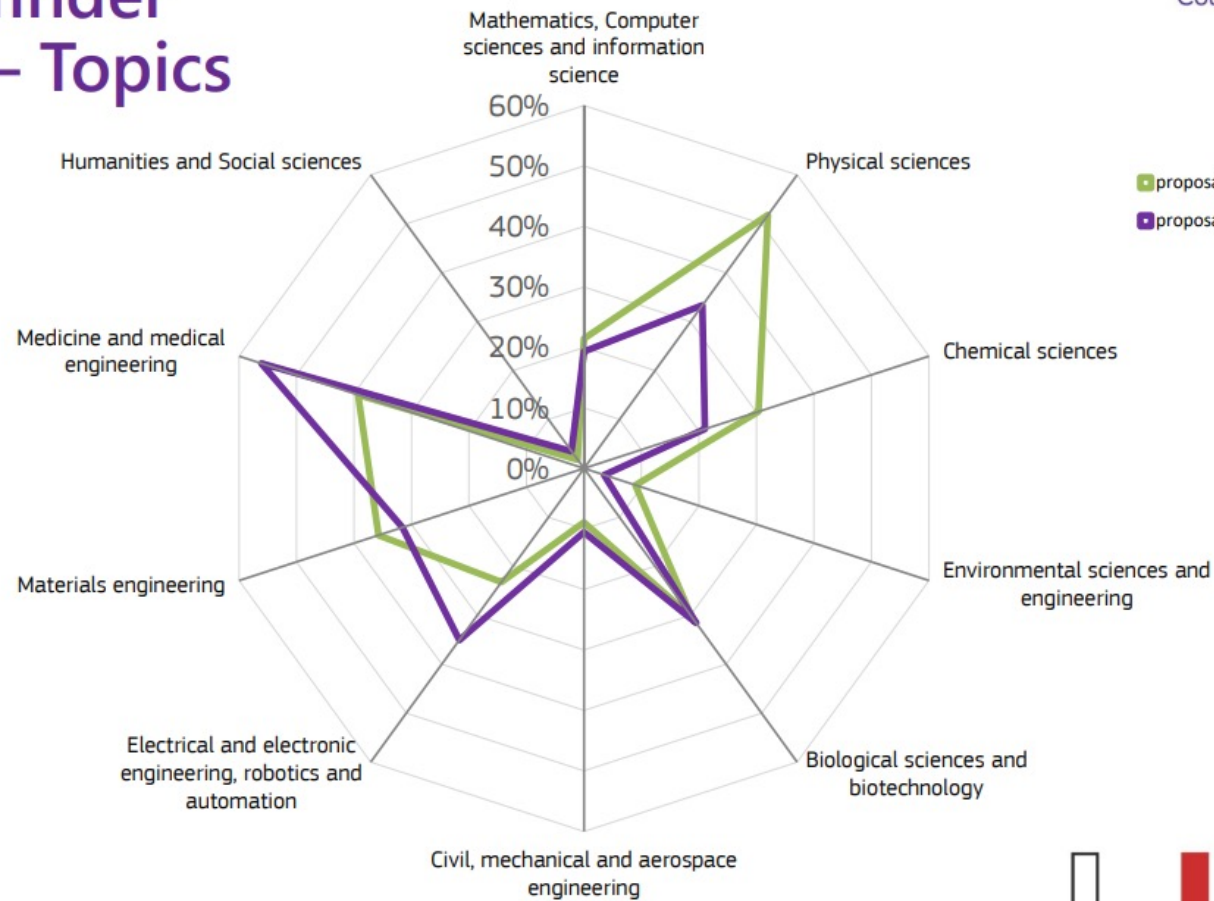
- EIC Pathfinder Open
 - To support projects in any field of science, technology or application without predefined thematic priorities (bottom-up)
- EIC Pathfinder Challenges
 - To support coherent portfolios of projects within predefined thematic areas with the aim to achieve specific objectives for each Challenge



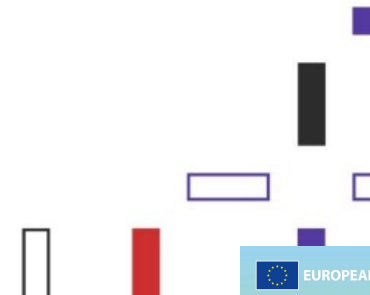
EIC Pathfinder to date



2022 Pathfinder Open call – Topics



■ proposals on main list 2021
■ proposals on main list 2022



Why should you apply

- An ambitious vision for radically new technology
 - Potential to create new markets and/or address global challenges
- Early stage development of such future technologies
- TRL 1 - 4
- Research to provide Foundations of the technology you are envisioning



Gatekeepers – Essential Characteristics

Essential that your proposal meets all the following characteristics

- Convincing long-term vision of a radically new technology
 - that has the potential to have a transformative positive effect to our economy and society
- Concrete, novel and ambitious science-towards-technology breakthrough
 - providing advancement towards the envisioned technology
- High-risk/high-gain research approach and methodology
 - with concrete and plausible objectives



Expected output – EIC Pathfinder Open

- Proof of principle – main ideas of the envisioned future technology are feasible
 - Validating scientific and technological basis
- Top level scientific publications in open access
- Allow future uptake
 - Through adequate formal protection of IP
- Key actors to become future leaders
- Empower female researchers
 - Gender balance among work package leaders



Can you apply?

- Submitted by the Co-Ordinator
 - On behalf of a consortium
 - At least three legal entities – independent from each other and established in a different country
 - At least one legal entity establish in a MS
 - At least 2 other independent legal entities each established in different MS or AC
 - Legal entities may be universities, research organisations, SMEs, start-ups, industrial partner or natural persons.



Who can apply? Be aware!



▪ Pathfinder Open

- Collaborative research
- At least three (indep) legal entities – and est in different country
- At least one legal entity established in a Member State; and
- At least two other independent legal entities, each established in different Member States or **Associated Countries**
- **Legal Entity** = universities, research organisations, SMEs, start-ups, industrial partners or natural persons

▪ Pathfinder Challenges – *read specific challenge*

- **Single legal entity** in MS or AC
- Consortia of two entities in diff MS or **AC**
- Consortia of three or more – at least three legal entities, indep from each other and established in a different country as follows:
 - At least one legal entity established in a MS and
 - At least two other independent legal entities each est. in different MS or AC.
- **Legal entity = universities, research organisations, SMEs, start-ups, natural persons. In single beneficiaries, mid-caps and larger companies will not be permitted**

What support will be received?

EIC Pathfinder Open

- 100% grant (Research and Innovation Action)
- Up to 3 million €
 - Larger amounts if properly justified
- Budget for call is 179.5M€ - ~ 60 project will be funded



Additional opportunities for selected projects

- EIC booster grants
 - Up to 3 per project (Or more if justified) of up to 50,000€ to undertake complementary activities
 - Explore potential pathways to commercialisation
 - For portfolio activities
 - Submit an EIC Transition Proposal
 - Submit an EIC Accelerator proposal via the fast track scheme
 - Participate in Next Generation Innovation talents scheme
 - Personnel costs of participating researchers are eligible costs under Pathfinder Grants

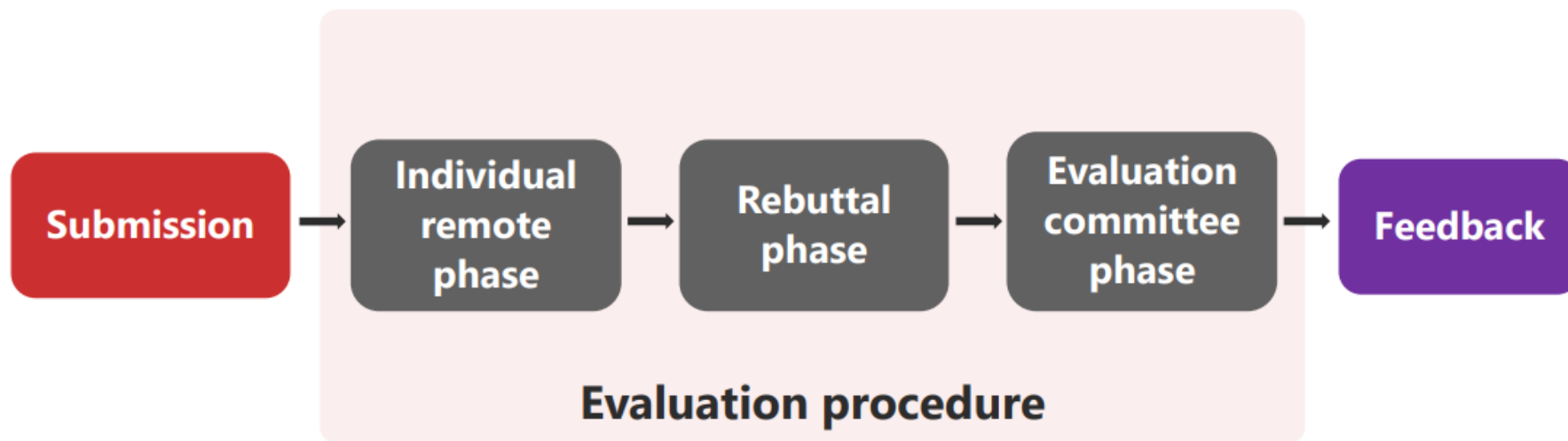
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How to apply

- Submit application via [Funding & tenders \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/funding/)
- Outcome of the evaluation within ~ 5 months from call deadline
- If selected for funding signed Grant Agreement by 8 months after call deadline
- Deadline to submit – 7th March 2023 @ 17:00 CET 

Evaluation process



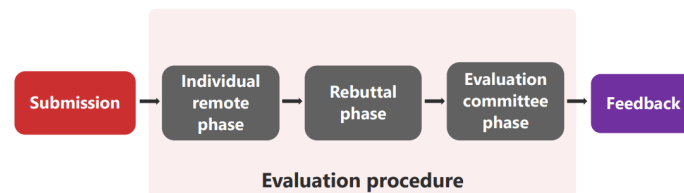
Proposal Submission

- Template Available - [af_he-eic-pathfinder-open_en.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)
 - Modified to reflect 2023 award criteria
 - Key words selection also modified
- **Part A** – online – no page limit
 - Admin details, summarised budget and call specific questions
- **Part B** – max 17 pages, single document, technical description of the project.

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Individual Remote Phase

- At least four expert evaluators evaluate the proposals
 - Excellence
 - Impact
 - Quality and efficiency of the implementation
- The **remote score** for each evaluation criterion will be **median of the evaluators' scores**.
- The **overall remote score** will be the **weighted sum** of the three median score from the three evaluation criteria.



Award criterion 'Excellence'

Threshold
4/5

Weight
60%

▪ Long-term vision

- How convincing is the vision, which the project would contribute to the in the long-term

▪ Science towards technology breakthrough

- How concrete, novel and ambitious is the proposed science-towards technology breakthrough wrt state-of-the-art
- advancement towards realising the envisioned technology

▪ Objectives

- Proposed objective plausible
- High risk / high gain research appropriate for achieving them?
- Sound proposed methodology
 - Underlying concepts, models, assumptions, alternative directions and options, gender dimension and open science

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▪ Interdisciplinarity

- how relevant for achieving proposed breakthrough



Award criterion 'Impact'



▪ Long term impact

- How significant are the potential transformative positive effects for economy, environment and society

▪ Innovation potential

- Do proposed measures for protection facilitate future translation of results into innovations
- Do proposed measures involve and empower key actors that have potential to take lead in translating research into innovation in the future

▪ Communication and dissemination

- Do measures maximise expected outcomes and impacts to raise awareness about project to establish new markets and/or address global challenges

Award criterion 'Quality and efficiency of the implementation'



▪ Work plan

- Coherent and effective to achieve work packages, tasks, deliverables, milestones, time-line etc
- risk mitigation to achieve project objectives

▪ Allocation of resources

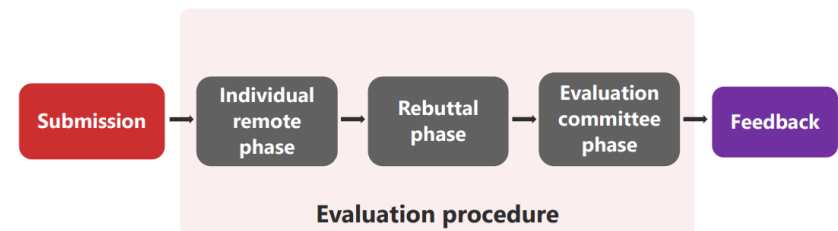
- Appropriate and effective to work packages (person months and cost items)
- Consortium members

▪ Quality of the consortium

- Do all have necessary high quality expertise for performing the project tasks

Rebuttal Phase – right to react

- ~1.5 – 2.5 months after deadline
 - Reply within 8 calendar days
 - Maximum 2 pages A4
 - To evaluators comments
- Can't alter and add to the context
 - Focus on responding to potential misunderstandings or errors by the evaluators
- Replies made available to Evaluation committee
- Evaluation committee will take into consideration comments from rebuttal to arrive at final scores



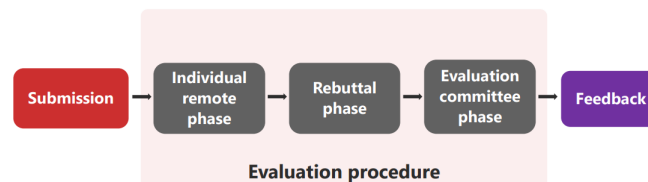
Evaluation Committee Phase

- Different expert evaluators that remote evaluators
- Final score
 - Based on remote evaluation and
 - Outcome of consensus discussions
- Focus on proposals with diverging evaluators opinions that have chance of getting funded
- EIC Expert evaluators invited into consensus discussions
- Evaluation committee will confirm the ranking list

Ranking list – equal score resolution

Proposals with the same scoring will be untied based on the following factors, in order:

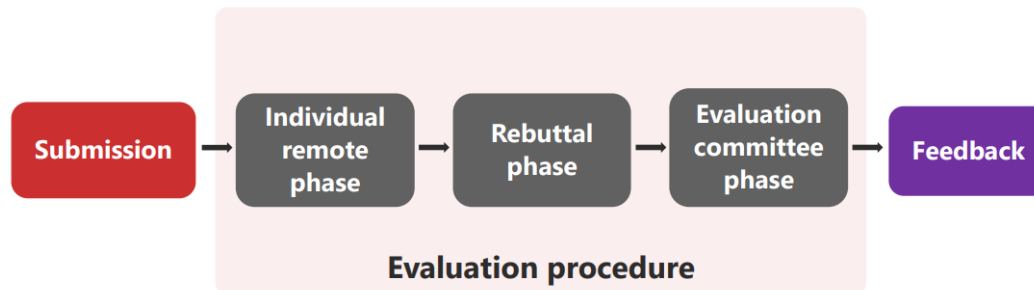
1. Higher score under Excellence
2. Higher Score under Impact
3. Gender Balance in Work Package Leaders
4. Number of applicants that are SMEs
5. Number of MS and AC in consortium
6. Other factors determined by Evaluation Committee



Feedback to applicants

- Will receive an Evaluation Summary Report (**ESR**)
 - Final score
 - Summary of the assessment by the evaluation committee
 - Additional comments
 - Can include advice not to resubmit proposal
- Will also detail how the rebuttal was taken into consideration

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Additional Information

- [Contact your NCP](#)
- [Access2EIC](#) – How to apply successfully EIC Pathfinder /FET
- Policy Context – [Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2021- 2024](#) and the [New European Innovation Agenda](#)
- EIC [Work Programme 2023](#)
- [Funding and Tenders Portal](#) – how to apply
- Pathfinder [FAQs](#)
- [EIC Info day](#) – 13 December 5th 2022 – see recording;
- KTN [European Programmes - Innovate UK KTN \(ktn-uk.org\)](#)
- Work as an Expert! - [Work as an expert \(europa.eu\)](#)





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Thank you

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