

EIC STEP Scale Up

EIC - European Innovation Council

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|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| CODE | SCOPE |
| HORIZON-EIC-2026-STEP | International |
| LOCATION | STATUS |
| Europe | Open |
| PROGRAM | CURATED BY |
| EIC - European Innovation Council | Maria Macedo |
| GENERATED AT | |
| June 8, 2026 | |

Financial Details

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|------------------------|--------|
| SUPPORT TYPE | BUDGET |
| Equity | 300M€ |
| ELIGIBLE PROJECT VALUE | |
| 10M€ - 30M€ | |

Dates & Deadlines

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| PUBLICATION DATE | OPENING DATE |
| Not defined | November 6, 2025 |

Application Phases

- Deadline: November 25, 2026 at 04:00 PM (171 days left)

Objectives

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The EIC STEP Scale Up call is designed to support ambitious scale-up companies, specifically SMEs and small mid-caps with up to 499 employees, established in an EU Member State or an Associated Country. The main objective is to catalyze the growth and deployment of game-changing innovations in Europe's critical technology areas. Eligible applicants may also include investors applying on behalf of these companies under a prior agreement. The target

is to fill significant financing gaps for high-risk innovations, enabling their rapid market expansion and strategic value creation within the EU. Supported innovations must fall within the priority areas established by the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP), such as digital and deep tech, clean and resource-efficient technologies, and biotechnologies. Applicants must demonstrate significant market interest by securing a pre-commitment for at least 20% of the intended funding round from a qualified investor.

Funding

The 2026 EIC STEP Scale Up call offers a total budget of €300 million. Applicants can request equity investments from a minimum of €10 million up to a maximum of €30 million, to be used as part of a total funding round between €50 and €150 million (the EIC share being three to five times smaller than the total round). No grant component is available; support is exclusively through equity investments, managed by the EIC Fund. Each investment is negotiated on a case-by-case basis, in line with the EIC Fund Investment Guidelines. Projects are selected with the intent that the EIC contribution catalyzes significantly larger funding rounds involving private market investors.

Eligible Expenses

- Equity investment in scale-up activities
- Development and commercialization of innovations
- Expand operational capacity

Eligibility

Eligible Sectors

- Industry
- Energy & Environment
- ICT & Software
- Health & Life Sciences
- Other

Company Sizes

- Sme
- Small Mid-Cap

Application Mode

- Individual

Action Types

- Scale-up of critical technologies
- Commercialization of high-risk innovations
- Expansion of manufacturing capacity
- Deployment of strategic technologies
- Acceleration of market entry

EU Programme Details

CALL ID

HORIZON-EIC-2026-STEP

SUBMISSION MODE

Continuous

EU CONTRIBUTION

€10,000,000.00 to €30,000,000.00

EXPECTED PROJECTS

10

FUNDING RATE RULE

Equity-only investments; EIC investment must be one quarter to one fifth of the total funding round, with the remainder from external investors. No grant component. Maximum EIC investment per project is €30 million.

Official Links

Official Regulation:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-EIC-2026-STEP?order=DESC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=50&sortBy=startDate&isExactMatch=true&status=31094502&programmePart=43121666&frameworkProgramme=43108390&deadline-Date=1780182000000,1798675200000>

Grantavia page: <https://grantavia.com/en/incentives/eic-step-scale-up>

Schedule a meeting: <https://calendly.com/ines-carreira-fi-group/reuniao>