

Turkey and the EIC Accelerator Pilot

The European Innovation Council (EIC) introduced the Accelerator Pilot under the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Instrument; a key element of the European Union's Horizon 2020 programme. It is likely that Accelerator will be incorporated into the next Framework Programme, Horizon Europe, due to start in 2021.

The "Turkey in Horizon 2020 Phase II Project" offers support for Turkish businesses to engage with Horizon 2020. This includes; training, proposal writing, IPR and legal issues, brokerage events, webinars and on-line tools. For more information, see; <https://turkeyinh2020.eu/>

The "Turkey in Horizon 2020 Phase II Project" is co-financed by the EU and the Republic of Turkey and managed by The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK), within the framework of the Competitive Sectors Programme of the Ministry of Industry and Technology.

ACCELERATOR – the SME Instrument of the European Innovation Council (EIC)

Accelerator is the new name for the SME Instrument (SMEI). It is aimed at SMEs with outstanding proposals for innovative ideas that satisfy clear market needs. Accelerator differs from the earlier SME Instrument in that there is no Phase 1 grant and projects at TRL 6 and above will have the added option of 'blended finance'. The blended finance concept is new; combining EC grant funding with private sector and EC venture capital funds. Projects at TRL 9 and above will only be offered equity participation from the private sector and/or the EC.

Accelerator funding is pitched at SMEs in need of one last push before scaling up to commercial success. There is an even stronger focus on commercial potential. The application process and documentation have been streamlined in comparison to the earlier programme. The key evaluation criteria remain the same; **'Impact': 'Excellence' 'Implementation'** – but interpretations have been strengthened.

In Accelerator, there is greater emphasis on 'Impact'. SMEs must show how their projects will quickly take a strong lead in European and global markets through competitive commercial success, resulting in business growth in jobs and sales.

'Excellence', must be demonstrated by high-risk, high-potential, disruptive ideas that have a high degree of novelty and offer solutions that go beyond state of the art, yet have difficulty in attracting commercial funding.

All of this must be backed up by demonstrable quality and efficiency of 'Implementation'. SMEs must show that alternative funding options – such as investments and bank finance – are not open to them because of the risky nature of their projects. Evaluators will also look at the technical and business experience of the SME teams, the availability of resources and realistic timeframes. This must be supported by coherent and plausible work packages, deliverables and milestones.

Bidders will be invited to pitch to investors if they pass the initial evaluations stage. Coaching and mentoring services will be available to successful bidders.

Initial Registration

First you must register your business as a participant with the European Commission. This is a simple process which begins by contacting the Participant Register contained in the EC Funding and Tenders Portal at: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

At the end of the registration process you will receive a Participant Identification Code (PIC) number which must be used on all communications and applications for support. Once registered, you can then apply for Accelerator support through the same portal.

How to apply for Accelerator

There are three steps to obtaining Accelerator funding; these are shown in the flowchart overleaf.

Competition for Accelerator is tough and very selective. It is therefore essential that you only apply with genuinely innovative ideas and then provide highly detailed information and analyses to convince the evaluators that you should be awarded funding.

What happens after the Stages shown in the Flowchart?

All proposers are informed about the outcome of their submissions. After confirmation of a successful result, proposals move into a contract negotiation stage with Commission officials. If applicants are informed of an unsuccessful outcome, their proposals may be re-submitted after improvement.

Further Information

See our 'User Guide to the EIC Accelerator' available from the 'Turkey in Horizon 2020 Phase II' web site: <https://turkeyinh2020.eu/>. The Guide provides more in-depth information and relevant web sites.

For further information on Accelerator and other elements of the EIC Pilot, use the link: <https://ec.europa.eu/research/eic/index.cfm>

TÜBİTAK offers a wide range of support to SMEs wishing to participate in EC programmes; see: <https://h2020.org.tr/en>

Disclaimer

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The content of this Guide has been prepared from documentation issued by the EIC and the European Commission. The content is considered correct at the time of printing, but as Accelerator is a pilot programme the information may change. Readers should be aware of current information through EC web sites. IDI Ltd, as contractor to MoIT and TÜBİTAK, cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies or omissions in the content, or any subsequent changes to the Programme.



Accelerator

The SME Instrument of the EIC Pilot Programme

ACCELERATOR FROM IDEA TO INVESTMENT

1st STEP

APPLICATION

The European Innovation Council (EIC) is open for ideas in any field of innovation and you can apply at any time of the year.

If you are a start-up, SME, entrepreneur with a business plan to develop and scale up a high-risk innovation, then the Accelerator is the right way forward for you.



ACCELERATOR: Start-ups, SMEs and entrepreneurs

- For development and scaling up of high risk innovations by startups and SMEs
- Grant funding of up to €2.5 million (70% of costs)
- Option of equity investment of up to €15 million
- Access to EIC coaching and mentoring services, pitches with corporates, VCs, etc
- All funding is open (no predefined thematic areas)



EIC one-stop-shop

The application will be dealt with in the EIC one-stop-shop, bringing together **support for EU innovation across EU agencies and a dedicated investment vehicle** (for equity). All applications are assessed by independent evaluators with a tailored mix of research, technical and business expertise.

2nd STEP

EVALUATION



Applications to the accelerator will be assessed first by a set of independent experts based on their potential for **future social or economic impact or market creation, the high risk/ high potential nature of the innovation, and the business plan.**



The applicants with the highest overall assessments will be invited to **pitch to a panel** of experienced investors and entrepreneurs who will take a go/no-go decision.



3rd STEP

DECISION



Grant Only

Applicants will be informed about the result within four months and receive grants within six months.



Grant + Equity

Applicants will be informed about the result within three months and receive grants within five months. For the equity, additional due diligence will be undertaken before receiving the investment.