Access2EIC

National Contact Points for Innovation

ANNOTATED PROPOSAL TEMPLATE 2026
EIC PATHFINDER OPEN

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Introduction and Background

The 'Annotated proposal template EIC Pathfinder Open' is a guide created in order to help applicants better understand the requirements of the template and write better applications. The annotated template is provided for information only, and reflects solely the view of the authors.

HOW TO READ THIS ANNOTATED PROPOSAL TEMPLATE

- The text of the original EIC Pathfinder Open proposal template appears in **Blue**.
- The recommendations of the Access2EIC NCPs appear in Yellow.
- The Tips & Tricks from Reviewers appear in Light purple.
- The recommendations of the Head of Unit for the EIC Pathfinder programme, Timo Hallantie appear in Light blue

This guide has been written as part of the Access2EICs project, a Coordination and Support Action funded by the European Commission, with the goal of empowering the network of Europe National Contact Points (NCPs) of the EIC European Innovation Council.

The authors of this guide are EIC European Innovation Council NCPs. Their recommendations appear in the document as "Expert recommendations".

The structure of this document mirrors that of the proposal template for the EIC Pathfinder Open 2026.

This guide is limited to annotations to the templates of the EIC Pathfinder Open 2026. For a more general overview of how the Horizon Europe grants work, see the Online Manual provided by the European Commission.

A comprehensive list of all Horizon Europe reference documents (including legislation, work programme and templates) can be found on the Reference documents page of the Participant Portal. If you need help, you can also contact the Horizon Europe National Contact Points of your country.

The document has been structured to guide applicants on how to best present information answering the evaluation criteria of **(1) Excellence**, **(2) Impact** and **(3) Quality and efficiency of the implementation**. The guide should be useful for anyone who wants to submit an EIC Pathfinder Open 2026 proposal.

AIM AND CONTENT

The European Innovation Council aims to identify and support breakthrough technologies and game changing innovations with the potential to scale up internationally and become market leaders. Within this scheme, the overall objective of the EIC Pathfinder instrument is to develop the scientific basis to underpin breakthrough technologies. It provides support for the earliest stages of scientific, technological or deep-tech research and development. Pathfinder projects aim to build on new, cutting-edge directions in science and technology to disrupt a field and a market or create new opportunities by realising innovative technological solutions.

The overall aim of this annotated template is to provide applicants with tools and tips on how to draft a proposal with a better chance of winning the EIC Pathfinder. The examples used in the document are based, among others, on successful proposals that EIC NCPs have previously identified and consulted, and are generalized to become more universal.

The **Expert recommendations** and the **Examples** provided in the document are intended to help

applicants by clarifying certain relevant points requested in the proposal template. These directives are not taken from a running funded project. Also, they should not be followed blindly, but seen as illustrations of the expert recommendations. They are meant to give an idea of the elements that should be covered, but these elements should be described in greater detail in the proposal itself.

As explained above, the three main criteria used to evaluate the innovative aspects of a project proposal for Horizon Europe are[1]:

EXCELLENCE	IMPACT	QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION
This section shall demonstrate your long-term vision and science-towards-technology breakthrough and how the high-risk/high-potential innovation goes beyond the state of the art in its field, in comparison to existing and competing solutions. In addition, you have to prove how relevant your interdisciplinary approach is to achieve the proposed breakthrough.	This section assesses the positive effects that your technology will have to economy, environment and society. It will also evaluate the innovation potential.	This section must address your work plan (work packages, deliverables, milestones, timeline etc.) and the allocation of resources of all partners. You must prove that all consortium members have the expertise to perform the project tasks.
50%	**30%**	**20%**

1 Please note that the weights of Excellence and Impact have changed in 2026.

EIC PATHFINDER OPEN

Project proposal - Technical description (Part B)

Part B - GENERAL TIPS

Successful proposals are clear, well-prepared, and straightforward. Unsuccessful ones typically have weak points or lack clarity.

Common mistakes applicants make are excessive attachment to the idea, poor articulation, incremental research, and insufficiently convincing novelty.

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- **European dimension**: Make sure to clearly show how your proposal is relevant to Europe
- **Form and content**: Bear in mind that form matters: Take the time to review and polish the language. You can change the appearance of the proposal, as long as you maintain the font size, margins and numbering of chapters and sections. Please ensure that the required minimum font size is applied. Increase the spacing between letters makes the proposal easier to read and seem less dense.
- **Visuals**: A picture is worth a thousand words. Use illustrations and graphics instead of lengthy textual explanations, where possible and where they increase the comprehension.
- **Printability**: Bear in mind that some evaluators print out the proposals. Ensure that any illustrations or graphics are equally legible in black and white.
- **Using links**: You can include links to web-pages that demonstrate different aspects of the project; however, this isn't a gateway to buy additional space for text. The proposal must have all the information needed, while the links are 'bonuses'. Do not assume the evaluator will click these links.
- **As many eyes as possible**: Before submitting, let other people read your proposal and comment. Try to choose people who are not from your field, to make sure the proposal can be easily understood by an "interested layman".
- **Completeness**: Do not forget to answer every single question, even if you do not think that the particular question is important for your project.
- **For re-submissions**: Evaluators do not know that you re-submitted unless you mention it. They are instructed to ignore any reference to previous submissions. Nonetheless, if you choose to mention that this is a re-submission, make sure to write what were the weak spots of the last submission and what you did in order to improve it. In any case, evaluators will not receive a copy of the first submission or the results of the previous evaluation.

Before submitting again, please note the following:

- Please ask yourself: Is the momentum still there?
- Please note the reviewers' comments: Assume that at least one of the current reviewers has already read your proposal in previous years.
- Please do not resubmit the proposal unchanged or minimally changed.

You are welcome to contact your National Contact Point with any questions.

EIC PATHFINDER OPEN

Project proposal - Technical description (Part B)

Version 7.0

20 January 2026

The electronic submission system is an online wizard that guides you step-by-step through the preparation of your proposal. The submission process consists of 6 steps:
Step 1: Logging in the Portal.
Step 2: Select the call, topic and type of action in the Portal.
Step 3: Create a draft proposal: Title, acronym, summary, main organisation and contact details.
Step 4: Manage your parties and contact details: add your partner organisations and contact details.
Step 5: Edit and complete web forms for proposal part A, upload proposal part B and the detailed budget table.
Step 6: Submit the proposal.

Proposal template Part B: technical description

Please read the documents carefully and follow the instructions in the template. Do not leave anything out. The evaluators will assess all the specified criteria. If any information is missing, you will lose points.

The structure of this template must be followed when preparing your proposal. It has been designed to ensure that the important aspects of your planned work are presented in a way that will enable the experts to make an effective assessment against the evaluation criteria. Sections 1, 2 and 3 each correspond to an evaluation criterion.

It is imperative that the proposal is written in such a manner that it is suitable for two distinct categories of evaluators. Firstly, the seasoned professional who has already seen and heard of everything, and secondly, the novice who may not yet be fully conversant with the subject matter.

Please be aware that proposals will be evaluated as they were submitted, rather than on their potential if certain changes were to be made. This means that only proposals that successfully address all the required aspects will have a chance of being funded. There will be no possibility for significant changes to content, budget and consortium composition during grant preparation.

Page limit: The sections 1, 2 and 3, together, should not be longer than 22[1] pages. All tables, figures, references and any other element pertaining to these sections must be included as an integral part of these sections and are thus counted against this page limit.
The page limit will be applied automatically. At the end of this document you can see the structure of the actual proposal that you need to submit, please remove all instruction pages that are watermarked.
If you attempt to upload a proposal longer than the specified limit before the deadline, you will receive an automatic warning and will be advised to shorten and re-upload the proposal. After the deadline, excess pages (in over-long proposals/applications) will be automatically made invisible, and will not be taken into consideration by the experts. The proposal is a self-contained document. Experts will be instructed to ignore hyperlinks to information that is specifically designed to expand the proposal, thus circumventing the page limit.
Please, do not consider the page limit as a target! It is in your interest to keep your text as concise as possible, since experts rarely view unnecessarily long proposals in a positive light.
The following **formatting conditions** apply.

Please follow the format requirements. If the font or illustrations are not readable because they are too small, these parts of the application will not be assessed. Proposals that do not comply with the formal requirements (font size, etc.) are usually not good because they often do not get to the point.

The reference font for the body text of proposals is Times New Roman (Windows platforms), Times/Times New Roman (Apple platforms) or Nimbus Roman No. 9 L (Linux distributions).
The use of a different font for the body text is not advised and is subject to the cumulative conditions that the font is legible and that its use does not significantly shorten the representation of the proposal in number of pages compared to using the reference font (for example with a view to bypass the page limit).
The minimum font size allowed is 11 points. Standard character spacing and a minimum of single line spacing is to be used. This applies to the body text, including text in tables.
Text elements other than the body text, such as headers, foot/end notes, captions, formula's, may deviate, but must be legible.

The page size is A4, and all margins (top, bottom, left, right) should be at least 15 mm (not including any footers or headers).

Do not expect links to scientific sources to be followed up. The purpose of such links should not be to provide substantiation for an argument, but rather to demonstrate your awareness of the current state of research in your particular field.

Follow the formatting instructions carefully, but be creative. Work with bolding or underlining, insert emphasising illustrations in order to help the evaluator to follow your argumentation. Please bear in mind that some evaluators review proposals in printed form. Coloured sections and illustrations must also be clearly legible in a black and white A4 printout.
Include a header or footer with your short title and your descriptive long title. This way, the evaluator always knows which proposal she or he is currently working on. References can be either included in the document's footnote or on the final pages of the document[2].

1 Number of pages has been increased in 2026.

2 Tags included for information processing purposes after each subsection title have been eliminated in 2026.

Definitions

Critical risk: Acritical risk is a plausible event or issue that could have a high adverse impact on the ability of the project to achieve its objectives.

Clearly outline risks and realistic mitigation strategies in all chapters. If the risks and mitigation strategies are not described seriously and honestly, this is a real killer.

Level of likelihood to occur (Low/medium/high): The likelihood is the estimated probability that the risk will materialise even after taking account of the mitigating measures put in place.
Level of severity (Low/medium/high): The relative seriousness of the risk and the significance of its effect.

Any type of critical risk should be included, not only the technical risks but also the management and financial risks, among others. Also include a mitigation strategy.

Deliverable: A report that is sent to the Commission or Agency providing information to ensure effective monitoring of the project. There are different types of deliverables (e.g. a report on specific activities or results, data management plans, ethics or security requirements).
Impacts: Wider longterm effects on society (including the environment), the economy and science, enabled by the outcomes of R&I investments (long term). It refers to the specific contribution of the project to the work programme expected impacts described in the destination. Impacts generally occur some time after the end of the project.
Example: The deployment of the advanced forecasting system enables each airport to increase maximum passenger capacity by 15% and passenger average throughput by 10%, leading to a 28% reduction in infrastructure expansion costs.
Milestone: Control points in the project that help to chart progress. Milestones may correspond to the achievement of a key result, allowing the next phase of the work to begin. They may also be needed at intermediary points so that, if problems have arisen, corrective measures can be taken. A milestone may be a critical decision point in the project where, for example, the consortium must decide which of several technologies to adopt for further development. The achievement of a milestone should be verifiable.

It is advisable to avoid overplanning your project with milestones. Instead, it may be beneficial to set as little as possible.

Objectives: The goals of the work performed within the project, in terms of its research and innovation content. This will be translated into the project's results. These may range from tackling specific research questions, demonstrating the feasibility of an innovation, sharing knowledge among stakeholders on specific issues. The nature of the objectives will depend on the type of action, and the scope of the topic.
Outcomes: The expected effects, over the medium term, of projects supported under a given topic. The results of a project should contribute to these outcomes, fostered in particular by the dissemination and exploitation measures. This may include the uptake, diffusion, deployment, and/or use of the project's results by direct target groups. Outcomes generally occur during or shortly after the end of the project.
Example: 9 European airports adopt the advanced forecasting system demonstrated during the project.
Pathway to impact: Logical steps towards the achievement of the expected impacts of the project over time, in particular beyond the duration of a project. A pathway begins with the projects' results, to their dissemination, exploitation and communication, contributing to the expected outcomes in the work programme topic, and ultimately to the wider scientific, economic and societal impacts of the work programme destination.
Research output: Results generated by the action to which access can be given in the form of scientific publications, data or other engineered outcomes and processes such as software, algorithms, protocols and

electronic notebooks.
Results: What is generated during the project implementation. This may include, for example, know-how, innovative solutions, algorithms, proof of feasibility, new business models, policy recommendations, guidelines, prototypes, demonstrators, databases and datasets, trained researchers, new infrastructures, networks, etc. Most project results (inventions, scientific works, etc.) are 'Intellectual Property', which may, if appropriate, be protected by formal 'Intellectual Property Rights'.
Example: Successful large-scale demonstrator: trial with 3 airports of an advanced forecasting system for proactive airport passenger flow management.
Technology Readiness Level: See EIC Work Programme under Glossary section.

Guidance on the use of generative AI tools for the preparation of the proposal: When considering the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools for the preparation of the proposal, it is imperative to exercise caution and careful consideration. The AI-generated content should be thoroughly reviewed and validated by the applicants to ensure its appropriateness and accuracy, as well as its compliance with intellectual property regulations. Applicants are fully responsible for the content of the proposal (even those parts produced by the AI tool) and must be transparent in disclosing which AI tools were used and how they were utilized.
Specifically, applicants are required to:

- Verify the accuracy, validity, and appropriateness of the content and any citations generated by the AI tool and correct any errors or inconsistencies.
- Provide a list of sources used to generate content and citations, including those generated by the AI tool. Double-check citations to ensure they are accurate and properly referenced.
- Be conscious of the potential for plagiarism where the AI tool may have reproduced substantial text from other sources. Check the original sources to be sure you are not plagiarizing someone else's work.
- Acknowledge the limitations of the AI tool in the proposal preparation, including the potential for bias, errors, and gaps in knowledge.

Title of the proposal

1. EXCELLENCE

The chapter on excellence is the most relevant.

I pay particular attention to the "WOW" factor and scientific excellence.

Please avoid typical mistakes such as:

- Lack of clarity.
- Lack of plausibility.
- Too many repetitions.
- Too many empty words and phrases without content.
- Text and illustrations do not complement each other well.
- Overselling: Everything is pumped up and there is not much behind it.

Make a strong entrance. Explain your idea, technology and methodology in a short paragraph. Show your motivation and advertise your project in order to get the evaluator hooked on for your idea.
Don't stick to a too modest wording, dare to use superlatives and promotional language while making a scientifically correct presentation.

Here you are expected to describe your new technology and cutting-edge innovation. Why is it an ambitious idea and truly new compared to what is known? What is your compelling plan? How is it achievable?

- New technology? Cutting-edge innovation?
- Ambitious idea? Truly new compared to what is known?
- Compelling plan? Achievable?
- Interdisciplinary?

Excellence – aspects to be taken into account[3]. (Evaluation criteria)

Novelty, breakthrough and high-risk convince me the most as a reviewer. This means that something is being worked on here that doesn't yet exist and that can be put to great use. Simply gaining knowledge is not enough.

Long-term vision: How convincing is the vision of a radically new technology and relevant potential solutions, towards which the project would contribute in the long term?

You can structure the argument of your vision in the following way:
e.g. I *Our vision is to revolutionize the way urban waste is managed, transitioning from traditional waste disposal to a circular economy model that significantly reduces landfill use and carbon emissions. By 2035, we aim to have developed a scalable, AI-driven waste sorting technology that can be deployed in cities worldwide. This will enable city X to recycle over 700% of waste, creating a cleaner, more sustainable urban environment while minimizing environmental impact. Through partnerships with municipalities and industries, our technology will pave the way for a zero-waste future.*
e.g. II *Our long-term vision is to make personalized cancer treatment accessible to every patient, using genetic data to tailor therapies specifically to individual tumor profiles. By xxx, we envision a world where our platform will be the standard in oncology clinics, enabling doctors to select treatments that are scientifically optimized for each patient's unique cancer type. Through advancements in genomics and AI, we will help increase survival rates and improve quality of life for cancer patients globally.*

Science-towards-technology breakthrough: How concrete, novel and ambitious is the proposed science-towards-technology breakthrough with respect to the state-of-the-art?
What advancement does it provide towards realising the envisioned technology?

You can structure the argument of your vision in the following way:
e.g.: *Our breakthrough is a bio-inspired water filtration material that mimics natural filtration processes, enabling the removal of heavy metals, pharmaceuticals, and microplastics with lower energy consumption. Unlike current filters, this material self-regenerates, reducing maintenance costs and increasing operational efficiency.*
The novelty of this technology lies in its bio-inspired design and its ability to regenerate, making it more sustainable than existing solutions like reverse osmosis. It directly addresses the global challenge of clean drinking water, offering a low-cost, energy-efficient alternative to current methods, particularly for use in developing countries.

Objectives: How concrete and plausible are the proposed objectives to reach the envisaged proof of principle? To what extent is the high-risk/high-gain research approach appropriate for achieving them? How sound is the proposed methodology, including the underlying concepts, models, assumptions, alternative directions and options, appropriate consideration of the gender dimension in research content, and the quality of open science practices?

Interdisciplinarity: How relevant is the interdisciplinary approach from traditionally distant disciplines for

3 The following aspects will be taken into account only to the extent that the proposed work is within the scope of the work programme.

achieving the proposed breakthrough?

1.1 Long-term vision

Describe your vision of the radically new technology, towards which the project would contribute in the long term.

Get to the point quickly. Don't keep your evaluator waiting too long for the news. It should be clear to the reviewer in the first paragraph what you intend to do in your project. Don't start with lengthy background information.

Try to present the long-term vision of the future technology itself, that you already roughly presented in the introduction part at the very beginning. This will allow to "capture" the attention of the evaluator.

- Long-term vision of a science-enabled technology should be clear as much as possible (and concrete).
- This vision should match with the ambition that stands behind the proposed science-to-technology breakthrough.

Timo Hallantie, EISMEA, Head of Unit for the EIC Pathfinder programme:
"The long-term vision of the future technology itself should be presented in Excellence at the very beginning, while innovation-related aspects clearly belong in section 2. Here you should focus on the long-term impact and on the innovation potential of the future technology."

1.2 Science-towards-technology breakthrough

Briefly describe in concrete terms the science-towards-technology breakthrough of the project.
Describe how your project goes beyond the state-of-the-art, and the extent the proposed work is ambitious. Indicate any exceptional ground-breaking R&I, novel concepts and approaches, new products, services or business and organisational models.

Try to "demostrate" that the main ideas of the envisioned future technology are achievable.

Describe the contribution of the science-towards-technology breakthrough to the realization of the envisioned technology.

Try to contextualize the "new technology", providing information on what is the new insight/approach/strategy that may lead to a new technological paradigm.

Clearly identify how your problem is currently being tackled, how competing research groups are trying to solve it alternatively, and highlight the key advantages of your future solution.

1.3 Objectives

Describe the objectives of your proposed work. Are they concrete and plausible, measurable and verifiable? Are they realistically achievable to reach the envisaged proof of principle within the duration of the project? Explain the appropriateness of the high-risk research approach for achieving the high gain objectives set in your project.

Present your objectives clearly and in a structured format, such as bullet points or a table, to enhance readability and comprehension.

Provide concrete specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound (SMART) objectives (avoiding general and multiple objectives). Alternatively, propose the main objectives and the sub objectives.

Describe and explain the overall methodology, including the concepts, models and assumptions that underpin your work. Explain its suitability to deal with the considerable scientific and technological uncertainties of the project's objectives and how appropriate it is to enable alternative directions and options. Refer to any important challenges you may have identified in the chosen methodology and how you intend to overcome them.

Please describe your methodology in detail! This is where you convince the evaluators of your scientific approach and your expertise in carrying it out. Evaluators will be suspicious if it is not convincing or detailed enough.

The EIC Pathfinder supports high risk/high gain research. It is therefore important to present the risks realistically.

- *This section should be presented as a narrative. The detailed tasks and work packages, and the risks and the corresponding mitigation plan are described below under 'Implementation'.*
- *Where relevant, include how the project methodology complies with the 'do no significant harm' principle as per Article 17 of Regulation (EU) No 2020/852 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment (i.e. the so-called 'EU Taxonomy Regulation'). This means that the methodology is designed in a way it is not significantly harming any of the six environmental objectives of the EU Taxonomy Regulation.*
- *If you plan to use, develop and/or deploy artificial intelligence (AI) based systems and/or techniques you must demonstrate their technical robustness. AI-based systems or techniques should be, or be developed to become:*
  - *technically robust, accurate and reproducible, and able to deal with and inform about possible failures, inaccuracies and errors, proportionate to the assessed risk they pose*
  - *socially robust, in that they duly consider the context and environment in which they operate*
  - *reliable and function as intended, minimizing unintentional and unexpected harm, preventing unacceptable harm and safeguarding the physical and mental integrity of humans*
  - *able to provide a suitable explanation of their decision-making processes, whenever they can have a significant impact on people's lives.*

Describe how the **gender dimension** (i.e. sex and/or gender analysis) is taken into account in the project's research and innovation content. If you do not consider such a gender dimension to be relevant in your project, please provide a justification.

- *Note: This section is mandatory except for topics which have been identified in the workprogramme as not requiring the integration of the gender dimension into R&I content.*
- *Remember that this question relates to the content of the planned research and innovation activities, and not to gender balance in the teams in charge of carrying out the project.*
- *Sex and gender analysis refers to biological characteristics and social/cultural factors respectively. For guidance on methods of sex / gender analysis and the issues to be taken into account, please refer to https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/33b4c99f-2e66-11eb-b27b-01aa75ed71a1/language-en*

Applicants must provide information on how they intend to integrate the gender dimension into the project. The gender dimension refers to technical and scientific aspects of the project and not to the composition of the consortium and the persons that will work for the project.
The gender dimension refers to the integration of considerations of sex and/or gender analysis through the whole R&I process, from the setting of research priorities through defining concepts, formulating research questions, developing methodologies, gathering and analysing sex/gender disaggregated data, to evaluating and reporting results and transferring them to markets into products and innovations which will benefit all citizens and promote gender equality.

Integrating sex and gender analysis into R&I content improves the scientific quality and societal relevance of the produced knowledge, technologies and innovation.
If gender aspects are not relevant, indicate that this has been considered and and justify why they are not applicable.

Useful links:

- HE Programme Guide (Chapter 9)
- Gendered innovations 2 - How inclusive analysis contributes to research and innovation: policy review

Describe how appropriate **open science practices** are implemented as an integral part of the proposed methodology. Show how the choice of practices and their implementation are adapted to the nature of your work, in a way that will increase the chances of the project delivering on its objectives. If you believe that none of these practices are appropriate for your project, please provide a justification here.

- *Open science is an approach based on open cooperative work and systematic sharing of knowledge and tools as early and widely as possible in the process. Open science practices include early and open sharing of research (for example through preregistration, registered reports, pre-prints, or crowd-sourcing); research output management; measures to ensure reproducibility of research outputs; providing open access to research outputs(such as publications, data, software, models, algorithms, and workflows); participation in open peer-review; and involving all relevant knowledge actors including citizens, civil society and end users in the co-creation of R&I agendas and contents (such as citizen science).*
- *Please note that this question does not refer to outreach actions that may be planned as part of communication, dissemination and exploitation activities. These aspects should instead be described below under 'Impact'.*

Some of your results will require intellectual property (IP) protection measures. At the same time, given the highly collaborative nature of the EIC Pathfinder programme, you should aim to publish as much information, data, and results as possible in public repositories or open access publications.

Research data management and management of other research outputs: Applicants generating/ collecting data and/or other research outputs (except for publications) during the projectmust provide a short description on how the data/ research outputs will be managed in line with the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable), addressing the following (the description should be specific to your project):

- **Types of data/research outputs** (e.g. experimental, observational, images, text, numerical) and their estimated size; if applicable, combination with, and provenance of, existing data.
- **Findability of data/research outputs:** Types of persistent and unique identifiers (e.g. digital object identifiers) and trusted repositories that will be used.
- **Accessibility of data/research outputs**: IPR considerations and timeline for open access (if open access not provided, explain why); provisions for access to restricted data for verification purposes.
- **Interoperability of data/research outputs**: Standards, formats and vocabularies for data and metadata.
- **Reusability of data/research outputs**: Licenses for data sharing and re-use (e.g. Creative Commons, Open Data Commons); availability of tools/software/models for data generation and validation / interpretation / re-use.
- **Curation and storage/preservation costs**: person/team responsible for data management and quality assurance.
    - *Proposals selected for funding under Horizon Europe will need to develop a detailed data*

management plan (DMP) for making their data/research outputs findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable (FAIR) as a deliverable by month 6 and revised towards the end of a project's lifetime.

- *For guidance on open science practices and research data management, please refer to the relevant section of the HE Programme Guide on the Funding & Tenders Portal.*

If possible, clearly define the responsibilities of each partner involved in managing data according to FAIR data principles. Specify who will be responsible for each step.

The proposal must outline the ways in which data is collected, generated and/or processed throughout the lifetime of a research project. It should briefly cover the type of data/research outputs, the compliance with the FAIR data principles (findable, accessible, interoperable, reusable), and the way in which data will be stored and preserved.
Questions to consider when addressing data management and other research outputs:

- What types and formats of data will the project generate or re-use?
- Will you re-use any existing data and what will you re-use it for? State the reasons if re-use of any existing data has been considered but discarded.
- What is the purpose of the data generation or re-use and its relation to the objectives of the project?
- Which data can be published and what cannot?
- What is the expected size of the data that you intend to generate or re-use?
- What is the origin/provenance of the data, either generated or re-used?
- Which data or products of the project can be shared?
- To whom might your data be useful ('data utility'), outside your project?

Useful link
Data Management Plan Template

1.4 Interdisciplinarity

- Describe the proposed interdisciplinary approach engaging contributions from different scientific and technological disciplines.
- Explain to what extent the combination of disciplines brings new scientific collaborations and how it contributes to the achievement of the proposed breakthrough.

Effective interdisciplinarity means non-traditional collaboration addressing novel questions.

Cooperation and interaction between different types of partners is also desired. In consortia with different partners, the swarm intelligence is greater. If all partners contribute their strengths, the applications are simply better.

- An interdisciplinary approach involves integrating knowledge and methodologies from multiple scientific and technological disciplines to address complex problems or explore new areas of research;
- Technological advancements often involve the integration of knowledge from multiple disciplines. For example, the development of cutting-edge technologies such as nanotechnology, biotechnology, or artificial intelligence often requires expertise from physics, chemistry, biology, and computer science.
- An interdisciplinary approach is justified by its capacity to offer comprehensive insights, foster innovation, address complex problems, enhance problem-solving capabilities, drive technological advancements, and recognize the interconnected nature of knowledge.

Timo Hallantie, EISMEA, Head of Unit for the EIC Pathfinder programme:

"We know that by bringing diverse areas of research together, often with different perspectives, terminologies and methodologies, really new things can be generated and entirely new areas of research can be opened up. That is why the relevance of the interdisciplinary approach is one of the elements that are assessed under the Excellence award criterion."

2. IMPACT

Impact–aspects to be taken into account[1] (Evaluation criteria)

Long-term impact: How significant are the potential transformative positive effects that the envisioned new technology would have to our economy, environment and society?

Include scientific impact, technological impact, societal impact, economic impact, environmental impact, collaboration and networking impact, educational impact etc.
Present a plan for sustaining the impact of the project beyond its official duration. This may involve institutionalizing project outcomes, securing further funding, or integrating results into existing systems.

Innovation potential: To what extent does the envisioned new technology have potential for generating disruptive innovations in the future and for creating new markets? How adequate are the proposed measures for protection of results and any other exploitation measures to facilitate future translation of research results into innovations? How suitable are the proposed measures for involving and empowering key actors that have the potential to take the lead in translating research into innovations in the future?

e.g.: Our innovation involves the development of a novel, biodegradable material for use in sustainable packaging. At this early stage, we are focusing on protecting the core concept and technology through the following IP strategy:

1. ***Patent Application**: We plan to file a **patent** for the unique composition of our biodegradable material, which combines natural polymers with bio-based additives to create a high-performance, eco-friendly alternative to plastics. This patent will cover both the material's formulation and the method of production. We intend to file a **provisional patent** within the first six months of the project to establish priority.*
2. ***Freedom to Operate (FTO) Analysis**: We will conduct an **FTO analysis** to ensure that our technology does not infringe on existing patents in the field of biodegradable materials and sustainable packaging. This analysis will help mitigate the risk of legal challenges and guide the refinement of our IP strategy.*
3. ***Trade Secrets**: In addition to patent protection, we will safeguard proprietary manufacturing processes and the specific production techniques used to create the biodegradable material as **trade secrets**. These processes are critical to the scalability and cost-effectiveness of the technology and will be closely guarded within our project team.*
4. ***Licensing and Partnerships**: As we move forward, we plan to explore **licensing opportunities** with large packaging companies and other relevant industries to accelerate the commercialization of the technology. Licensing agreements could allow us to retain control over the core technology while generating revenue and forming strategic partnerships for broader market access.*
5. ***IP Management**: We will establish an **IP management plan** to oversee the protection and strategic use of our intellectual property, ensuring that we are proactive in maintaining and enforcing our rights throughout the project lifecycle. This plan will include regular IP audits, reviews, and updates based on ongoing developments and market feedback.*

By implementing this strategy, we aim to establish a strong IP portfolio that secures the competitive advantage of our technology and lays the foundation for its commercialization.

1 In this section you should focus on describing concrete measures and plans to maximise impact of your project. You should not repeat the information related to the long-term vision already provided under section 1.1.

1) Legal and Regulatory Compliance:
Ensure that proposed measures comply with relevant laws and regulations governing intellectual property, data protection, and any industry-specific standards;
2) Intellectual Property (IP) Protection:
Patents: Check if the research results are eligible for patent protection. Evaluate the completeness and clarity of the patent application.
Copyrights: Consider whether copyright protection applies to any creative works associated with the research.
3) Risk Assessment:
Identify potential risks and challenges that may hinder the translation of research into innovations. This could include legal, financial, or technical risks. Include realistic measures to mitigate or overcome the identified risks.

Communication and Dissemination: How suitable are the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, including communication activities, for raising awareness about the project results' potential to establish new markets and/or address global challenges?

Communication and dissemination are crucial aspects of research projects, especially when it comes to maximizing expected outcomes and impacts.

Evaluation of Communication Impact:
Implement metrics and evaluation mechanisms to assess the impact of your communication efforts. This includes tracking media coverage, social media engagement, and any notable outcomes resulting from the communication strategy.

2.1 Long-term impact

Provide a narrative explaining how the project's results are expected to make a difference in terms of impact, beyond the immediate scope and duration of the project. The narrative should include the components below, tailored to your project:

a) Describe the transformative positive effects that the envisioned new technology, if achieved in the long term, would have on our economy, environment and society. How significant these transformative effects are?

Economic and societal impact: Provide credible details without unrealistic predictions; clearly present vision and potential impact.

Timo Hallantie, EISMEA, Head of Unit for the EIC Pathfinder programme:

"Considering the many unknowns at such early stages of the innovation process, it is assumed that applications deriving from your idea cannot be presented in full detail. The impact arising from Pathfinder projects in terms of exploitation is not expected to be addressed or achieved in the course of the project but rather on the longer term. That is why we expect you to explain in your application what are the potential transformative positive effects that your envisioned new technology would have to our economy, environment and society."

- *The expected outcome of your project is a validation of scientific and technological basis of envisaged future technology through demonstration of its proof of principle.*

Try to develop plans for the effective transfer of research outcomes and innovations to the market. This may involve collaboration with industry partners, licensing agreements, or establishing spin-off companies.

- *Be specific, referring to the effects of your project, and not R&I in general in this field.*

Targeted Problem-Solving:
Identify specific challenges or issues within the chosen field that your project aims to address. Clearly articulate how your project's solutions are tailored to meet the unique needs of the field in question.
Try to address Field-Specific Challenges: clearly communicate how your project tackles specific challenges or limitations that are characteristic of the chosen field.
Emphasize the uniqueness of your approach and solutions;
Provide evidence of the project's relevance to industry needs and its potential to create new markets within the specified field. Include market analyses and strategies for industry adoption;

- *The outcomes and potential for future impact of your project may be, e.g., in terms of creating new markets, improve our lives or address global challenges, but they are not expected to be addressed or achieved within the project lifetime. Only include such outcomes and impacts where your project would make a significant and direct contribution. Avoid describing very tenuous links to wider impacts. However, include any potential negative environmental outcome or impact of the project including when expected results are brought at scale (such as at commercial level). Where relevant, explain how the potential harm can be managed.*

b) Describe any requirements and potential barriers-arising from factors beyond the scope and duration of the project-that may determine whether the desired outcomes and impacts are achieved. These may include, for example, other R&I work within and beyond Horizon Europe; regulatory environment; targeted markets; user behaviour. Indicate if these factors might evolve overtime. Describe any mitigating measures you propose, within or beyond your project, that could be needed should your assumptions prove to be wrong, or to address identified barriers.

- *Note that this does not include the critical risks inherent to the management of the project itself, which should be described below under 'Implementation'.*

By addressing these external requirements and potential barriers, researchers and project planners can better anticipate challenges and develop strategies to enhance the resilience and adaptability of the project, ultimately contributing to the achievement of desired outcomes and impacts.

Regulatory and Legal Requirements:
Try to identify and understand existing and potential future regulatory and legal requirements that may affect the project outcomes. Changes in regulations or the introduction of new laws could impact the project's ability to operate or implement certain solutions;
Policy Changes:
Are there any policy developments at regional, national, and international levels that need to be considered? (Changes in government policies or priorities can influence the project's relevance and alignment with broader goals)
Market Dynamics:
Take into account market trends and dynamics related to the project's objectives. Shifts in market conditions, consumer preferences, or industry practices can impact the feasibility and success of the project.
Technological Advancements:
Consider the pace of technological advancements that may occur during and after the project. Rapid developments in related technologies could influence the competitiveness and relevance of the project's outcomes.
Public Perception and Acceptance:
Consider public attitudes and perceptions related to the project. Public acceptance, ethical considerations, or concerns about the project's societal impacts can influence its success and long-term sustainability.
Cultural and Social Changes:
Be aware of cultural and social changes that may influence the acceptance and adoption of project outcomes. Cultural shifts or

societal changes can impact the project's relevance and resonance with stakeholders;
Intellectual Property Landscape:
Monitor changes in the intellectual property landscape relevant to the project. New patents, legal disputes, or shifts in intellectual property strategy .

2.2 Innovation potential

- Describe the envisioned new technology's potential for generating disruptive innovations in the future and creating new markets.

Impact: Your application should clearly state the impact of your idea. You should therefore already have some – perhaps vague - idea of the market. You can admit that you cannot fully assess the market at the moment. You could start from known - perhaps somewhat larger - markets and break them down a bit. Please don't be generic but give credible and plausible information. Show the evaluator that you have an idea of the impact. Make it easy for the evaluator to tick the box.

- Describe the exploitation measures to facilitate future translation of research results into innovations.

The whole application becomes more plausible if technology transfer is considered and well described from the outset.

  - *Shortly describe the measures for a plausible path to commercialise the innovations.*
  - *Beneficiaries must use their best efforts to exploit their results or have them exploited by a third party, in priority those established in a Member State or an Associated country, including through transfer or licensing.*

To describe the plan for future exploitation, outline a credible roadmap that identifies potential actors and market barriers.

  - *If exploitation is expected primarily in non-associated third countries, justify by explaining how that exploitation is still in the Union's interest.*

- Specify your strategy for the management of intellectual property, foreseen protection measures, such as patents, design rights, copyright, trade secrets, etc. How adequate are they to support exploitation?
  - *Clear description of necessary measures to allow future uptake, for instance through an adequate form of protection of the generated Intellectual Property (IP) and an assessment of relevant aspects related to regulation, certification, and standardisation is expected.*
  - *If your project is selected for funding, you will need an appropriate consortium agreement to manage (amongst other things) the ownership and access to key knowledge (IPR, research data etc.). Where relevant, these will allow you, collectively and individually, to pursue market opportunities arising from the project.*
  - *If your project is selected, you must indicate the owner(s) of the results (results ownership list) in the final periodic report.*

Timo Hallantie, EISMEA, Head of Unit for the EIC Pathfinder programme:

"The primary goal of the EIC Pathfinder is to develop the scientific basis to underpin breakthrough technologies, thus focusing on early-stage research needed to achieve the proof of principle that the envisaged technologies are feasible. Given the focus on research, one of the major outputs of Pathfinder projects are expected to be top-level scientific publications in open access. However, before deciding to publish the research results, it is important to assess the innovation potential of the results and to ensure an adequate formal protection of the generated Intellectual Property (e.g. via a patent application). "

- Explain the measures the consortium will implement for involving and empowering key actors (such as excellent early-career researchers or promising high-tech SMEs, including start-ups) that have the potential to take the lead in translating research into innovations.

2.3 Communication and dissemination

- Describe the dissemination and communication measures that are planned, and the target group(s) addressed (e.g. scientific community, end users, financial actors, public at large) for raising awareness about the project's outcomes.
    - *Project results should include top-level scientific publications in Open Access.*

Aim for credible publications: e.g. WP 1 leads to two papers with XY at time Z. Announcing to publish in Nature or Cell is usually not credible.

- *In case your proposal is selected for funding, a detailed plan for dissemination and exploitation including communication activities' will need to be provided as a mandatory project deliverable within 6 months after signature date. This plan shall be periodically updated in alignment with the project's progress.*
- *Communication[2] measures should promote the project throughout the full lifespan of the project. The aim is to inform and reach out to society and show the activities performed, and the use and the benefits the project will have for citizens. Activities must be strategically planned, with clear objectives, start at the outset and continue through the lifetime of the project. The description of the communication activities needs to state the main messages as well as the tools and channels that will be used to reach out to each of the chosen target groups.*

Public outreach is a requirement to give something back to the European taxpayer. 1-2 sentences for each stakeholder group can be sufficient if they are plausible.

- *All measures should be proportionate to the scale of the project, and should contain concrete actions to be implemented both during and after the end of the project, e.g. standardization activities. Your plan should give due consideration to the possible follow-up of your project, once itis finished. In the justification, explain why each measure chosen is best suited to reach the target group addressed.*
- *Describe possible feedback to policy measures generated by the project that will contribute to designing, monitoring, reviewing and rectifying (if necessary) existing policy and programmatic measures or shaping and supporting the implementation of new policy initiatives and decisions.*

It is highly recommended to identify your key target groups, including the technical/scientific community, key stakeholders, and the public in general, ...
Try to identify clearly each type of action referring to the approximated number of each action during the project and justify each type of action according to each target group.

3. QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION

Quality and efficiency of the implementation–aspects to be taken into account

- Work plan: How coherent and effective are the work plan (work packages, tasks,deliverables, milestones, timeline, etc.) and risk mitigation measures in order to achieve the project objectives?

2 For further guidance on communicating EU research and innovation for project participants, please refer to the Online Manual on the Funding & Tenders Portal

- Allocation of resources: How appropriate and effective is the allocation of resources (comprising person-months and other cost items) to work packages and consortium members?
- Quality of the consortium: To what extent do the consortium members have all the necessary high-quality expertise for performing the project tasks?

3.1 Work plan and allocation of resources

- Please provide the following:
  - brief presentation of the overall structure of the work plan;
  - timing of the different work packages and their components (Gantt chart or similar).

The timetable should be credible.

Gantt chart or similar: Clearly indicate the specific project month for each milestone, the main deliverables and, if possible, the reporting activities.

Please use the below table when planning Reporting Periods for your project:

Project duration	Number of periods	RP1 duration	RP2 duration	RP3 duration	RP4 duration
12	1	12	-	-	-
18	1	18	-	-	-
24	2	12	12	-	-
30	2	12	18	-	-
36	2	12	24	-	-
42	3	12	12	18	-
48	3	12	18	18	-
60	4	12	16	16	16

This table is for information purposes only. Not needed to be included in the final version of your proposal.

Timo Hallantie, EISMEA, Head of Unit for the EIC Pathfinder programme:

"From a legal point of view, there is no maximum duration. In general, the length of a project should be "fit for purpose", that means in accordance with your work packages, tasks and goals and of course the proposed budget. In practice, you will have to carefully plan what you can achieve with the indicative EU contribution for Pathfinder Open[3]. Looking at the previous Pathfinder Open calls for proposals, we funded only one project with a duration of only 2 years and a few longer ones of 5 years. Most projects however had durations between 3 and 4 years."

- graphical presentation of the components showing how they inter-relate (Pert chart or similar).

When drawing a pert chart, please note that the meaning should be obvious to the reader. Ask friends who are not working on the project for feedback.

3 Maximum of EUR 4 million (or more if duly justified) for Pathfinder Open in 2026.

- detailed work description, i.e.:
  - a list of work packages (table 3.1a);
  - a description of each work package (table 3.1b);
  - a list of deliverables (table 3.1c);
    - *Give full details. Base your account on the logical structure of the project and the stages in which it is to be carried out. Each work package should be a substantial part of the work plan and the number of work packages should be proportionate to the scale and complexity of the project.*
    - *Structure each work package by breaking it down into tasks. If tasks are not appropriate, work packages can be organised according to other criteria (e.g., according to the type of work or thematically). For each task or element of the work package, describe all activities to be carried out and quantify them (e.g., number of protocols, tests, measurements, combinations, study subjects, conferences, publications, etc.). Provide enough detail to clarify who will do this work and why it is needed for the project, (e.g., the level of qualification and number of person-months for personnel, as well as the requested equipment, consumables, meetings, etc.) to justify the proposed resources to be allocated and also quantified information so that progress can be monitored, including by the Commission.*
    - *Resources (person-months) assigned to work packages should be in line with their objectives and deliverables. You are advised to include a distinct work package on 'project management', and to give due visibility in the workplan to 'data management' 'dissemination and exploitation' and 'communication activities', either with distinct tasks or distinct work packages.*
    - *You will be required update the 'plan for the dissemination and exploitation of results including communication activities', and a 'data management plan'. This should include a record of activities related to dissemination and exploitation that have been undertaken and those still planned.*
    - *Please make sure the information in this section matches the costs as stated in the budget table in section 3 of the application forms, and the number of person months, shown in the detailed work package descriptions.*
  - a list of milestones (table 3.1d);
  - a list of critical risks, relating to project implementation, that the stated project's objectives may not be achieved. Detail any risk mitigation measures. You will be able to update the list of critical risks and mitigation measures as the project progresses (table 3.1e);
  - a table showing number of person months required (table3.1f);
  - a table showing description and justification of subcontracting costs for each participant (table 3.1g);
  - a table showing justifications for major equipment 'purchase costs (table 3.1h) for participants where those costs exceed 15% of the personnel costs (according to the budget table in proposal part A).

Pay attention to the consistency of the work plan in terms of resources, distribution of work between partners and person-months.

Have an interconnection between tasks and deliverables. You can include, for instance, a project management table and an organizational table, detailing the team members and their roles in each;

Pay attention to the milestones: these will serve to support the identification on major progress points and, if relevant, could reflect key technological breakthrough achievements identified in the proposal;

All partners should contribute to the project. Keep in mind when allocating tasks that all participants should have a valid role and adequate resources to fulfil this role.

Costs must be reasonable.

Timo Hallantie, EISMEA, Head of Unit for the EIC Pathfinder programme: *"The requested financial EU contribution and the project budget should be "fit for purpose" for successfully completing your tasks and achieving your goals"*[4].

3.2 Quality of the consortium

To assess the suitability of the consortium, I need basic evidence of the knowledge, skills, techniques and equipment relevant to the research. Complementary skills and scientific excellence matter more than country distribution.

The individual participants of the consortium are described in a separate section under Part A. There is no need to repeat that information here.

- Describe the expertise of the consortium members. Explain how it provides all the necessary knowledge, how it supports the proposed interdisciplinary approach, and how it matches the project's objectives and tasks. Explain the role of each consortium member and its complementary contribution. If appropriate, show how this includes expertise in social sciences and humanities, open science practices, and gender aspects of R&I.

Please ensure that your implementation team reflects the strongest possible gender balance. Striving for a composition close to 50% women and 50% men, including among work package leaders, might strengthen your proposal. A well-balanced team aligns with gender equality plans and can positively influence the overall evaluation score..

While interdisciplinarity is emphasized as an essential characteristic for a successful consortium, it would also be valuable to mention the importance of diversity within the consortium. Diversity in the consortium can refer to various factors such as geographical diversity (ensuring a global perspective), institutional diversity (collaborations across different types of organizations like universities, SMEs, or research institutions), and diversity of experience (e.g., combining established researchers with early-career scientists). Highlighting these aspects will encourage applicants to build teams that not only bring different scientific perspectives but also a range of complementary skills, backgrounds, and networks, which can be critical for innovation and project success.

- Describe how the partners will have access to critical infrastructure needed to carry out the project activities.
- **Other countries and international organisations**: If one or more of the participants requesting EU funding is based in a country or is an international organisation that is not automatically eligible for such funding (entities from Member States of the EU, from Associated Countries and from one of the countries in the exhaustive list included in Annex 3 of the EIC Work Programme are automatically eligible for EU funding), explain why the participation of the entity in question is essential to successfully carryout the project.

Interdisciplinarity in the consortium is a must! Consortium members should be complementary and is important to show the role and responsibility of all the members.

Tables for section 3.1

- *Use plain text for the tables in section 3.1. If the proposal is invited to start Grant Agreement*

4 Maximum of EUR 4 million (or more if duly justified) for Pathfinder Open.

preparation, these tables will have to be encoded in the grant management IT tool, where no graphics or special formats are supported.

Checklist for the Work Plan

1. Work Plan Structure
- **Clear Overview**: Does the plan outline key milestones, tasks, and timelines?
- **Work Package Breakdown:** Are WPs divided into manageable tasks with measurable deliverables?
- **Milestones**: Are milestones defined and realistic, tied to tangible outcomes?

2. Timeline and Deadlines
- **Realistic Timeline**: Are task durations and overall timeline feasible?
- **Critical Path**: Have you identified key tasks and potential risks to timeline?

3. Resource Allocation
- **Human Resources**: Are roles and expertise clearly defined? Are team members qualified?
- **Justification**: Are resource and budget allocations justified based on project needs?
- **Contingency Plans**: Are there backup plans for resource delays?

4. Management and Monitoring
- **Project Structure**: Is there a defined project management framework and reporting lines?
- **Monitoring Progress**: Are there mechanisms for tracking progress against milestones?
- **Risk Management**: Are potential risks identified and mitigated?

5. Collaboration and Communication
- **External Collaborations**: Are external partners and their roles clearly defined?
- **Communication Plan**: Is there a strategy for updating stakeholders and maintaining communication?

6. Ethical and Legal Considerations
- **Ethics**: Are ethical issues (e.g., human/animal use, environmental impact) addressed?
- **IP Strategy**: Are IP considerations (patents, licenses) clearly outlined?

7. Long-term Sustainability
- **Sustainability**: Does the plan outline how the project will be sustained post-completion?
- **Impact**: Are long-term societal, scientific, or commercial impacts clearly explained?

Table 3.1a: List of work packages

Work package No	Work package Title	Lead Participant No	Lead Participant Short Name	Name & surname of Work package leader	Gender of Work package leader	Start Month	End month

Table 3.1b: Work package description

For each work package:

Work package number	
Work package title	

(Participants involved in each WP and their efforts is shown in table 3.1f. Lead participant and starting and end date of each WP is shown in table 3.1a.)

Objectives

Description of work (where appropriate, broken down into tasks), lead partner and role of participants. For each task, quantify the amount of work. Provide enough detail to justify the resources requested and clarify why the work is needed and who will do it. Deliverables linked to each WP are listed in table 3.1c (no need to repeat the information here).

Work package description:

- Please avoid redundancies: Often too much is written at the beginning of the technology (chapter 1).
- It is important that it is described: Who does what!
- Several partners should work together in one work package. Waterfall configurations are not favourable.
- Describe convincingly that you can do what you have set out to do. You don't necessarily have to go into great depth to do this.

A common mistake: Irrelevant aspects are described too long and important parts too short*.

Table 3.1c: List of Deliverables[2]

Only include deliverables that you consider essential for effective project monitoring.

Number	Deliverable name	Short description	Work package number	Short name of lead participant	Type	Dissemination level	Delivery date (in months)

KEY

Deliverable numbers in order of delivery dates. Please use the numbering convention <WP number>.<number of deliverable within that WP>.
For example, deliverable 4.2 would be the second deliverable from work package 4.

Type:

Use one of the following codes:

- R: Document, report (excluding the periodic and final reports)
- DEM: Demonstrator, pilot, prototype, plan designs
- DEC: Websites, patents filing, press & media actions, videos, etc.
- DATA: Data sets, microdata, etc.
- DMP: Data management plan
- ETHICS: Deliverables related to ethics issues.
- SECURITY: Deliverables related to security issues
- OTHER: Software, technical diagram, algorithms, models, etc.

Dissemination level:

Use one of the following codes:

- PU – Public, fully open, e.g. web (Deliverables flagged as public will be automatically published in CORDIS project's page)
- SEN – Sensitive, limited under the conditions of the Grant Agreement
- Classified R-UE/EU-R – EU RESTRICTED under the Commission Decision No2015/444
- Classified C-UE/EU-C – EU CONFIDENTIAL under the Commission Decision No2015/444
- Classified S-UE/EU-S – EU SECRET under the Commission Decision No2015/444

Delivery date

Measured in months from the project start date (month 1)

* You must include a data management plan (DMP) and a 'plan for dissemination and exploitation including communication activities as distinct deliverables within the first 6 months of the project. The DMP will evolve during the lifetime of the project in order to present the status of the project's reflections on data management. A template for such a plan is available in the Online Manual on the Funding & Tenders Portal.

Table 3.1d: List of milestones

Milestone number	Milestone name	Related work package(s)	Due date (in month)	Means of verification

KEY
Due date
Measured in months from the project start date (month 1)

Means of verification
Show how you will confirm that the milestone has been attained. Refer to indicators if appropriate. For example: a laboratory prototype that is 'up and running'; software released and validated by a user group; field survey complete and data quality validated.

Please take the table seriously and think about what could seriously jeopardise your project. Assess the risks realistically and formulate strategies to minimise them. Please note that in a high-risk project there should not only be risks categorised as medium or low.

Table 3.1e: Critical risks for implementation

Description of risk (indicate level of (i) likelihood, and (ii) severity: Low/Medium/High)	Work package(s) involved	Proposed risk-mitigation measures

Definition critical risk:
A critical risk is a plausible event or issue that could have a high adverse impact on the ability of the project to achieve its objectives.

Level of likelihood to occur: Low/medium/high
The likelihood is the estimated probability that the risk will materialise even after taking account of the mitigating measures put in place.

Level of severity: Low/medium/high
The relative seriousness of the risk and the significance of its effect.

Critical risks for implementation:

- Please name specific risks and assess them credibly. Include good troubleshooting strategies.
- All risks must be relevant.

If there is no risk, then the project does not fit the EIC Pathfinder Open.

Risk Table: Clearly identify and include all relevant risks associated with your project. Avoid omitting any significant risks, as evaluators will likely detect them, potentially impacting the consortium's credibility. Organize these risks into appropriate categories for clarity, and ensure each risk is accompanied by realistic and relevant mitigation measures to effectively address them.

Table 3.1f: Summary of staff effort

Please indicate the number of person/months over the whole duration of the planned work, for each work package, for each participant. Identify the work-package leader for each WP by showing the relevant person-month figure in bold.

	WPn	WPn+1	WPn+2	Total Person-Months per Participant
Participant Number/Short Name				
Participant Number/ Short Name				
Participant Number/ Short Name				
Total Person Months				

Table 3.1g: 'Subcontracting costs' items

For each participant describe and justify the tasks to be subcontracted (please note that core tasks of the project should not be sub-contracted).

Participant Number/Short Name		
	Cost (€)	Description of tasks and justification
Subcontracting		

It is crucial to emphasize that subcontracting actions should not involve any essential developments that the consortia could achieve on its own. Doing so may expose potential shortcomings in the current consortia's capabilities, thereby undermining the credibility of your proposal.

Table 3.1h: 'Purchase costs' items (major equipment costs)

Please give details on the need for equipment costs, if they exceed 15% of the personnel costs for that participant (according to the budget table in proposal part A).

Participant Number/Short Name		
	Cost (€)	Justification
Equipment		

ANNEXES TO PROPOSAL PART B

Some calls may ask to upload annexes to proposal part B. The annexes must be uploaded as separate documents in the submission system. The most common annexes to be uploaded in Horizon Europe are (standard templates are published in the Funding & Tenders portal):

- **DETAILED BUDGET TABLE:** Annex with information for estimation of lump sum funding.
- **CLINICAL TRIALS**: Annex with information on clinical trials.
- **CALLS FLAGGED AS SECURITY SENSITIVE**: Annex with information on security aspects.
- **ETHICS**: ethics self-assessment should be included in proposal part A. However, in calls where several serious ethics issues are expected, the character limited in this section of proposal part A may not be sufficient for participants to give all necessary information. In those cases, participants may include additional information in an annex to proposal part B.

Please do not forget to upload your detailed budget table!
Please note: Without this table, your application will be deemed incomplete and will not be evaluated. It is not possible to submit this table at a later date.

Notes

Access2EIC

National Contact Points for Innovation

Access2EIC

ACCESS2EIC is a 84-months coordination and support action aimed to empower and facilitate transnational cooperation within the network of National Contact Points – NCPs focused on the Horizon Europe European Innovation Council – EIC and the European Innovation Ecosystems - EIE. It involves a consortium made of formally appointed NCPs.

ACCESS2EIC comprise a network of 16 partners:

1. AGENZIA PER LA PROMOZIONE DELLA RICERCA EUROPEA (APRE), Italy
2. CENTRO PARA EL DESARROLLO TECNOLOGICO INDUSTRIAL (CDTI), Spain
3. OSTERREICHISCHE FORSCHUNGSFORDERUNGSGESELLSCHAFT MBH (FFG), Austria
4. INSTYTUT PODSTAWOWYCH PROBLEMOW TECHNIKI POLSKIEJ AKADEMII NAUK (IPPT PAN), Poland
5. NATIONAL TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION AUTHORITY (IIA), Israel
6. DEUTSCHES ZENTRUM FUER LUFT – UND RAUMFAHRT EV (DLR), Germany
7. INNOVASJON NORGE (IN), Norway
8. BPIFRANCE FINANCEMENT SA (BPIFRANCE), France
9. IDRYMA TECHNOLOGIAS KAI EREVNAS (FORTH), Greece
10. ENTERPRISE IRELAND (EI), Ireland
11. ANI – AGENCIA NACIONAL DE INOVACAO, SA (ANI), Portugal
12. GIS-TRANSFERCENTER FOUNDATION (GIS-TC), Bulgaria
13. CENTRUM VEDECKO TECHNICKYCH INFORMACII SLOVENSKEJ REPUBLIKY (CVTISR), Slovakia
14. NEMZETI KUTATASI FEJLESZTESI ES INNOVACIOS HIVATAL (NKFIH), Hungary
15. TECHNOLOGICKE CENTRUM AKADEMIE VED CESKE REPUBLIKY (TC CAS), Czechia
16. MINISTÈRE DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT SUPÉRIEUR, DE LA RECHERCHE ET DE L'ESPACE, France

www.access2eic.eu

Join us on

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