EUROPEAN INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS

Informative session
29 February 2024

THE EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION PROGRAMME 2021 - 2027
MODERATED BY

Gerald Cultot
Deputy Head of Unit I1, EISMEA
## AGENDA

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<td>Policy Context of the European Innovation Ecosystems (EIE) 2023-2024 Work Programme</td>
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<td>Call “HORIZON-EIE-2024-CONNECT-01-02 – Startup Europe”</td>
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Call text prevails over these slides!
Opening

Birgit Weidel

Head of Department I, EISMEA
Policy context of the EIE Work Programme

Jekaterina Novikova
Deputy Head of Unit A5, DG RTD
Horizon Europe

Horizon Europe is implemented through work programmes which set out funding opportunities.

Pillar 3 – Innovative Europe: stimulating market-creating breakthroughs and ecosystems conducive to innovation
EIE WP 23-24: Overview

Objective

Connected & efficient innovation ecosystems
- Support the scaling of companies
- Encourage innovation
- Stimulate cooperation among national, regional & local innovation actors

Expected impacts

✓ Interconnected, inclusive & efficient innovation ecosystems across Europe
✓ Elevated scalability potential of business
✓ Innovative SMEs growth accessing markets & embedding in global value chains

Mostly CSAs and Co-fund actions, biannual WPs

EUR 527 million (2021-2027)

All ecosystem actors
EIE WP 2023-2024: Two Destinations

**CONNECT**

- Building interconnected & inclusive innovation ecosystems
- Reinforcing network connectivity for sustainable business growth
- Setting, undertaking & achieving collective ambitions towards challenges for the benefit of society

**INNOVSMES**

This destination will support the continuation of the European Partnership on Innovative SMEs
Destination CONNECT: Objectives

- Strengthen innovation ecosystems across the EU through fostering more efficient, inclusive, gender diverse, and connected innovation ecosystems, by accelerating the development and deployment of innovation, including deep tech innovation and encouraging co-planning, co-implementation, and co-investments around European strategic priority areas;

- Ensure the inclusion of all key innovation players from across the quadruple helix, and all EU territories, including rural areas;

- Mobilise policies, funding instruments (EU, national, regional) and fostering synergies between them;

- Improve public and private buyers’ capacity to procure innovative solutions and enhance coordination on innovation procurement initiatives within Member States and Associated Countries;

- Improve the connection of individual innovators with other ecosystem actors and innovation support providers;

- Ensure openness and cross-fertilisation of the innovation ecosystem within and beyond the EU's borders.
EIE WP 2023-2024

• Policy context/political priorities:
  • New European Innovation Agenda Communication
  • Stakeholder inputs

• Lessons learned from the implementation of the 2021-2022 WP

• Continuity between the EIE WP 2021-2022 and 2023-2024

• Compliance with the legal base and Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2021-2024

• Synergies with other relevant programmes
New European Innovation Agenda - context

A new wave of innovation is on its way: deep tech innovation

- Rooted in science, technology and/or engineering
- Combines advances in the digital, physical and biological spheres
- Addresses societal challenges
- Has a systemic transformative potential
The NEW European Innovation Agenda: Leading the new wave of deep tech innovation

Innovation and particularly deep tech innovation is an answer to:

- Improve Europe’s competitiveness
- Contribute to the green and digital transition
- Narrow the innovation divide
- Reinforce Europe’s open strategic autonomy
New European Innovation Agenda - context

Europe can lead the new wave of deep tech innovation based on its assets

1. Leadership in science
2. Strong industrial base
3. Increasingly vibrant startup ecosystem
4. Ambitious framework conditions conducive to innovation in the internal market
5. Talent base
6. Stable institutions and democratic societies
Europe’s assets:

Strong industrial base

83% of deep tech ventures are engaged in building a physical product (Source: Boston Consulting Group) and therefore often benefit from strong partnerships with leading industries.

Increasingly vibrant startup ecosystem →

Ambitious framework conditions conducive to innovation in internal market

E.g. Half of active wind energy companies are headquartered in the EU, and European Original Equipment Manufacturers also hold a globally leading position.
Today’s challenges

Main challenges include:

• A persistent innovation divide between and within Member States
• Insufficient transfer of new technologies from research to market
• Lack of risk finance for companies to scale up fast
• Fragmentation of the internal market and regulatory burden
• A business environment and culture that is more risk-averse and less conducive to innovation
EIE actions in support of the New European Innovation Agenda

**Funding for deep tech scale-ups**
- *Startup Europe*

**Improving policy making tools**
- *The EIC Forum*

**Fostering, attracting and retaining deep tech talent**
- *Organisation of the Women TechEU Scheme*

**Enabling deep tech innovation through experimentation spaces and public procurement**
- *Stimulating Experimentation Practices*
- *Specialist Advisory Services to build capacities on innovation procurement*

**Accelerating and strengthening innovation in European Innovation Ecosystems across the EU and addressing the innovation divide**
- *Preparatory action for setting up joint programmes among innovation ecosystems actors*
- *Regional Innovation Valleys initiative*
- *The AU-EU Innovation Platform*
Thank you

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Slide xx: element concerned, source: e.g. Fotolia.com; Slide xx: element concerned, source: e.g. iStock.com
As a strategic partner, the EU seeks to enhance cooperation with Africa to promote actions targeted to finding locally adapted solutions to global challenges, that often hit Africa hardest.

The Comprehensive EU strategy with Africa and the Global Approach to Research & Innovation (R&I) are the EU’s most recent policy initiatives that prioritise R&I as a key dimension of sustainable development.

✓ The Comprehensive EU Strategy with Africa proposes to scale up the EU’s academic and scientific cooperation with Africa, with a view to creating prosperous knowledge societies in both continents.

✓ The EU Global Approach to R&I foresees special openness vis-à-vis African countries that wish to thrive as knowledge-based economies and accelerate their sustainable and inclusive development.
EU-Africa cooperation on Research & Innovation (R&I)

• The AU-EU High Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) (est. 2010) is the policy forum where regular exchanges on R&I policy take place and where long-term priorities to strengthen cooperation are established. Under its aegis, the first ever AU-EU R&I Ministerial Meeting took place in July 2020, establishing the 4 joint priorities of the AU-EU cooperation in R&I.
The Joint AU-EU Innovation Agenda

Aiming to foster the translation of R&I into tangible products, services, businesses and jobs in both Africa and Europe. For building stronger value chains for sustainable growth and decent jobs

- Drafted through a comprehensive concerted “Team Africa-Europe” work, involving AU and the EU Member States and Commissions, under the AU-EU High-Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI).


- Final version of the Agenda adopted on 19 July 2023. Prepared building on the feedback and input received from Stakeholders in 2022.
The Joint AU-EU Innovation Agenda

4 objectives:

- **Make it real**
  - Translate innovative capacities and achievements into tangible outputs, supporting sustainable growth and jobs, in particular for the youth

- **Generate impact by design**
  - Foster - strengthen innovation ecosystems to enhance socio-economic impact

- **Strengthen people, communities & institutions**
  - Develop sustainable, long-lasting and mutually beneficial higher education and R&I partnerships

- **Learn, monitor, and scale it up**
  - Scale-up instruments that can take forward existing successful programmes and projects, enable - strengthen the knowledge triangle of education, R&I & place special focus on public participation, transparency, and inclusion

**Short-, medium- and long-term set of actions**, according to four joint priority areas:

i. Public Health
ii. Green Transition
iii. Innovation & Technology
iv. Capacities for Science + the additional
v. Cross-cutting issues

Mapping of **gaps & needs** for each priority area

Currently under **implementation**. Supported, from the EU side, by the Global Gateway Africa – Europe Investment Package as well as Horizon Europe.
**Short-term Actions**

### Cross-cutting
1. Networking of business, government, higher education and NPO sectors through platforms
2. Pro-active involvement of citizens in the innovation ecosystems
3. Fostering the participation of financing partners
4. Create easily accessible and widely available microcredit schemes for researchers & innovators

### Public Health
1. Support to Health R&I outputs to turn into relevant products, policy guidance and services
2. Developing joint R&I agendas on health priorities, enhancing best practices and common standards, using emerging tech (e.g. genomics, digitalisation, internet of things, robotics, AI) encompassing communicable and non-communicable diseases (including, among others, poverty related-neglected diseases, antimicrobial resistance and zoonoses) as well as mental health, in infants, youth and adults

### Green Transition
1. Identifying/Sharing climate resilience and adaptation practices (SDGs 13) during consultative meetings
2. Developing-and supporting the market uptake of innovative renewable energy solution and use devices, suitable for easy and prompt adoption by ‘energy communities’
3. Supporting the development of innovative climate services through a new “space STI cooperation” action for risk reduction at local and regional level
4. Fostering the development and enhancement of sustainable and resilient agricultural and food systems value chains
5. Supporting the development and scale up of efficient and sustainable management of water resources
6. Supporting the development and scale up of efficient and sustainable management of cultural heritage and cultural practices, encouraging a green management of cultural and natural heritage

### Innovation & Technology
1. Supporting research and innovation cooperation between AU and EU research organizations and companies (in particular SMEs) from low tech to high tech
2. Supporting tech/innovation hubs, networks, & operations of accelerators and incubators
3. Linking science with education, by promoting a culture of innovation and scientific communication programmes at all education levels

### Capacities for Science
1. Strengthening R&D cooperation between AU-EU Higher Education / Governmental institutions through knowledge transfer, teaming, twinning and learning mobility activities
2. Improving transparency/recognition of qualifications/relevance of curricula for enhanced mobility
3. Setting up training programmes in the priority areas of AU-EU cooperation in R&I to increase youth’s employability
4. Fostering the development of high-performing digital education systems and upgrade digital skills and competences for digital transformation
Medium-term Actions

Cross-Cutting

1. Re-skilling / upskilling citizens to profit from innovation and technologies to prevent inequalities and / or discriminations (SDGs 8-9-13)
2. Ensuring sustainability of research mobility programmes by providing conducive support infrastructures for scholars returning to Africa to create jobs / entrepreneurship/start-ups

Public Health

1. Ensuring tech-transfer and improving and developing affordable, equitably available and accessible and quality vaccine, medicines and health technologies
2. Ensuring the development of specific training curricula and capacity building throughout the value chain of health technologies

Green Transition

1. Fostering digital applications and green technologies to enhance climate resilience and adaptation for agricultural and agro-ecological production, healthy and sustainable food processing and consumption
2. Developing in Africa renewable energy in a changing world for climate change mitigation and adaptation
3. Catalysing the development of circular economy strategy and policies in both FNSSA and CCSE
4. Developing citizen science and engage key players to reduce unprecedented climate risks in line with the climate adaptation pillar of the CCSE partnership

Innovation & Technology

1. Enhancing R&I infrastructure and manufacturing capacity in Africa, so to strengthen supply and value chains within the continent, to enable also the fulfilment of medium- and long-term of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda

Capacities for Science

1. Promoting joint master/doctoral degrees between AU-EU universities, mobility of researchers
2. Creating enabling STI environment for sustainable innovation ecosystems (Quadruple helix actors)
Long-term actions

**Cross-cutting**

1. Promoting R&D with a special focus on youth, women, vulnerable groups and demography, mitigation and management of global challenges.

**Public Health**

1. Designing and implementing new methods and tools to monitor, prevent and counteract future health threats (long standing/re-emerging/antimicrobial resistant pathogens as well as chronic diseases), promoting One Health and precision medicine, in a changing environment, embedding the mental health dimension in this approach.

**Green Transition**

1. Improving the agricultural innovation ecosystems to strengthen capacities of actors to co-design, co-invest and scale up and employ innovative technologies and methodologies through a multi-stakeholder approach, engaging the private sector and fostering PPPs in the areas of FNSSA and CCSE, enhancing capacity for job creation in agriculture / fisheries and for proactive innovation policy.

**Innovation & Technology**

1. Reinforcing and Facilitating inclusive / affordable access to world-class R&I infrastructures.

2. Dissemination of knowledge through digital transformation.

**Capacities for Science**

1. Bridging R&I in fostering the emergence of new or strengthening of existing centres of excellence.

2. Modernising and reinforcing R&D & Higher education systems (RHEs).
Needs and gaps analysis

Needs and gaps analysis identified five areas:

A. The innovation ecosystem
B. Innovation management
C. Knowledge exchange, including technology transfer
D. Access to finance
E. Human capacity development

Throughout all the aforementioned areas of needs and gaps, the importance of engaging the African diaspora in Europe (and elsewhere) is recognised as crucial for knowledge and experience sharing for developing expertise and innovations in Africa and Europe.
The AU-EU Innovation Agenda: A multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary collaboration

- The collaboration under the AU-EU Innovation Agenda needs to occur with all innovation stakeholders, leveraging the demographic dividend to empower the youth.
### How to make this happen?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instrument</th>
<th>Actions / Priority Areas</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Framework Programme Horizon Europe – Work Programme 2023–2024</strong> ('Africa Initiative II')</td>
<td>Short- &amp; medium-term actions across all target areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking</strong></td>
<td>Public Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Global Gateway Africa – Europe Investment Package:</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Global Europe: Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI)</td>
<td>• All target areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+)</td>
<td>• All target areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>• ERASMUS +</td>
<td>• Capacities for science</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Eureka INNOWIDE call</td>
<td>Short-term actions for Innovation &amp; Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>• ENRICH in Africa</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other instruments from other sources, including EU and AU Member States, Development Banks and International Financial Institutions and Private Sector too.</td>
<td>All target areas, according to countries'/organisations’ specificities</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Ongoing and future discussions aiming to devise and mobilise additional funding instruments.
Africa Initiative II

*In the 2nd Work Programme of Horizon Europe 2023-2024*

- Building on the positive outcome of the Africa Initiative I of Horizon Europe Work Programme 2021-2022.

- A total budget of ~300 MEUR through ~30 topics under calls for proposals to boost EU-Africa cooperation on Research & Innovation (R&I).

- Enabling the implementation of the short-term and medium-term actions of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda, aiming to translate R&I into tangible positive impact on the ground, particularly in the areas of 1:

  1. Green Transition (260 MEUR)
  2. Innovation & Technology (35 MEUR)
  3. Capacities for Science (9 MEUR)

- Adoption of Horizon Europe Work Programme: 6 December 2022

EU funding & tenders’ portal → calls for proposals from “Africa Initiative”

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1 The AU-EU R&I priority area of Public Health will be primarily addressed through the calls of the Work Programme 2023 of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Horizon Europe Thematic Cluster</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Action type</th>
<th>Budget (MEUR)</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>AU-EU R&amp;I Cooperation Priority Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research infrastructure</td>
<td>1. Strengthen the bilateral cooperation on research infrastructures with Africa</td>
<td>CSA</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>2024</td>
<td>Capabilities for Science / Innovation &amp; Technology / Cross-cutting issues</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>2. The African Union-European Union Innovation Platform</td>
<td>CSA</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2024</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>European Innovation Ecosystems</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(EIE)</td>
<td>3. R&amp;I cooperation with Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>CSA</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2023</td>
<td>Innovation &amp; Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Promoting EU standards globally</td>
<td>CSA</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2023</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5. Earth Observation platform, products and services for raw materials</td>
<td>IA</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2023</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6. Designing space-based downstream applications with international partners</td>
<td>RIA</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2023</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

CSA = Coordination and Support Action  
IA = Innovation Action  
RIA = Research & Innovation Action
AU-EU Innovation Agenda
Main Next Steps Ahead

- **Large virtual events** occurring on a **6 months basis** in continuity with the [AU-EU Innovation Festival](#), to include **training, experience-sharing, matchmaking, networking** for innovators, investors, researchers, R&I stakeholders!
- First session (with a training component on IPRs): 28 November 2023 → Next session: **April 2024** (TBC).

- **New and existing initiatives** will contribute to the implementation of the Innovation Agenda.
- Work in progress: a [Dashboard](#) of initiatives contributing to the AU-EU IA will be soon launched.

- **Several follow-up communication actions** stemming from 2022 Stakeholder Dialogue and the 2023 AU-EU Innovation Festival.

- Stay updated and engage through our [website](#).
Launched on the adoption of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda – Link here
Join the ENRICH in Africa virtual Community Platform!

Funded under the EU Framework Programme Horizon 2020, Enrich in Africa (EIA) brings together key stakeholders from the European and African innovation ecosystems to uplift the capacity of incubators and accelerators and benefit entrepreneurs in both regions. It supports knowledge exchange, provides co-creation opportunities, and enables the delivery of quality services for European and African innovators. Join this community to learn more about what ENRICH in Africa has to offer, expand your network, and find partners and investors!

Read more

Online workshops

Stay tuned for the announcement of the first session of bi-annual (online) Workshops dedicated to the implementation of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda. Each Workshop will focus on topics related to the priority areas of the AU-EU cooperation in Research and Innovation, such as (i) Public Health, (ii) Green Transition, (iii) Innovation & Technology and (iv) Capacities for Science.

In addition to training on Deep Tech, Workshops are expected to promote experience sharing, foster networking and matchmaking sessions, to promote the establishment and strengthening of collaborations among innovators, Research and Innovation performing organisations, hubs, accelerators and investors. First session to take place during the last quarter of 2023.

Read more

AU-EU Deep Tech Transformation Training Scheme

Watch this space for upcoming training sessions in the area of Deep Tech applied to the context of EU-Africa cooperation on Research and Innovation. The AU-EU Deep Tech Transformation Training Scheme will be delivered in the form of 7 consecutive modules to be held within dedicated workshops to take place throughout the timeframe of implementation of the short-term actions of the Agenda (between June 2023 and March 2027). The following key topics will be covered: Artificial Intelligence (AI) (big data included), quantum computing, blockchain and biotech, delivered through dedicated online Workshops and applied to case studies pertaining to the AU-EU cooperation.

EURAXESS Africa

EURAXESS Africa is an initiative of the European Commission established with the aim to provide free access to information about research in Europe, opportunities for research funding, international collaboration and trans-national mobility. It links researchers in Africa to Europe. Furthermore, the network is open to all nationalities and research fields.

Read more

Link here
ENRICH in Africa is an Horizon 2020 project that aims to strengthen and connect innovation ecosystems in Africa and Europe, to upgrade the capacity of incubators and accelerators and benefit entrepreneurs in both regions. The ENRICH in Africa virtual community platform includes ~450 members, >290 of whom being companies (~60% from Africa and ~30% from Europe), ~90 investors and ~60 business support organisations, such as incubators and accelerators. The project has led to the opening of the ENRICH in Africa Center in Cape Town, aiming to become the go-to platform for innovators, incubators, accelerators, investors, businesses and policymakers looking to strengthen the EU-African tech and innovation ecosystems.

https://www.euroquity.com/fr/communaute/enrich-africa
Thank you!

@EUScienceInnov
#EUAfrica #HorizonEU
#AfricanInitiative2

Catalin Ticheru
Project Adviser Unit I1
EISMEA
**INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS WORK PROGRAMME 2023-2024**

**CONNECT**

Call: **Interconnected Innovation Ecosystems (2024.1)**

Open: 11/01/24 Close: 25/04/24

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**Topic 1: The African Union-European Union Innovation Platform**

*Target group(s):* Networks of start-ups, innovators, incubators, accelerators, academia, research and technology organisations (public and private sector), think tanks, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), civil society organisations, private and financial actors.

**Main expected outcome:**

To support the implementation of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda by bringing together a mix of EU and AU innovation stakeholders in view of fostering links and networks between academia and business, including higher education establishments, public and private research entities, non-governmental organisations, international finance institutions, incubators and accelerators, the European Institute of Innovation and Technology’s (EIT) Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), technology transfer and capacity building and higher learning organisations.

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**Type of Action | CSA**
---|---
**Total Indicative budget** | 2.5 m €
**Expected EU contribution / project** | 2.5 m €
**Expected grants to be signed** | 1

**Estimated project duration**

- should ideally align with the implementation timeframe for the short-term actions of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda (i.e. at least until end-2026)

**Additional eligibility criteria**

- A consortium must consist of at least four (4) entities, out of which at least one (1) independent legal entity is established in a Member State or Associated Country in line with the HE General Annexes, and as an additional call requirement, at least three (3) independent legal entities from different African Union member states, to meet the legal requirements.

- Legal entities established in all African Union member states may exceptionally participate in this Coordination and Support Action as a beneficiary (or affiliated entity).
INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS WORK PROGRAMME 2023-2024

Call: Interconnected Innovation Ecosystems (2024.1)
Open: 11/01/24 Close: 25/04/24

Topic 1: The African Union-European Union Innovation Platform

Short-term Actions

Cross-cutting

1. Networking of business, government, higher education and NPO sectors through platforms
2. Pro-active involvement of citizens in the innovation ecosystems
3. Fostering the participation of financing partners
4. Create easily accessible and widely available microcredit schemes for researchers & innovators

Innovation & Technology

1. Supporting research and innovation cooperation between AU and EU research organizations and companies (in particular SMEs) from low tech to high tech
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Capacities for Science

1. Strengthening R&D cooperation between AU-EU Higher Education / Governmental institutions through knowledge transfer, teaming, twinning and learning mobility activities
2. Improving transparency/recognition of qualifications/relevance of curricula for enhanced mobility
3. Setting up training programmes in the priority areas of AU-EU cooperation in R&I to increase youth’s employability
4. Fostering the development of high-performing digital education systems and upgrade digital skills and competences for digital transformation
Applicants should:

• Provide a **convening platform and a forum for discussion** and planning of the implementation of the actions foreseen under the AU-EU Innovation Agenda;

• **Foster links and networks among stakeholders across the innovation value chains**, from the generation of ideas to development and implementation of innovations, including private and public sectors, higher education and research organisations, financial institutions, and civil society organisations;

• **Involve citizens in the innovation ecosystems**, to improve societal uptake of innovation outputs, and valorise creative and collective intelligence, ensuring also gender equality and active participation of youths;

• Strengthen coordination and cooperation between AU and EU innovation programmes and various implementing institutions, **ensuring knowledge transfer, capacity building and mobility opportunities**, consistent with the socio-economic needs of the concerned AU and EU countries or regions.

• Facilitate, conceptually and logistically, **the organisation of annual or bi-annual meetings** with key innovation stakeholders from the EU and the AU;

• Provide further **de-risking support to Eureka**-funded small and medium sized-enterprises (SMEs), that have previously benefitted from Viability Assessment Projects (VAPs) under Eureka’s Innowide.
Thank you!

#HorizonEU

http://ec.europa.eu/horizon-europe
HORIZON-EIE-2024-CONNECT-01-02 – Startup Europe

Jekaterina Novikova
Deputy Head of Unit A5, DG RTD
About the Startup Europe initiative

- Initiated in 2011 by DG CNECT
- Strengthens networking opportunities for deep tech scaleups & ecosystem builders to accelerate the growth of the European startup scene
- 25+ EU projects supporting 60+ local ecosystems & activities aimed at enabling startup creation and growth, and between connections of startups with investors, accelerators, universities, etc.
- Under H2020, the Startup Europe projects provided acceleration services to 770 selected startups covering 39 countries.
Aim: most attractive Startup and Scaleup continent

How?

• **Support startups' expansion** across borders
• Streamline the implementation of the *rules on procedures for visa applications* and residence permits for third country
• Talent make granting of *employee stock options* more attractive
• Promote *venture-building and tech transfer* from universities
• Increase *access to finance* for scaling up
## Startup Europe 2021-2024

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Work Programme</th>
<th>Budget (Million EUR)</th>
<th># proposals funded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>EIC</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>EIC</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2024</td>
<td>EIE</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
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x2-0.eu  venturestrive.eu  synergisteic.eu  ready2scale.eu  d2scale.eu  empowomen.eu
LEADING THE NEW WAVE OF DEEP TECH INNOVATION

The New European Innovation Agenda will help Europe to develop new technologies, to address the most pressing societal challenges and bring them on the market. Europe wants to be the place where the best talent work hand in hand with the best companies and where deep tech innovation thrives and creates breakthrough inspiring solutions across the continent.

Europe’s leadership on innovation, in particular its new wave of deep tech innovation, will benefit all sectors from renewable energy to agri-tech, from construction to mobility and health.

The New European Innovation Agenda flagship 1 “Scaling up of deep tech innovations” aims to improve access to finance for European startups and scale-ups, for example, by mobilising untapped sources of private capital and simplifying listing rules.

The European Innovation Ecosystems of Horizon Europe and the Startup Europe initiative, supported by the European Innovation Council (EIC), contribute to the Agenda by facilitating uptake of deep tech innovations and supporting the next generation of innovative companies whose solutions will lead towards a more competitive EU and a more sustainable, inclusive and resilient world.
Current project examples

VENTURES THRIVE

Grant agreement ID: 101073762
DOI: 10.3030/101073762

Start date: 1 November 2022
End date: 31 October 2024

Funded under:
The European Innovation Council (EIC)

Coordinated by:
Acceler8 Limited

EU Contribution:
€ 2,000,000

SYNERGISTEIC - BOOSTING SYNERGIES BETWEEN THE EIC AND STARTUP EUROPE

Grant agreement ID: 101073761
DOI: 10.3030/101073761

Start date: 1 January 2023
End date: 31 December 2024

Funded under:
The European Innovation Council (EIC)

Coordinated by:
Asociata Sphrik

EU Contribution:
€ 1,986,176.25

VENTURES THRIVE - DEEP TECH STARTUP SUPPORT PROGRAMME TO FACILITATE VENTURES THRIVING IN THE EUROPEAN WIDENING AREA

VENTURES THRIVE is one of the first pan-European deep tech venture builders committed to helping startups quickly scale their development. Ventures Thrive provides equity-free funding and a curated growth programme, which will connect startups with investors and corporations to test their solutions in real-world scenarios. Funded by the EIC, the €1,500,000 grant will be deployed over two years to invest in up to 32 deep tech startups. The 8-month hybrid programme will culminate with a Demo Day where startups will be pitching in front of hundreds of local and international investors and business professionals. Ventures Thrive is organised in collaboration with Acceler8, Wolves Summit and Anthology Ventures.

The project provides tailored, specific and hands-on support to European impact-driven startups, notably in the climate-tech, green-tech, circular economy and agri-food to increase their competitiveness and readiness to succeed in EIC Accelerator. SynergistEIC will identify and select 30 digital and deep tech startups, especially from the Widening countries, through two waves of open calls. The team will award them with sub-grants, tailored advisory and acceleration services totalling €1,500,000.
Current project examples

X2.0 - Driving deep tech growth [https://x2-0.eu/](https://x2-0.eu/)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participant No.</th>
<th>Participant organisation name</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Coordinator</td>
<td>F6S Network Limited (F6S)</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Zebala Innovation Consulting (ZABALA)</td>
<td>Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>ICT Hub (ICT4)</td>
<td>Serbia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.5 Million EUR for 50 deep tech startups (40% Widening & women-led) in 5 key areas (Manufacturing & Circular Economy, AgriTech, HealthTech & BioTech, Smart Cities and Sustainability, and Data & A.I.)

**Voucher usage**

- **Travel** – 5 000 EUR - Cost of Transport, accommodation for Events & incubation (min 2 events)
- **1-on-1 specific mentorship** - At least 5 000 EUR available to Expert 1-on-1 Mentorship
- **Other growth services from the Innovation Growth Matrix** - Max 20 000 EUR

Duration: 24 months
HORIZON-EIE-2024-CONNECT-01-02 – Startup Europe

Catalin Ticheru
Project Adviser Unit I1
EISMEA
INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS WORK PROGRAMME 2023-2024

Call: Interconnected Innovation Ecosystems (2024.1)
Open: 11/01/24 Close: 25/04/24

Topic 2: Startup Europe

Scope

➢ To connect local digital and deep tech start-up ecosystems and support cross-border acceleration activities for start-ups that demonstrate traction (i.e. market-product fit or at least a seed round raised);
➢ Specific attention will be given to the inclusion of ecosystems in ‘moderate’ or ‘emerging’ innovator countries and/or regions among the start-up ecosystems to be connected.
Projects are expected to prioritise

- Start-ups that have either already achieved market-product fit or have raised at least a round of financing (seed or later); and
- Start-ups established in ‘moderate’ or ‘emerging’ innovator countries and/or regions; or
- Women-led start-ups
Topic 2: Startup Europe

Target group(s): Start-up ecosystem builders, business angel organisations, venture capital entities, accelerators, incubators, start-up associations, clusters.

Expected outcome:

- **Increase the market footprint** of European start-ups in **strategic digital technologies and deep tech innovation** (e.g. Artificial Intelligence, Advanced Computing, Cybersecurity, Next Generation Internet, Blockchain, Internet of Things, Metaverse, Energy, Greentech, AgriTech, and Fintech);

- **Better connection** of start-ups, including European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) and European Innovation Council (EIC)-supported start-ups and **Seal of Excellence** holders, to **relevant local and/or European ecosystems**, communities, and potential new markets;

- Scaling up of capabilities through **matching** digital and deep tech start-ups with **investment and growth opportunities** in collaboration with other initiatives such as: the EIC, the EIT and the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), InvestEU, the Digital Europe Programme, Women TechEU, public and private buyers, or investors and corporate innovation ventures, and start-up villages.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Action</th>
<th>CSA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Indicative budget</td>
<td>12 m €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expected EU contribution / project</td>
<td>1.5 m €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expected grants to be signed</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated project duration</td>
<td>24 months on average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional eligibility criteria</td>
<td>At least 50% of the beneficiaries in a consortium must be established in 'moderate' or 'emerging' innovator countries or regions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The cross border acceleration services are open to:

- All European start-ups demonstrating traction
- Scale-ups identified in Horizon Europe (e.g. though the EIC (including the EIC Scaleup 100 action) and EIT-supported companies) and the Digital Europe Programme (e.g. from European Digital Innovation Hubs)
- start-ups funded by national programmes, particularly those part of “Plug-in” certified programmes (see EIC Work Programme 2022 Annex 5)
**INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS WORK PROGRAMME 2023-2024**

**CONNECT**

Call: *Interconnected Innovation Ecosystems (2024.1)*

Open: 11/01/24 Close: 25/04/24

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**Topic 2: Startup Europe**

**Important**

- The project should actively engage with activities and events of the Europe Startup Nations Alliance;
- Special attention will be given to support European digital and deep tech start-ups and scale-ups in accessing innovation procurement opportunities (public or corporate procurers).

- The action **may** be implemented through financial support to third parties (FSTP)
  - In this case, the support to third parties can only be provided in the form of **grants**.
  - The maximum amount to be granted to each third party is **EUR 60 000**.
  - Applicants opting for this non-compulsory financial support scheme must allocate **at least 60% of the total proposed budget** to FSTP.
Topic 2: Startup Europe

➢ **Only if the proposal uses financial support to third parties (FSTP)**

   ➢ The proposers must fill provide a description of the use of financial support to third parties through a dedicated annex.

This description must address at least the following:

1. clearly detail the **objectives and the results** to be obtained and

2. contain the following specifications (as a minimum):
   a) the **maximum amount of financial support for each third party**; this amount may not exceed 60 000 EUR.
   b) the **criteria for calculating** the exact amount of the financial support
   c) the **different types of activity** that qualify for financial support, on the basis of a closed list
   d) the **persons or categories of persons** that may receive financial support, and
   e) the **criteria for giving** financial support
Thank you!

# HorizonEU

http://ec.europa.eu/horizon-europe
For general questions about research and Horizon Europe, please contact:

Research Enquiry Service (europa.eu)
Thank you!

# HorizonEU

http://ec.europa.eu/horizon-europe