

# **HORIZON-EIE-2023-CONNECT-01-01:**

## **Organisation of the Women TechEU Scheme**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. Who is eligible to apply for this call? Can the women-led start-ups apply for this call?**

The objective of this call is to select one single consortium to implement the Women TechEU scheme in 2023-2024. This call does not seek applications from individual women-led startups, even though they will be the ultimate beneficiaries of this programme. The winning consortium will receive an EU contribution of around EUR 15 million under a Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) scheme, and at least 75% of the total budget will support early-stage deep-tech start-ups led by women with grants of EUR 75 000 per company.

**2. Why is the coordination and management of the Women TechEU scheme being transferred to a consortium?**

Following a significant budget increase to meet the fast-growing demand, the management of the Women TechEU scheme is being transferred to a consortium, to ensure the programme is managed in the most effective and resource-efficient way.

From 2023, an external consortium will handle the implementation of the Women TechEU scheme, including the evaluation and selection of the companies in the Women TechEU scheme.

**3. What types of organisations should ideally be part of the consortium?**

The Horizon Europe [Work Programme](#) does not specify the type of organisations that can be part of the consortium. A non-exhaustive list of suitable organisations includes Business Incubators, Business Accelerators, Business Angel Associations, Start-Up Ecosystem Builders, Venture Capital Organisations, etc.

**4. Is the size of the consortium limited?**

There is no limit to the number of entities in the consortium. However, the [Work Programme](#) states that at least three independent legal entities are required to form an eligible consortium for this call. Bear in mind that consortia that are too large can sometimes be more difficult to manage and may lack efficiency.

**5. When will the results of the call be communicated and when will the grant be signed?**

Usually, the evaluation period takes about five months. For the March 2023 call, the results are likely to be communicated in summer 2023, and the grant would be signed in autumn 2023.

**6. Do the EUR 75 000 grants include indirect costs?**

The selected consortium can decide how it wants to manage the EUR 75 000 grants for third parties. For the first two years, Women TechEU grants were awarded in the form of lump sums. To find out more about lump sum funding in Horizon Europe, click here: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/horizon/lump-sum> .

**7. Can the consortium limit funding to certain geographical regions?**

No. As stated in the [Work Programme](#), the selected consortium “ensures the sound design, organisation, and management of the Women TechEU scheme, ensuring continuity of the scheme as implemented by the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency in 2021 and 2022”. In previous years, the call was open to all Member States and Horizon Europe Associated Countries. Therefore, funding should not be geographically limited in the future.

**8. Will the Women TechEU call for women-led startups be launched in 2023?**

As we expect to sign the grant with the winning consortium in autumn 2023, therefore the call for women-led startups is likely to take place from 2024.

**9. Do the female entrepreneurs selected for Women TechEU have to participate in the EIC Women Leadership Programme as well?**

Participation in the EIC Women Leadership Programme is recommended, but is not obligatory. To find out more about the WLP, click here: [https://eic.ec.europa.eu/eic-funding-opportunities/business-acceleration-services/eic-women-leadership-programme\\_en](https://eic.ec.europa.eu/eic-funding-opportunities/business-acceleration-services/eic-women-leadership-programme_en)