

# Eureka Fast Track to the EIC Accelerator

## Guidelines for applicants

Version 1.2

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
Version	Publication date	Changes
Version 1	31 July 2024	Original version
Version 1.1	5 August 2024	Update to Step 2 submission deadline and rules for modifying an application after submission.
Version 1.2	12 August 2024	Inclusion of instructions for the online submission platform

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## Useful contacts

For any questions on these guidelines and the Fast Track process, please email [applications-fasttrack@eurekanetwork.org](mailto:applications-fasttrack@eurekanetwork.org).

## What is the EIC Accelerator?

The [EIC Accelerator](#) is a funding programme under Horizon Europe developed and implemented by the European Innovation Council (EIC) and the SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA). The programme supports companies (principally SMEs, including start-ups) that have a **high-risk/high-impact innovative technology**, product, service or business model with the potential to **create new markets** or **disrupt existing ones in Europe or worldwide**.

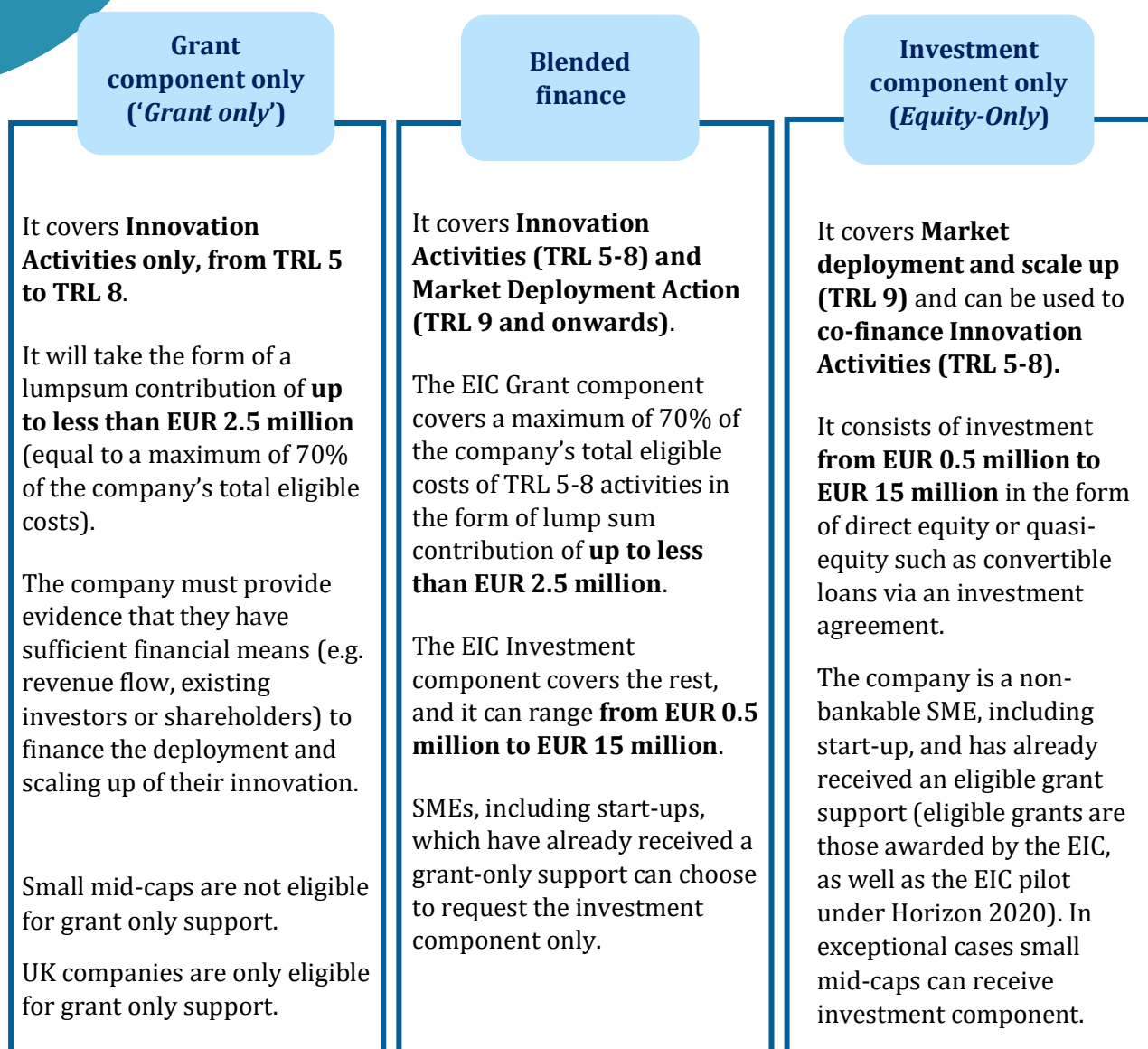
The programme focuses in particular on innovations building on scientific discovery or technological breakthroughs (“**deep tech**”) and where **significant funding** is needed over a long timeframe before returns can be generated (“patient capital”).

EIC Accelerator funding supports the later stages of technology development, as well as scale up. The technology component of the innovation must therefore have been tested and validated in a laboratory and other relevant environment; innovation activities must be at least in **Technology Readiness Level 5** or above.

The EIC Accelerator offers a combination of funding from EUR 0.5 to EUR 17.5 million and tailored-made Business Acceleration Services, including access to coaching and mentoring support, corporates, investors and ecosystem actors.

Awardees are single companies from EU Member States and third countries associated to Horizon Europe. They may choose to apply to one of the following types of funding:

- grant only,
- blended finance, consisting of an investment and grant component, and
- investment only.



The application process of the EIC Accelerator includes 3 steps:

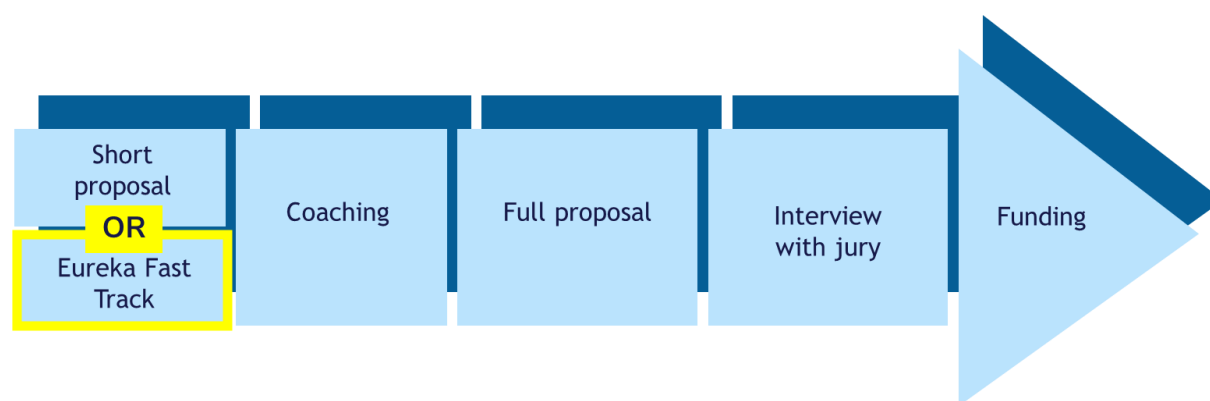
1. **Short proposal:** At any time, a company can submit a short proposal consisting of a summary of their solution, company and team, a pitch-deck of up to 10 slides, and a video pitch of up to three minutes where the core members of the team provide their motivation for their proposal. Each proposal will receive a GO or NO GO to progress to the next step.
2. **Full proposal:** If successful, the applicant is invited to submit a full proposal in the following 12 months. EIC business coaches will help them prepare their proposal.
3. **Interview:** If successful, the applicant is invited to an interview with an EIC jury. Jury members will decide if the proposal should be funded (GO) or not (NO GO).

## What is the Fast Track to the EIC Accelerator and what are its advantages?

The **Eureka Fast Track to the EIC Accelerator** is a programme launched in partnership between Eureka, the European Innovation Council (EIC) and the SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA).

The programme allows **Eurostars-3 alumni**, in particular SMEs (including start-ups) and small mid-caps who have finished or are finalising a Eurostars-3 project, to **skip the first step (short proposal)** of the EIC Accelerator and **move directly to the second step (full proposal)** of the **EIC Accelerator**.

Once invited to the second step, Fast Track companies will be treated equally to any other EIC Accelerator applicant. They will be entitled to receive coaching support to prepare a full proposal from the business coaches of the EIC Business Acceleration Services, and they will be able to submit their full proposal to any of the cut-offs foreseen by the EIC Accelerator in the 12 months following the invitation to apply to the full proposal stage.



If you are a Eurostars-3 alumnus, applying via the Fast Track can offer you several advantages:

**You will have easier access to the full proposal stage of the EIC Accelerator.** Competition for EIC Accelerator funding is fierce. By applying to the Eureka Fast Track, you will compete against fewer companies.

**You will receive detailed expert feedback on your project's potential.** Each Fast Track application is evaluated by three expert evaluators who will offer detailed feedback on your business idea and its market potential. Feedback will help you increase your chances of success when submitting a full proposal to the EIC Accelerator or when raising any other forms of funding.

**You will have the opportunity to do a live pitch in front of an expert panel.** If your application scores high enough, you will be invited to pitch your business idea to a panel of three EIC experts. This will allow you to prepare for an eventual EIC Accelerator pitch (Step 3) and receive feedback on potential pain points to be addressed.

**You will receive a no-risk evaluation of your project idea, gaining an extra shot to the EIC Accelerator.** There are limits to how many times you can apply and re-apply for the EIC Accelerator. From the start of 2024, you may submit up to 3 unsuccessful applications, at any stage of the process (short proposal, full proposal) and for any form of support (Challenge, Open, Grant only, Blended finance, Equity only). After the third rejection, you will not be able to submit

again to the EIC Accelerator.<sup>1</sup> If you apply to the Fast Track and your application is rejected, it will **not** count as one of the three rejections. At the same time, you will gain valuable feedback and have the opportunity to improve your proposal before applying to the EIC Accelerator.

## Who should apply for the Eureka Fast Track?

You should apply to the Eureka Fast Track only if your company:

- ✓ has an innovative, **game changing** product, service or business model that could **create new markets or disrupt existing ones in Europe and even worldwide**,
- ✓ has the ambition and **commitment** to scale up, and
- ✓ is looking for **substantial funding**, but the risks involved are too high for private investors alone to invest.

The Fast Track is **not** for you if your company has an incremental innovation, has an innovation that targets only a national market, and does not have the potential and commitment to scale up.

Before taking the decision to apply for Fast Track, read carefully the [EIC Work Programme](#) to be sure that you are in line with the EIC's objectives and rules. You can check Frequently Asked Questions [on this page](#).

## Eligibility criteria

To apply for the Eureka Fast Track, your company must:

1. Be a legal entity established in an EU Member State, Iceland, Israel, Norway, Türkiye or the United Kingdom.
2. Be a single startup, SME\* or a small mid-cap\*\*.
3. Have successfully completed a Eurostars-3 project in the two years preceding the Fast Track submission deadline or be in a Eurostars-3 project finishing, at most, 6 months after the Fast Track submission deadline. A Eurostars-3 project is a project approved after applying to a Eurostars call for projects with a deadline on or after 4 November 2021\*\*\*.
4. Have an innovative business concept resulting from your Eurostars-3 project.
5. Possess or have rights to the intellectual property your innovation is based on.
6. Have submitted complete documentation as requested in the application phase.

Applicants that are subject to EU administrative sanctions (i.e. exclusion)<sup>2</sup> or are in one of the exclusion situations<sup>3</sup> banning them from the receiving EU grants cannot apply to the Fast Track. For the list of exclusion situations, please consult the EIC Work Programme.

**\*SME**

<sup>1</sup> European Innovation Council (EIC) Work Programme 2024, p. 75.

<sup>2</sup> See Article 136 EU Financial Regulation <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32018R1046&qid=1535046024012>

<sup>3</sup> See Articles 136 and 141 EU Financial Regulation <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32018R1046&qid=1535046024012>

SMEs are defined in the [EU recommendation 2003/361](#). The main factors determining whether an enterprise is an SME are staff headcount and either turnover or balance sheet total.

Company category	Staff headcount	Turnover	OR	Balance sheet total
Medium-sized	< 250	≤ € 50 m		≤ € 43 m
Small	< 50	≤ € 10 m		≤ € 10 m
Micro	< 10	≤ € 2 m		≤ € 2 m

A firm that is part of a larger group may need to include staff headcount/turnover/balance sheet data from that group too.

To understand the definition of SME we strongly recommend you read the [User guide to the SME definition](#).

### **\*\*Small mid-cap**

A small mid-cap is an undertaking that is not an SME and whose number of employees does not exceed 499, calculated in accordance with Articles 3 to 6 of Annex I to the [General Block Exemption Regulation](#), and the annual turnover of which does not exceed EUR 100 million or the annual balance sheet of which does not exceed EUR 86 million.

### **\*\*\*Eurostars-3 project**

To be considered as eligible for the Fast Track, your company must have been involved in a Eurostars-3 project; your Eurostars-3 project must have been approved after applying to a Eurostars call for projects with a deadline on or after 4 November 2021.

Your Eurostars-3 project must have been successfully completed in the two years prior to the Fast Track submission deadline or is scheduled to finish, at most, 6 months after the Fast Track submission deadline. The end date is the one established for the entire Eurostars-3 project consortium (and not for the single project partner), as recorded on the Eureka Project Management Platform.

**Note:** If your Eurostars-3 project was withdrawn or your company withdrew from a Eurostars-3 project before the originally planned end date, you are not eligible to apply for Fast Track. If your company has communicated to Eureka its intention to withdraw from a Eurostars-3 project (which resulted in the project being put on hold), your company is not eligible to apply for the Fast Track.

**Your application must meet all eligibility criteria, or it will be rejected.**

**Your project application must comply with all eligibility criteria from when you submit until when you receive the result of the evaluation:**

- You must inform us of any new information that may affect the fulfilment of any of the eligibility criteria.
- We are obliged to review the eligibility of your project application if we receive or discover new information.

You cannot apply if:

- Your company is already applying to the EIC Accelerator directly or through other Plug-in or Fast Track schemes. This because your company cannot submit multiple applications to the EIC Accelerator at the same time, even via different routes. A second

application cannot be submitted until the evaluation result for the first submission has been received.

- Your company is already receiving EIC Accelerator/EIC Accelerator pilot/SME Instrument funding for an ongoing project.
- Your company is receiving funding for the same objectives in another ongoing Horizon Europe or Eurostars project.
- **From the start of 2024, you have already submitted 3 unsuccessful applications to the EIC Accelerator**, at any stage of the process (short proposal, full proposal) and for any form of support (Challenge, Open, Grant only, Blended finance, Equity only).

## How does Eureka assess Fast Track applications?

From the moment a call opens, applicants have approximately four weeks to apply. To apply, they must submit:

- An **application form**, containing information on their company, their Eurostars-3 project, a description of their Fast Track project, and declarations about IP rights, any concurrent applications to the EIC Accelerator/Plug-in scheme or Fast Track, and declarations about the applicant's SME/mid-cap status.
- In attachment, a pitch deck of up to **10 slides** that briefly pitches the company and solution.

The **evaluation process** starts the day after the submission deadline and is divided into three steps:

1. Eligibility checks on all applicants.
2. Evaluation by three independent experts on eligible applicants.
3. Online pitching to a panel of three independent experts for the top-scoring applicants.

From the submission deadline, the process takes between 4 and 6 weeks to complete. The following timeline is foreseen:

- The eligibility checks will be completed within approximately three days from the submission deadline.
- The evaluation by the three independent experts will be completed within approximately three to four weeks from the submission deadline.
- The pitching sessions will take place between the fourth and sixth week of the process, and they will last approximately two/three days.

Applicants will receive **all the results** (from the eligibility checks, the evaluation by three independent experts, and the pitching sessions) **after the evaluation process**.

**A maximum number of 20 Fast Track applicants per year can be awarded access to the EIC Accelerator full proposal stage. The maximum number of awardees is established prior to each call and can vary from call to call.**

**Awarded projects will undergo a further project review conducted by EISMEA.**

The sections below provide a description of the evaluation process. For more details on how experts assess applications, **please refer to the [evaluation guidelines](#)** published on Eureka's website.



## Eligibility checks

All applications will be checked against the eligibility criteria.

Applications that meet all eligibility criteria will qualify to the next step. Applications that do not meet all eligibility criteria will be rejected.

Before applying, make sure that you understand all [eligibility criteria](#).

## Evaluation by three independent experts

Each eligible application will be assessed by three independent experts from the Eureka Expert Community.

The experts will assess both the company and the project idea. They will evaluate each application against two evaluation criteria – Excellence and Impact – comprising seven sub-criteria.

Each expert will score each sub-criterion from 1 to 100 points, where 1 is the lowest score and 100 is the highest score. For each sub-criterion, a minimum point threshold applies. The scores given to the sub-criteria have different weights, ranging from 10 to 20% of the total score.

Criteria	Sub-criteria	Score	Weight
<b>Excellence</b> Weight: 50%	<b>Excellence of the company:</b> Does the company have the vision and ambition to scale up?	1 – 100 Minimum threshold: 60	10%
	<b>Novelty and breakthrough character of the innovation:</b> Does the innovation have breakthrough character and a high degree of novelty compared to existing solutions?	1 – 100 Minimum threshold: 70	20%
	<b>Technology readiness level:</b> Has the innovation reached TRL 5 (i.e. it has been tested in the relevant environment)?	1 – 100 Minimum threshold: 60	10%
	<b>Timing:</b> Is the timing right for this innovation in terms of market, users, societal or scientific or technological trends and developments?	1 – 100 Minimum threshold: 60	10%
<b>Impact</b> Weight: 50%	<b>Competitiveness and demand:</b> Is the innovation better than what the competition proposes, and is the solution bringing sufficient added value to trigger demand from potential customers?	1 – 100 Minimum threshold: 70	20%
	<b>Market development:</b> Does the innovation have the potential to develop new markets or significantly transform existing ones?	1 – 100 Minimum threshold: 60	10%
	<b>Broader impact:</b> Will the innovation, if successfully commercialised achieve positive broader societal, economic, environmental <sup>4</sup> or climate impacts?	1 – 100 Minimum threshold: 70	20%

<sup>4</sup> Projects must comply with the ‘do no significant harm’ principle enshrined in Article 17 of the EU Taxonomy Regulation as part of the eligibility criteria.

The score is calculated as follows:

- For each sub-criterion, the points given by the three experts are averaged.
- The average per sub-criterion is compared to the minimum threshold. Applications that receive a sub-criterion average score below the minimum threshold are disqualified.
- For those where all sub-criterion average scores are above the minimum threshold, these scores are multiplied by the sub-criterion's weight.
- The results are summed up to give the total score of the application, expressed out of 100.
- A ranking list is established based on the total scores of the applications, from highest scores to lower scores.

The highest scoring applicants will be invited to pitch their business idea to a panel of three experts from the EIC expert pool. The number of applicants invited to the pitching sessions is approximately 1.5 times the maximum number of Fast Track applicants who can be awarded access to the EIC Accelerator's full proposal stage (established prior to the specific call). If the last application has the same total score as other applications, all applications with that score will progress to the pitching sessions.

For example: if the maximum number of applicants who can be awarded access to the EIC Accelerator full proposal stage is 10, the 15 highest scoring applicants in the ranking list are invited to the pitching session. If the 15<sup>th</sup> applicant has the same total score as some other applicants, all applicants with that score will be invited to the pitching sessions.

### Online pitching to a panel of three independent experts

Pitching sessions will be held online **during two or three days**. The first sessions may **already begin the day after invitations have been sent**.

Applicants are allowed to participate with **up to two company members** in the pitching session, preferably from their executive team. They will be interviewed by a panel of three independent EIC experts.

**The time slots for individual pitching sessions are fixed and not flexible. You must ensure that the company member(s) are available throughout the period. If you fail to attend your allocated session, you will not be offered an alternative.**

A pitching session lasts between 25 and 40 minutes, divided as follows:

- During the first 10 minutes, applicants pitch their business and idea to the panel, using the pitch deck that was submitted as an attachment to their application form.
- During the next 15 to 30 minutes, the panel asks questions to the company, to clarify or add detail on outstanding points, and provide them with feedback on their application.

They may focus the interview on any element of the application based on the evaluation performed by the three independent experts, details from the interview or the panel's own considerations.

After the conclusion of the pitching sessions, the panel will make a GO/NO GO decision on each application based on the evaluation framework below.

Criterion	Sub-criteria	Decision
Excellence	<p>Does the company have the vision and ambition to scale up?</p> <p>Does the innovation have breakthrough character and a high degree of novelty compared to existing solutions?</p> <p>Has the innovation reached TRL 5?</p> <p>Is the timing right for this innovation in terms of market, users, societal or scientific or technological trends and developments?</p>	If the panel believes that the overall idea is outstanding and it has potential to become an excellent project with high impact in the market, <b>GO</b> .
Impact	<p>Is the innovation better than what the competition proposes, and is the solution bringing sufficient added value to trigger demand from potential customers?</p> <p>Does the innovation have the potential to develop new markets or significantly transform existing ones?</p> <p>Will the innovation, if successfully commercialised achieve positive broader societal, economic, environmental or climate impacts?</p>	If the panel believes that the idea requires significant improvement before it can have an impact on the market, <b>NO GO</b>

**The number of applicants who receive a GO decision will not exceed the maximum number of Fast Track applicants who can be awarded access to the EIC Accelerator full proposal stage established prior to the specific call.**

## Results

Applicants will receive their results in the days following the pitching sessions. Results will include:

- results of the eligibility check,
- results of the evaluation by three independent experts (for eligible applicants)
- GO/NO GO decisions of the panel.

Comments from the three independent experts (from the Eureka Expert Community) will be shared with all eligible applicants to support the further development of their innovation.

Feedback from the panel will be shared live, during the pitching session, with those invited.

Eureka will communicate the list of awardees to EISMEA.

EISMEA will invite the awardees to submit a full proposal to the EIC Accelerator to one of the cut-off dates that follow. From that point onward, the process is managed by EISMEA. Should the company decide not to submit an application to the full application stage, **it will still count as one of the 3 opportunities** they have to submit to the EIC Accelerator.

## How to apply

Calls for applications to the Fast Track are published on Eureka's website. Before a call opens, Eureka will publish:

- the maximum number of Fast Track applicants who can be awarded access to the full proposal stage of the EIC Accelerator,
- the submission deadline,
- the dates of the pitching sessions.

Applications received after the submission deadline will be rejected.

Before applying, make sure that you are available on the dates of the pitching sessions. A maximum of two company team members will be allowed to join the online pitching sessions.

Consultants or other third parties must not take part in the interview. Any misrepresentation discovered during or after the pitching session could lead to the disqualification of your application.

Applications must be submitted via a dedicated platform which will be made available ahead of the call opening. Applications received through other channels will not be considered.

Applicants must submit:

- an **application form**, containing different sections, and
- a **pitch deck** of up to 10 slides that briefly pitches the company and solution.

Both the application form and the pitch deck must be submitted in English. The space in each text box is limited to a fixed number of characters and your answer must fit in the text box provided. In case of pitch decks longer than 10 slides, evaluators will be instructed to only consider the first 10 slides. Note that the application is a self-contained document. Experts will be instructed to ignore hyperlinks to information that is specifically designed to expand the proposal.

Once submitted, you can no longer amend your application. If you notice serious errors in your application form before the call's close date, you can contact us at [applications-fasttrack@eurekanetwork.org](mailto:applications-fasttrack@eurekanetwork.org), where you can request your application be re-opened. In your email, make sure you mention the application ID number and the acronym of the submission. The Fast Track team can then re-open your application. Once re-opened, you will have the option to correct your application. Note that you cannot revert to a previous version of your application, so **you are responsible for all changes introduced** following the re-opening. **You will need to re-submit your application before the call closes for your application to be considered.**

If needed, you can ask to change the contact details within the application even after the call deadline by emailing the Fast Track team at [applications-fasttrack@eurekanetwork.org](mailto:applications-fasttrack@eurekanetwork.org). All communications from our side - including invitations to pitch and selection results - will be sent to this single point of contact, so please ensure that it is always up to date.

### Guidance on the use of generative AI tools for the preparation of the application

The use of generative AI is not prohibited in the application preparation when applying for Fast Track. Please note that it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure content in the application is factually correct and within the required legal standards.

## Application form

The application form includes 6 sections:

1. Applicant information.
2. Your Eurostars-3 project.
3. Your Fast Track proposal.
4. Your Fast Track application.
5. Pitch deck.
6. Declarations.

The following paragraphs provide guidance on how to complete all sections of the application.

### SECTION 1. Applicant information

**IF YOU ARE SUCCESSFULLY SELECTED, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WILL BE MADE PUBLIC: LEGAL ENTITY NAME, COUNTRY.**

#### **Your first name**

Provide the first name of the main contact person responsible for your application.

#### **Your last name**

Provide the last name of the main contact person responsible for your application.

#### **Your email address**

Provide the email address of the main contact person responsible for your application.

**Note: Every communication about your application will be sent to this email address, including questions about your application, invitation to the pitching session, communication of results, and any communication afterwards. Make sure that you provide the correct email address and that this will be reachable for the entire duration of the process.**

#### **Legal entity name**

Provide your company's legal name.

#### **Legal entity type**

Please select whether you are an SME or a small mid-cap. Any other organisation types are not eligible for Fast Track.

#### **Street and number**

Indicate the street and number of your company (legal address).

#### **Postcode**

Indicate the postal code of your company (legal address).

#### **City**

Indicate the city/municipality where the legal entity is based.

#### **Country**

Indicate the country where your company is based (legal address).

**Note: This information is used to check the eligibility of your application. Failure to indicate the correct information may lead to the rejection of your application.**

### **VAT number**

Indicate your company's international VAT number, if applicable. Your organisation's international VAT Number is a unique number that identifies a taxable business or non-taxable legal entity that is registered for VAT. Make sure you enter the country code and the sequence of numbers/characters that form your international VAT number.

### **Company registration number**

Indicate your company registration number, if applicable. The legal registration number is assigned when a legal entity is incorporated; it is used to identify and verify the existence of the legal entity and keep track of its legal and financial information, such as annual accounts and director details.

### **Have any of the details above (legal entity name, VAT number, company registration number) changed from your Eurostars 3 application?**

If yes, please fill in your former legal entity name, VAT number or company registration number that were used under your Eurostars 3 project.

### **PIC number**

To apply for the Eureka Fast Track, you must have a Participant Identification Code (PIC). The PIC is 9-digit code that serves as a unique identifier for an organisation in the European Commission's Participant Register. The Participant Register is an online register of organisations participating in EU calls for tenders or proposals.

If you do not have a PIC, you can easily obtain your PIC by registering your company in the Participant Register. It takes less than 10 minutes to complete the registration.

To create a PIC, follow the instructions provided in the [European Commission's official guidance](#) "PIC-Management: Quick Guide for Economic Operators (eProcurement)". Please note that Eureka is not responsible for the performance of the EU Funding and Tenders registration portal and does not have control over its functionality. Any inquiries regarding the portal should be directed to the support team indicated in the EC's official guidance.

**Note: Failure to provide a correct PIC will lead to the rejection of your application.**

### **Who is your CEO?**

Provide the first name, last name and gender of your company's CEO. If no CEO is appointed, provide the name of the person managing the innovation/company. Eureka and the EIC will use this information for statistical purposes.

### **SECTION 2. Your Eurostars-3 project**

**IF YOU ARE SELECTED UNDER FAST TRACK, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WILL BE MADE PUBLIC: EUROSTARS-3 PROJECT ID NUMBER, EUROSTARS-3 PROJECT ACRONYM.**

### **Eurostars-3 project ID number**

Your Fast Track application must stem from your Eurostars-3 project.

Here you need to provide your Eurostars-3 project ID number. You can find this number in your Eurostars project documentation, available on your [Eureka Project Management Platform](#) account.

Write your Eurostars-3 project ID exactly as it is in your project documentation.

**Note: This information is used to check the eligibility of your application. Failure to provide the correct project ID may lead to the rejection of your application.**

### **Eurostars-3 project acronym**

Here you need to provide your Eurostars-3 project acronym. This can also be found in your Eurostars project documentation, available on your [Eureka Project Management Platform](#) account.

Write your Eurostars-3 project acronym exactly as it is in your project documentation.

**Note: This information is used to check the eligibility of your application. Failure to provide the correct project acronym may lead to the rejection of your application.**

**Briefly explain how your Fast Track proposal stems from your Eurostars-3 project.**

Maximum number of characters (including spaces) allowed in this field: 2000.

Explain how your Fast Track business idea is a result of the activities carried out in your Eurostars-3 project.

SECTION 3. Overview of your Fast Track proposal

**IF SELECTED UNDER FAST TRACK, YOUR ACRONYM AND ABSTRACT WILL BE MADE PUBLIC.**

### **Acronym of your Fast Track proposal**

Maximum number of characters allowed in this field: 100.

Create an acronym for your proposal.

### **Fast Track Proposal full title**

Maximum number of characters allowed in this field: 100.

Provide a full title for your proposal.

### **Proposal keywords**

Enter up to three relevant keywords that best correspond to the innovation, service or product proposed as well as to the specific market or niche market targeted.

### **Abstract**

Maximum number of characters allowed in this field: 2000.

Provide a summary of your Fast Track proposal. Summarise the innovation you would like to develop in your project, the reasons for developing your innovation, and its potential impact on the market.

SECTION 4. Your Fast Track proposal

**THE INFORMATION IN THIS SECTION WILL NOT BE MADE PUBLIC.**

### **Company description**

Maximum number of characters allowed in this field: 2000.

Describe your company's vision and ambition to scale up.

### **Problem/market opportunity**

Maximum number of characters allowed in this field: 2000.

Describe the problem you are trying to address from the customer/user point of view. Explain why it is a problem and for whom.

### **The Innovation: Solution/Product or Services (USP)**

Maximum number of characters allowed in this field: 2000.

Present the solution; explain how it works in practice, what it changes for potential users, the way(s) in which it is unique, why it has breakthrough potential, why it is better than existing solutions available on the market, explain concretely how you have achieved the current TRL level, and describe why now is the right time to bring it to the market.

### **Market and Competition analysis**

Maximum number of characters allowed in this field: 2000.

Describe your business model and the target market, explain why customers would be willing to pay, who are the competitors, and what are the advantages and disadvantages of your solution. Explain why your innovation will be successful in these markets.

### **Broad Impacts**

Maximum number of characters allowed in this field: 2000.

Describe and quantify, if possible, the broad expected impact of your innovation on society, the environment and climate, the UN Sustainable Development Goals and on job creation. Refer to any relevant EU policy.

### **Team and management**

Maximum number of characters allowed in this field: 2000.

Present your team members, including: the track record of the founders and key managers; explain how you plan to ensure gender balance among your team members, including those in executive positions (at least CEO, CSO and CTO); identify missing skills, recruitment targets and employee retention plans designed to address the identified missing skills.

### **Funding request**

Maximum number of characters allowed in this field: 2000.

Describe your financial needs for grants and/or investment, explain why you have not been able to raise sufficient investment to carry out the project, and why you need the support of the EIC. Please note that the figures are indicative at this stage, and you will have the possibility to modify this within your full proposal.

### **Funding requested as grant**

Indicate the funding that you would like to request as grant. Indicate the figure in Euro.

### **Funding requested as investment**



Indicate the funding that you would like to request as investment. Indicate the figure in Euro.

#### SECTION 5. Pitch deck

**THE INFORMATION IN THIS SECTION WILL NOT BE MADE PUBLIC.**

Upload your pitch deck here. The pitch deck can include up to 10 slides, must be provided in pdf format and cannot exceed 10MB. In case you need to update the uploaded version before submitting the application, simply upload the new version and it will be replaced automatically.

**Note: Failure to provide a pitch deck in pdf and of maximum 10 slides will lead to the rejection of your application. The pitch deck that you provide here is the same that you will use at the pitching session, if invited. You will not be allowed to edit your pitch deck before the pitching session.**

The pitch deck allows you to expand on the questions in your application form. Make sure your pitch summarizes your proposal, but more importantly, engages us with your story! Convey your message in a compelling manner and persuade us to support your innovative idea.

Remember that up to two members of your company can join the pitching session – as presenter and/or to answer questions from the panel – and that you will have only 10 minutes to present your company and business idea.

There is not a specific or standard template to use. For tips on how to prepare an effective pitch deck, you can read the [EIC Accelerator Short Pitch Deck Guide 2023](#) published by ACCESS2EIC.

#### SECTION 6. Declarations

**THE INFORMATION IN THIS SECTION WILL NOT BE MADE PUBLIC.**

In this section, you must declare that:

- Your company owns or has rights to the IP that underpins this application.
- Your company does not have a pending application at any step of the EIC accelerator, a national Plug-in scheme or a Fast Track scheme.
- From the start of 2024, your company has not already submitted 3 unsuccessful applications to the EIC Accelerator, at any stage of the process (short proposal, full proposal), for any form of support (Challenge, Open, Grant only, Blended finance, Equity only) and via any route (EIC Accelerator, a national Plug-In or another Fast Track).
- Your company is an SME or a small mid-cap.
- Your company is not subject to EU administrative sanctions (i.e. exclusion) and is not in one of the exclusion situations banning it from the receiving EU grants, as established in Articles 136 and 141 of the EU Financial Regulation.
- Your company is not already running a project under the EIC Accelerator or the SME Instrument.
- Your company has not received funding from a Horizon 2020 or Horizon Europe for the same objectives.

**Note: If your company does not fulfil all the conditions listed above, your application is not eligible for the Eureka Fast Track.**

## Application platform

The Fast Track application platform can be accessed at <https://fasttrack.eurekanetwork.org/>. As a new user, you will be required to create a profile before you launch an application. This is

achieved by clicking on “Sign up” and entering your first and last name, your email address and a password. You will also need to agree to the standard Eureka [terms of service](#).

**Sign up button and profile registration page**

**Create your account**  
Create your account in order to access Fast Track calls and apply.

Type your First name  
Type your Last name  
Type your email  
Type a Password

I agree to the terms of service

Sign up

Already have an account? Log in

Once you sign up, you will receive an automated email verification message; you need to click on the verification link to finalise your registration. Subsequently, you can log in using your email and the password you created.

While logged in, you will need to navigate to the list of Fast Track calls and click on the “Apply” button corresponding to the open call.

**Access the call list through these buttons (only visible after log in)**

**Fast Track Calls**

Find below all Fast Track calls. You may Apply, Continue or View your submissions depending on opening and closing dates of each call.

Call Name	Status	Apply
Fast Track 2024 Call 7	Not yet open	
Fast Track 2024 Call 6	Open	Apply
Fast Track 2024 Call 5	Open	Apply
Fast Track 2024 Call 4	Open	Apply
Fast Track 2024 Call 3	Closed	

**Then select the open call to apply to and start your application**

The structure of the application form thus opened follows closely the six sections described earlier. You can navigate through the application form’s sections using the left-hand-side menu.

The left-hand-side navigation bar allows you to move between sections

The submit button becomes active when all required fields are filled

**Fast Track 2024 Call 4 - Application Form**

IF YOU ARE SUCCESSFULLY SELECTED, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WILL BE MADE PUBLIC: LEGAL ENTITY, EMAIL, COUNTRY.

**\*Your first name**  
Provide the first name of the main contact person responsible for your application.

**\*Your last name**  
Provide the last name of the main contact person responsible for your application.

**\*Your email address**  
Provide the email address of the main contact person responsible for your application.

Every communication about your application will be sent to this email address, including questions about your application, invitation to the pitching session, communication of results, and any communication otherwise. Make sure that you provide the correct email address and that it is will be reachable for the entire duration of the process.

**\*Legal entity name**  
Provide your company's legal name.

**\*Legal entity type**  
Please select whether you are an SME or a small mid-cap (between 250 and 499 employees). Any other organization types are not eligible for Fast Track.

Note: Please be aware that any SME and Small mid-cap companies are eligible, if you declare a different type, we recommend not to going further in this application.

**Submit**

At least one of the fields should be completed in order to submit your application.

**These fields come pre-filled with information provided on registration**

The application form is auto-saved when you make changes, so you can come back to it any time you log in. To do so, navigate to the list of calls and select “Continue” under the open call. Note that you cannot revert to previous versions of your text. Only the person initiating the application can access it and is responsible for collating the necessary input.

**Fast Track Calls**

Find below all Fast Track calls.  
You may Apply, Continue or View your submissions depending on opening and closing dates of each call.

Fast Track 2024 Call 7	<b>Not yet open</b> Opens on 15/08/24 8:00am	
Fast Track 2024 Call 6	<b>Open</b> Apply before 09/08/24 3:00pm	Apply
Fast Track 2024 Call 5	<b>Open</b> Apply before 09/08/24 3:00pm	Apply
Fast Track 2024 Call 4	<b>Open</b> Apply before 09/08/24 3:00pm	Continue
Fast Track 2024 Call 3	<b>Closed</b> Not applied, closed on 08/08/24 3:00pm	

You can **continue working** on your auto-saved application via this button

All compulsory fields are marked with a star and the corresponding field outlined in red as long as it is empty. You will only be able to submit by pressing the “Submit” button on the left-hand-side menu once all compulsory fields are correctly filled. See the guidance below each of them (as well as the previous section of this document) to better understand how to fill in each field.

For your application to be considered, you need to submit it before the call deadline featured in the guidance and on the platform. We strongly recommend submitting as early as possible to prevent any missing information/badly encoded fields from blocking your submission. In case you encounter difficulties with the platform, please reach out at [applications-fasttrack@eurekanetwork.org](mailto:applications-fasttrack@eurekanetwork.org).

On submission, you will receive an automated email from the platform including your application’s unique ID number, details on when it was submitted, as well as details on the procedure to follow in case of serious errors in the form. Once submitted, you can view your application by clicking on the “View” button while logged onto the platform; you can also download a PDF version of it by clicking on the “Export to .pdf” button while viewing the application.

**Fast Track Calls**

Find below all Fast Track calls.  
You may Apply, Continue or View your submissions depending on opening and closing dates of each call.

Fast Track 2024 Call 7	<b>Not yet open</b> Opens on 15/08/24 8:00am	
Fast Track 2024 Call 6	<b>Open</b> Apply before 09/08/24 3:00pm	Apply
Fast Track 2024 Call 5	<b>Open</b> Apply before 09/08/24 3:00pm	Apply
Fast Track 2024 Call 4	<b>Open</b> Applied on 09/08/24 12:32pm	View
Fast Track 2024 Call 3	<b>Closed</b> Not applied, closed on 08/08/24 3:00pm	

Use the View button to access your application after submission

Fast Track 2024 Call 4- Application Form

Export to .pdf Back to Calls list

Find below your submitted application details and answers. Press Export to .pdf button to download a printable copy.

eureka fast track Application Report

Fast Track Call

Application ID

Submission Date

Submission Status

Applied as

Section 1 - Application Information

This button allows you to download a PDF version of your application

This section covers your submission details

## Confidentiality

We aspire to be as transparent and open as possible. As the Eureka Fast Track is designed to support business, we also have a duty to protect their competitive edge. Therefore, basic data on your company and project (highlighted as “PUBLIC” above) will be published on our website if you are selected through the Fast Track. All other fields are considered confidential. Nonetheless, content is still visible to certain individuals and organisations. The information will be available to:

### ORGANISATIONS:

- the offices of the National Project Coordinators and the associated Ministries or associated national/local public offices from the involved countries,
- the relevant funding bodies of the involved countries,
- the Eureka Secretariat,
- the European Commission and its Agencies,
- auditors of the above organisations,
- organisations charged with analysing the effectiveness of the Eureka Fast Track as an instrument.

All employees of these organisations are subject to confidentiality clauses within their employment contracts.

### INDIVIDUALS:

- the experts who will evaluate the application,
- members of the panel of three independent experts who will interview applicants,
- experts charged with analysing the effectiveness of the Eureka Fast Track as an instrument.

Experts and the panel members are required to sign confidentiality agreements and to declare any potential conflict of interest. They are required to treat information contained within applications in the strictest confidence. They are engaged as individuals, not as representatives of their employer or any other entity. They are required to carry out the evaluation themselves

and not ask someone to evaluate the application in their place. They must not ask anyone to give another opinion of their work.

Occasionally, we are asked to provide data for academic studies and scientific literature. Data is provided in an aggregate and anonymous manner, and the users are subject to the same confidentiality agreements as the experts evaluating the applications.

## Information security

### Electronic submission of application documents

The electronic submission of applications uses https, which encrypts and decrypts the requests and information between the applicant's browser and the server to which applications are submitted, using a Secure Socket Layer (SSL). SSL allows an SSL-enabled server to authenticate itself to an SSL-enabled client and vice versa, enabling the machine to establish an encrypted connection.

### Data Protection Act

The EUREKA Secretariat is situated in the Kingdom of Belgium and as such is governed by Belgian data protection law. More information can be found (in English, Dutch and French) at <http://www.privacycommission.be>.

The information that applicants provide on the application forms will be used in the processing of all aspects of the relevant application. This will include recording on the in-house and the Eurostars-contracted Programme Manager's processing computer and management information systems and in the preparation of material for applicants and for use by the assessment panels. In addition, information may be used in the generation and collation of output and performance indicators and other management statistics. It may also be used in policy and strategy studies to inform management in carrying out the business of the EUREKA Secretariat and in improving business processes.

Any queries on issues relating to data protection should be addressed to: Eureka Association, Avenue de Tervuren 2, 1040 Brussels, Belgium.