

WOMEN TechEU

Guidelines Open Call for Evaluators

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1. About Women TechEU project

The Women TechEU 2 EIC project is on a mission to ignite the potential of women-led early-stage startups in deep tech. 160 talented women entrepreneurs from across the European Union and Horizon Europe associated countries will be receiving direct support. With 75k€ grant (non-diluting finance) and a personalised business development programme, the project will be paving the way for these innovators to shine as leaders in deep tech innovation across Europe.

This project is a continuation of the Women TechEU scheme that was first managed by EISMEA (European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency) from 2021 to 2023 and by another consortium during 2024 - 2026, and it has now become a fully-fledged cascade funding project that is run by an EU-wide consortium made up of different innovation ecosystem players, representatives of women entrepreneurs and also investors.

Over a two-year period, the project will award a total of €12 million in non-dilutive funding through an open call with four competitive cut-off submission deadlines. For each deadline, 40% of the funding will be allocated to startups from widening regions.

Each selected startup will receive tailored support designed to unlock its full potential, including access to a comprehensive menu of business development services and one-to-one mentoring from an expert. The six-month support programme will be co-designed by the entrepreneurs and the programme team, with clearly defined, individualised development KPIs.

This structured support will ensure a smooth and sustained scale-up of each business, while also preparing participants to successfully apply for further funding opportunities such as the EIC Accelerator and Pre-Accelerator programmes.

2. Become an evaluator

Women TechEU is looking for independent evaluators who can assess the quality of the received applications shortly after the deadline of the Full Proposal submission for applicants. There will be four (4) Full Proposal submissions during the project duration. Experts that apply for this Open Call for evaluators may be selected and invited to provide their services for any of the four Full Proposal submissions and do not need to re-apply each time. Should there be a need for a bigger pool of experts, Women TechEU 2 EIC will open another call for expression of interests.

2.1. Eligibility criteria

Evaluators are expected to have a high proficiency in English. Moreover,

- The experts should be based either in a European Member State or a Horizon Europe associated country (full list [HERE](#)).
 - If from Spain: NIF is required with registration for Impuesto Actividades Económicas (IAE).
 - If from a Member State (except for Spain): VAT Number or tax registration number + registration in the [VIES is required](#).
 - If NOT from a Member State – no VAT Number / no registration in VIES is required. It is required that they provide a Tax Identification Number, and they can issue legal invoices.
- Legally registered entity
- Expertise in either or
 - Expertise in deep tech innovation: Evaluators should have a strong understanding of deep tech innovation, including the ability to evaluate

- projects based on their innovativeness, feasibility, and potential to go beyond the state-of-the-art.
- Entrepreneurial, investment, or innovation background: Evaluators should have experience in entrepreneurship, investment, or innovation to effectively assess the proposals in the context of the Women TechEU programme.
 - Experts with experience in evaluating proposals for the EIC Accelerator or cascade funding calls, such as Women TechEU previous open calls are preferred.

An evaluator must not work for an organisation that aims to participate in the Women TechEU open call or for an organisation that is currently involved in the [Women TechEU 2 EIC consortium](#).

*Note that previous involvement in Women TechEU as an evaluator does not automatically confirm your eligibility in this open call. Please carefully read these guidelines and follow the application form to check if you qualify.

3. Evaluators selection process

Evaluators will be selected by the Women TechEU team members based on their competences and needs for the Full Proposal evaluation.

3.1 Expression of interest

If you are interested in becoming an evaluator, apply via the [application form](#) on the SPLORO platform, complete all the necessary fields in the form (see [Annex 1](#)) and upload your **CV (in .pdf format)**.

If you know someone else who might be qualified for this task and might be interested, please share the opportunity with them. By applying to Women TechEU Open Call for

Evaluators, applicants automatically accept all the rules and conditions described below.

3.2 Admissibility

Applications for the call for Evaluators can be submitted at any time starting from **15. June 2026 until 30. July 2026 at 15:00 CEST** (Brussels time).

Applications for the call for Evaluators must be submitted electronically through the SPLORO platform via this [LINK](#), as indicated in these guidelines, using the provided form on the platform. A CV must be attached as a .pdf file as part of the application. Paper or email submissions are NOT eligible.

Applications must be completed in all parts, and the CV must be legible, accessible and in English. If the CV or the application is in any other language than English, the application will be automatically rejected.

3.3 Applications evaluation

If the eligibility criteria are met, the expert evaluation will be conducted by the Women TechEU 2 EIC team members. At the first evaluation phase, each answer will be scored from 0 to 5 to obtain, as an average, a score per category:

- **Technical Experience** (*Relevant education background, experience in relevant deep-tech sectors*)
- **Business Experience** (*Relevant background in business ventures, board membership, history in investing, involvement with startup accelerators/incubators*)
- **General experience** (*Expertise in EIC Accelerator proposal evaluations, experience in startup mentoring*)

In step 2, each application will result in two separate scores with two separate rankings: one for the technical section and another for the business section.

The Technical Score is calculated as:

- Total Technical Score = (Technical Experience × 0.75) + (General Experience × 0.25)

The Business Score is calculated as:

- Total Business Score = (Business Experience × 0.75) + (General Experience × 0.25)

Applicants scoring below 3 in a given score are considered below threshold for that ranking; applicants below threshold in both rankings are not selected.

If an evaluator passes the threshold of 3 in both scores, the higher score will prevail, and the evaluator will be considered either business or technical. If the scores are similar in both categories, evaluators will be considered a business & technical complementary profile.

The maximum score that an applicant can achieve in the evaluation cannot exceed 5 points.

Each application will be assessed by two members of the Women TechEU 2 EIC team independently. The final score per category is the average of the two evaluations. If there is a discrepancy of more than 20% between the scores of the two evaluators, a third evaluator from the Women TechEU 2 EIC team will assess the applicant, and their score will become the final evaluation.

The selection process will start with the highest-scoring applicants, ensuring as much as possible gender and geographical balance. In the selection, applicants with previous involvement in EIC Accelerator or Women TechEU evaluations will be preferred.

3.4 Communication of results

After the evaluation process is completed, only selected applicants will be notified of their inclusion as evaluators for the programme. Consequently, you acknowledge and agree that additional feedback may not be provided.

The results will be communicated around **21. August 2026**. If by that date you do not receive any feedback, it means your application was not successful for the first Full Proposal submission deadline.

The selected experts will be contacted for contract signature. Please note that the selection of external evaluators for Women TechEU 2 EIC is carried out as a subcontracting process managed by Sploro.

Neither the helpdesk nor the partners involved in this process will engage in discussions or provide explanations concerning the decisions made on the selected profiles. Requests for reasons pertaining to the non-selection of candidates will not be addressed.

3.5 Payment

In the evaluation process, each evaluator has the opportunity to receive **100 EUR per properly completed evaluation**. It is important to note that SPLORO is not subject to any commercial tax, including VAT, and the amount indicated as fee per hour is therefore considered as all-inclusive. The only exception is in case of a Spanish legally established experts where VAT and/or IRPF should be added ON TOP of the payable fee.

In case a consensus meeting is necessary, there will be no extra remuneration as it is considered to be part of the evaluation so included in the 100 EUR fee.

This compensation system aims to recognise and value the time and effort dedicated by the evaluators, encouraging their comprehensive participation in the evaluation process.

Given the dynamic nature of the evaluation process, where assignments are made to align with the experience and knowledge, it is important to note that a specific minimum number of evaluations cannot be guaranteed. The number of assigned applications per evaluator depends on various factors:

- The evaluators' availability.

- The type of submitted applications and expertise needed.
- The overall number of applications submitted.

The evaluators will be notified of the number of proposals per evaluation period during the contract signing process for each of the Full Proposal evaluation. Evaluators will have access to the details of the proposals once the contract is signed and they log in to the SPLORO platform for evaluations.

Each evaluator will sign a contract for evaluating the proposals with SPLORO. Note that there will be separate contracts signed for each of the four Full Proposal evaluations. Before each evaluation period, we will reach out and invite the selected experts to sign a new contract.

The evaluator is required to prepare an invoice and forward it to SPLORO at the end of their performed service at each of the four Full Proposal evaluations (details will be specified in the contract signed between the evaluator and SPLORO).

Each invoice submitted by the evaluator must clearly state:

- Full name and address of Splorotech SL (including VAT nr.)
- Full name and address of the evaluator (*including VAT or TAX ID or DNI/NIE nr. for Spanish citizens*)
- The reference of the CONTRACT: WOMEN TECHEU 2 EIC evaluator + number of Full proposal submission + your last name
- The timeframe during which the services were provided, clearly indicating the start and end dates.
- VAT Information (NIF for Spanish citizens, Tax ID for non EU citizens)
- The evaluator's bank details.
- Number of evaluations done and the list with ID numbers of those applications.

- Up-to-date contact information for the evaluator, including name, address, phone number, and email address.
- TAX rate (indicate if reverse charges apply or if it is a VAT exempt intra-community transaction)

SPLORO will make a single payment via bank transfer per invoice. All payments will be made to the bank account provided by the evaluator, strictly in euros, to bank accounts that accept euros. The transfer will be made to the evaluator's account within 60 days of receiving the invoice.

3.6 Evaluators' liability

By applying to the Women TechEU Open Call for Evaluators and registering on the SPLORO platform, the expert:

- Understands that submitting an application (registration) does not guarantee selection as an evaluator for any of the four Full Proposal submissions.
- Understands that they will need to provide a signed Code of Conduct, along with any other requested documents, if selected to serve as an evaluator for a specific Full Proposal submissions published on the SPLORO platform.
- Confirms that the team in charge of the Full Proposal submission deadlines will inquire about their availability to perform the evaluation within the specified timeframe for the given submission deadline, will attend an onboarding session organised by Sploro team and will participate in consensus meetings (if needed).
- Confirms interest in being informed about future opportunities to act as an evaluator in ongoing and upcoming open calls.

3.7 Conflict of interest

All applicants must confirm that they have no conflict of interest with the Women TechEU 2 EIC consortium at the time of submission of their application.

Evaluators must also not have a conflict of interest at the time of their appointment of individual applications to evaluate. There will be a separate confirmation required for each evaluation.

They must notify Sploro immediately should a conflict arises in any of the applications to which they have been allocated. When an evaluator reports a potential conflict of interest or it is brought to the project consortium's attention in any way, the project consortium will assess the circumstances and any objective aspects of information available. If the consortium determines that there is a conflict of interest, the evaluator will be removed from the application's evaluation. All potential conflicts of interest will be thoroughly investigated. More information about conflict of interest can be found [HERE](#).

3.8 Confidentiality

All information connected to the evaluation process is absolutely confidential, thus evaluators are bound by secrecy. They are not permitted to reveal any information regarding the applications submitted, as well as the outcomes of the assessment and selection, to anyone. They are also not permitted to use the application's concepts for their own purposes.

The evaluators should refrain from publicly announcing their role as an evaluator on social media during the entire time of the evaluation and running of the project.

4. Startup Evaluation Procedure

4.1 External remote evaluation

On **September 16, 2026 at 13:00 CET** (Brussels time), an online webinar will be conducted with the selected evaluators, where the evaluation process will be explained step by step, with special attention to the evaluation criteria. Additionally, they will be briefed on how the SPLORO platform functions.

There will be an online onboarding session organised per evaluation round. Selected experts for each round will be informed about the exact dates. Those sessions will be recorded for consultation later on.

After the webinar, the evaluators will be sent a manual for the platform and all the necessary documentation for the evaluation process.

The evaluations will be carried out individually on the Sploro's platform. Evaluators will be responsible for providing a neutral but technical/scientific and/or commercial review of the assigned applications, generally focusing on, but not limited to, the following aspects:

- Quality and relevance of the proposed project or initiative.
- Technical feasibility and innovation potential.
- Alignment with the objectives and focus on deep tech technologies of Women TechEU as well as EIC challenges.
- Potential impact and scalability of the proposed solution.
- Consideration of ethical, legal, and regulatory aspects.
- Evaluation of the applicant's expertise, track record, and capacity to execute the project.

Evaluators are expected to have a high proficiency in English. Their comments are included directly in the Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) sent to applicants, so they must be clear, professional, and free of language errors. The Women TechEU 2 EIC team uses British English, which evaluators should follow as standard. Proofreading tools may be used to ensure quality.

Each proposal will then be assigned to 2 evaluators, and consequently, 2 individual evaluation reports will be prepared for each proposal, which should be based on the assessment of 3 criteria:

Impact:

The impact is evaluated according to the following criteria:

- a)** The quality of the attached business plan;
- b)** Fundraising situation and historical track record. We want growth-oriented startups, not traditional self-employment project companies which do not scale.
- c)** Scale-up potential: The business model shows the ability to scale rapidly across European and global markets.
- d)** Positive impact: The growth potential of the innovation/solution in terms of turnover, profit, and jobs as well as its broader wider economic, societal, and environmental benefits in line with EU priorities.
- e)** SWOT analysis

Excellence:

Projects must demonstrate high quality and a clear set of objectives aligned with the Women TechEU vision and with the general objectives of the project. The Excellence is evaluated according to the following criteria:

- a)** Alignment of the application with the call and the [EIC accelerator challenges](#);
- b)** Scale-up vision: potential to scale internationally and create significant market impact.
- c)** Novelty and breakthrough nature: clear technological or business breakthrough beyond the current state of the art.
- d)** Technology: based on sound, validated deep technology.
- e)** Intellectual Property Rights: The project has a solid IPR strategy ensuring freedom to operate and protection of key assets
- f)** Fundraising situation and historical track record.
- g)** How critical this grant is for the company, and whether it will make a difference and add value to the company.

Implementation:

Projects must demonstrate a clear and efficient implementation plan as well as a gender balance. The implementation is evaluated according to the following criteria:

- a)** Content of 3-minute video submitted
- b)** Quality and efficiency of the work plan (i.e., whether the proposed activities are sound and well explained, as well as whether these activities are most needed at this stage).
- c)** An overall gender balance and the positions held by women in the start-up. Relevance of the women (co-)founder role in the company (i.e., whether the woman (co-)founder has a leading role in the company, whether she is the decision-maker, whether she has a management capacity and whether she can bring the company to the next level).

- d) Team’s capability and motivation: The team has the necessary expertise, commitment, and drive to successfully deliver and scale the innovation.
- e) Risk mitigation assessed: Key risks are clearly identified with credible mitigation measures in place.

The evaluators will score each award criterion on a scale from 0 to 5:

Table 1: Criteria score

Score	Definition
0	Proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or complete information
1	Poor – criterion is inadequately addressed or there are serious inherent weaknesses
2	Fair – proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses
3	Good – proposal addresses the criterion well, but several shortcomings are present
4	Very good – proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present
5	The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

4.2 Full Proposal submission deadlines and evaluations periods

- **#1 Full Proposal submission deadline – 16.9.2026**

Evaluation period (*including eligibility*): 17.09.2026 – 13.11.2026

External evaluation (around): **05.10.2026 – 23.10.2026**

- **#2 Full Proposal submission deadline – 14.1.2027**

Evaluation period (*including eligibility*): 15.01.2027 – 12.03.2027

External evaluation (around): **01.02.2027 – 19.02.2027**

- **#3 Full Proposal submission deadline – 13.5.2027**

Evaluation period (*including eligibility*): 17.05.2027 – 14.07.2027

External evaluation (around): **31.05.2027 – 18.06.2027**

- **#4 Full Proposal submission deadline – 12.8.2027**

Evaluation period (*including eligibility*): 16.08.2027 – 14.10.2027

External evaluation (around): **30.08.2027 – 17.09.2027**