

WOMEN TechEU



Funded by
the European Union

1st InfoDay Session

25 June 2026 10:00 CEST (Brussels Time)

Housekeeping Rules

1. Your microphone should be muted while others are speaking.
2. Switch off your camera during presentations to preserve bandwidth.
3. This session will be recorded and the recording forwarded to participants, please leave if you are uncomfortable.
4. Post any questions in the chat or ask them at the end of the session in the designated Q&A time. If we cannot answer you in the allocated time, all questions will be noted and answered in the follow-up email sent to all participants, along with the link to the recording.



Welcome to our InfoDay!



Marta Fernandez

Sploro
Coordinator



Maria McKeever

AwakenHub
WP3 Leader: Startup Growth Support
& Service Implementation

Agenda

- Introduction and Overview of Women TechEU Programme and Service Programme
– Virginia Gómez Oñate and Maria McKeever
- Eligibility Stage specifications and FAQs – Rebecca Zammit
- The Eligibility application form – Marta Fernandez
- The Full Proposal specifications and FAQs – Rebecca Zammit
- Round of questions
- Conclusion

Overview of Women TechEU



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What is Women TechEU?

An EU-funded project supporting women leading **deep tech startup companies** from Europe and Associated Countries. Women TechEU (2026-2028) continues the work initiated by EISMEA in 2021 and Women TechEU (2024-2026)

Our mission is to create a more **gender-balanced** entrepreneurship ecosystem. Diversity drives innovation, and we are here to provide women in deep tech with more opportunities, resources, and support to thrive.

Between 2026-2028, the current project consortium will run a continuous open call with **4 submission deadlines**. Following a rigorous evaluation process, **160** further beneficiaries will be selected.



Who are we?

Sploro
disrupting innovation

 **acrosslimits**


**Awaken
Hub**

Core Team

DARE

Innov **X**[™]

 **Climate
KIC**

 **Finance
Innovation**


afaemme
Association of Organisations of
Mediterranean Businesswomen

 **TOVARNA
PODJEMOV**

 **POLAND
INNOVATIVE**

POLKA^{XXI}

 **Η ΚΑΘΗΜΕΡΙΝΗ**

 **Startup Europe**
REGIONS NETWORK

 **EU-Startups**

 **Health**
InnoStars

What are the major changes for Women TechEU in 2026?



2 stage call

Focus on
reducing ineligible
applications



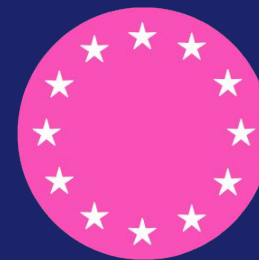
Focus on Widening

40% of the budget
reserved for
Widening



Stronger services

Fine-tuned from
real feedback of
entrepreneurs



EIC alignment

Becoming the bridge
for women in deep
tech into the EIC

Funds and Services

€75,000 grant per startup, plus:



Tailored Mentorship by
Women, for Women



Investor and Export
Readiness Check



CEO Skills & Leadership
Development



Sales Strategies &
Go-to-Market Support



Environmental
Impact Assessment



Access to High-Impact
European Events



Local Chapters &
Alumni Community



Perks Programme &
Community Benefits

Extended Support for Rapid Scalers: Women TechEU as the bridge to EIC

- Tailored **Masterclasses** and **Training** to our winners and Alumni
- Both **EIC Accelerator** (all countries) **and Pre-Accelerator** (for Widening areas) included
- Matchmaking within exclusive community with **corporates and investors** for obtaining sales, investment and letters of support (required for improving EIC chances)
- **One to one** discussions and guidance, including jury pitching
- Pathway towards **Fast Track** (in progress)

NEW!!

Eligibility stage specifications and FAQs



Rebecca Zammit

AcrossLimits

**WP5 Leader: Dissemination &
Communication**

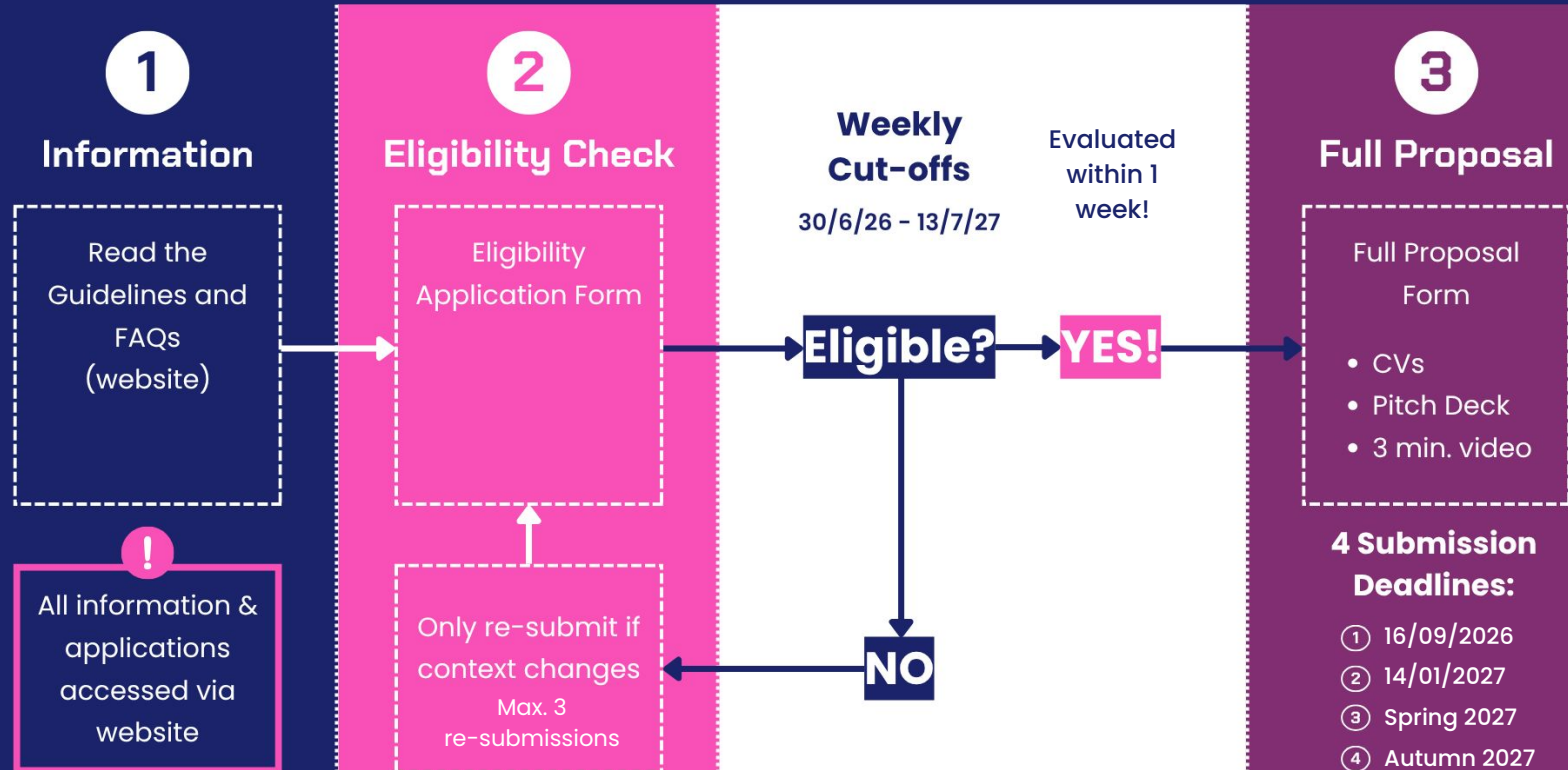
rebecca@acrosslimits.com

WOMEN
TechEU



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Application Process Overview



Calls Important Information & Logistics

Eligibility Strand:

Opening date: 1 June 2026

Cut-off dates: Weekly cut-offs every
Tuesday at 17:00*

First cut-off: 30 June 2026, 17:00*

Final cut-off: 13 July 2027, 17:00*

Full Proposal:

Opening date: 15/07/2026

4 submission deadlines:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. 16/09/2026, 17:00* | 3. Spring, 2027 |
| 2. 14/01/2027, 17:00* | 4. Autumn, 2027 |

*** All times are Brussels Time (i.e. CEST or CET – be careful of seasonal differences!)**

- **Where to apply?:** Online application in Sploro platform, accessible through our website www.womentecheuropa.eu
- **How many will be chosen?:** 160 winners

Main eligibility criteria* at a glance

Is your company women-led?



Is it a startup in deep tech?



Is it between 6 months and 5 years old?



Are you based in the EU or Associated Member States?



*Check the detailed guidelines!



Women-Led Company:

- **A woman** is legally recognised as co/founder of the company and must currently **hold a top management position** (CEO, CTO, CSO or equivalent)
- An original (co)founder, or bought her shares within 12 months of registration
- Women need to make up **together 25%** of the company in **total**, but the woman co/founder does not need to hold all 25% herself.
- It has to be a **private company** - any other type of legal entity is **NOT** accepted.

IMPORTANT!

Women-Led Company:

We can only count the full **CAP** table. The 100% will be including institutions, banks, other shareholders, business angels etc.

The CAP table will ask you for gender (if applicable) of all shareholders listed.

Capitalization table

Clearly indicate the shareholding structure of the company especially the percentage owned by women. Note: If the founder or investor is a holding company owned by a single woman, please enter gender as woman, otherwise, select Organisation.

1st

[+ Add more](#)

Type (select one): (Optional)

Select...

Gender (Required)

Woman

Man

Non-binary

Organisation

Full name (Required)

% shares (Required)

Must be an early-stage start-up:



**BETWEEN
6 MONTHS - 5 YEARS
FROM CUT-OFF DATE
SUBMISSION**



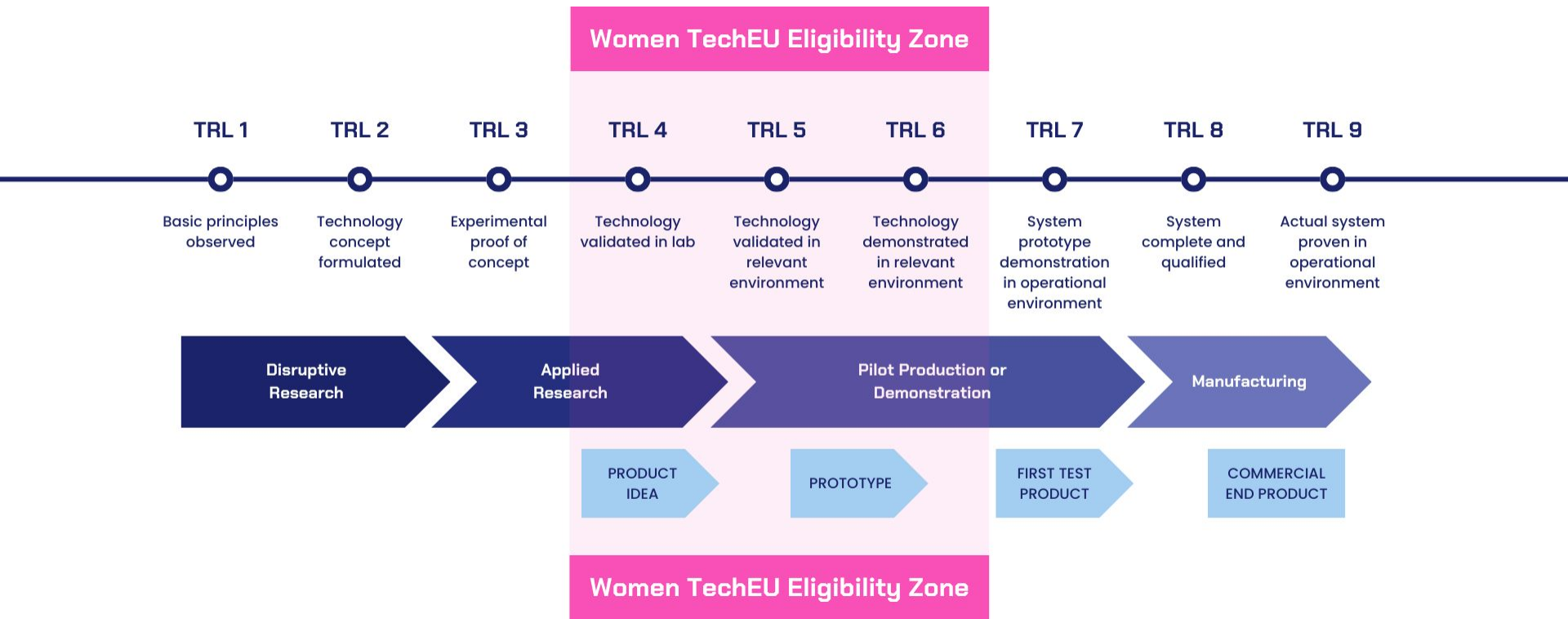
**BEFORE REACHING HIGH
FIDELITY MINIMUM VIABLE
PRODUCT (TRL4-6)**



**RAISED LIMITED FUNDING
(UP TO 1 MILLION EUR IN
EQUITY AT CUT-OFF DATE
SUBMISSION)**

Before reaching MVP stage:

IMPORTANT!



Raised less than 1M€ in equity:

- Keeping focus on **emerging Startups**
- Grants and other national non-dilutive subsidies are **excluded** as long as not previous Women TechEU grants or EIC Accelerator
- **1M€ in equity** to be strictly against purchased shares by external parties
- Variations of **sweat-equity are NOT counted** towards the limit
- **Convertible loans and SAFE Notes** are considered **equity** if money is available
- The participation of public bodies as shareholders is considered for the equity pool if they are in the CAP table
- **Cash from Business Angels/VC** count to the 1M in equity

Raised less than 1M€ in equity:

Be mindful of the phrasing of the question. If you have raised less than 1M€, your answer to this question in the application is **“YES”**.

5. Has your startup raised less than 1M€ in equity from external investors?: (Required) Clear

Yes

No

5.1. How much equity has your startup raised (in €)? (Required)

500000



Are you in deep tech?

Deep tech is building technology that doesn't exist... **YET!**

This is **technology on the edge of science**. It's about pioneering extremely innovative products/services that have never been seen before to solve societal problems.

Not bound by sector but some sectors we tend to see deep tech work in include:

- Life sciences
- Greentech
- Biotechnology
- And more..

In the full proposal, what will evaluators be looking at to see how deep tech you are?

The deep tech company



MUST be leveraging **breakthroughs in scientific fields**



MUST have its **core technology based on recent scientific advancements** or pushing boundaries in established fields



MUST have **technology with the potential to disrupt the existing markets** or create entirely new ones



MUST have a **solution that is genuinely innovative and not just an incremental improvement**



Can ideally have its technology scaled efficiently and reach a broad audience

*The deep tech **MUST be yours and not “borrowed”**

 Required

 Ideal but not required

My company uses technology in the delivery of its goods / services, am I eligible to apply?

Using technology and being a deep tech company are **very different concepts**. Just because one is adopting industry standard technologies or slightly modifying content, materials, integration of existing components etc, does not make the company a deep tech one! **NOT deep tech:**

- eLearning platforms where the content is the innovative part and **not** the technology;
- eCommerce apps where the innovation is the business model/pricing, **not** the technology
- Gaming apps which use **industry standard components**
- Online information portals where **the news and articles** are the innovative component

We use/want to use AI applications in our company, that means we are deep tech, right?

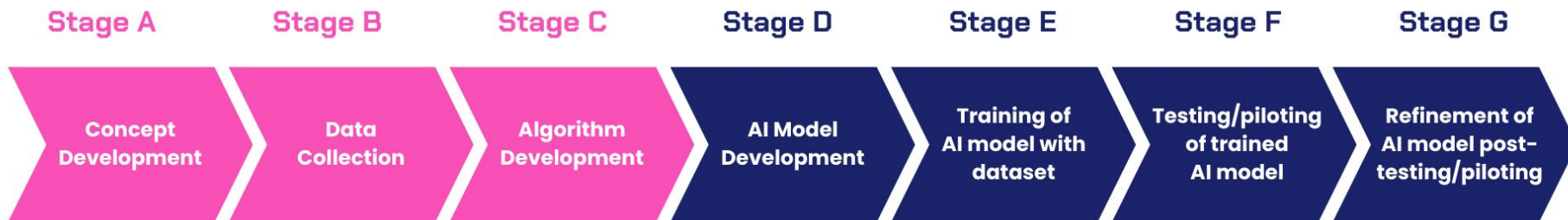
Not necessarily! You need to identify the stage you are in:



NON-ELIGIBLE



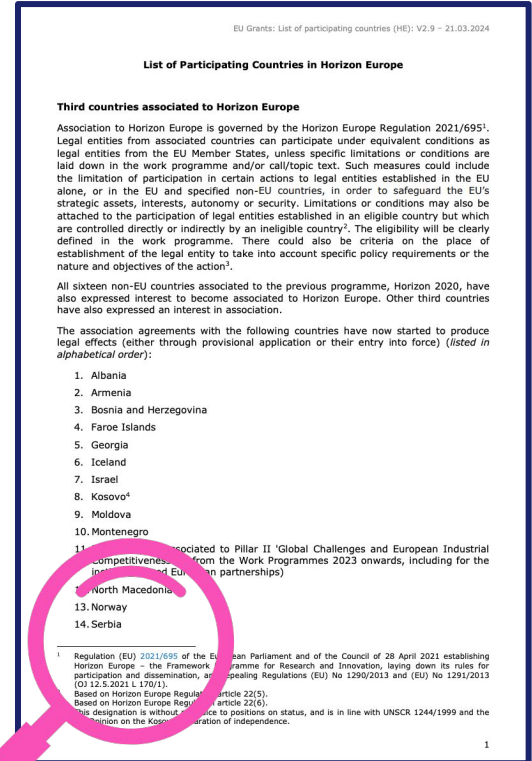
ELIGIBLE



IMPORTANT!

Eligible countries:

- **Not just the EU!**
- The applicable list is the one published by the European Commission at the time of opening of call, [linked in the FAQs and Call Guidelines](#)
- Women TechEU is funded under Pillar III (EIC Work Programme), therefore only those countries associated to the entire Programme or to Pillar III are considered as eligible.
- For ease of reference, we have listed the eligible non-EU countries **in our Guidelines & FAQs.**



40% of beneficiary spots will be reserved for Widening

Which are the Widening Territories?

NEW!!

For the purposes of the Women TechEU call, widening areas include:

Widening EU Member States:

Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Widening Associated Countries:

Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Tunisia, Türkiye and Ukraine.

Outermost Regions:

Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique, Réunion, Mayotte and Saint-Martin (France); the Azores and Madeira (Portugal); and the Canary Islands (Spain).

Age of Company:

- The age of the company is determined by **the date of its registration** in the national company register of the country it is registered in.
- This date needs to be **greater than 6 months and less than 5 years** from the **cut-off point submitted to.**
- Even if there was a **period of inactivity**, or a big change (e.g. name, ownership, purpose), this time is still counted in the age of the company

The Eligibility Stage Application Form



Marta Fernandez

Sploro

WP 2

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Eligibility Stage Application Demonstration

Full Proposal stage specifications and FAQs



Rebecca Zammit

AcrossLimits

**WP5 Leader: Dissemination &
Communication**

rebecca@acrosslimits.com

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The EIC Challenges

Startups must indicate which **EIC Accelerator challenge** they will be addressing in their project: predefined topics which have a significant impact on EU objectives

- Advanced Materials for Renewable Energy and Energy Storage Systems:
- Alternative Concepts and Key Enabling Technologies for Fusion Power Plants:
- Biotech for Regenerating Agricultural Soils
- Boosting the European Critical Raw Materials value chain
- Deep Tech for Climate Adaptation
- Open Challenge

NEW!!

For Widening applicants ONLY:

*“Which are the challenges that you face as a company based in a widening area?
(max 200 words)”*

We want to hear WHY and HOW being located in a comparably less advanced R&I region affects your trajectory and growth.

E.g. resource gaps, high transportation costs; small and limited local R&I ecosystem; issues with hiring and retaining specialised talent...

What can be funded by the EUR 75,000 grant?

It is up to you!

Choose how you plan to allocate funds towards activities that will accelerate the development, growth and sustainability of **your** business.

Independent experts will assess whether the proposed activities are most appropriate and required to support your company's growth and development.

A detailed budget annex is **not** required or allowed.



Documents and attachments required at Full Proposal stage:



ONLINE
APPLICATION
FORM



CV OF WOMAN
FOUNDER &
TEAM (PDF)



INVESTOR
PITCH DECK
(PDF)



3 MINUTE
VIDEO
(ONLINE LINK)

What to include in your pitch deck

1

**WHY + WHY
NOW**

How clear is the market need? Why now? Is your solution needed (in that market, business model, segment)?

2

**WHY + WHY
YOU**

How clear is what you do, for whom and where?

3

**HOW DO YOU
MAKE MONEY**

Does your solution have a clear business model (i.e. distribution, revenue models, customers)?

4

**EXECUTION
CAPACITY**

Do you have the right team and resources to make it happen?

5

DELIVERY

Did you articulate a compelling story?

IMPORTANT!

Documents required **IF** selected for funding (1)

- **ID Number & scanned copy** of the signatory (irrelevant personal details may be covered)
- The **power of attorney** of the person who will sign the Sub-grantee agreement
- **SME declaration form**
- **Balance Sheet and P&L accounts** for the last 2 closed years
- Most recent **CAP table**
- **Financial Identification Form** identifying account funds will be transferred to
- **Bank statement** showing ownership of account

Documents required IF selected for funding (2)

For entities that are already **validated** by the European Commission's Funding and Tenders Portal:

- PIC Number
- Screenshot of their type of organisation from the F&T portal

If **not validated**:

- Legal entity form
- VAT Number registration (if applicable)



**Failing to provide requested
data and documents in due
time will mean the funding
will not be awarded!**

Hints and Tips for a **great** application

- **Be authentic.** When creating the video, we are not after professional style but we want to hear your voice and your passion
- **Why you?** Tell us how you are advancing your area of science, how you are helping society and why we should give you this opportunity
- **Show commitment.** To the cause you believe in, to your company and to advancing women's role in deep tech
- **Don't overuse AI.** We know what AI sounds like, we want to hear YOUR voice and not what an algorithm thinks you should say

Common mistakes in previous calls:

The video:



- **NOT** showing the woman co/founder and the company's personal story.
- Providing a **corporate video or AI generated video** instead of a recorded self-presentation.
- Past the **3 minute** cut-off.
- **Incorrect platforms** (see FAQs/Guidelines). Only YT and Zoom are accepted

Common mistakes in previous calls: **Language!**



ENGLISH IS OUR WORKING LANGUAGE

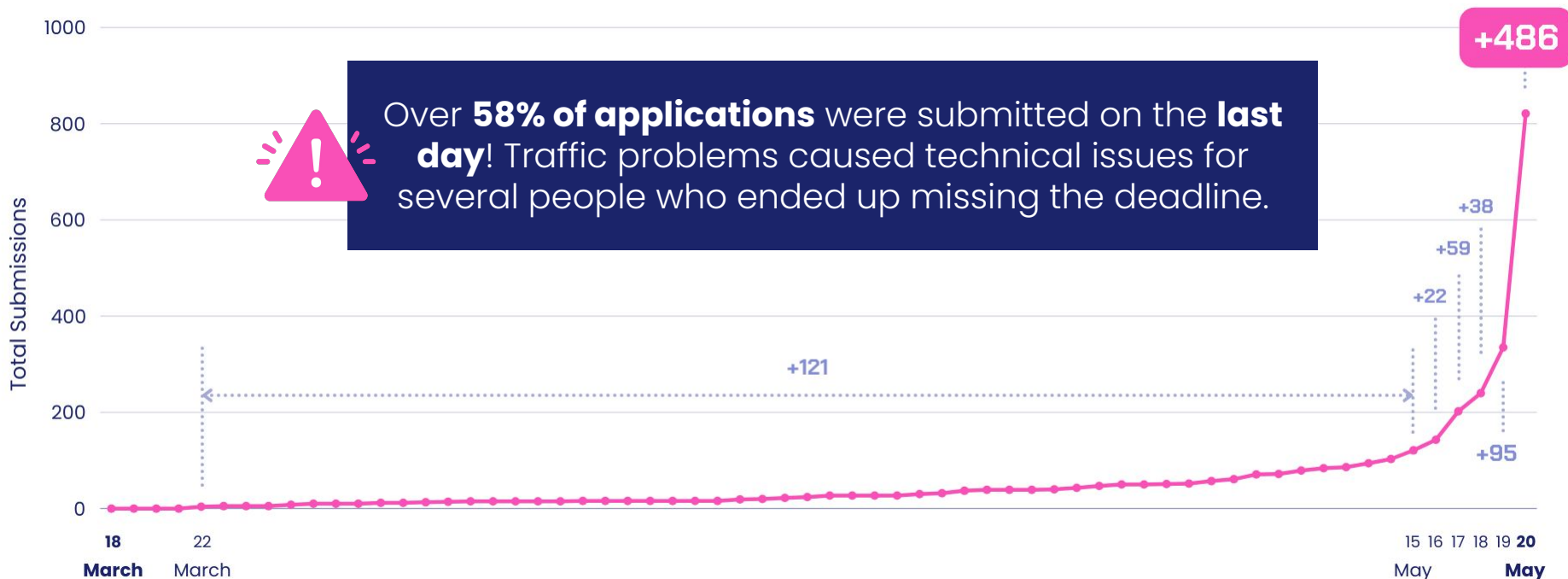
All application, documents, deck, video **must be in English**. Video in another language is **NOT accepted**. English subtitles are accepted.



OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS IN YOUR LANGUAGE:

Permissible, but provide a translation.

Common mistakes in previous calls: **PROCRASTINATION!**



Common mistakes in previous call: **PROCRASTINATION!**

The deadline is the deadline. No exceptions will be made for **ANY** circumstance. If you miss the deadline, you can only apply for the next submission deadline.

Plan your submission ahead of time (**minimum recommended 2 days**) due to technical or personal issues that may crop up.

Reporting technical issues to the Helpdesk **after the deadline will not be accepted.**

Common mistakes in previous calls: **Trying to amend information PAST DEADLINE**

No information or additional documentation will be accepted or considered by evaluators that was submitted to the Sploro platform or to the Helpdesk past the deadline.

If **you** made a mistake, this **cannot** under any circumstances be amended.



Documents to always refer to:

→ **Guidelines For Eligibility Document :**

https://womentecheuropa.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/WomenTechEU_Guidelines_Eligibility_v3.pdf

→ **FAQs - contain more information + you can search any keyword on the website**

<https://womentecheuropa.eu/frequently-asked-questions-wteu2/>

→ **Eligibility Application Form Copy :**

https://womentecheuropa.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Annex1_WomenTechEU_Eligibility_Application-form.pdf

→ **All can be found here:** <https://womentecheuropa.eu/active-calls/> (*Full proposal strand will be available in coming weeks*)

The Helpdesk: helpdesk@womentecheuropa.eu

- The **ONLY** dedicated support channel for prospective applicants.
- Our helpdesk staff are **NOT doing pre-evaluations** and we cannot tell you what to do! Being entrepreneurs means taking risks!
- Repeated harassment and unprofessional conduct **will potentially lead to applications' disqualification.**



The Helpdesk: helpdesk@womentecheuropa.eu

- **Helpdesk** should be your **final point of contact**, not your initial one. Please read the **Guidelines and FAQs** thoroughly before contacting the Helpdesk.
- We regularly update our FAQs and have installed a search bar to facilitate information finding.



Evaluation & Appeal

- The appeal process for both application strands will be streamlined via an online submission form on the Women TechEU website, which will be **available ONLY for the eligible 7 day period** post-results.
- An appeal form is available after each application strand.
- Only if there are **factual errors in their evaluation** that you can send a proof of in the evaluation, then you can appeal (e.g. evaluators refer to your company by a different name that is not yours)

IMPORTANT!

Evaluation & Appeal (Full Proposal)

- The evaluations are totally **independent between calls**.
- The score might be higher or lower depending on the competition in call.
- The evaluators opinions are **final**.
- Our selection process involves highly qualified experts whose assessments are crucial, and are provided based on their extensive experience. Disagreements with their opinions do not constitute grounds for an **appeal**.

IMPORTANT!

Is Women TechEU not right for you? Other types of opportunities:

- [Other cascade funding opportunities](#)
- Over [40+ EU funded programmes](#)! Of particular relevance: Digital Europe, Horizon Europe, EU4Health, LIFE ... search all funding calls by keyword [here](#)
- [Eureka Programme - Eurostars](#)
- [EIC Accelerator](#) (for more advanced companies)
- Check out your **national R&I agencies and National Contact Points** for national or decentralised funding opportunities.

Do you have any questions?

Now is the time to ask!

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Thank you for your attention

 womentecheurope.eu  helpdesk@womentecheurope.eu    [womentecheu](https://www.linkedin.com/company/womentecheu)



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