



Open Call for Mentors

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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 mentors

Women TechEU is looking for independent **women mentors** who can support the business development of the awardees of the Women TechEU 2 EIC project. There will be four (4) cohorts during the project duration, supporting 160 women led deep tech startups. Experts that apply for this Open Call for mentors may be selected and invited to provide their services for any of the four cohorts and do not need to re-apply each

time. Should there be a need for a bigger pool of mentors, Women TechEU 2 EIC will open another call for expression of interests.

2.1. Eligibility criteria

This open call aims to recruit **women mentors** who are experts in their field. Mentors 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 a Member State (except for Spain): VAT Number or tax registration number + registration in the [VIES](#) is required.
 - If from Spain: NIF is required with registration for Impuesto Actividades Económicas (IAE).
 - 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 both
 - Deep tech innovation: mentors should have a strong understanding of deep tech innovation, including the ability to mentor awardees based on their innovativeness, feasibility, and potential to go beyond startup development.
 - Entrepreneurial, investment, or innovation background: Mentors should have experience in entrepreneurship, investment, or innovation to effectively support the awardees of the Women TechEU programme.
- Experts with experience in mentoring beneficiaries for the EIC Accelerator or cascade funding calls, such as Women TechEU previous open calls are preferred.
- A mentor must not work for an organisation that aims to participate in the Women TechEU open call nor be an employee for an organisation that is currently involved in the [Women TechEU 2 EIC consortium](#).

*Note that previous involvement in Women TechEU as a mentor 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.

2.2 Mentors Open Call Timeline

The Open Call for Mentors will be published on the cascade funding platform:

cascadefunding.sploro.eu/login

- **Opening date:** Monday, 13 July 2026 at 12:00 CET
- **Closing date:** Monday, 28 September 2026 at 12:00 CET
- **Notification of Decision:** 14 October 2026, 12:00 CET
- **Mandatory Onboarding Session:** 2 November 2026, 11:00 CET

2.3 Mentors selection process

Women expert mentors will be selected by the Women TechEU team members based on their competences and needs of the awardees of the programme.

We welcome applications from experienced professionals who have expertise in areas such as:

- Business strategy and business modelling
- Product development
- Marketing and sales
- Fundraising and investor relations
- Innovation strategy
- Pitch preparation
- Impact maximisation
- Financing and growth planning
- Deep-tech commercialisation

We are particularly interested in mentors with experience as:

- Founders and entrepreneurs
- Angel investors and venture capital professionals

- Advisory board members
- Senior business leaders and executives
- Startup mentors, coaches, and accelerator experts
- Deep-tech specialists across a range of technology domains

2.3.1 Expression of interest

Interested experts are encouraged to submit their applications before the deadline. Successful applicants who meet the selection criteria and complete the mandatory onboarding process will become eligible to support Women TechEU awardees through tailored mentoring engagements during the programme implementation period. If you are interested in becoming a mentor, 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 Mentors, applicants automatically accept all the rules and conditions described below.

2.3.2 Admissibility

Applications for the call for Mentors can be submitted at any time starting from **13. July 2026 until 28. September 2026 at 12:00 CEST (Brussels time)**. Applications for the call for Mentors 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.

2.3.3 Applications evaluation

If the eligibility criteria are met, the expert evaluation of the application will be conducted by the Women TechEU 2 EIC team members against the criteria in the application form (Annex 1). Each application will be assessed by two members of the

Women TechEU 2 EIC team independently. Mentors will be selected through the 2026 Open Call for Mentors.

Applications will be assessed based on the responses provided in the application form. Each response will be scored on a scale of **1–5**.

Applicants who achieve:

- A minimum score of **4** for each response; and
- A sufficiently high overall ranking

will be invited to join the **eligible pool of mentors**.

All successful applicants admitted to the eligible mentor pool will be required to attend a **mandatory onboarding session** on:

2 November 2026 at 11:00 CET

The final score per category is the average of the two evaluations. Applicants scoring below 4 in a given score are considered below threshold for that ranking; applicants below threshold are not selected. 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. In the selection, applicants with previous involvement in EIC Accelerator or Women TechEU evaluations will be preferred.

2.3.4 Communication of results

After the evaluation process is completed, only selected applicants will be notified of their inclusion in the mentor pool for the programme. Consequently, you acknowledge and agree that additional feedback may not be provided. The results will be communicated not later than **14 October 2026 12:00 CET**. If by that date you do not receive any feedback, it means your application was not successful. The selected experts will be invited to a **Mandatory Onboarding Session, on 2 November 2026, 11:00 CET**. Only those who complete the onboarding training will be contacted for contract signature. Please note that the selection of expert mentors for Women TechEU 2 EIC is carried out as a subcontracting process managed by AwakenHub. 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.

3.0 Contracting and Engagement of Mentors

3.1 Contracting

Following successful completion of the onboarding training, mentors will be contracted by **AwakenHub** and added to the eligible mentor pool. The Mentor shall provide expertise to the awardees on a range of subject areas as defined by their mentor profile. AwakenHub implement a self-selection model in which founders select the mentor based on expertise shared in the Mentor Profile on Sploro. Mentors will be engaged through a process of mentor matching, facilitated by AwakenHub though the Sploro platform, at the request of individual awardees. The self-selection of mentors by awardees, will be supported by a short chemistry call in month 1 of the mentoring period (see 3.2), following which formal engagement will be confirmed in writing by AwakenHub.

3.2 Mentor availability

Mentors will be selected from this open call process. Before each mentoring period, we will reach out and invite the selected mentors to sign a new contract.

- **Cohort 5** Proposed mentoring period 1st December 2026– 15th June 2027
- **Cohort 6** Proposed mentoring period 12th April 2027– 14th October 2027
- **Cohort 7** Proposed mentoring period 22nd June 2027– 22nd December 2027
- **Cohort 8** Proposed mentoring period 30th September 2027– 13th April 2028

Note that there will be separate contracts signed for each of the four cohorts supported by Women TechEU 2 EIC initiative.

4.0 Payment

In the mentoring process, each mentor can receive 100 EUR per properly completed mentoring session. It is important to note that AwakenHub is not subject to any commercial tax, including VAT, and the amount indicated as fee per hour is therefore considered as all-inclusive.

Given the dynamic nature of the mentoring process, where assignments are made to align with the experience and knowledge, it is important to note that a specific minimum number of mentoring sessions cannot be guaranteed. Please note that inclusion in the eligible mentor pool does not guarantee any assignment of work. Mentor engagements will be determined according to the specific needs and requirements of individual Women TechEU awardees, and the degree of match between mentors' expertise and awardees' needs.

Mentors will be invited to submit a mentor profile, to facilitate mentor self-selection by the Women TechEU awardees, once the contract is signed. A mentor matching event will take place for each new cohort, and a short chemistry call will be encouraged prior to mentors and awardees working together. Once the match is approved, each mentor receives a confirmation statement confirming the number of mentor sessions to be completed, and the list with awardees ID numbers of these sessions from AwakenHub.

4.1 Invoicing

The mentor is required to prepare an invoice and forward it to AwakenHub at the end of their performed service at each of the four cohorts (details will be specified in the contract signed between the mentor and AwakenHub).

Each invoice submitted by the mentor must clearly state:

- Full name and address of AwakenHub CLG (including VAT nr.)
- Full name and address of the mentor (including VAT or TAX ID or DNI/NIE nr. for Spanish citizens)
- The reference of the CONTRACT: WOMEN TECHEU 2 EIC mentor + number of full mentor sessions + your last name

- The timeframe during which the services were provided, clearly indicating the start and end dates.
- VAT Information (Tax ID for non EU citizens)
- The mentor's bank details.
- Number of mentor sessions completed, and the list with awardees ID numbers of these sessions.
- Up-to-date contact information for the mentor, including name, address, phone number, and email address.
- TAX rate

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

5. Mentors' liability

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

- Understands that submitting an application (registration), and joining the mentor pool, does not guarantee selection as a mentor for any of the four cohorts.
- Understands that they will need to provide a signed Code of Conduct, along with any other requested documents, if selected to serve as a mentor for any WomenTechEU awardee, as facilitated via the SPLORO platform.
- Confirms shall indemnify themselves for any work through providing proof of Professional Indemnity insurance cover of a minimum of £500,000 per claim.
- Confirms their availability to perform mentoring within the specified timeframe for the given cohort, will attend an onboarding session organised by AwakenHub team and will participate in chemistry calls (if requested).
- Confirms interest in being informed about future opportunities to act as a mentor in ongoing and upcoming open calls.

5.1 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. Mentors must also not have a conflict of interest at the time of their appointment of individual applications to mentor. There will be a separate confirmation required for each awardee. They must notify AwakenHub immediately should a conflict arises in any of the applications to which they have been allocated. When a mentor 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 mentor will be removed from the process. All potential conflicts of interest will be thoroughly investigated.

5.2 Confidentiality

All information related to the mentoring process is strictly confidential, and mentors are bound by confidentiality obligations. Mentors may not disclose any information about an awardee without the awardee's express written permission, nor may they use awardees' concepts for their own purposes.

Annex 1

Mentors Application Form Text

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Full name*
2. Phone (including country code)*
3. Gender*: Woman / Man / Non-binary
4. Company / Organisation* (In case you are self-employed, state this as well)
5. Country of Residence*: (select one)
6. VAT / Tax Identification Number*:
7. Are you registered in VEIS? (member states only)

8. LinkedIn Profile*

9. Upload your CV (PDF format)*

BUSINESS EXPERIENCE

1. I have started my own company*: YES/NO

If YES, please tell us more (Optional): Max 300 words

2. I am/have been an angel investor or venture capitalist*: YES/NO

If YES, please tell us more (Optional): Max 300 words

3. I am/have been part of the advisory board of a company*: YES/NO

If YES, please tell us more (Optional): Max 300 words

4. I have an MBA degree, or at least 5 years of experience in managerial positions*: YES/NO If YES, tell us about it (sector, size...):

5. Areas of knowledge in which you have experience and/or work on*: (select max 3)

☐Product Development

☐Business Strategy

☐Business Modelling

☐Marketing and Sales

☐Legal Training on European Citizens Data Rights

☐Financing

☐Innovation Strategy

☐Decentralised Technologies, Sustainability, and Gender

☐Pitching preparation

☐Impact maximisation

☐Exploitation plans and implementation

☐Fundraising Strategies & Investor Relations

☐Value Proposition ☐Others, please specify

Explain your experience per selected areas* Include two examples of past mentees (without names) that could be relevant for this assignment: Min 150 – Max 300 words

TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE

1. Deep-Tech applications in which you have experience and/or work on*: (select maximum 3 of them)

- ☐ Advanced Computing/Quantum Computing
- ☐ Advanced Manufacturing
- ☐ Advanced Materials
- ☐ Aerospace, Automotive and Remote Sensing
- ☐ Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, including Big Data
- ☐ Biotechnology, Life Sciences and Agritech
- ☐ Communications and Networks, including 5G/6G
- ☐ Cybersecurity and Data Protection
- ☐ Electronics and Photonics
- ☐ Internet of Things, W3C, Semantic Web
- ☐ Robotics
- ☐ Semiconductors (microchips)
- ☐ Sustainable Energy, Clean Technologies and Greentech
- ☐ Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, Metaverse
- ☐ Web 3.0, including Blockchain, Distributed Ledgers, NFTs
- ☐ Other (please specify) (max. 100 characters)

Explain your experience per selected areas*: Min 150 – Max 300 words

MENTORING EXPERIENCE

1. I am/have been a start-up/business growth mentor or coach*: YES/NO

If YES, please tell us more (Optional): Max 300 words

2. I work/have worked in a start-up accelerator*: YES/NO

If YES, please tell us more (Optional): Max 300 words

3. I have previous experience in mentoring programmes of Horizon Europe projects*: YES/NO

If YES, please tell us more (Optional): Max 300 words

CAPACITY

1. Confirm your availability for the Onboarding Info Day on 02 November 2026 11:00 a.m. CEST. YES/NO

2. Confirm your availability for the Mentoring calls which will take place between December 2026 and May 2026. (5x 1 hour calls)*: YES/NO

3. What is the maximum number of mentees that you can facilitate? (insert number)

GDPR Statement

Please read [[Legal disclaimer](#)] and [[Privacy policy](#)] and [[Terms of services](#)] and confirm acceptance:(Required) **Yes/No [confirmation check box]**

As part of the Women TechEU 2 EIC Project we are committed to protecting your privacy and secure your personal data. This notice explains how we handle your personal data in accordance with the applicable national and European data protection legislation, including Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (GDPR).

As we determine the purpose and means of processing your personal data in the context of submission of proposal for an Open Call, which is part of the Women TechEU 2 EIC activities, we are considered to be the Data Controller with regard to the processing of your personal data.

We are SPLOTROTECH SL, address: PARQUE TOMÁS CABALLERO 2, Sexto, Oficina 1, Despacho 6.10, Pamplona, Spain (hereinafter Sploro) E-mail: lopd@sploro.eu

In the context of conducting this Open Call, which is part of the project Women TechEU 2 EIC we collect your personal data necessary for evaluating your proposal. These data may include:

Name, contact information, and professional details (provided via form, CV standalone files or any other type of data)

Information included in your application forms, supporting documents, or other materials.

This data will be used for purposes such as evaluating submissions and complying with our contractual obligations under grant agreements the programme you are applying are part of.

Your personal data may be shared with third parties which may, include, but are not limited to:

Granting Authorities: European Innovation Council and SME's Executive Agency (EISMEA)

Consortium Partners: The information provided may also be shared with the partners in the consortium. These partners are contractually obligated to handle your data in compliance with applicable with national and European data protection legislation, including GDPR standards, ensuring the confidentiality and security of your personal data. More about the project consortium members you can find at the project website.

Monitoring and oversight bodies, including internal audits, the European Court of Auditors, and the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), as required under Union or national laws.

Such sharing will be conducted in compliance with GDPR, the grant agreements, and other relevant regulations. In particular: For EC co-funded programme, personal data included in applications will be shared with the EC or its agencies, as required by Articles 15, 19, and 25 of Horizon Europe Grant Agreement.

Accuracy and Completeness of Data All data provided must be accurate, precise, and complete, as required by Article 19.1 of the Horizon Europe Grant Agreement. Failure to

provide such data may result in the inability to process your application or other actions necessary for programme participation.

Security Measures Sploro implements appropriate technical and organizational measures to ensure the security of your personal data. However, the hosting and operation of the platform are managed by AcceleratorApp, and their policies apply to the processing operations they manage. You can view their Privacy Policy for details. All data processing activities are carried out in a strictly confidential manner, and secured according to the state of the art, and industry best standards using anonymization techniques where possible.

The processing of your personal data is carried out strictly in accordance with the principles of data protection as laid down in the GDPR Directive. All data processing activities are carried out lawfully by ensuring that the legal ground for the processing is given. As the processing of your personal data is based on your consent, you have the right to withdraw your consent at any time by contacting us at lopd@sploro.eu. Please note, however, that once you have withdrawn your consent, we will no longer be able to process your data and will not be able to continue with the evaluation of your proposal.

We will only process your data for the purposes explained in this article and will only retain data for as long as necessary to fulfil the purposes explained. After that, your data will be securely deleted or anonymized. We emphasize that we take appropriate technical and organizational measures to protect your data from unauthorized access, disclosure or misuse, in accordance with the requirements of relevant regulations.

Under the GDPR Directive, you have the following rights concerning your personal data:

Right of Access

Right to Rectification

Right to Erasure

Right to Restrict Processing

Right to Data Portability

Right to Object

Data controller: Splorotech, S.L. (ES- B71438956).

Purposes of processing: Offer and manage our products and services for entrepreneurs, startups, companies, industries, corporations and researchers to manage their innovations projects and related activities; providing contact, consultation, and communication tools with interested and related parties, responding to applications, requests and/or queries.

Lawfulness of processing: Execution of a service contract, consent of the interested party, data controller's legitimate interests and/or compliance with a legal obligation.

Disclosure to third parties: Your data may be forwarded to Sploro's collaborators that intervene in any phase of the products or services requested and for legal obligations.

Rights of interested parties: You can exercise your rights on data protection at Parque Tomás Caballero, 2 - Sixth floor, Office 6 - 31006 Pamplona - Navarra (Spain) / lopd@sploro.eu.

More information: More detailed information in the "Privacy Policy" of the company's website.

Statement of Good Character

Yes/No [confirmation check box]

I affirm that I am a person of good character and integrity. I have no convictions or ongoing investigations that would call into question my personal or professional suitability to act as a mentor within this programme. I am committed to upholding high ethical standards, acting with professionalism and respect, and contributing positively to an inclusive, safe, and supportive environment for all participants.

