WOMEN TechEU

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5th InfoDay Session

10th November 2026 16:00 CET (Brussels Time)

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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.

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Welcome to our InfoDay!





Virginia Gómez
Sploro
Women TechEU 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 & Maria McKeever
- Eligibility Stage specifications and FAQs - Rebecca Zammit
- The Eligibility application form - Maja Horvat
- 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.



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Who are we?

Sploro disrupting innovation

acrosslimits

Awaken Hub

Core Team

DARE

InnovX

Climate KIC

Finance Innovation

afaemme Association of Organisations of Mediterranean Businesswomen

TOVARNA PODJEMOV

POLAND INNOVATIVE

POLKA

Η ΚΑΘΗΜΕΡΙΝΗ

Startup Europe REGIONS NETWORK

EU-Startups

eit Health InnoStars

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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

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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

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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

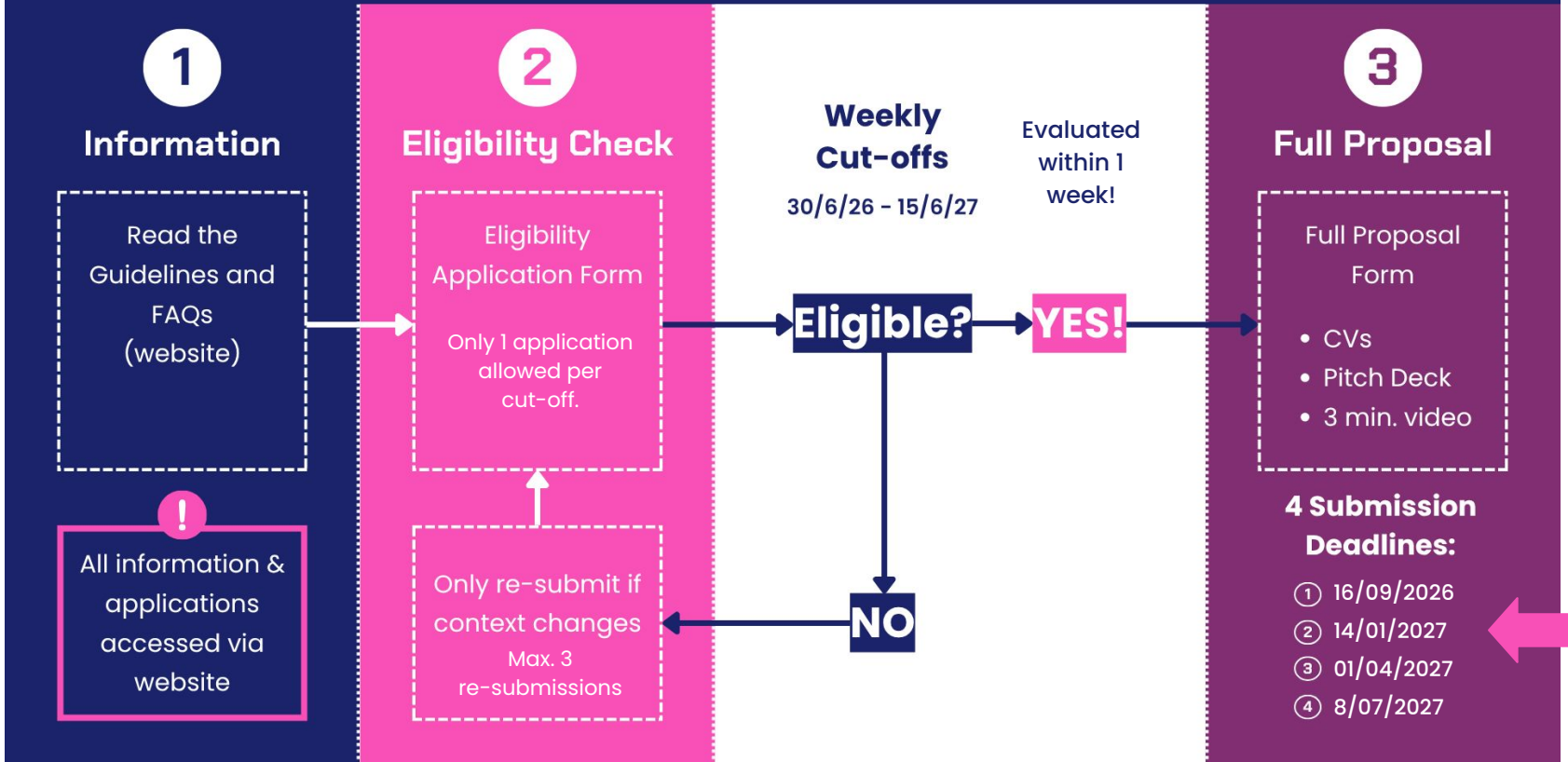
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Application Process Overview



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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? ✓

No exceptions will ever be made to any single eligibility criteria!

*Check the detailed guidelines!

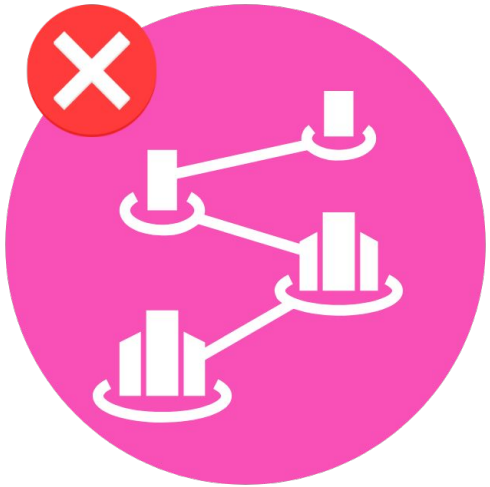


Women-Led Company:

- **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, autonomous company** - any other type of legal entity is **NOT** accepted.

IMPORTANT!

Autonomous SME:



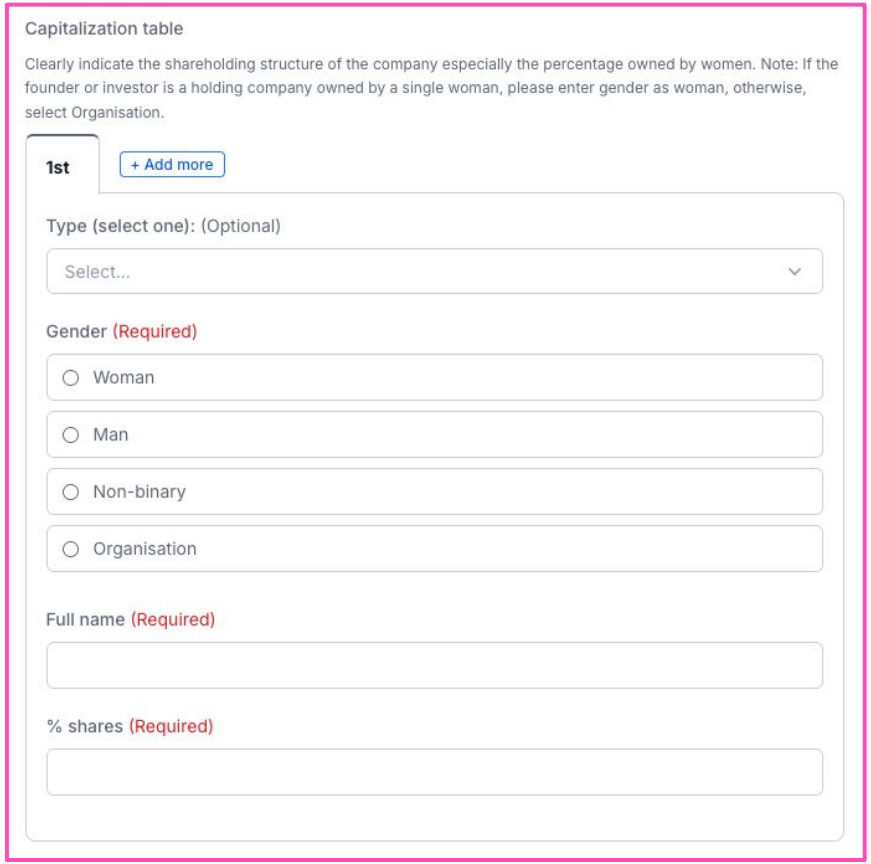
- **You CANNOT be or have a partner, linked or subsidiary company.**
- How to determine that you are autonomous within the meaning of Article 3 of the Annex to EU recommendation 2003/361: we recommend you check the EU's User guide to the SME definition linked in our FAQs.
- **Only exception made by Women TechEU: holding companies owned by the same co-founders.**

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.

Pay attention when filling it in!



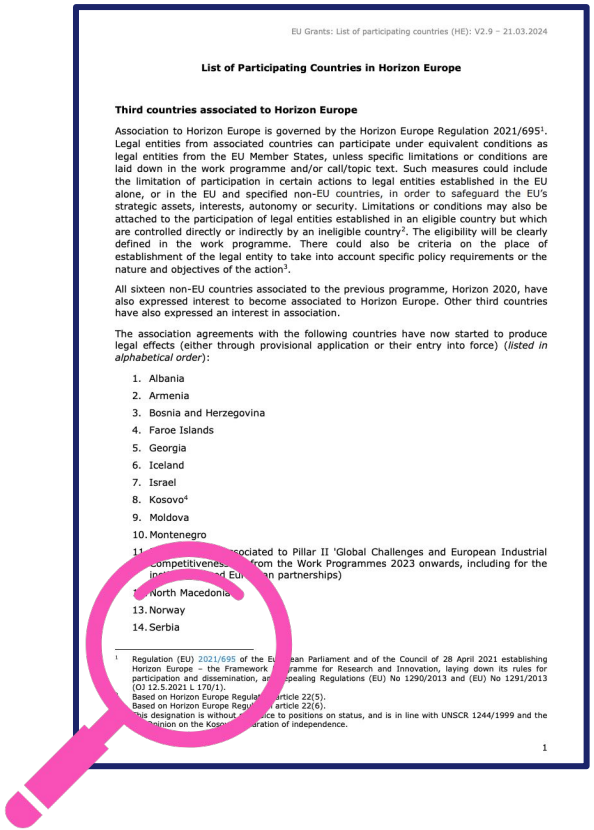
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Eligible countries:

- **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**.



EU Grants: List of participating countries (HE): V2.9 – 21.03.2024

List of Participating Countries in Horizon Europe

Third countries associated to Horizon Europe

Association to Horizon Europe is governed by the Horizon Europe Regulation 2021/695[1]. Legal entities from associated countries can participate under equivalent conditions as legal entities from the EU Member States, unless specific limitations or conditions are laid down in the work programme and/or call/topic text. Such measures could include the limitation of participation in certain actions to legal entities established in the EU alone, or in the EU and specified non-EU countries, in order to safeguard the EU's strategic assets, interests, autonomy or security. Limitations or conditions may also be attached to the participation of legal entities established in an eligible country but which are controlled directly or indirectly by an ineligible country[2]. The eligibility will be clearly defined in the work programme. There could also be criteria on the place of establishment of the legal entity to take into account specific policy requirements or the nature and objectives of the action[3].

All sixteen non-EU countries associated to the previous programme, Horizon 2020, have also expressed interest to become associated to Horizon Europe. Other third countries have also expressed an interest in association.

The association agreements with the following countries have now started to produce legal effects (either through provisional application or their entry into force) (*listed in alphabetical order*):

1. Albania
2. Armenia
3. Bosnia and Herzegovina
4. Faroe Islands
5. Georgia
6. Iceland
7. Israel
8. Kosovo[4]
9. Moldova
10. Montenegro
11. [illegible]sociated to Pillar II 'Global Challenges and European Industrial [illegible]Competitiveness' from the Work Programmes 2023 onwards, including for the [illegible]nd Eur[illegible]n partnerships)
12. North Macedonia
13. Norway
14. Serbia

[1] Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the Eu[illegible]ean Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework [illegible]gramme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, an[illegible]pealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013 (OJ 12.5.2021 L 170/1).
Based on Horizon Europe Regula[illegible]rticle 22(5).
Based on Horizon Europe Regu[illegible]rticle 22(6).
This designation is without [illegible]ice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the [illegible]inion on the Kos[illegible]laration of independence.

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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).

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)

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**.

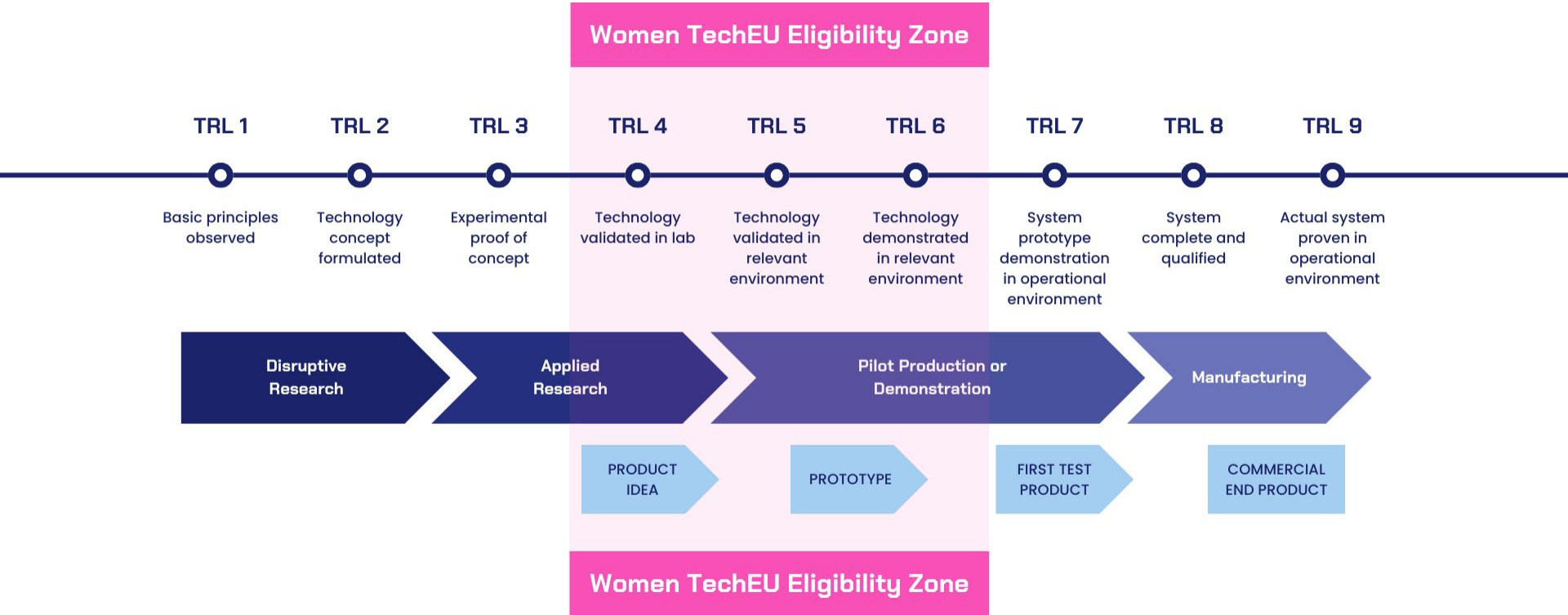
- Even if there was a **period of inactivity**, or a big change (e.g. name, ownership, purpose), this time is still counted in the age of the company

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Before reaching MVP stage:

IMPORTANT!





Counts towards the 1M€ equity

- Strictly against **purchased shares by external parties**
- **Convertible loans & SAFE Notes if money is available**
- **Public bodies** as shareholders, if they are in the CAP table
- **Cash from Business Angels/VC**



Is NOT considered equity

- **Grants and other national non-dilutive subsidies** are excluded as long as not previous Women TechEU grants or EIC Accelerator
- Variations of **sweat-equity**
- **Convertible loans and SAFE Notes** that have **NOT been triggered yet**

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**".



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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..

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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 <u>yours</u> and not "borrowed"**

Required

Ideal but not required

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

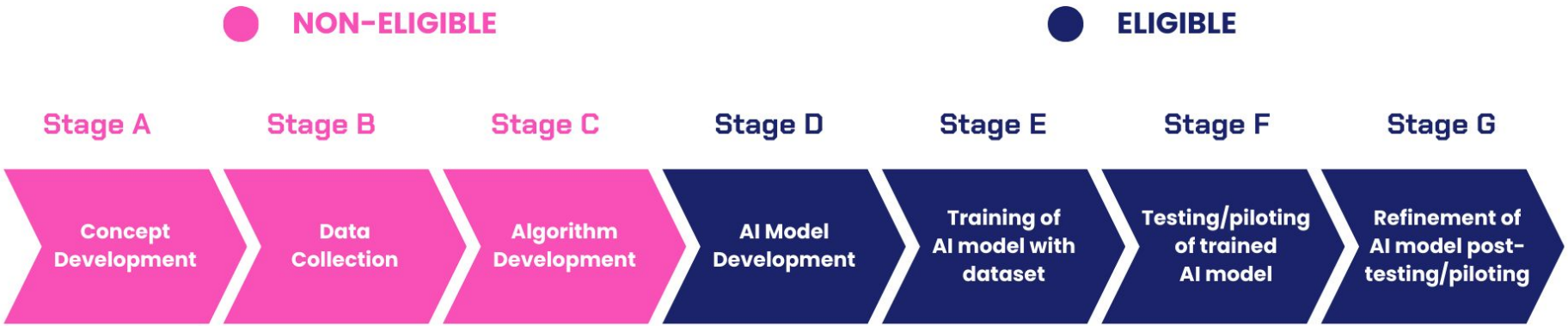
Using technology and being a deep tech company are **very different concepts.** Just because one is adopting industry standard technologies or slightly modifying content, materials, integration of existing components etc, does not make the company a deep tech one! **NOT deep tech**:

- 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

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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:



IMPORTANT!

Eligibility Stage & Full proposal Process Walkthrough



Maja Horvat

Sploro

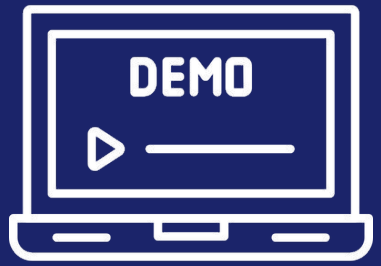
WP2

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Eligibility Stage Application Demonstration

Full Proposal stage specifications and FAQs

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Rebecca Zammit

AcrossLimits

WP5 Leader: Dissemination & Communication

rebecca@acrosslimits.com

Once eligible, does that count across all proposal deadlines?

- **YES**. Once eligible, you remain so **across multiple Full Proposal submission deadlines.**
- DO NOT re-submit your eligibility application to re-submit your Full Proposal.
- We highly encourage you to apply to the closest Full Proposal submission date possible -> **call is highly competitive!**
- Only the information that was correct **up to that cut-off point will be taken into consideration,** even If your company's context changes.



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**

This is not an evaluation criteria.

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.



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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!

What to know about the video:



Common mistakes:

- **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

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!

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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: 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.



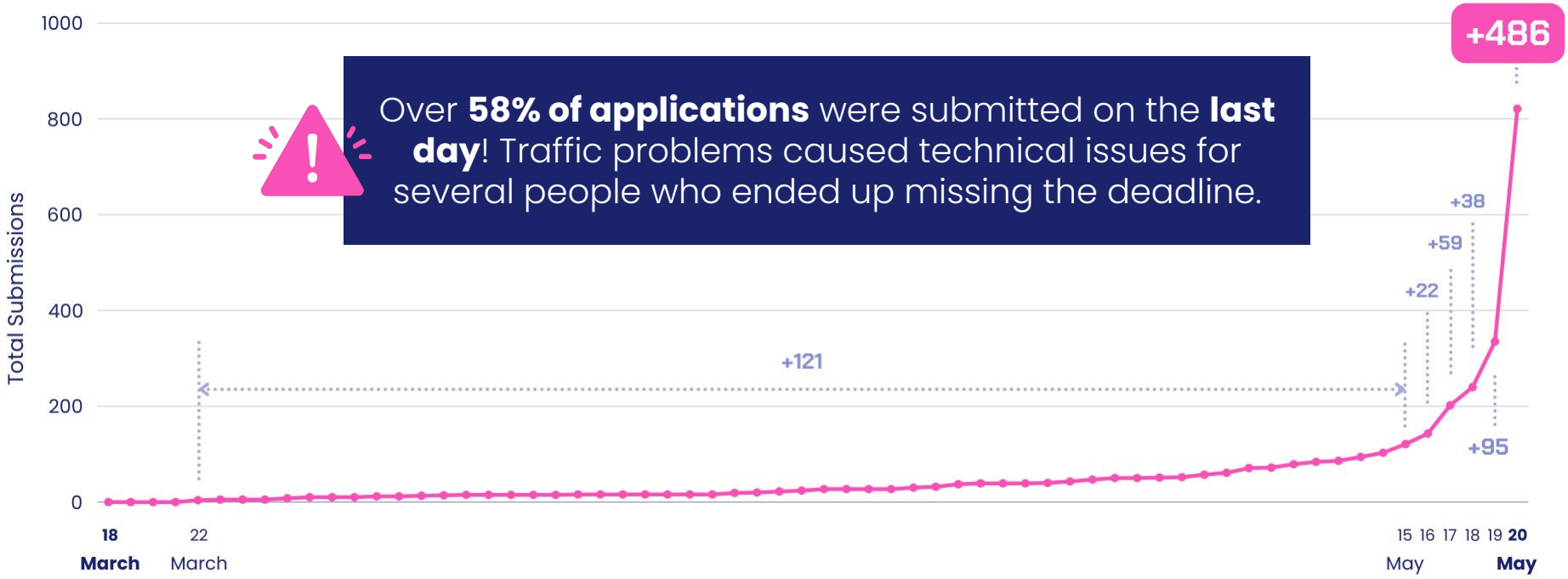
OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS IN YOUR LANGUAGE:

Permissible, but provide a translation.

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Common mistakes in previous calls: PROCRASTINATION!

Over **58% of applications** were submitted on the **last day**! Traffic problems caused technical issues for several people who ended up missing the deadline.



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.

Make sure to provide **all the answers in all tables**

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



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What should you do if you made a mistake in your eligibility application?



- Submit another eligibility application to the same cut-off (i.e. before you receive your result letter).
- Use the appeal process to explain how you made an error and can prove the correct information through attached proof.
- Ask Helpdesk to re-open your application so you can amend it.
- Simply **wait** just 1 week, and then **re-apply to the next cut-off point**! You have 3 re-submissions total.

Documents to always refer to:

- ➔ **Guidelines For Eligibility Document :** https://womentecheurope.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/WomenTechEU_Guidelines_Eligibility-V9.0.pdf
- ➔ **FAQs - contain more information + you can search any keyword on the website** https://womentecheurope.eu/frequently-asked-questions-wteu2/
- ➔ **Eligibility Application Form Copy :** https://womentecheurope.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/WomenTechEU_Eligibility_Application-form-V3.0.pdf
- ➔ **All can be found here:** https://womentecheurope.eu/active-calls/ *(Full proposal strand will be available in coming weeks)*

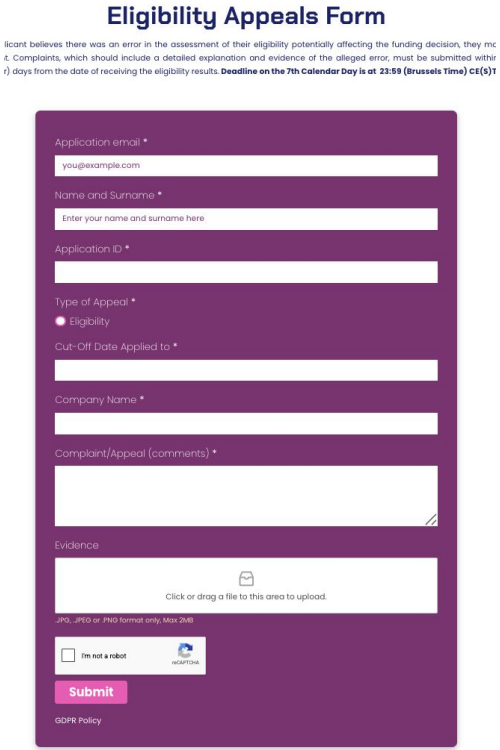
The Helpdesk: helpdesk@womentecheurope.eu

- The **ONLY** dedicated support channel for applicants.
- **We don't do 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.**
- **Helpdesk should be your final point of contact,** not your initial one. Please read the Guidelines and FAQs thoroughly before contacting the Helpdesk.



Evaluation & Appeal

- The Appeal process for both application strands is accessible via an online submission form on our website, **available ONLY for 7 days** post-results.
- Only appeal if there are **factual errors in the evaluation** which you can prove (e.g. evaluators refer to your company by a different name that is not yours)
- If you made a **clerical error** in your own information in the **eligibility strand**, do not appeal, re-submit a new application for the next cut-off **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

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