

# The European Innovation Council

Jean-David Malo  
EISMEA Director

*Politecnico di Torino – 4 April 2022*

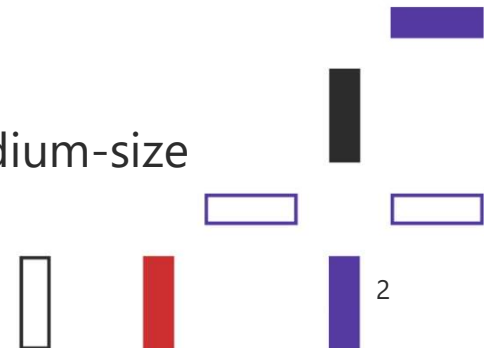
European  
Innovation  
Council





# Europe's most ambitious innovation initiative

- **€10 billion** programme (in Horizon Europe) to identify, develop and scale up breakthrough technologies and disruptive innovations in Europe
- **Unique** in the world to combine research on emerging technologies (Pathfinder) with Accelerator for startups, SMEs and scaleups
- EIC set to become **largest deep-tech investor** in Europe (EIC Fund: over €3 billion)
- Enhances the **European innovation ecosystem** (partnerships with EIT, ERC, EIE, etc)
- **First work Programme** adopted 18 March 2021, €1.5 billion
- **Second Work Programme** adopted 7 February 2022, **€1.7 billion**
- **Implemented by** the European Innovation Council and Small and Medium-size Enterprises Executive Agency (**EISMEA**)



## Pathfinder

- Early stage research on breakthrough technologies
- Grants up to 3 to 4 million EUR
- Successor of FET (Open & Proactive)

## Transition

- Technology maturation from proof of concept to validation
- Business and market readiness
- Grants up to 2.5 million EUR

## Accelerator

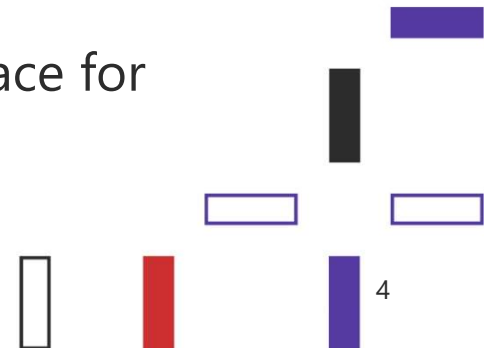
- Development & scale up of deep-tech/disruptive innovations by startups/SMEs
- Blended finance (grants up to 2.5 million EUR; equity investment up to 15 million EUR or above)
- Successor of SME Instrument

# European Innovation Council (EIC) – Main schemes

# EIC Business Acceleration Services



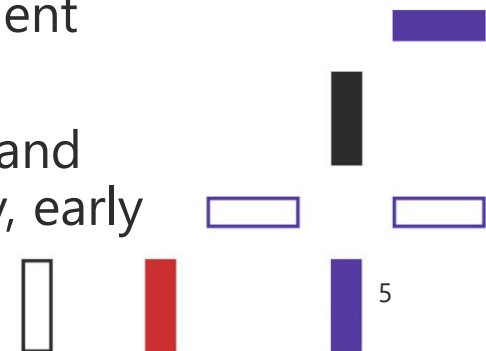
- For **all EIC awardees** (Pathfinder, Transition and Accelerator)
- Access to **coaching, mentors, expertise and training** (e.g. innovation training workshops and EIC innovation bootcamps for researchers)
- Access to **global business partners** (e.g. international co-investors, clients, procurers)
- Access to **innovation ecosystems and peers** (e.g. research infrastructures, IPR helpdesk, EUIPO, local incubators/ accelerators, EIT KICs, EEN)
- Access to the **EIC Community platform**, as virtual meeting place for collaborations, partnerships, investors





# What's in it for academia

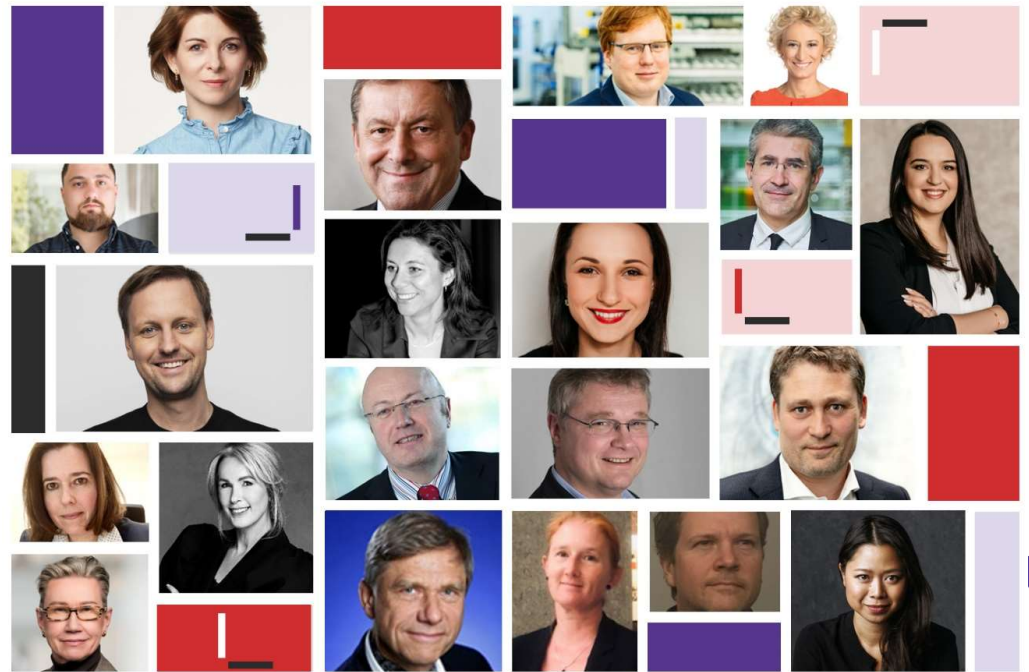
- EIC Pathfinder **consortia** are mainly composed of academic researchers collaborating in applied/oriented research projects
- Strong contribution to **research and education missions** from EIC Pathfinder awards, in terms of academic outputs and studentships
- Clear demonstration of a university's commitment to the 'third mission' (**innovation/ socio-economic impact mission**): the number of EIC Pathfinder and EIC Transition awards is a good indicator of a university's level of excellence in this third mission
- EIC Transition being restricted to Pathfinder and **ERC Proof of Concept** project results, great demonstration of impact arising from excellent fundamental research
- **University spin-outs** very suitable candidates for EIC Transition and Accelerator (focus on deep-tech, science-based, multidisciplinary, early stage innovative companies)



# Establishment of the EIC Board



- Appointed on 18 November 2021 for 2 year mandate. Chair: Mark FERGUSON
- Role to advise:
  - EIC strategy,
  - EIC work programme & implementation
  - Broader innovation policy
- Diverse expertise:
  - Entrepreneurs, investors, researchers, innovation ecosystem
  - Gender balance (parity), Geographic balance (20 nationalities)
- First meeting on 26 November
- EIC Board Statement to welcome Work Programme 2022 published 9 February

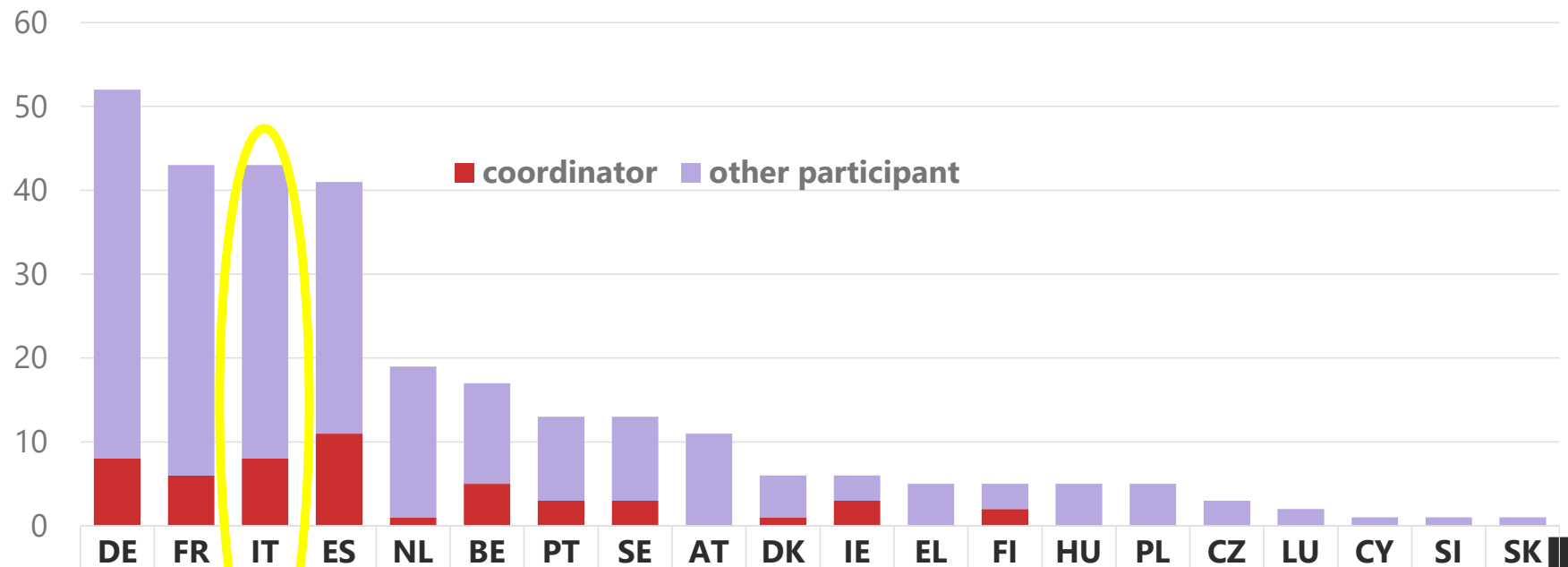


EIC President to be appointed by fall of the year



# Italian participation in Pathfinder 2021

## Number of proposals retained for funding



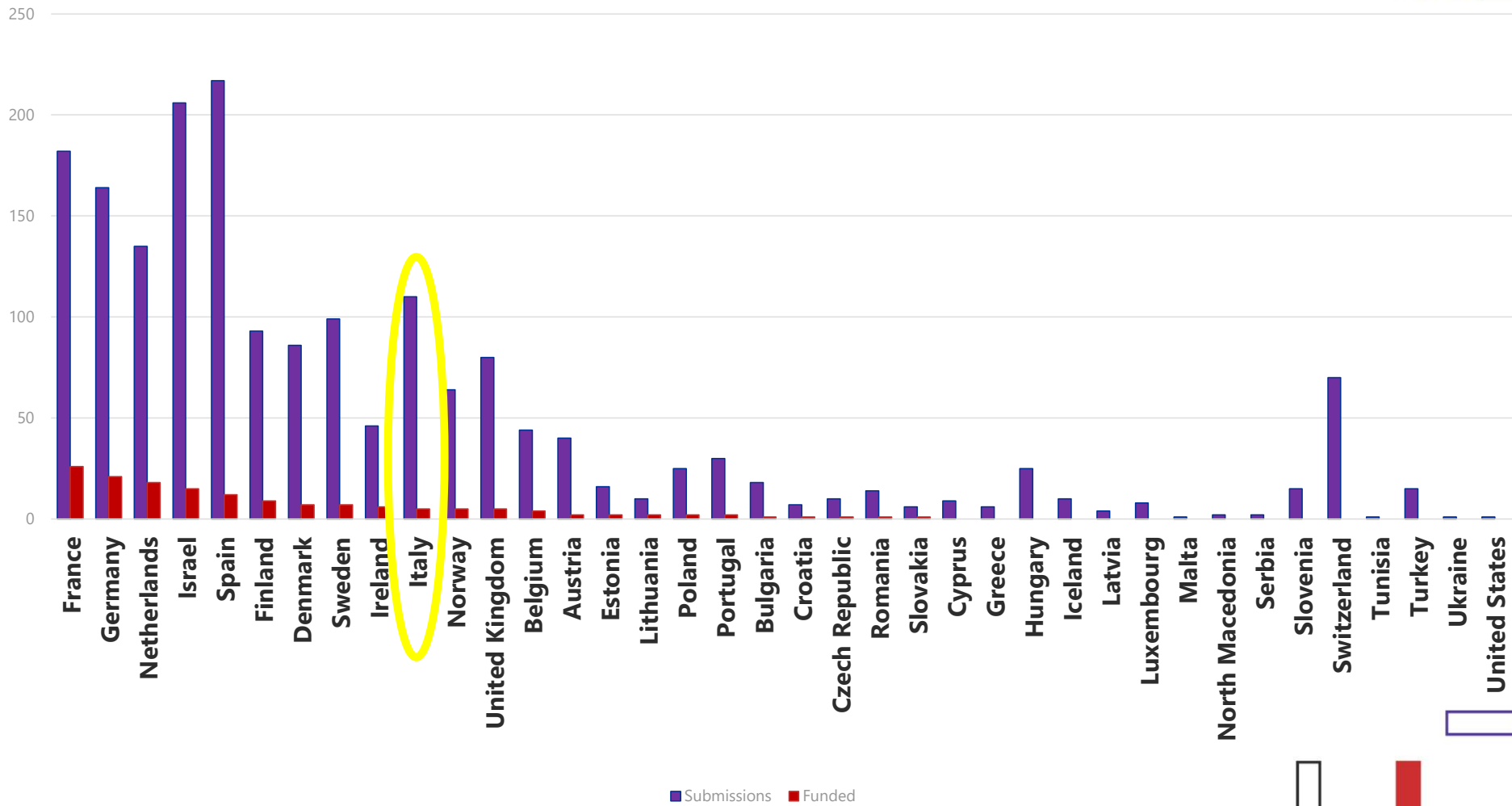
other participant  
coordinator

DE	FR	IT	ES	NL	BE	PT	SE	AT	DK	IE	EL	FI	HU	PL	CZ	LU	CY	SI	SK
44	37	35	30	18	12	10	10	11	5	3	5	3	5	5	3	2	1	1	1
8	6	8	11	1	5	3	3		1	3		2							

7

# EIC Accelerator 2021 results

European  
Innovation  
Council





# EIC main calls in 2022 - overview



<b>Accelerator - Open</b>	Short applications - <b>Apply any time</b>	<b>~€623m</b> (~grant/equity)
<b>Accelerator – Challenges</b> • Technologies for Open Strategic Autonomy • Technologies for 'Fit for 55'	Cut offs for full applications: • <b>23 March 2022</b> • <b>15 June 2022</b> • <b>5 October 2022</b>	<b>~€537m</b> (~grant/equity)
<b>Pathfinder - Open</b>	<b>Deadline 4 May 2022</b>	<b>~€183m</b>
<b>Pathfinder - Challenges</b> • Carbon dioxide & nitrogen management and valorisation; • Mid-long term, systems-integrated energy storage; • Cardiogenomics; • Healthcare continuum technologies; • DNA-based digital data storage; • Alternative quantum information processing, communication, and sensing	<b>Deadline 19 October 2022</b>	<b>~€167m</b>
<b>Transition – Open</b>	Short applications - <b>Apply any time</b>	<b>~€70.5m</b>
<b>Transition – Challenges</b> • Green digital devices for the future; • Process and system integration of clean energy technologies; • RNA-based therapies and diagnostics for complex or rare genetic diseases	Cut offs for full applications: • <b>4 May 2022</b> • <b>28 September 2022</b>	<b>~€60.5m</b>



## Main EIC novelties in work programme for 2022

- A new **EIC Scale-Up 100 initiative**: identify 100 promising deep tech EU companies across Europe that have the greatest potential to become unicorns.
- **Equity investments above €15 million** for companies working on technologies of strategic European interest (pilot)
- **EIC Accelerator challenges** for start-ups to develop technologies to reach the "**Fit for 55**" goal in reducing carbon emissions, as well as to **build strategic autonomy** in areas such as quantum, space and new medical technologies.





# Thank you!

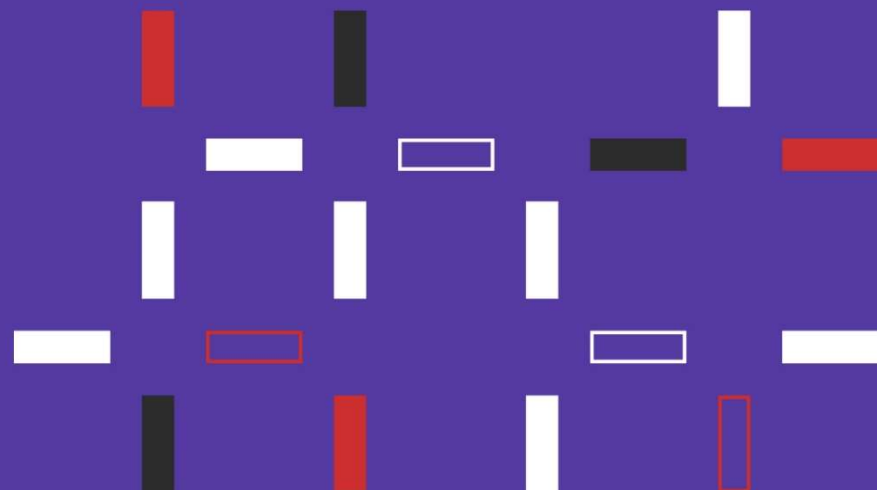
@EUeic

#Eueic

© European Union, 2021

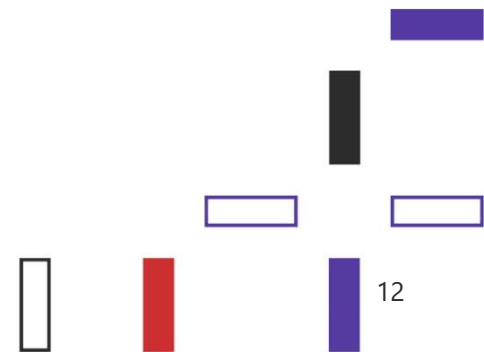
Reuse of this document is allowed, provided appropriate credit is given and any changes are indicated (Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license). For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

All images © European Union, unless otherwise stated. Image sources: ©Tom Merton/Caia Image, #315243588; ©REDPIXEL, #220695664; ©Halfpoint, #180578699; ©bnein #213968072; ©MyMicrostock/Stocksy, #3094437622021. Source: Stock.Adobe.com. Icons © Flaticon – all rights reserved.





Additional slides (in reserve)



# The EIC within Horizon Europe



## HORIZON EUROPE

## EURATOM



\* The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) is not part of the Specific Programme





# EIC main instruments and characteristics

## Pathfinder (TRL1-4)

- For consortia and single entities

## Transition (TRL 4-6)

- For consortia and single entities

## Accelerator (TRL 6-9)

- For individual SMEs

- Focus on **breakthrough, market-creating, deep-tech**
- **Mainly bottom up** complemented by targeted funding on strategic technologies/ challenges
- Steered by **EIC Board** of leading innovators (entrepreneurs, investors, researchers, ecosystem)
- **Business Acceleration Services** (coaches/ mentors, corporates, investors, ecosystem)
- **Pro-active management** (roadmaps, reviews, re-orientations, etc) with EIC Programme Managers
- **Fast track access** to Accelerator for results from EIT, EIC Pathfinder,

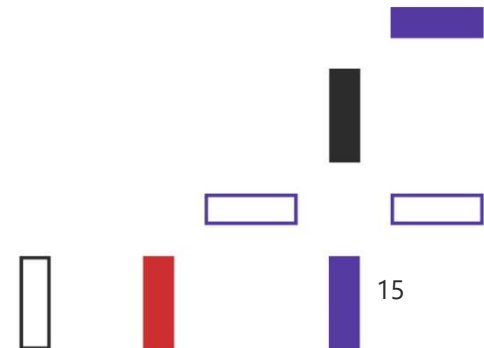


# EIC Pathfinder Open 2022



For multi-disciplinary research teams to undertake visionary research with the potential to lead to technology breakthroughs

- **Budget: €183 million** for open, bottom up calls in any field of technology and application
- **Technology Readiness Levels 1-4**
- **Grants** up to €3 million
- **Eligible applicants:** consortia of at least three independent legal entities, each one established in a different Member State or Associated Country and with at least one of them established in a Member State.
- **Deadlines for applications:** 4 May 2022



# EIC Pathfinder Challenges 2022



For multi-disciplinary research teams (including individual applicants for Challenges) to undertake visionary research with the potential to lead to technology breakthroughs

➤ **Budget: €167 million** for 'Challenges':

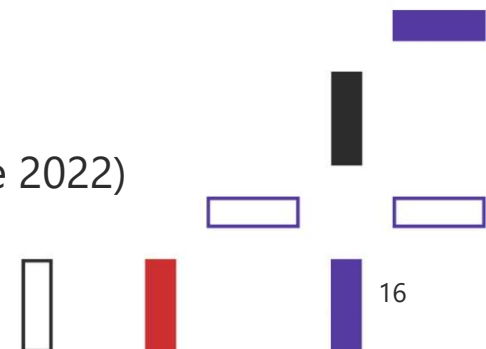
- Carbon dioxide & nitrogen management and valorisation;
- Mid-long term, systems-integrated energy storage;
- Cardiogenomics;
- Healthcare continuum technologies;
- DNA-based digital data storage;
- Alternative quantum information processing, communication, and sensing

➤ **Technology Readiness Levels 2-4**

➤ **Grants** up to €4 million for 'Challenge' proposals

➤ **Eligible applicants:** Consortia (min 2 entities) or single legal entities

➤ **Deadline for applications:** 19 October 2022 ( expected call opening: 15 June 2022)





# EIC Transition 2022

Funding to turn research results into innovation opportunities, focussing on results generated by EIC Pathfinder projects and European Research Council Proof of Concept projects, to mature the technologies and build a business case for specific applications

## ➤ **Budget: €131 million**

- €70.5 million for open, bottom up calls in any field of technology and application
- €60.5 million is earmarked for 'Transition Challenges':
  - Green digital devices for the future;
  - Process and system integration of clean energy technologies;
  - RNA-based therapies and diagnostics for complex or rare genetic diseases

## ➤ **Grants up to €2.5 million (or more if justified)**

## ➤ **Applications**

- All year-round open application process
- Cut-off rounds for evaluation of full applications ('Open' and 'Challenges'): 4 May and 28 September 2022

# Additional opportunities for EIC Pathfinder and EIC Transition projects



Projects or their beneficiaries funded through EIC Pathfinder and EIC Transition are eligible to:



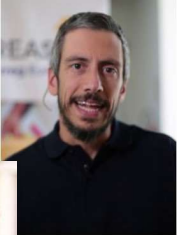


- receive additional **EIC Booster grants** of up to €50,000 to undertake complementary activities:
  - to explore potential pathways to commercialisation (EIC Pathfinder only)
  - for portfolio activities.
- (for EIC Pathfinder) submit a proposal to the **EIC Transition** for transforming their research results into innovation opportunities;
- submit an EIC Accelerator proposal via the **Fast Track** scheme;
- receive free access to a wide range of **Business Acceleration Services**.
- benefit from **EIC pro-active management**





# EIC proactive management

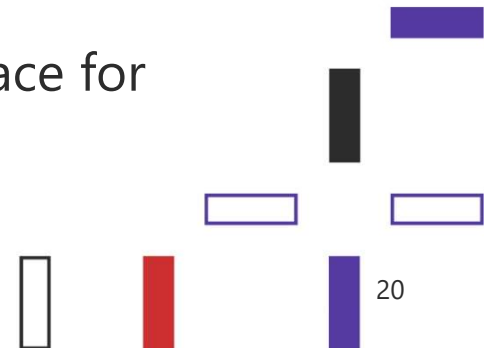
## The current EIC Programme Managers

Iordanis Arzimanoglou	Biotechnology and Health	
Eric Claverol-Tinturé	MedTech and Medical Devices	
Francesco Matteucci	Materials for Energy and Environment	
Antonio Marco Pantaleo	Energy Systems	
Stela Tkatchova	Space	

# EIC Business Acceleration Services



- For **all EIC awardees** (Pathfinder, Transition and Accelerator)
- Access to **coaching, mentors, expertise and training** (e.g. innovation training workshops and EIC innovation bootcamps for researchers)
- Access to **global business partners** (e.g. international co-investors, clients, procurers)
- Access to **innovation ecosystems and peers** (e.g. research infrastructures, IPR helpdesk, EUIPO, local incubators/ accelerators, EIT KICs, EEN)
- Access to the **EIC Community platform**, as virtual meeting place for collaborations, partnerships, investors



# EIC Accelerator



For start-ups and SMEs (including **academic spinoffs**) to develop and scale up high impact innovations with the potential to create new markets or disrupt existing ones

## ➤ Budget: €1.16 billion

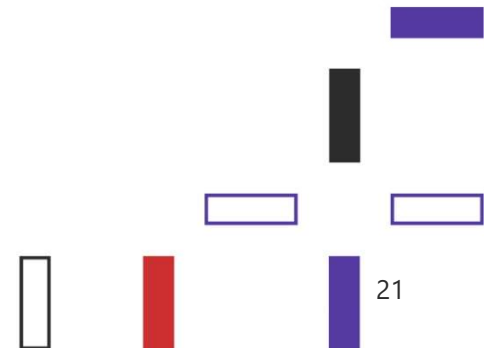
- ~ €623 million for open, bottom up calls in any field of technology and application
- ~ €537 million is earmarked for breakthrough innovations for the technologies for Open Strategic Autonomy and technologies to address climate change

## ➤ Blended finance, possibility to combine

- equity (or quasi-equity such as convertible loans) between €0.5 million and €15 million through the EIC Fund
- grants of up to €2.5 million

## ➤ Applications:

- All year-round open application process
- Three cut-off rounds for evaluation of full applications (for 'Open' and 'Challenges'):  
23 March, 15 June and 5 October 2022





## EIC main funding in 2021

<b>Accelerator - Open</b>	Short applications - Apply any time <b>Over 5000 in 2021</b> ~ <b>500-700 per month</b> Cutoffs for full applications: <b>16 June</b> ~ 800 applications, 135 interviews, <b>65 selected</b> <b>6 October</b> ~ 1000 applications, ~200 interviews, <b>99 selected</b>	~ <b>€593m</b> (~grant/equity)
<b>Accelerator - Challenges</b> • Green Deal innovations • Strategic technologies: digital & health		~ <b>€495m</b> (~grant/equity)
<b>Pathfinder - Open</b>	<b>Deadline 25 May</b> 868 proposals submitted <b>56 selected</b>	~ <b>€168m</b>
<b>Pathfinder - Challenges</b> • Awareness inside • Measure & stimulate brain • Cell & gene therapies • Green Hydrogen • Engineered Living Materials	<b>Deadline 27 October</b> 403 proposals submitted <b>39 selected</b>	~ <b>€132m</b>
<b>Transition - Open</b>	<b>22 September</b> 292 proposals submitted, 87 interviewed <b>42 selected</b>	~ <b>€60m</b>
<b>Transition - Challenges</b> • Medtech & devices • Energy harvesting & storage		~ <b>€40m</b>

# EIC Pathfinder 2021



- Successful completion of the first **Pathfinder Open** evaluation (56 proposals retained for funding)
- Implementation of the first **rebuttal ('right-to-react') pilot** under Horizon Europe
- Successful launch of five **Pathfinder Challenges** (in total 433 proposals submitted, evaluation ongoing)

## European Innovation Council Pathfinder Open

Successful proposals | Cut-off 25 May 2021



**868**

PROPOSALS EVALUATED



**56**

PROJECTS CHOSEN



**€168M**

TOTAL EU CONTRIBUTION



**€3M**

AVERAGE EU GRANT



**29**

COUNTRIES



**322**

PARTICIPANTS

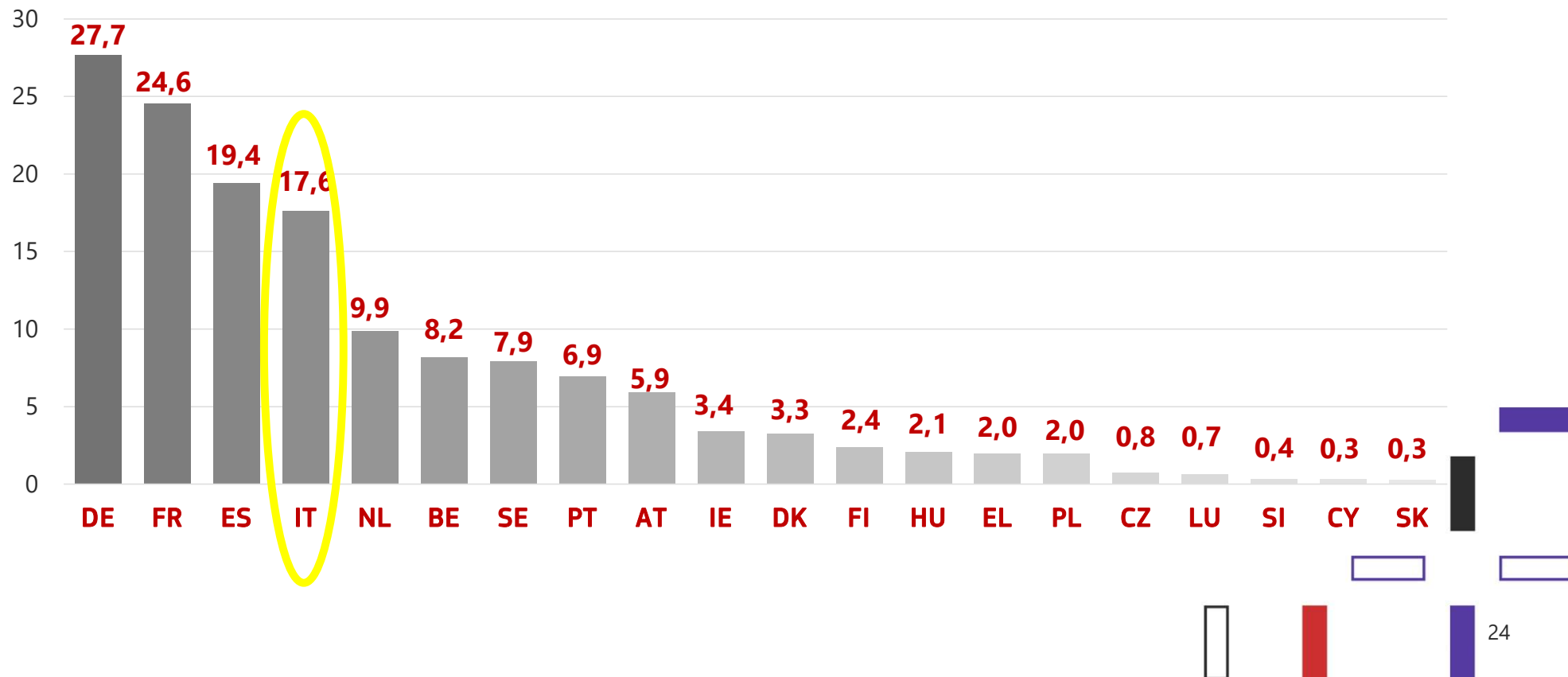
45% HIGHER EDUCATION,  
24% PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS,  
28% RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS,  
3% OTHER





# Italian participation in Pathfinder 2021

## Grants requested by proposals retained for funding (million EUR)





# EIC Transition 2021



**29**

PROJECTS CHOSEN FOR OPEN CALL



**13**

PROJECTS CHOSEN FOR CHALLENGES CALL

9 Medical Technology and Devices;  
4 Energy harvesting and storage  
technologies



**292**

TOTAL PROPOSALS SUBMITTED



**€99M**

TOTAL EU CONTRIBUTION



**24**

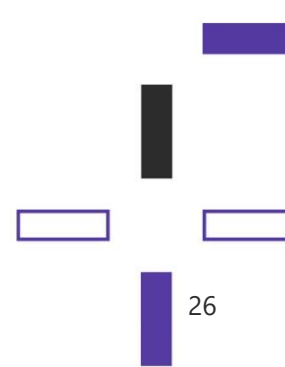
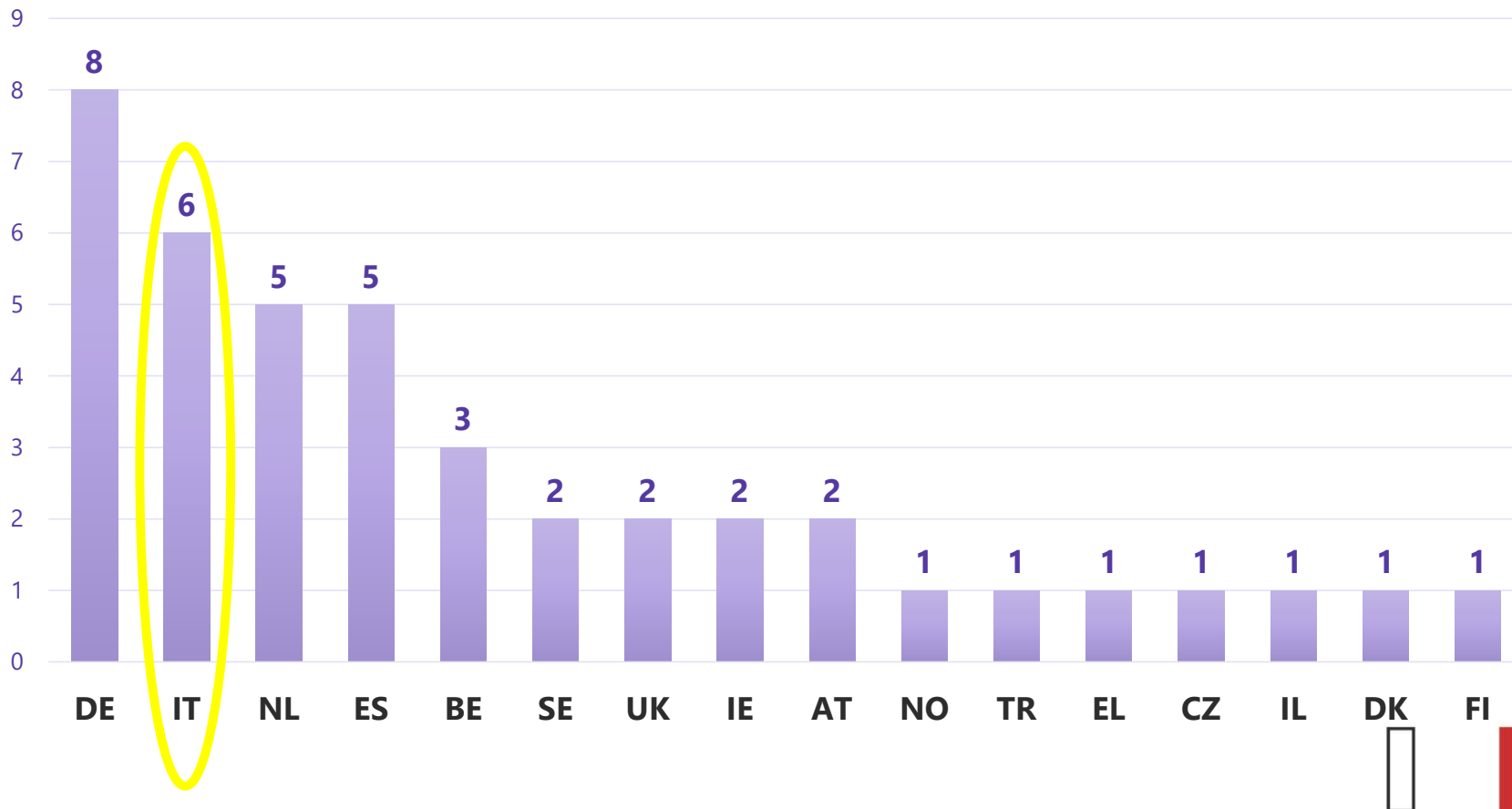
COUNTRIES





# Italian participation in Transition 2021

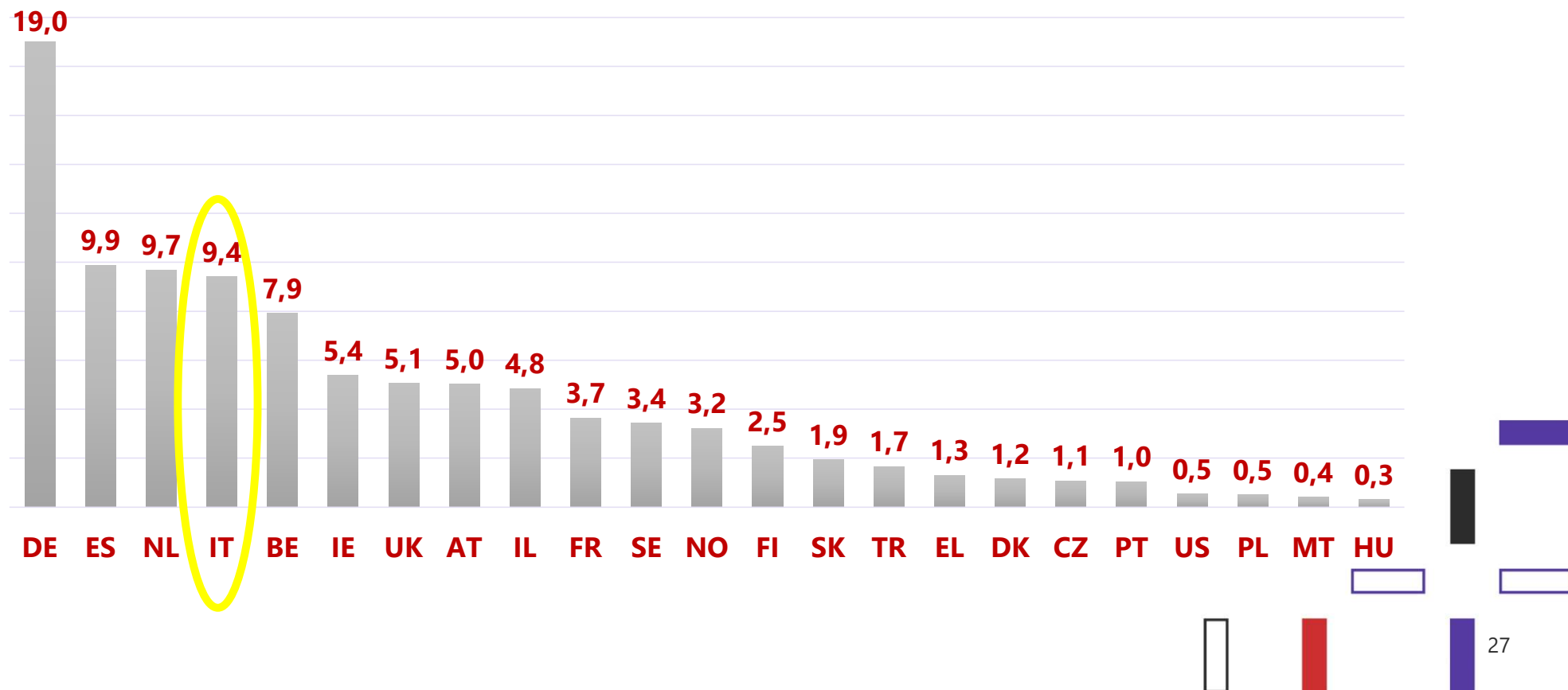
## Number of proposals retained for funding





# Italian participation in Transition 2021

Grants requested by proposals retained for funding (million EUR)

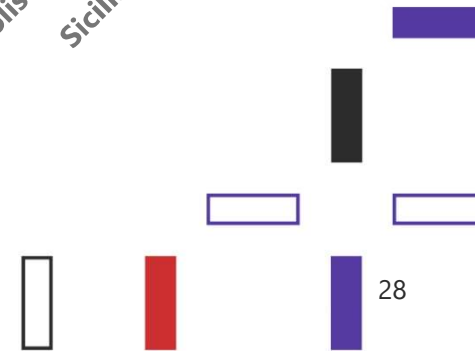
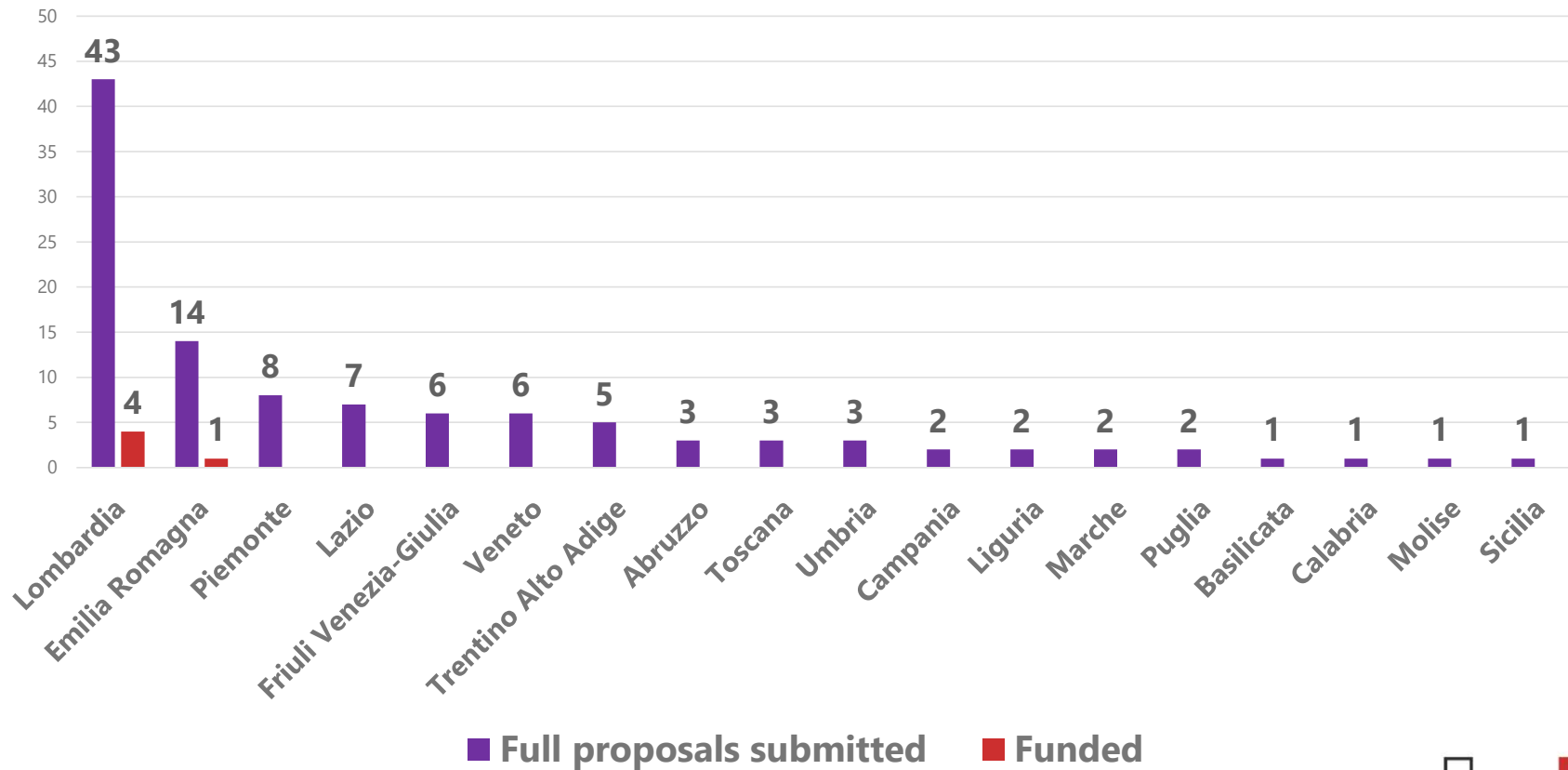


# EIC Accelerator 2021 results - Italy

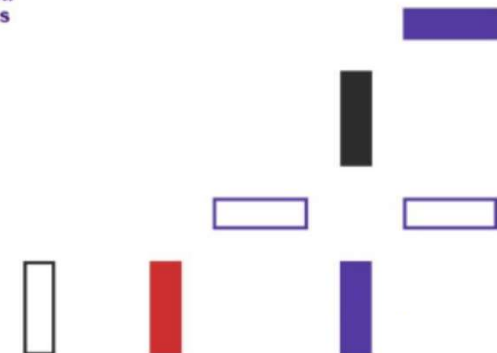
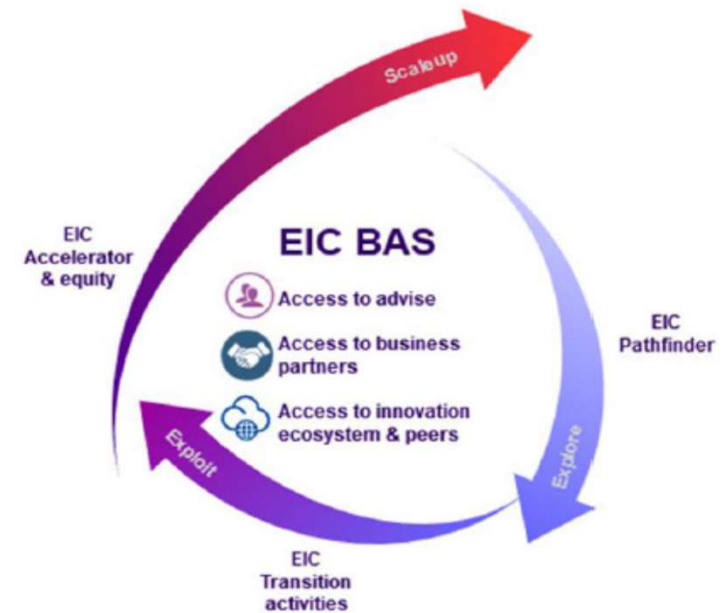
European  
Innovation  
Council



## Regioni italiane

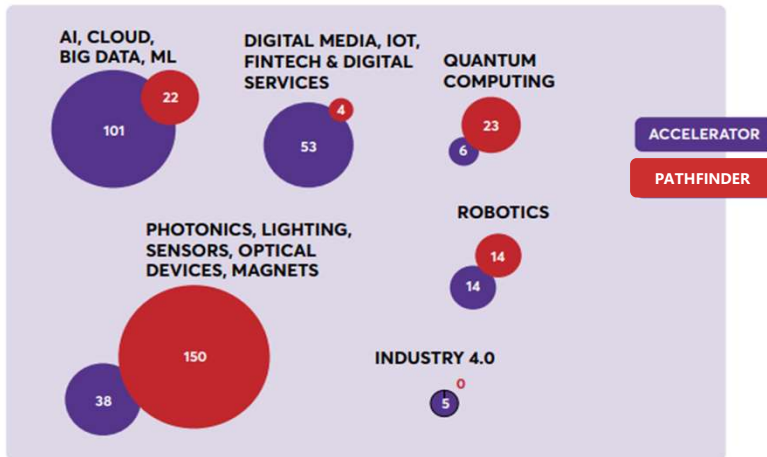


# EIC Business Acceleration Services Achievements in 2021-2022

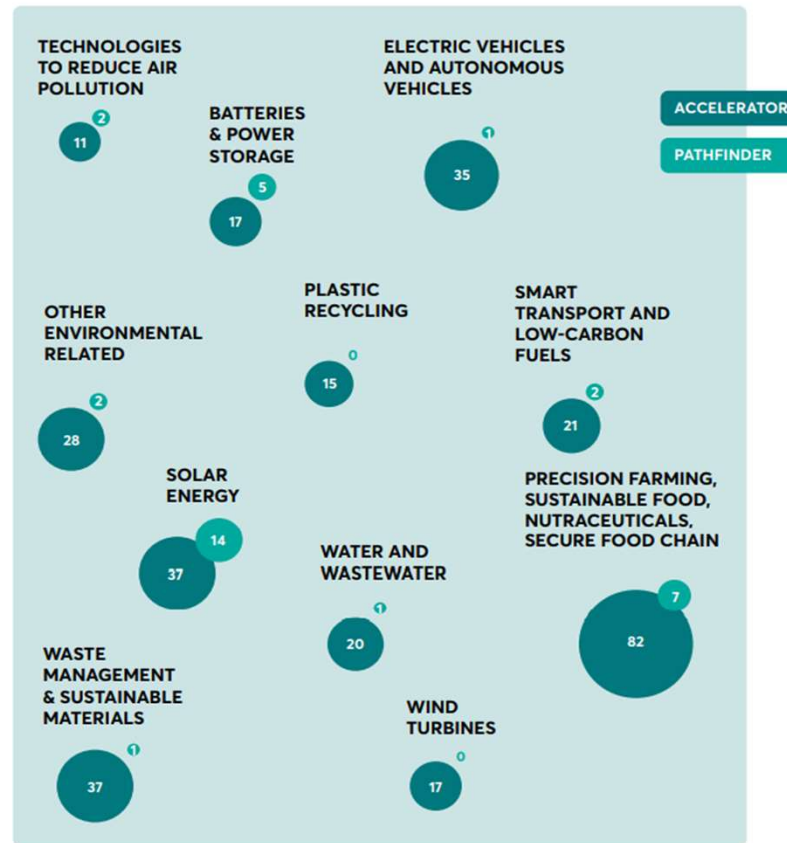


# Impacts of the pilot: EIC Pathfinder projects and Accelerator companies in all main fields of breakthrough technology

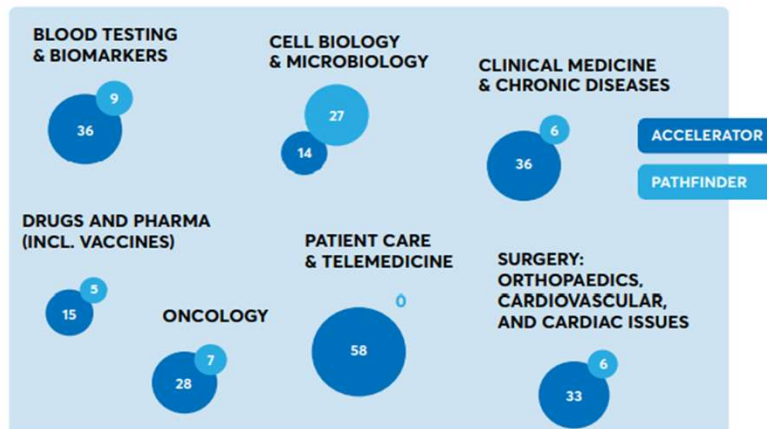
For Digital and Industry 5.0



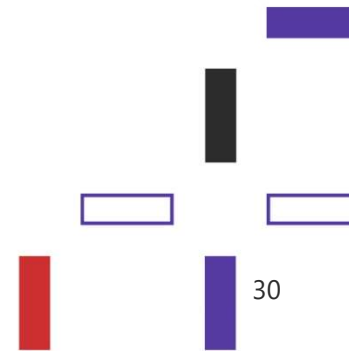
For Green



For Health



L



30