EMPOWERING EUROPEAN INNOVATORS

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The challenge in Europe: a financing gap coupled with a fragmented innovation ecosystem

EU start-ups have a harder time raising funding from VCs than their US counterparts...

In Q4 2018, VC-backed companies raised

in the US, USD 41.8 billion versus in Europe, USD 5.9 billion
The challenge in Europe: a financing gap coupled with a fragmented innovation ecosystem

... and a truly connected European innovation ecosystem is only starting to form now

"Startup City Hubs in Europe" 2018 report
As a result, Europe has fewer scale-ups in new innovation markets

USA
Share: 64% (2015: 67%)

Europe
Share: 3% (2015: 3%)*

Asia
Share: 31% (2015: 28%)

Africa
Share: 2% (2015: 2%)

*Does not include the UK

The 60 most valuable platform economy companies in the world – Company values, bn USD, as of Dec 31st 2017
Financing gap: venture capital US vs EU

Venture capital raised. Data: Invest Europe, NVCA / Pitchbook. (1) EU does not include HR, CY, MT, SI, SK.
Who will lead the next wave of breakthrough and disruptive innovation?

Examples taken from WIPO, MIT, WEF, OECD, etc.
The European Innovation Council

One stop shop for breakthrough & disruptive innovators

Open to all innovators, in any field, at any time

Highest potential innovators selected on basis of ideas and team

Agile funding from idea to investment

Pathfinder grants for advanced research on emerging technologies

Accelerator funding for innovative start-ups (<€2.5 million grant, <€15 million equity)

Crowding in private investment (VC, Invest EU)

Building ecosystems and communities

Access to mentoring and advisory services and to knowledge partners (e.g EIT)

Expert Programme Managers to engage with projects and communities

Prizes for breakthrough technologies
"Europe does not yet have a world class scheme to support the very best innovations in the way that the European Research Council is the global reference for supporting excellent science. So I would like us to take stock of the various schemes to support innovation and SMEs under Horizon 2020, to look at best practice internationally, and to design a new European Innovation Council."

“We will only succeed if we are the ones creating, developing and producing new technologies. That is why we need: a strong EU commitment to disruptive innovation within the framework of the European Innovation Council (EIC). The goal is to support very high risk deep tech projects at the European level”

A Franco-German Manifesto for a European industrial policy fit for the 21st Century, February 2019
Tested under Horizon 2020, fully incorporated in Horizon Europe

Total estimated budget, M€

- 2018 Pilot: 778 M€
- 2019 Enhanced Pilot: 1028 M€
- 2020 Enhanced Pilot: 1228 M€
First phase launched in 2018

- Bringing together relevant Horizon 2020 schemes in one place (SME instrument, Fast Track to Innovation, FET Open, Prizes)
- Introduction of open support for Start-ups and SMEs (no predefined themes)
- Introduction of interviews with experienced innovators to select SMEs for funding
- Launch of major prizes for breakthrough innovations, e.g. low cost space launcher (€10 million prize); artificial photosynthesis (€5 million prize)
- Total budget in 2018 of €778 million (for all EIC pilot actions)

EIC SME Instrument Phase II (up to €2.5m in grant)

⇒ 6000 applications received by start-ups or SMEs (for SME phase 2 grants)
⇒ Majority combining different fields: digital, energy, manufacturing, health, etc.
⇒ 520 interviewed for 250 awarded funding
⇒ Fast process (grant awarded in under 4 months)
Second phase launched in 2019

- **Increased budget of €2.2 billion** (€1.0bn in 2019; €1.2bn in 2020)
- **Introduction of pilot accelerator** with option to apply for blended finance (combined grant and equity — call opens on 5th June 2019)
- **Introduction of pilot pathfinder**, with 6 strategic emerging technologies targeted (human-centric AI, novel medical devices, zero-emission energy generation, etc; call open now)
- **New EIC Advisory Board** to bring in leading innovators for ongoing design & implementation (call for applications open until 10th May)
- **First EIC programme managers** recruited to actively engage with pathfinder projects (call for applications coming soon)
Full EIC under Horizon Europe (2021-27)

- Proposed budget of €10 billion
- Dedicated governance with EIC President and Advisory board
- More flexible rules for funding (ability to stop or reorient, links to Invest EU) with increased role for expert programme managers
- Full accelerator funding with both grant and blended finance
- Full pathfinder scheme for grants in advanced research and transition activities
- Fast track access for Horizon grant holders (incl. European Research Council) and certified national schemes
- Creation of EIC Forum with Member States innovation agencies
The EIC: from idea to change

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