

The European Innovation Council

European  
Innovation  
Council



# Backing visionary entrepreneurs

**Addressing the Scale-up Gap**

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# What is the European Innovation Council?



**One stop shop** for  
breakthrough, deep-tech,  
market-creating innovators

- **Open** to all innovators, in any field, at any time
- Complemented by **targeted funding** on strategic challenges
- Highly competitive for Europe's **high potential innovators**

**Over €10 billion in agile  
funding** from idea to  
investment

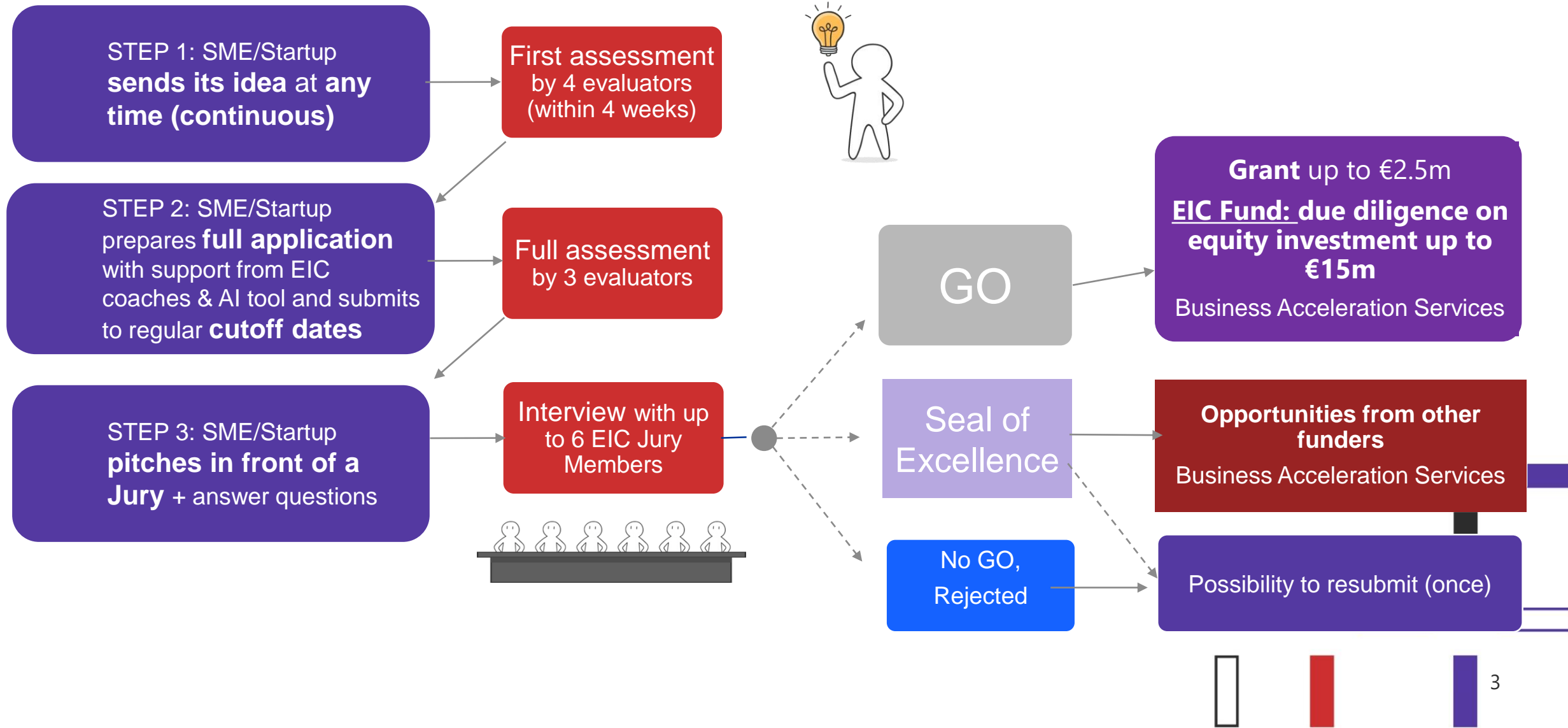
- **Pathfinder** for advanced research on emerging technologies
- **Transition** from lab to commercial setting
- **Accelerator & EIC Fund** to scale up innovations by start-ups/ SMEs
- **Business Acceleration Services** (coaches, corporates, investors, etc)

**Building ecosystems** and  
comunities

- **Proactive management by EIC Programme Managers** in specific deep-tech fields
- **Crowding in** other investors (VC, corporates, etc.)
- **Partnering** with EIT, ERC, etc and part of Horizon Europe



# How does the EIC select companies





# The EIC Fund

Manages equity investments in startups & SMEs selected by EIC Accelerator

Dedicated Venture capital fund – owned by European Commission

Bridges equity funding gap at early stage (seed, first rounds)

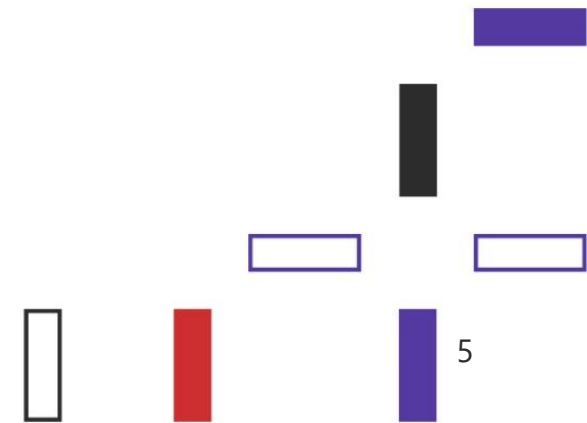
Crowds in other investors, provides investment opportunities for VCs and other Funds





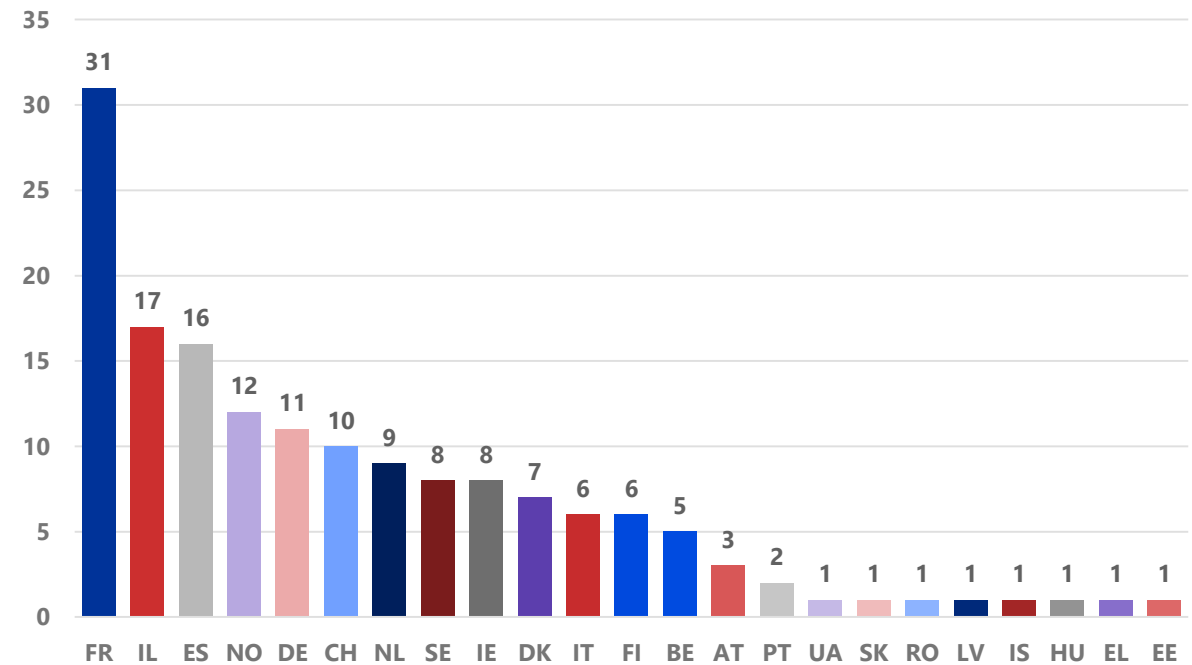
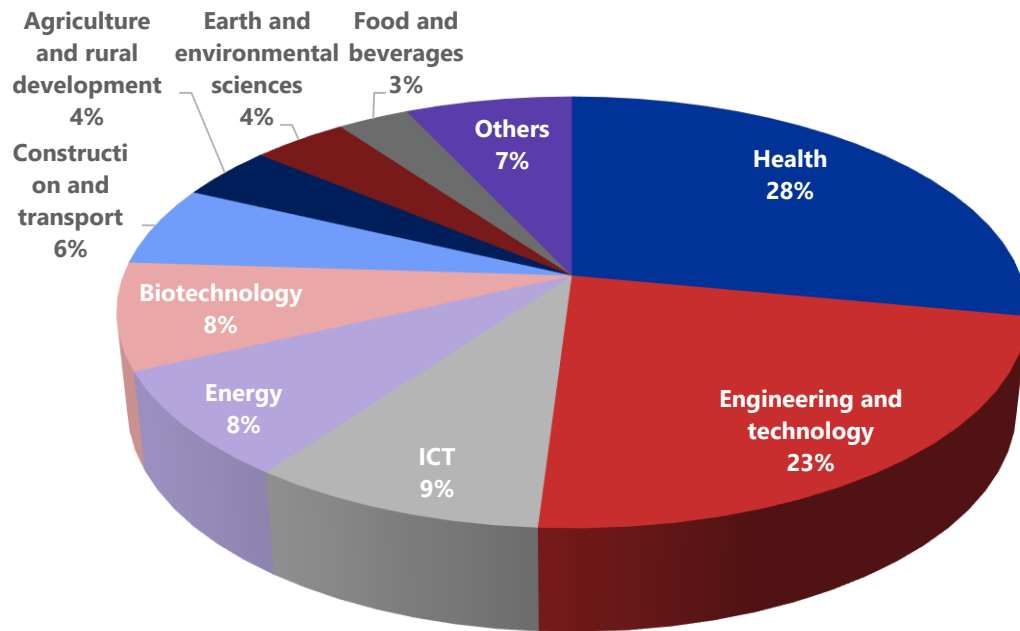
# EIC fund: Investment strategy

- Provides **patient capital** in the form of equity or quasi-equity.
- Invests at **early stage** (seed, start-up, scale-up) from €0.5 to 15 million.
- May reserve **follow-on capital** to invest in subsequent series.
- Usually targets **minority ownership** stakes (from 10 to 25%), but up to a blocking minority in cases of strategic interest for the EU.
- Investments will normally be made with a **long average perspective** (7-10 years) with a maximum of 15 years.



# EIC Fund deal flow from pilot phase (2019-20)

- The EIC Fund is building a portfolio of **159 early-stage deep-tech companies** (€680 million investment, €4.3 million average)





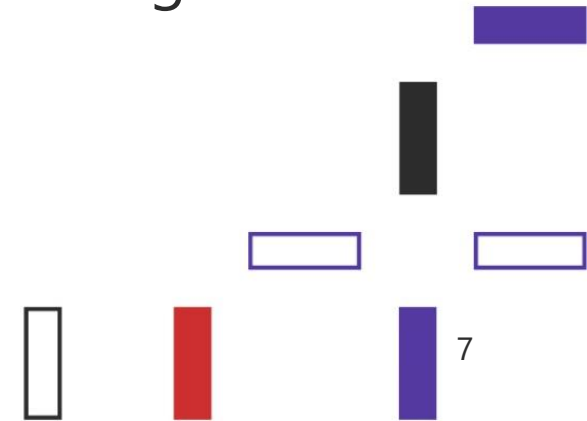
# Examples of EIC Fund investments

- **CorWave**

- Medtech French startup developing an implantable heart pump based on breakthrough wave membrane technology.
- EIC fund investment of €15m as part of €35 million Series C round.

- **NIL Technology**

- Danish startup developing optical sensing and 3D imaging technologies.
- EIC Fund participated with €10 million in €26 million equity financing round.





# EIC Fund: some early lessons & next steps

- EIC pilot attracted **high demand with early impact:**
  - 14000 startups applied in 2020
  - Supported over 50 “centaurs” (>€100m); and 2 “unicorns” (>€1 billion)
  - EIC Fund processing high volumes of investments
- **Full EIC started strongly with increasing demand for equity:**
  - 700 startups/ month since launch in March
  - First EIC Accelerator companies selected (announcement soon)
  - Increase in companies with equity component, with **demand up to €15m**
- EIC building capabilities to **identify & assess breakthrough technologies**
  - For Green Deal (e..g energy, cleantech, agtech); for Open Strategic Autonomy (e.g. quantum, biotech)
  - As part of evaluation, selection and due diligence processes
  - For programming targeted funding in EIC Work Programme (from research to scale up)