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Horizon Europe

Call for a prize — Rules of Contest

The European Prize for Women Innovators 2027

HORIZON-EIC-2026-PRIZE-WIP

HORIZON-EIT-2026-PRIZE-WIP

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EUROPEAN INNOVATION COUNCIL AND SMEs EXECUTIVE AGENCY (EISMEA)

EISMEA I - Innovation Ecosystems, SMP / Entrepreneurship and Consumers
I.01 EU and place-based Innovation Ecosystems



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS – RULES OF CONTEST

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0. Introduction

This is a call (contest)[1] for an EU recognition **prize** in the field of innovation under the **Horizon Europe Framework Programme for Research and Innovation**.

The regulatory framework for this EU Funding Programme is set out in:

- Regulation 2024/2509 (EU Financial Regulation)[2]
- the basic act (Horizon Europe Regulation(EU) 2021/695)[3]

The call is launched in accordance with the 2026 European Innovation Council (EIC) Work Programme[4] and the 2026-2028 Single Programming Document of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)[5] and will be managed **by the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency** ('Agency') and **the EIT respectively**.

We invite you to read the **call documentation** on the Funding & Tenders Portal Topic page carefully, and in particular these Rules of Contest and the EU Funding & Tenders Portal Online Manual.

These documents provide clarifications and answers to questions you may have when preparing your application:

- the Call document (Rules of Contest) outlines the:
  - background, objectives, scope, activities that can be funded and the expected results (sections 1 and 2)
  - available budget and timetable (sections 3 and 4)
  - admissibility and eligibility conditions (including mandatory documents; sections 5 and 6)
  - criteria for exclusion (section 7)
  - evaluation and award procedure (section 8)
  - award criteria (section 9)
  - other conditions (section 10)

[1] For ease of reference and consistency on the Funding & Tenders Portal, the terms 'call', 'project' and 'participant' are used as equivalent to 'contest', 'application' or 'contestants/applicants'.

[2] Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast) ('EU Financial Regulation') (OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024).

[3] Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013 (OJ L 170/1 of 12.05.2021), ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/695/2025-12-24,.

[4] Commission Implementing Decision C(2025)7410 of 5 November 2025 on the financing of the European Innovation Council component of the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027) and on the adoption of the Work Programme for 2026 as it was last amended by the Commission Implementing Decision C(2026) 4080 final of 17 June 2026 .

[5] Decision 29/2025 of the Governing Board of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) on the adoption of the Final Single Programming Document (2026-2028) of the EIT.

  - how to submit an application (section 11)

- the Online Manual outlines the procedures to register and submit applications online via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal ('Portal').

1. Background

Facing fast-paced developing technologies and science, it is crucial to involve women and girls in the design, development and up-take of innovative solutions. Achieving gender equality and fostering diversity benefits not only individuals, but also increases the performance of business, research and innovation.

Nevertheless, women continue to face multiple barriers, in bringing new ideas to the market and raising capital for their companies. This negatively affects the success rate of women-founded businesses and perpetuates the lack of awareness about the systemic nature of gender inequality. Hence, women's efforts and contributions to science and innovation should be encouraged and supported.

The Political Guidelines for the European Commission for 2024-2029 underscore a strengthened commitment to gender equality. Building on this momentum, the Commission is set to renew its Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025, which has been instrumental in promoting equality across all EU policies and will continue to drive progress towards a more inclusive and equitable society. Early 2025, the Commission adopted of the Competitiveness Compass which paved the way for a more effective and inclusive Union of skills, promoting gender equality, particularly in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. It aims to harness the full potential of talent in Europe by diversifying the workforce, thereby enhancing the EU's competitiveness and fostering a more inclusive economy. Additionally, the EU Roadmap for Women's Rights, states a clear objective of promoting gender-equal access to finances and economic opportunities, including entrepreneurship.

As outlined in the New European Innovation Agenda[6], supporting women innovators strengthens the European research and innovation system and creates gender-equal working environments where all talents can thrive. By integrating a gender dimension in projects, research quality is improved as well as the production of the knowledge, technologies and innovations.

2. Objectives — Themes and priorities — Activities— Expected results

Objectives

The European Prize for Women Innovators celebrates the women entrepreneurs behind Europe's game-changing innovations, so that they may inspire other women and girls realise their full potential as the EU's future scientists, innovators, and tech leaders.

This prize supports a culture within research and innovation organisations and companies allowing women to become the innovators and entrepreneurs of tomorrow.

[6] https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/support-policy-making/shaping-eu-research-and-innovation-policy/new-european-innovation-agenda_en See Flagship 4: Fostering, attracting and retaining deep tech talent: The New European Innovation Agenda (europa.eu), Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, and the Committee of Regions on a New European Innovation Agenda - COM(2022) 332 final.

The prize is awarded every year to women from across the EU and countries associated to Horizon Europe, who have transformed their ideas into disruptive innovations to benefit people and the planet and who are inspiring leaders.

As for the previous edition, the 2027 European Prize for Women Innovators is organised in coordination between the Agency and the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT).

The prize has three categories, two funded by the EIC (the Women Innovators and the Rising Innovators categories in line with the EIC 2026 work programme) and one by the EIT (the EIT Women Leadership category in line with the 2026-2028 Single Programming Document of the EIT). These Rules of Contest apply to all EIC and EIT prize categories.

Expected results

The prize will boost public awareness of the potential, importance and contribution of women to the EU innovation ecosystem and create strong role models, inspiring more women to become innovators themselves.

3. Available budget

The available prize budget is:

- for the Women Innovators category: three prizes of EUR 100 000, EUR 70 000 and EUR 50 000 are awarded to the three highest-ranked applications;
- for the Rising Innovators category: three prizes of EUR 50 000, EUR 30 000 and EUR 20 000 are awarded to the three highest-ranked applications from promising 'Rising Innovators' under the age of 35.

In addition, there is a dedicated EIT prize category: EIT Women Leadership. In this category, three prizes of EUR 50 000, EUR 30 000 and EUR 20 000 are awarded to the three highest-ranked applications.

We reserve the right not to award any prize and to cancel the call, depending on the applications received and the results of the evaluation.

4. Timetable and deadlines

Timetable and deadlines	
Call opening:	02 September 2026
Deadline for submission:	01 December 2026 – 17:00 CET (Brussels)
Evaluation:	December 2026 -April 2027
Information on evaluation results/award:	April – June 2027

5. Admissibility and documents

Applications must be submitted before the **call deadline** *(see timetable section 4)*.

Applications must be submitted **electronically** via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System (accessible via the Topic page in the Calls for proposals section). Paper submissions are NOT possible.

Applications (including annexes and supporting documents) must be submitted using the forms provided *inside* the Submission System (⚠ NOT the documents available on the Topic page — they are only for information).

Applications must be **complete** and contain all the requested information and all required annexes and supporting documents:

- Application Form Part A — contains administrative information about the applicant (natural person) *(to be filled in directly online)*
- Application Form Part B — contains the technical description of the application *(template to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed, assembled and re-uploaded)*
- **mandatory annexes and supporting documents** *(templates to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed, assembled and re-uploaded)*:
  - Applicants must support their application with an inspiring video message lasting no more than 90 seconds, describing themselves and their achievements. The video cannot exceed 100MB and should be uploaded to the Submission portal as a .zip file in annex.
  - Proof of age for EIC Rising Innovators category.
  - Proof of link to the EIT Community for the EIT Women Leadership category.

Your application must be **readable**, **accessible, printable** (please check carefully the layout of the documents uploaded).

Applications are limited to maximum **15 pages** (Part B). Evaluators will not consider any additional pages.

You may be asked at a later stage for further documents *(for legal entity validation, bank account validation, ethics review, declaration of honour, etc)*.

- For more information about the submission process (including IT aspects), consult the Online Manual.

6. Eligibility

Eligible participants (eligible countries)

In order to be eligible, the applicants must:

- be a woman[7];
- apply as a **natural person**[8] ;
- be legally residing[9] in an EU Member State, including overseas countries and territories (OCTs) or a country associated to Horizon Europe;[10]
- be the founder or co-founder[11] of the company or organisation;[12]
- the company or organisation must be established in an EU Member State including overseas countries and territories, (OCTs) or a country associated to Horizon Europe[13], and registered or incorporated[14] at least one year before the call year;[15]
- applicants who have already received an EU or Euratom prize cannot receive a second prize for the same activities.

Applicants to the EIC Rising Innovators category must be aged under 35 at the start of the call year.[16]

There is no age limit to apply for the EIC Women Innovators category.

Applicants to the EIT category must have a direct link to the EIT Community.[17]

Applicants are expected to provide proof of eligibility upon request.

Applicants eligible for several prize categories can only apply to one. In the case of applications submitted under multiple categories, only the latest application will be considered, and all other applications will be rejected as ineligible.

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7 This prize celebrates women in all their diversity. The word 'woman' equates to a cis woman, or a transgender woman who is legally defined as a woman.

8 The applicant must apply only as a **natural person** and not as a legal entity. They must apply with a specific PIC (participant identification code) created for them as a natural person (see section 11). Applications submitted by a legal entity (with the PIC of the legal entity) will be considered ineligible.

9 A natural person is legally residing in a given country, if she is recognised as a resident under national law in that country, and proof of such recognition can be provided upon request.

10 https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

11 A co-founder is somebody who has started the company (i.e. "founded" the company) with at least one other person, and proof of this can be provided upon request.

12 Self-employment is not acceptable.

13 See footnote 10

14 The company or organisation is formed and registered with the appropriate statutory authority of the country as a 'company or corporation', and proof can be provided upon request.

15 The company must be registered or incorporated before 1 January 2025

16 Those applying for the Rising Innovator category must be born on or after 1 January 1991.

17 'EIT Community' means the EIT and the active community of individuals and legal entities which benefited or benefit from the EIT support or financial contribution (in line with Article 2(8) of the EIT Regulation), e.g. support through an innovation or business acceleration procedure of any of the EIT KICs, or successful completion of an EIT Labelled Educational Programme. For the direct link to the EIT Community, applicants are expected to provide a supporting document, such as a certificate from an EIT KIC indicating the EIT support, a signed agreement for the financial support received from an EIT KIC, or a diploma / certificate regarding the successfully completed EIT Labelled Educational Programme.

Joint applications by a group of applicants are not accepted and will be rejected as ineligible. Applicants from the same organisation must apply separately.

Applicants must register in the Participant Register — before the call deadline — and will have to be validated by the Central Validation Service (REA Validation). For the validation, you will be requested to upload documents showing legal status (please make sure to select 'natural person') and origin.

Specific cases and definitions

Entities without legal personality — Entities which do not have legal personality under their national law may exceptionally participate, provided that their representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf, and offer guarantees for the protection of the EU financial interests equivalent to that offered by legal persons[18].

Entities from countries currently negotiating association agreements — Applicants from countries with ongoing negotiations *(see above)* may participate in the call and can receive a prize if the association agreement applies before the award[19].

EU restrictive measures — Special rules apply for entities subject to EU restrictive measures under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU)[20]. Such entities are not eligible to participate and can NOT receive a prize.

EU conditionality measures — Special rules apply for entities subject to measures adopted on the basis of EU Regulation 2020/2092[21]. Such entities may apply but, unless the measures are lifted by the time of the decision to award, are not eligible to participate and they can NOT receive a prize and will be rejected as ineligible. Currently such measures are in place for Hungarian public interest trusts established under the Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity they maintain (see Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506, as of 16 December 2022).

For more information, *see Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment*.

Eligible activities

Eligible activities are the ones set out in section 2 above.

Ethics and values

Activities must comply with the highest ethical standards and the applicable EU, international and national law on ethical principles.

[18] See Article 200(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509.

[19] For the purpose of this prize, the transitional arrangement will apply to both the natural person (the applicant) and the company established by this natural person.

[20] Please note that the EU Official Journal contains the official list and, in case of conflict, its content prevails over that of the EU Sanctions Map.

[21] Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2092 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020 on a general regime of conditionality for the protection of the Union budget (OJ L 325, 20.12.2022, p. 94).

Moreover, they must respect basic EU values (such as respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and human rights, including the rights of minorities).

The activities must comply with:

- ethical principles (including the highest standards of research integrity) and
- applicable international, EU and national law

Applications involving ethics issues will have to undergo an ethics review to authorise funding. Applications that did not respect the above ethical principles and standards cannot be awarded a prize.

Security

Applications involving EU classified information must comply with Decision 2015/444 and its implementing rules. Applications that are too security-sensitive cannot be awarded a prize.

7. Exclusion

Applicants which are subject to an **EU exclusion decision** or in one of the following **exclusion situations** that bar them from receiving EU funding can NOT participate[22]:

- bankruptcy, winding up, affairs administered by the courts, arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or other similar procedures (including procedures for persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- in breach of social security or tax obligations (including if done by persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- guilty of grave professional misconduct[23] (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the prize)
- committed fraud, corruption, links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the prize)
- shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or

[22] See Articles 138 and 143 EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509.

[23] 'Professional misconduct' includes, in particular, the following: violation of ethical standards of the profession; wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility; breach of generally accepted professional ethical standards; false declarations/misrepresentation of information; participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition; violation of IPR; attempting to influence decision-making processes by taking advantage, through misrepresentation, of a conflict of interests, or to obtain confidential information from public authorities to gain an advantage; incitement to discrimination, hatred or violence or similar activities contrary to the EU values where negatively affecting or risking to affect the performance of a legal commitment.

control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the prize)

- guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No 2988/95 (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the prize)

- created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin or created another entity with this purpose (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the prize)

- intentionally and without proper justification resisted[24] an investigation, check or audit carried out by an EU authorising officer (or their representative or auditor), OLAF, the EPPO, or the European Court of Auditors.

Applicants will also be refused if it turns out that[25]:

- during the award procedure they misrepresented information required as a condition for participating or failed to supply that information

- they were previously involved in the preparation of the call and this entails a distortion of competition that cannot be remedied otherwise (conflict of interest).

8. Evaluation and award procedure

Applications in each category will be subject to a formal evaluation by a **jury**.

If there are more than 500 applications in one category, there will be a **pre-selection** in that category to select the best 500 applications to pass to jury review. Otherwise, all eligible applications will pass directly to jury review.

The pre-selection panel and jury usually have a different composition, but jury members may participate in the pre-selection panel.

The pre-selection panel and/or the jury will evaluate each eligible application against the award criteria.

For applications with the same score, the pre-selection panel and/ or the jury will determine a **priority order** according to the following approach: The score for criterion No 2 will be given a weight of 2 and the score for criterion No 3 will be given a weight of 1.5.

If two or more applications still tie for any rank or category at the pre-selection phase, those applications will be admitted to the next phase of the evaluation.

If two or more applications still tie for any rank or category at the jury review, those applications will be admitted to the hearings.

[24] 'Resisting an investigation, check or audit' means carrying out actions with the goal or effect of preventing, hindering or delaying the conduct of any of the activities needed to perform the investigation, check or audit, such as refusing to grant the necessary access to its premises or any other areas used for business purposes, concealing or refusing to disclose information or providing false information.

[25] See Article 143(1) EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509.

Up to six best ranked applications in each category will be invited for a **hearing** with the jury in Brussels. This hearing may take place remotely.

If two or more applications still tie for any rank or category, the prize amount for this rank or category will be equally divided and awarded to all applications with the same score.

On the basis of the evaluation by the jury (and after the mandatory checks: *ethics review, security scrutiny, legal entity validation, non-exclusion, double funding and plagiarism, etc*), the awarding authority will decide on the award of the prize.

All applications will be informed about the evaluation result (**evaluation result letter**). Successful applications will be awarded the prize; the not successful ones will be put on the reserve list or rejected.

If you believe that the evaluation procedure was flawed, you can submit a **complaint** (following the deadlines and procedures set out in the evaluation result letter). Please note that notifications which have not been opened within 10 days after sending will be considered to have been accessed and that deadlines will be counted from opening/access *(see also Funding & Tenders Portal Terms and Conditions)*. Please also be aware that for complaints submitted electronically, there may be character limitations.

9. Award criteria

If admissible and eligible, the applications will be evaluated and ranked against the following **award criteria**:

- **award criterion 1: Breakthrough innovation** – the company or organisation founded or cofounded by the applicant is developing a breakthrough innovation focusing, among others, on Deeptech and Science Technology Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) fields. In presenting their innovation, the applicant should demonstrate what makes this innovation breakthrough in relation to other existing solutions.
- **award criterion 2: Impact** – this innovation addresses a real need or challenge, with significant benefits for people and/or the planet. The applicant will demonstrate how the company's or organisation's current performance and growth is driving a positive socio-economic and/or environmental impact, among others, in terms of wellbeing, education, profit, or job creation.
- **award criterion 3: Inspiration** – the applicant is an inspiring leader, who has played a pivotal role in the success of the company or organisation and is a role model empowering other women and girls in realising their full potential. The applicant should, for example, highlight her efforts to promote gender balance within the company, organisation or beyond, and/or to advocate for innovative initiatives that have positively contributed to gender equality in, e.g., access to finance, networks, product design, education and contributes to a gender-responsive innovation.

Award criteria	Minimum pass score	Maximum score
Breakthrough innovation	6	10
Impact	6	10
Inspiration	6	10
Overall (pass) scores	**18**	**30**

Maximum points: 30 points.

Individual thresholds: 6/10 points.

Overall threshold: 18 points.

Applications must pass both the individual thresholds AND the overall threshold. The prize will be awarded to the application ranked 1st, 2nd, and 3rd with the best scores in each category. Other applications will be rejected.

The jury's assessment will be based on Parts A and B of the application form, as well as the video submitted by the applicant.

10. Other conditions

Payment arrangements

The prize money will be paid to the prize winners after the award ceremony, provided all the requested documents have been submitted.

Communication — Dissemination — Visibility of funding

Prize winners must promote the prize and its results, by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public) in a strategic and effective manner.

Communication activities related to the prize *(including media interviews, press statements, presentations, etc., in electronic form, via traditional or social media, etc.)*, must acknowledge EU support and display the European flag (emblem) and funding statement (translated into local languages, where appropriate):



Funded by the
European Union







The emblem must remain distinct and separate and cannot be modified by adding other visual marks, brands or text.

Apart from the emblem, no other visual identity or logo may be used to highlight the EU support.

When displayed in association with other logos *(e.g. of winners or sponsors)*, the emblem must be displayed at least as prominently and visibly as the other logos.

For the purposes of these obligations, the winners may use the emblem without first obtaining approval from the awarding authority. This does not, however, give them the right to exclusive use. Moreover, they may not appropriate the emblem or any similar trademark or logo, either by registration or by any other means.

Any communication or dissemination activity related to the prize must use factually accurate information.

Moreover, it must indicate the following disclaimer (translated into local languages where appropriate):

> "Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA). Neither the European Union nor the awarding authority can be held responsible for them."

> "Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Insititute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). Neither the European Union nor the awarding authority can be held responsible for them."

IPR — Rights of use

The awarding authority does not obtain ownership of the results produced in the context of the prize.

The awarding authority has the right to use non-sensitive information relating to the prize and materials and documents received from the winners *(such as pictures or audio-visual material, in paper or electronic form)* for information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes.

Photos and videos taken by the awarding authority either in preparation of the award ceremony or during the award ceremony are the sole property of the awarding authority.

Checks, audits and investigations

The awarding authority, the European Commission, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) and the European Court of Auditors (ECA) may carry out checks, audits and investigations in relation to the prize.[26]

Withdrawal of the prize — Recovery of undue amounts

The awarding authority may withdraw the prize after its award and recover all payments made, if it finds out that:

- false information, fraud or corruption was used to obtain it
- the prize winners were not eligible or should have been excluded or
- the prize winners are in serious breach of their obligations under these Rules of Contest.

11. How to submit an application

All applications must be submitted directly online via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System. Paper applications are NOT accepted.

You can access the Portal here, or by clicking 'Apply now' on the official prize webpage.

Submission is a **2-step process**:

a) **create a user account and register as a natural person**

To use the Submission System (the only way to apply), all participants need to create an EULogin user account.

Once you have an EULogin account, you can register as a natural person in the Participant Register. When your registration is finalised, you will receive a 9-digit participant identification code (PIC).

b) **submit the application**

[26] For the powers of OLAF, EPPO and ECA, see Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 September 2013 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1074/1999 (OJ L 248, 18/09/2013, p. 1), Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/1996 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities (OJ L 292, 15/11/1996, p. 2), Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 of 12 October 2017 implementing enhanced cooperation on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office ('the EPPO') and Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) and Article 263 of EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509.

Access the Electronic Submission System via the Topic page in the Calls for proposals section.

Submit your application in 3 parts, as follows:

- Part A includes administrative information about the applicant. Fill it in directly online
- Part B (description of the action) covers the technical content of the application. Download the mandatory word template from the Submission System, fill it in and upload it as a PDF file
- Annexes (if any; *see section 5*). Applicants must support their application with an inspiring **video message**, lasting no more than 90 seconds. The video cannot exceed 100MB and should be uploaded to the Submission portal as a .zip file in annex. Applicants to the EIC Rising Innovator category should upload the proof of age as a PDF file. Applicants to the EIT category should upload the proof of direct link to the EIT Community as a PDF file.

The application must keep the format unchanged and respect the **page limits** *(see section 5)*; excess pages will be disregarded.

Documents must be uploaded to the **right category** in the Submission System, otherwise the application may be considered incomplete and thus inadmissible.

The application must be submitted **before the call deadline** (*see section 4*). After this deadline, the system is closed and applications can no longer be submitted.

Once the application is submitted, you will receive a **confirmation e-mail** (with date and time of your application). If you do not receive this confirmation e-mail, it means your application has NOT been submitted. If you believe this is due to a fault in the Submission System, you should immediately file a complaint via the IT Helpdesk webform, explaining the circumstances and attaching a copy of the application (and, if possible, screenshots to show what happened).

Details on processes and procedures are described in the Online Manual. The Online Manual also contains the links to FAQs and detailed instructions regarding the Portal Electronic Exchange System.

12. Help

Additional information can be found:

- Online Manual
- European Prize for Women Innovators website
- EIT Awards website
- Portal FAQ (for general questions).

Please also consult the Topic page regularly, since we will use it to publish call updates.

You are encouraged to visit the EIC Prize website and the EIT Awards website for additional information, including the list of previous prizes winers.

Contact

For individual questions on the Portal Submission System, please contact the IT Helpdesk.

Non-IT related questions regarding the EIC Women Innovators and Rising Innovators categories should be sent to the following email address: EISMEA-WIP@ec.europa.eu.

Non-IT related questions for the EIT Women Leadership category should be sent to the following email address: eit-awards@eit.europa.eu.

Please indicate clearly the reference of the call and topic to which your question relates *(see cover page)*.

13. Important

IMPORTANT

- **Don't wait until the end —** Complete your application sufficiently in advance of the deadline to avoid any last minute **technical problems**. Problems due to last minute submissions *(e.g. congestion, etc.)* will be entirely at your risk. Call deadlines can NOT be extended.
- **Consult** the Portal Call and Topic pages regularly. We will use them to publish updates and additional information on the call (call updates).
- **Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Exchange System —** By submitting the application, all applicants **accept** to use the electronic exchange system in accordance with the Portal Terms & Conditions.
- **Registration —** Before submitting the application, all applicants must be registered in the Participant Register. The participant identification code (PIC) (one per applicant) is mandatory for the Application Form.
- **No double funding —** It is strictly prohibited to cumulate funding from the EU budget. Applications that have already received an EU prize cannot receive a second prize for the same activities.
- **Resubmission —** Applications may be changed and re-submitted until the deadline for submission. For first past the post prizes with cut-off dates, applications can be changed and re-submitted until the cut-off date; the re-submission may however let you use your position as first in place.
- **Rejection —** By submitting the application, all applicants accept the call conditions set out in this this Call document (Rules of Contest; and the documents they refer to). Applications that do not comply with all the call conditions will be rejected. This applies also to applicants: All applicants need to fulfil the criteria; if any one of them doesn't, they must be replaced or the entire application will be rejected.
- **Cancellation —** The awarding authority may cancel the contest or decide not to award the prize — without any obligation to compensate participants *(e.g. no applications, jury cannot determine winner, winner is not eligible or must be excluded, objectives have already been achieved, etc)*. In this case, you will be informed via a call or topic update.
- **Language —** You can submit your application in any official EU language (project abstract/summary always in English). However, for reasons of efficiency, we strongly advise you to use English. If you need the call documentation in another official EU language, please submit a request within 10 days after call opening (for the contact information, *see section 12*).