European Innovation Council

PATHFINDER CHALLENGE

DeepRAP: Deep Reasoning, Abstraction & Planning towards trustworthy Cognitive AI Systems

EIC Work Programme reference: HORIZON-EIC-2026-PATHFINDERCHALLENGES-01-03
Call deadline date: 28 October 2026 at 17h00 Brussels local time
EIC Programme Manager: Hedi (Mohamed) KARRAY

The EIC will hold an Info Session on this Pathfinder Challenge topic on 30 March 2026 (TBC). Participation in the meeting, although encouraged, is optional and is not required for the submission of an application. A recording of this Info Session will be made available after the event. Further details of this (and possibly other) Info sessions will be disseminated through Events - European Innovation Council - European Commission.

Table of Contents

1. About this document

The Challenge Guide serves as guidance and background for the common understanding, participation rules and obligations for the EIC beneficiaries that are involved in the Challenge Portfolio. Contractual Obligations are further detailed in the EIC Work Programme 2026

The Challenge Guide is a guidance document accompanying a topic of the Pathfinder Challenge call for proposals to provide further information about how portfolio considerations will be considered in the evaluation of proposals for that topic.

The Challenge Guide is prepared by and under the responsibility of the relevant EIC Programme Manager (information about the EIC Programme Managers is available on the EIC Website (https://eic.ec.europa.eu/eic-communities/eic-programme-managers_en). It complements the Scope, Specific Objectives, Expected Outcomes and Impacts, and Specific Conditions set out in the EIC Work Programme by a description of the portfolio considerations that will be used in portfolio building and explains how a portfolio will be built. Please note that in no case does the Challenge Guide contradict or supplant the Work Programme text.

Following the selection of a proposals to be funded under the Challenge, the Programme Manager will work together with the consortia of the selected projects to develop a strategic plan for the Challenge, including a common roadmap. This strategic plan will integrate the activities and milestones of the individual projects into a shared set of objectives and activities across and beyond the projects. It serves as a common basis for the project portfolio and may affect the project implementation - including possible adjustments, reorientations or additional support to projects. The strategic plan will be updated on a yearly basis in light of emerging results or issues during the implementation.

2 Scope and objectives of the Challenge as defined in the Work programme

This section is a copy of the Challenge call in the EIC work programme text. Proposals to this Challenge are expected to explain how they relate to and intend to go beyond the state of the art, and how they interpret and contribute to the objectives of the Challenge.

EIC Pathfinder Challenge: DeepRAP: Deep Reasoning, Abstraction & Planning towards trustworthy Cognitive AI Systems

2.1 Background and scope

Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems have achieved remarkable progress as evidenced by the ability of Generative AI to recognise patterns and generate contextually relevant outputs based on ever larger models and associated datasets. However, despite the remarkable strides made over the past decade, there remains a significant gap between the capabilities of the human brain and machine intelligence, which must be overcome to achieve robust performance and enable effective interactions with users and stakeholders.

Current Generative AI models can release very accurate outputs and even solve some mathematical problems but might struggle with some complex reasoning benchmarks and to understand the real world. These models frequently fail to reliably solve logic tasks and long-term planning, even when provably correct solutions exist, limiting their effectiveness in critical applications where precision is essential.

Inspired by the human brain's ability to process information at multiple levels of abstraction—enabling perception, reasoning, and goal-directed planning—the goal of this Challenge is to move beyond the current state-of-the-art in traditional AI approaches, whether symbolic (e.g., rules, decision trees, symbolic regression, etc.) or connectionist, neural (e.g., deep learning, large language models, reinforcement learning). The goal is to significantly improve the Reasoning, Abstraction, and Planning (RAP) capabilities of AI systems.

This will overcome the limitations of current deep learning models, which despite their strengths, have limitations in critical cognitive functions for abstraction, contextualisation, causality, explainability, and intelligible reasoning — competencies that are fundamental to move towards human-like intelligence.

2.2 Specific objectives

Innovative ideas put forward under this Challenge must explore novel approaches, including combinations of existing techniques (i.e. neuro-symbolic AI), or the creation of entirely new frameworks that go beyond current, traditional, deep learning and reinforcement learning paradigms. These could be inspired by developments in diverse fields such as neuroscience, biology, physics, philosophy and more.

The proposals should address one or more of the following cognitive capabilities:

1. **Deep Reasoning:** Moving beyond statistical pattern matching to support causal inference, logical reasoning, and context-aware or commonsense decision-making in complex, unstructured environments. This requires shifting from purely data-driven correlations to AI systems capable of understanding why patterns emerge, identifying underlying causes, and drawing valid conclusions through both deductive and inductive processes. Neuro-symbolic

approaches, which combine the learning power of neural networks with the structured inference of symbolic reasoning are particularly encouraged to advance these capabilities. Integrating contextual and commonsense knowledge enables AI to interpret information more holistically, adapt decisions dynamically, and handle ambiguity and uncertainty. Deep reasoning systems should be able to reconcile multiple sources of information, provide transparent and explainable rationales for their outputs, and align with human values and expectations, ensuring trustworthy and accountable operations in demanding real-world scenarios.

2. **Deep Abstraction:** Enabling AI systems to generalise insights from limited data by forming, manipulating, and refining high-level concepts, analogies, and representations that can be transferred across diverse application domains. This includes the development of internal world models to support abstraction, foster commonsense understanding, and integrate semantic and contextual awareness. Approaches that combine symbolic reasoning, analogical mapping, and representation learning are particularly encouraged, as they empower AI to interpret meaning, intent, and relationships within complex environments. Progress in deep abstraction is essential for achieving cognitive flexibility, robust transfer learning, and adaptive reasoning in dynamic, data-scarce, or rapidly evolving settings.
3. **Deep Planning:** Developing robust, adaptive, and scalable planning algorithms/models capable of operating in open-world, agentic, or uncertain real-time environments. This involves leveraging advanced deep learning techniques such as deep reinforcement learning and architectures tailored for planning tasks to enable AI systems to autonomously devise, optimise, and adjust complex strategies in dynamic settings. Neuro-symbolic approaches integrating neural networks with symbolic reasoning are particularly encouraged to address uncertainty, provide formal guarantees, and enable explainable, dependable decision-making. Emphasis is placed on long-term, flexible planning that incorporates cognitive timing and predictive modelling, enabling systems to anticipate and adapt within dynamic contexts. Approaches should explore hierarchical planning across multiple temporal levels, contingency planning for effective fallback strategies, and continual re-planning to dynamically update plans as environments evolve. These advancements will underpin resilient, coordinated, and trustworthy AI planning in complex, unpredictable scenarios.

2.3 Expected outcomes

Ambitious proposals put forward under this call will deliver:

- Models and/or architectures that handle multimodal data and knowledge, uncertainty, and can be trained and deployed with constrained computational resources
- Provable trustworthiness mechanisms ensuring explainability, transparency, fairness, risk evaluation, security and alignment with ethical and legal standards, including fundamental rights and the EU AI Act, and
- Demonstrate the developed capabilities integrated in a cognitive AI system (reaching TRL4) performing complex real-world tasks (e.g., scientific discovery, decision support, problem solving) as well as simulations at a scale. In addition, proposals will:
- Propose new methods and metrics for evaluating and certifying reasoning and trustworthiness in AI as well as the use of the computational resources
- Follow the FAIR principles ensuring all data, models, and results are Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable to maximise transparency, reproducibility, and impact, andDevelop synergies with EU initiatives such as TEFs (AI Testing and Experimentation

Facilities)[1], eBrains[2], Resource for AI Science in Europe (RAISE)[3], AI-on-demand Platform (AIoD)[4] and the Quantum Flagship[5].

2.4 Portfolio approach

The composition of the portfolio of projects to be funded under the DeepRAP Challenge will ensure comprehensive coverage across the following categories with a view to ensuring breadth and enabling synergies between the projects:

- Category 1 – Cognitive Function Capability: Reasoning, abstraction, and planning should be covered by the selected portfolio.
- Category 2 – Technological Approach: The selected projects are expected to use a variety of technological approaches, including but not limited to, neuro-symbolic AI, deep learning, reinforcement learning, and novel frameworks inspired by interdisciplinary fields, and
- Category 3 – Use Case and Application Domain: The selected projects will cover a variety of real-world domains, such as industry, mobility, civil security, scientific discovery, health, cybersecurity, justice and human-robot interaction.

The selected projects will also be assigned to lead and/or engage in portfolio activities centred on the following priorities:

- Interoperability: Establishing common standards and protocols to ensure seamless alignment between projects
- Benchmark Development: Co-creating a DeepRAP benchmark with shared tasks and an open evaluation platform for transparent assessment
- Common Pilots: Delivering joint pilot demonstrations addressing complex real-world problems to showcase DeepRAP capabilities
- Multiagent Integration: where feasible, combining project outcomes into modular, multiagent AI systems demonstrating collective reasoning and planning through structured interactions among multiple agents
- Application Shaping: Defining impactful use cases and engaging stakeholders to guide the development and adoption of innovative cognitive AI systems, and
- Ethical and Societal Alignment: Proactively addressing ethical, legal, and societal considerations, including fundamental rights, transparency, privacy, safety, and fairness of cognitive AI systems.

2.5 Expected impact

The resulting portfolio will not only advance the scientific state-of-the-art but also build a robust, interoperable, and application-driven community, positioning Europe at the forefront of trustworthy cognitive AI. It should also lay the foundations for future European leadership in safe, human-centric cognitive AI, supporting sovereignty and competitiveness in key sectors. It will support the ambitions of the AI Act[6] and the European approach to Artificial Intelligence[7].

[1] Sectorial AI Testing and Experimentation Facilities under the Digital Europe Programme | Shaping Europe's digital future
[2] EBRAINS: Europe's Research Infrastructure for Brain Research - EBRAINS
[3] Researchers and innovators invited to shape Europe's AI Strategy in Science | Shaping Europe's digital future
[4] Home Page | AI-on-Demand
[5] Introduction to the Quantum Flagship | Quantum Flagship
[6] https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-launches-ai-innovation-package-support-artificial-intelligence-startups-and-smes
[7] https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_383 150 AI Act | Shaping Europe's digital future (europa.eu)

2.6 References

- Wan, Zishen, et al. "Towards cognitive ai systems: a survey and prospective on neuro-symbolic ai." arXiv preprint arXiv:2401.01040 (2024).
- Wan, Zishen, et al. "Towards cognitive ai systems: Workload and characterization of neuro-symbolic ai." *2024 IEEE International Symposium on Performance Analysis of Systems and Software (ISPASS)*. IEEE, 2024.
- Liu, Bang, Xinfeng Li, Jiayi Zhang, Jinlin Wang, Tanjin He, Sirui Hong, Hongzhang Liu et al. "Advances and challenges in foundation agents: From brain-inspired intelligence to evolutionary, collaborative, and safe systems." *arXiv preprint arXiv:2504.01990* (2025).
- Tang, Shixiang, et al. "Human-Centric Foundation Models: Perception, Generation and Agentic Modeling." *arXiv preprint arXiv:2502.08556* (2025).
- Bundy A, Chater N, Muggleton S. 2023 Introduction to 'Cognitive artificial intelligence'. Phil. Trans. R. Soc. A 381: 20220051.
- Hexmoor, H., Lammens, J., Caicedo, G., & Shapiro, S. C. (2025). *Behaviour based AI, cognitive processes, and emergent behaviors in autonomous agents* (Vol. 1). WIT Press.
- Guerrero, Luz Enith, et al. "A systematic review of integrated information theory: a perspective from artificial intelligence and the cognitive sciences." *Neural Computing and Applications* 37.11 (2025): 7575-7607.
- Brachman, R., & Levesque, H. (2004). *Knowledge representation and reasoning*. Elsevier.
- Delgrande, James P., et al. "Current and Future Challenges in Knowledge Representation and Reasoning (Dagstuhl Perspectives Workshop 22282)." *Dagstuhl Manifestos* 10.1 (2024): 1-61.
- Marra, Giuseppe, et al. "From statistical relational to neurosymbolic artificial intelligence: A survey." *Artificial Intelligence* 328 (2024): 104062.
- Monroe, Don. "Neurosymbolic ai." Communications of the ACM 65.10 (2022): 11-13.
- Hochreiter, Sepp (April 2022). "Toward a broad AI". Communications of the ACM. 65 (4): 56–57. doi:10.1145/3512715
- Y. LeCun, Shaping the Future of Artificial Intelligence. *NUS120 Distinguished Lecture Series, (2025)*
- Garcez, Artur d'Avila, and Luis C. Lamb. "Neurosymbolic AI: The 3 rd wave." *Artificial Intelligence Review* 56.11 (2023): 12387-12406.

3 Portfolio considerations for the evaluation of applications to the Challenge

This section describes how portfolio considerations will be taken into account in the second evaluation step. For more details of the full evaluation process please refer to the EIC Work Programme pages 34-37.

After the submission of your proposal, it will be evaluated in two steps:

- The EIC expert evaluators will assess each proposal separately against the award criteria and the EIC evaluation committee will ensure consistency across scores.
- The EIC evaluation committee, consisting of EIC expert evaluators and an EIC Programme Manager will map all the proposals above the threshold in a number of categories stemming from the overall goal and specific objectives of the Challenge.

  Following this mapping of proposals against categories, a suitable portfolio of proposals will be selected by the evaluation committee by applying portfolio considerations in order to propose for funding a coherent set of projects that will achieve the expected outcomes of the Challenge and maximise their impact.

3.1 Categories

All proposals of which the assessment in Step 1 of the evaluation process resulted in a score above the threshold will be mapped to the following categories:

Category 1: Cognitive Function Capability Coverage

This category assesses which of the three core cognitive capabilities your proposal addresses:

- **Deep Reasoning Projects** (DR): Proposals focusing on causal inference, logical reasoning and probabilistic reasoning , context-aware decision-making, commonsense reasoning, end-to end differentiable reasoning, dynamic and parallel and multi-modal reasoning (including Visual, Spatial, Temporal), as well as explainable AI frameworks
- **Deep Abstraction Projects** (DA): Proposals emphasizing generalization from limited data, concept formation, analogical reasoning, abstract world model building, Semantic Understanding and Context recognition, and transfer learning
- **Deep Planning Projects** (DP): Proposals concentrating on adaptive planning algorithms, real-time decision making, and hierarchical long term planning systems that reason at multiple levels of temporal abstraction, contingency planning, and continual re-planning techniques
- **Multi-Capability Projects** (MC): Proposals addressing capabilities with clear integration mechanisms and comprehensive architectures that incorporate models with like for example Reasoning and Planning, Abstraction and Reasoning, etc

Category 2: Technological Approach and integration
Projects will be categorized based on their technological approach. One project may address various technical approaches:

- **Neuro-symbolic AI (NeSy):** Hybrid approaches combining neural networks with symbolic reasoning
- **Advanced Deep Learning (ADL):** Novel neural architectures, transformer variants, attention mechanisms or other deep learning innovations
- **Reinforcement Learning (RL):** Advanced RL approaches, multi-agent RL, or hierarchical RL
- **Cognitive Architectures (CA):** BDI-based systems, cognitive modelling approaches, or biologically inspired architectures
- **Novel Interdisciplinary Frameworks (NIF):** Approaches inspired by neuroscience, biology, physics, philosophy, or other fields
- **Formal Methods Integration (FMI):** Approaches incorporating formal verification, logic programming, or mathematical guarantees
- **Multimodal Integration** (**MMI**): Systems handling multiple data types and modalities (text, vision, audio, sensors)
- **Trustworthiness mechanisms Integration (TM):** explainability and interpretability, Fairness, safety verification, real world robustness.
- **…**

Category 3: Application Domain and Use Case
Projects will be mapped according to their primary application focus.

- **Scientific Discovery (SD):** AI systems for hypothesis generation, experiment design, or knowledge discovery (chemistry, materials, biology, climate etc.)

- **Decision Support Systems (DSS):** Applications in healthcare, finance, policy-making, or strategic planning, …
- **Autonomous Systems (AS):** Robotics, autonomous vehicles, or other embodied AI applications
- **Human-AI Collaboration (HAIC):** Systems designed for human-AI teaming or augmented intelligence
- **Cybersecurity (CS):** AI systems for threat detection, response planning, or security analysis
- **Industrial Applications (Ind):** Manufacturing optimization, supply chain management, or process control
- **Social and Societal Applications (SSA):** AI systems addressing social challenges or public services

Category 4 Synergy aspects

This category looks to the project's capacity and strategy to engage in portfolio-wide collaboration and collective value creation, as required by the DeepRAP Challenge. Proposals will be categorised on specific dimensions of synergy, including:

- **Benchmark Development (Ben):** Proposals contributing to the portfolio-wide creation of shared benchmarks for reasoning, abstraction, and planning, including data, shared tasks, and open evaluation protocols.
- **Interoperability (Int):** Projects developing or adopting standards, protocols, and APIs to facilitate technical integration and compatibility among different systems and components across the DeepRAP portfolio.
- **Joint Pilots and Demonstrations: (JPD)** Proposals engaging in multi-partner pilots that combine results, tools, or models from different projects to jointly address real-world or complex scenarios, especially through multiagent or modular system integration.

3.2 Portfolio considerations

In order to select the projects for the portfolio the following considerations will be taken into account:

- All three cognitive function capabilities (reasoning, abstraction, planning) should be represented in the portfolio
- The selected projects in the portfolio should cover a variety of different technological approaches.
- The selected projects should cover a variety of different approaches for trustworthiness. Explainability and formal guarantees will be preferred.
- The portfolio should cover diverse application domains to demonstrate broad applicability and potential impact
- The selected projects can significantly contribute to shared portfolio activities (interoperability, benchmarking, common pilots)

The following table summarises the portfolio building approach:

Category	Focus	**Key Consideration**
1. Cognitive Function	☐ DR ☐ DA ☐ DP ☐ MC	Ensure all three capabilities are covered; prioritize projects addressing multiple capabilities
2. Technological Approach	☐NeSy ☐ADL ☐RL ☐CA ☐NIF ☐FMI ☐MMI ☐TM	Encourage diversity while prioritizing hybrid approaches. For trustworthiness, diversity of approaches is looked for, with a preference for explainability and formal guarantees
3. Application Domain	☐SD ☐DSS ☐AS ☐HAIC ☐CS ☐Ind ☐SSA	Ensure broad applicability and real-world relevance of the use cases
4. Synergies	☐Ben ☐Int ☐JPD	Ensure all activities are covered and could be orchestrated smoothly among the projects.

Starting from the highest ranked proposal, a portfolio of proposals will be selected based on the portfolio considerations ensuring coverage of the categories and diversity and commonality among the proposals. This implies that if the evaluation committee considers that a highly ranked proposal does not have a commonality with other proposals, it will not be selected for the portfolio. To ensure diversification, proposals which the evaluation committee considers to be very similar to a proposal already included in the portfolio might not be selected. Consequently, this means that the projects selected for funding after the second step are expected to differ from the list established from the first step (score-based ranking after assessment of each proposal separately).

4. Implementation of the Challenge portfolio

Once funded, projects will be expected and obliged to work collectively during the implementation of their projects under the guidance of an EIC Programme Manager. This section summarises some of the key aspects of this pro-active management which applicants should take into account in preparing their proposals.

4.1 Proposal preparation and Grant negotiations

Based on first experience, it is proposed to foresee in your proposal a dedicated work package for portfolio activities and to allocate at least 10 person-months (see below for the purpose and examples of such activities). Annex 1 provides a template for such a work package. You are encouraged to use this template.

You may propose concrete activities or remain generic in your description. If you fail to do this during proposal time, your proposal will not be scored lower during the evaluation, but in case your proposal is selected for grant agreement preparation, you will be requested to add the portfolio work package to your grant agreement. Please be aware that in that case the maximum grant you receive will not change, and you will need to find the resources for portfolio activities within the foreseen project budget.

It is also suggested that in your proposal you make a self-assessment of how your proposal maps to the categories used for portfolio building by adding the following table. The evaluation committee will confirm or update this and use it in the step 2 of the evaluation.

Category	**Focus**	**Secondary Focus (in case)**	**Evidence/Justification**
Cognitive Capability	☐ DR ☐ DA ☐ DP ☐ MC	☐ DR ☐ DA ☐ DP ☐ MC	
Technological Approach	☐NeSy ☐ADL ☐RL ☐CA ☐NIF ☐FMI ☐MMI ☐TM	☐NeSy ☐ADL ☐RL ☐CA ☐NIF ☐FMI ☐MMI ☐TM	
Application Domain	☐SD ☐DSS ☐AS ☐HAIC ☐CS ☐Ind ☐SSA	☐ SD ☐ HM ☐ RE ☐ CS ☐ IM ☐ SE	

Additionally, describe your project's potential for:

- **Technical Synergies**: How other projects in other categories could benefit from your outputs?
- **Resource Sharing**: What infrastructure, data, or expertise could you share?
- **Collaborative Innovation**: How could you contribute to portfolio-wide goals?

4.2 Portfolio Strategic Plan and portfolio activities

Following the selection of a proposals to be funded under the Challenge, the Programme Manager will work together with the consortia of the selected projects to develop a common strategy plan/roadmap for the Challenge. This plan will integrate the activities and milestones of the individual projects into a shared set of specific objectives and activities across and beyond the projects. The strategic plan will be updated on a yearly basis in light of emerging results or issues during the implementation. The objectives can be revised, for instance based on projects' unexpected achievements, new technology trends, external inputs (other projects, new calls…).

In particular, the Challenge strategic plan will include activities on the transition to innovation and commercialisation, and to stimulate business opportunities and to raise the awareness on the topic related to the portfolio.

4.3 Governance through working groups

The development of the Portfolio Strategic plan will require regular meetings and exchanges among the portfolio projects, to identify collaborations on specific technical aspects and exchange of information, best practices, strategies, etc. A steering committee where each project is represented will be set up and steered by the Programme Manager. Additionally, 4 Working Groups will be set up to organize and implement activities.

WG 1: Technology Integration, Validation and demonstration:

- DeepRAP Benchmark Development: Collaborative creation of standardized benchmarks for reasoning, abstraction, and planning capabilities
- Interoperability Standards: Development of common APIs and protocols for cognitive AI system integration
- Cross-project Validation: Projects validating their approaches using datasets and scenarios from other portfolio projects
- Hybrid System Development: Integration of complementary technologies from different projects into unified cognitive architectures
- Demonstration: Joint pilot projects demonstrating integrated cognitive AI capabilities
- Validation: Cross-domain validation of reasoning, abstraction, and planning technologies

WG 2: Transition of technology to innovation:

- Portfolio activities developing techno-economic views on the future implementation, adoption, and scaling potential of cognitive AI technologies in realistic real-world conditions
- Market analysis: Map the targeted players in cognitive AI markets and exchange market research analysis results with other portfolio projects to identify specific players with which the entire portfolio can establish partnership(s)
- Discussions on IP, licensing and business models for cognitive AI systems and commercialisation strategy
- Discussions with early stage private and corporate investors focused on cognitive AI and related fields
- Providing access to new markets through multipliers like Enterprise Europe Network

WG 3: Regulation, Ethics and Trustworthiness:

- Discussing the relevant Challenge ethics issues, especially when within the portfolio there are projects that are subject to ethics reviews
- Perform activities that support, inform, and participate in discussions around the process of putting forward relevant ethical principles for cognitive AI and discussing appropriate approaches for compliance
- Development of shared frameworks for AI explainability and trustworthiness assessment
- Engagement with civil society organizations and public stakeholders on cognitive AI applications

WG 4: Communication and dissemination:

- Effective communication of key outcomes of the research work of the portfolio members collectively and/or individually to early stage private and corporate investors focused on cognitive AI
- Communication might also be addressed to the general public to increase social acceptance for cognitive AI solutions, or to other researchers and stakeholders through common dissemination activities at scientific conferences or trade fairs
- Organizing joint conferences, workshops, summer schools, etc. on cognitive AI topics
- Development of shared educational materials and training programs

Each project will nominate a representative for each WG. A chair will be nominated from among them. The chair will be responsible to prepare meeting agendas, links to the meeting and minutes of the meetings. WG Meetings are expected to be online and to be scheduled approximately every 3 months.

Additionally, it is foreseen to have one annual portfolio meeting in presence, where all working groups will meet and present progress.

The exchange of information for the purpose of EIC portfolio activities will fall under the conditions and non-disclosure obligations as specified in the EIC Work Programme 2026 (Annex 6, section 2).

5. Tools through which projects can receive additional support

Projects in the portfolio may be offered additional support, either individually or collectively, in order to reinforce portfolio activities or explore the transition to innovation. Such additional support includes:

- Booster grants of up to €50k (see Annex 5 of the EIC Work Programme).
- Access to additional EIC Business Acceleration Services (see https://eic.ec.europa.eu/eic-funding-opportunities/business-acceleration-services_en)
- Access to the Fast Track to the EIC Accelerator, which would follow a project review (see Annex 3 of the EIC Work Programme).
- The possibility to apply for EIC Transition if your Pathfinder project resulted in an experimental proof of concept (TRL 3), or a technology validated in the lab (TRL 4)
- Access to the EIC Market Place, once operational, to connect with innovators, investors and other selected partners.
- Interactions with relevant projects and initiatives outside the portfolio, including other EU funding initiatives as well as those supported by national, regional or other international bodies.

Annex 1 : Template work package portfolio activities

WPX PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT
Start Month 1, End Month (full project duration)
Objectives
Explore synergies and collaborations among the projects of the portfolio, to maximize the achievement of the scientific results, the exploitation potentials, the outreach opportunities with key stakeholders, the identification and overcoming of major barriers to introduce the innovation to the market ….

Specific objectives:

- Contribute to an **effective governance** of the portfolio and contribute to the **working groups**.
- **Contribute to the elaboration of the strategic plan** of portfolio, which is composed by a list of activities of common interest to at least 2 projects identified by each working group.

Description
Task X.1: Portfolio governance and work in working groups This task will require regular meetings and exchanges among the portfolio projects, to identify collaborations on specific technical aspects and exchange of information, best practices, strategies, etc. A steering committee where each project is represented will be set up and steered by the Programme Manager. 4 WGs will be set up to organize and implement activities in WG 1: Technology Integration, Validation and demonstration; WG 2: Transition of technology to innovation; WG 3: Regulation, Ethics and Trustworthiness; WG 4: Communication and dissemination. Each consortium will nominate a representative for each WG. A chair will be nominated from among them. The chair will be responsible to prepare meeting agendas, links to the meeting and minutes of the meetings. WG Meetings are expected to be online and to be scheduled approximately every 3 months, to discuss progress of the activities of the working group. Additionally, it is foreseen to have one annual portfolio meeting per year in presence, where all working groups will meet and present progress. The exchange of information for the purpose of EIC portfolio activities will fall under the conditions and non-disclosure obligations as specified in the EIC Work Programme 2026 (Annex 6, section 2).

Task X.2: Portfolio Strategic plan and other common documents: Elaboration of the portfolio strategic plan under the guidance of the Programme Manager and updates on a yearly basis. It will contain details of the techno-scientific collaborations and synergies of the portfolio projects. It contains the actions already carried out, but also an overview of upcoming actions in the form of a roadmap. It will specify the common documents that the projects will deliver because of their work in the working groups. Individual projects do not need to add these documents as a deliverable, they explain the contribution that they made to this report in their periodic progress report. A public version of the strategic plan will be published on the EIC website at year 1 and updated annually afterwards.

Deliverable X.1.i: Report on portfolio activities (i=number of each implementation year. One deliverable per reporting period
The report will present the contribution of the project to the strategic portfolio plan and portfolio activities that have been carried out in each reporting period. It also explains how the portfolio activities and the EIC proactive project management approach contribute to the achievement of the project objectives and help the transition to market.
Type: R: Document, report (excluding the periodic and final reports)
Dissemination level: SEN – Sensitive, limited under the conditions of the Grant Agreement
Due date: The report on portfolio activities will be submitted every reporting period.

Final considerations

- Effort to be allocated to this work package: **10 p.m.**