The European Innovation Council
**Objective:** Strengthen breakthrough innovations and boost the number of high-growth companies

Focus on people and companies with ideas for:

- **Radically new**, breakthrough products, services, processes or business models
- That **open up new markets** with the potential for rapid **European and global-scale growth** (high risk, need for significant investment)
- Take shape at the **intersection** between different technologies, industry sectors and scientific disciplines
The EIC pilot focuses competitive funding for innovators, start-ups and companies with ideas and innovations which:

- are **radically different** from existing products, services or business models
- are of a ‘**high risk – high gain**’-nature for investors
- have the potential to **scale up internationally**

The EIC pilot is able to support ideas from any area of technology or business sector, including novel combinations of technologies and business models. Support is available from feasibility stage (e.g. proof of concept or development of business plans) to development to scale up stages.
Brings together 4 different schemes

- **2.7 billion Euros** over three years (2018 – 2020)
- Open for **novel ideas**

**Horizon Prizes**
- **FET OPEN** Future Emerging Technologies
- **Citizens & Society**

**Innovative Idea**

**FTI** Fast Track to Innovation
- **Test & Co-create**

**SME-Instrument Phase-1**
- **Feasibility Start-up**

**SME-Instrument Phase-2**
- **Development**

**European Commission**
Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
The SME Instrument
Phase 1
€50 000
for concept and feasibility study
A lump sum of € 50000 in EU funding and 3 days of coaching

Feasibility study

Initial 10 page business proposal to be submitted

70% funding rate

Around 6 months in duration

Phase 1
Phase 2
€0.5 - €2.5 million
for demonstration, market replication, R&D and product development
Develop project through innovation strategy

Around 1–2 years in duration

Between €0.5 million and €2.5 million in EU funding (exceptions apply) and 12 days of coaching

Draft a more developed, 30 page business plan

70% funding rate

TRL 6 or above recommended
Coaching & Business support for market launch
Coaching & Business Support

(not part of the evaluation but compulsory since June 2016)

- No direct funding
- Extensive support and coaching (3 days for Phase 1 beneficiaries and 12 days for Phase 2)
- Facilitate access to risk finance
- Additional support and networking opportunities (EEN)
What’s new in the SMEI

Full bottom-up selection approach – the removal of pre-defined topics will allow entrepreneurs from all sectors of the economy to apply with their market-creating innovations.

Overhaul of the submission forms – the structure and content of these forms have been adapted in order to simplify the submission process for entrepreneurs and adopt a business-oriented language that is more adapted to their reality.

Pool of expert-evaluators – the number of expert-evaluators in the pool with an investor profile has been significantly increased in order to better consider market and investment related elements in the evaluation.

Face-to-face interviews with selected Phase 2 applicants – the introduction of this additional step after the remote evaluation will give expert-evaluators a better grasp of the proposals and make sure that only the best and most disruptive innovation ideas pass the cut.