

QUICK GUIDE

**EU**  
**FUNDING**  
FOR  
**STARTUPS**  
**(SLOVAKIA)**

IVAN FILUS

# EU FUNDING FOR STARTUPS

*Welcome to the quick overview of European funding programmes that support start-ups.*

*Browse the **overview tables** according to the stage of the **research-product lifecycle** they support and their **thematic priorities**.*

*After the overview tables you will find a brief description of each programme, funding, target groups and links to official websites, current calls for proposals and contact details of the programme's representatives **in Slovakia**, where you can obtain further information.*

## EU support to startups: Lifecycle

EU programme	research	innovation/ product dev	testing/ validation	scaling/growth	acceleration	education	specific
EIC Accelerator (HEU)	●●	●●	●●	●●	●●		grants & equity
EIC Transition (HEU)	●●	●					
EIC Pathfinder (HEU)	●●						
Collaborative (HEU)	●●	●	●				
Cascade funding	●	●	●		●		
Eurostars	●●	●	●		●		
EIT	●	●	●	●●	●●		
EDIH		●●	●●	●	●		
Digital Europe		●	●				
EU Defence Fund		●					
Innovation Fund		●					+ investment projects
Life		●					
EU4Health		●	●				
EU Space Programme		●	●				
Creative Europe		●	●				
Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs						●	fellowships
Erasmus+		●	●			●●	



the programme is supporting this lifecycle stage



the programme is partially supporting this lifecycle stage

## EU support to startups: Thematic areas

EU programme	digital	energy/enviro	industry	medicine	agri/bio/food	culture/media	specific
EIC Accelerator (HEU)	●●	●●	●●	●●	●●	●	thematic challenges
EIC Transition (HEU)	●●	●●	●●	●●	●●	●	thematic challenges
EIC Pathfinder (HEU)	●●	●●	●●	●●	●●	●	thematic challenges
Collaborative (HEU)	●●	●●	●●	●●	●●	●	
Cascade funding	●●	●●	●●	●●	●●		
Eurostars	●●	●●	●●	●●	●●	●	
EIT	●●	●●	●●	●●	●●	●●	
EDIH	●●	●	●				
Digital Europe	●●						
EU Defence Fund	●		●				military
Innovation Fund		●●	●				
Life	●	●●	●		●		
EU4Health	●			●●			
EU Space Programme	●	●	●●		●		space tech
Creative Europe						●●	media
Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs	●●	●●	●●	●●	●●	●●	fellowships
Erasmus+	●					●	education



the programme is supporting this thematic area



the programme is partially supporting this thematic area

# E I C A C C E L E R A T O R ( H O R I Z O N E U R O P E )

**About:** funding and investments through the EIC Fund for individual start-ups and small companies to develop and scale up game changing innovations

**Funding:** grants up to EUR 2.5 million (70% funding), investment up to EUR 15 million

**Target group:** only tech startups and SMEs (single partner, no consortia)

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# E I C T R A N S I T I O N ( H O R I Z O N E U R O P E )

**About:** EIC Transition funds innovation activities that go beyond the experimental proof of principle in laboratory to support both: the maturation and validation of your novel technology in the lab and in relevant application environments, and the development of a business case and (business) model towards the innovation's future commercialisation.

**Funding:** Grants of up to EUR 2.5 million

**Target group:** single applicants (SMEs, spin-offs, start-ups, research organisations, universities) or small consortia (max 5 partners); applications are restricted to results generated by the following eligible projects: EIC Pathfinder, FET, ERANETs, ERC Proof of Concept, EDF, all projects funded under Horizon 2020 or Horizon Europe (EIC Transition Challenges ONLY)

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# E I C P A T H F I N D E R ( H O R I Z O N E U R O P E )

**About:** exploration of bold ideas for radically new technologies, supporting high-risk / high gain and interdisciplinary cutting-edge science collaborations that underpin technological breakthroughs

**Funding:** grants of up to EUR 3 to 4 million

**Target group:** visionary scientists and entrepreneurial researchers from universities, research organisations, start-ups, high-tech SMEs or industrial stakeholders (consortia)

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# COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS (HORIZON EUROPE)

**About:** Pillar II: Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness covering following clusters: health; culture, creativity and inclusive society; civil security for society; digital, industry and space; climate, energy and mobility; food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment

**Funding:** research (and innovation) grants of up to several million EUR

**Target group:** any legal organisation, incl. startups, scaleups, SME (consortia: at least three eligible entities from at least three Member States or associated countries)

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# CASCADE FUNDING

**About:** Financial Support for Third Parties (FSTP), a mechanism to distribute public funding to assist startups, scaleups, SME and/or mid-caps, in the uptake or development of (digital) innovation

**Funding:** €20-250K

**Target group:** startups, scaleups, SME and/or mid-caps, researchers (single partner or consortia)

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# EUROSTARS

**About:** Funding programme for SMEs wishing to collaborate on R&D projects that create innovative products, processes or services for commercialisation

**Funding:** the maximum funding amount is a grant of 450,000 euro per project (Slovakia)

**Target group:** consortia of min. 2 innovative SMEs (incl. startups) with possible participation of research organisation(s)

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# EIT: EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

**About:** Agency of the European Union established in 2008 to strengthen Europe's ability to innovate with Innovation Communities (KIC) in 9 areas: climate, digital, food, health, energy, manufacturing, raw materials, urban mobility and culture & creativity

**Funding:** entrepreneurial education, business creation, innovation projects, regional innovation, global outreach and citizen engagement activities (different conditions in respective KIC)

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# EUROPEAN DIGITAL INNOVATION HUBS (EDIH)

**About:** providing access to technical expertise and experimentation as well as the possibility to 'test before invest', EDIHs help companies improve business/production processes, products, or services using digital technologies

**Funding:** current phase of DIHs is providing funding, while new generation of EDIHs (starting from 2023) is mostly focused on providing subsidized services to SMEs

**Target group:** mainly SMEs

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# DIGITAL EUROPE PROGRAMME (DEP)

**About:** EU funding programme focused on bringing digital technology to businesses, citizens and public administrations

**Funding:** funding to projects in 5 key capacity areas: supercomputing, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, advanced digital skills, and ensuring a wide use of digital technologies across the economy and society, including through Digital Innovation Hubs

**Target group:** (consortia: at least three eligible entities from at least three Member States or associated countries)

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# INNOVATION FUND FOR CLIMATE ACTION

**About:** contributes to greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction by supporting projects like carbon capture and storage, innovative low-carbon technologies, generation of renewable energy and energy storage

**Funding:** 'Large-scale' are projects with a capital expenditure above EUR 7.5 million. 'Small-scale' are projects with total capital costs below EUR 7.5 million.

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# LIFE PROGRAMME

**About:** funding for nature and biodiversity, circular economy and quality of life, climate change mitigation and adaptation, clean energy transition

**Funding:** Standard Action Projects for circular economy and quality of life, nature and biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation, Action Grants for clean energy transition, Strategic Integrated Projects and Strategic Nature Projects

**Target group:** any organisation; specific LIFE close-to-market projects for SMEs/startups

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# EU4HEALTH

**About:** EU programme focused on improve and foster health, protect people, access to medicinal products, medical devices and crisis-relevant products, and strengthen health systems

**Funding:** health systems' digitalisation, reducing the number of antimicrobial-resistant infections and improving vaccination (funding from 60% to 100% of the total eligible costs)

**Target group:** eligible legal entities from the Member States, third countries associated such as health organisations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the private sector and other eligible legal entities

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# EU SPACE PROGRAMME

**About:** EU Space Programme consists of several flagship programmes: Copernicus, Galileo, EGNOS

**Funding:** for services and applications based on Earth observation and Satellite Systems (from atmospheric monitoring and precision farming to safer aviation and automated driving)

**Target group:** check flagship programmes for further details

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# CREATIVE EUROPE

**About:** EU flagship programme to support the culture and audiovisual sectors

**Funding:** for initiatives promoting and enhancing artistic and cultural cooperation at EU level; actions encouraging the competitiveness, innovation and sustainability of the EU audiovisual sector; and collaboration across the audiovisual and cultural sectors

**Target group:** cultural and creative organisations from EU Member States, as well as non-EU countries

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# ERASMUS FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

**About:** provides aspiring European entrepreneurs with the skills necessary to start and/or successfully run a small business in Europe; new entrepreneurs gather and exchange knowledge and business ideas with an experienced entrepreneur

**Funding:** financial assistance to the new entrepreneur during his/her stay abroad

**Target group:** the programme encourages the participation of both: aspiring or new entrepreneurs and experienced entrepreneurs

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# ERASMUS+

**About:** EU programme for education, training, youth and sport

**Funding:** opportunities for organisations: learning mobility, innovation, support for policy reform, Jean Monnet, sport

**Target group:** organisations and individuals a comprehensive list of opportunities supported by the programme

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