

## ZEP Briefing – €1.7 billion innovation funding under EIC

### Background

The Commission adopted on 9 February 2022 the [2022 work programme](#) of the European Innovation Council (EIC).

Launched in 2021, the EIC helps startups, SMEs and research teams to develop high-risk, high-impact breakthrough innovation. It has a budget of over €10 billion for the 2021-2027 period.

The 2022 work programme includes funding opportunities of **€1.7 billion**, including in **CCS and CCU**.

The programme is divided into 3 funding schemes:

- *EIC Pathfinder* to support visionary research for potential breakthroughs;
- *EIC Transition* to turn research results into innovation opportunities; and
- *EIC Accelerator* to scale up high-impact innovations.

Calls are divided into 2 categories:

- *EIC Challenge* for specific technological breakthroughs; and
- *EIC Open* for all types of technology.

### Opportunities for CCS and CCU

- *EIC Pathfinder Challenge: Carbon dioxide and nitrogen management and valorisation* – A project can receive a grant of up to **€4 million** each to achieve the proof of principle and validate the scientific basis of breakthrough technology. Technology to be developed include **CO<sub>2</sub> capture/conversion, storage, and valorisation**. The consortium must include at least three different independent legal entities established in at least three different eligible countries. The deadline for applications is **19 October 2022**.
- *EIC Accelerator Challenge: Technologies for Fit for 55* – A project can receive a grant of up to **€15 million** to scale up the technology. Technology to be scaled up include **CO<sub>2</sub> capture/conversion, transport, storage, and valorisation**. This funding is mainly targeted to single start-ups and SMEs (mid-caps exceptionally). Deadlines for full applications are **23 March, 15 June, and 5 October 2022**.

An [information day](#) will take place on **22 February 2022** to provide information on the functioning of the EIC, and on funding applications and eligibilities.