

# EIC Communities Project

Community and synergy building between EIC portfolios and projects

## **Subject: Open Call to take part in the EIC Communities Project as a Thematic Expert**

On behalf of the EIC Communities consortium, EBN is looking to select three organisations, one for each of the sectors covered by the project: CleanTech, Industry and Health, to collaborate as experts in the implementation of some of the project activities. EBN members are invited to submit their applications for this expression of interest, along with the necessary documentation.

### **EIC Communities project**

What is EIC Communities project?

Consortium: EIC Communities is a support action awarded within Horizon Europe, coordinated by APRE (IT) and implemented together with EBN (BE), EurA (PT) and ICONS (IT).

Objective: The objective is to increase both visibility and impact of the EIC-funded projects by stimulating synergies and innovation breakthroughs.

The EIC Communities project funded under the European Innovation Council (EIC) will create three thematic Communities of Practice (CoP) in the CleanTech, Industry and Health sectors. Its aim is to co-create diverse online and physical activities, materials and tools that encourage multidisciplinary interactions among EIC portfolios.

These activities, including matchmaking sessions, workshops, and interactive academies, will foster collaboration among projects and build sustainable networks around portfolios.

The goal is to propel future technologies and innovations, driving us towards a more connected and innovative future, together to promote broad, diverse and gender-inclusive deep tech communities.

**Thematic Communities of Practice and sub-topics:**

The EIC projects selected to participate in the CoP align with the specified sub-topics.

#### **Industry**

- Awareness & Consciousness (in robotics) through AI
- Sustainable materials & Manufacturing for Micro nanoelectronics
- Enabling Space Technologies

- Space Debris Sustainability

### **Cleantech**

- Novel technologies for resilient agriculture
- Building materials
- Energy (conversion-production, storage, use/efficiency)
- Environment (Carbon-capture-conversion (CCU), Nitrogen conversion, environmental intelligence)
- Emerging cleantech: Renewable Fuels and Chemicals (H2 technology (production, storage, use) etc.)

### **Health**

- DNA Storage
- Neurotech

Note: The listed subtopics are provided for informational purposes only, and while we appreciate a broad understanding, experts are not expected to possess specialized expertise in these subtopics as they will receive support from the EIC program managers.

### **Expression of Interest:**

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### **Role of the Thematic Experts:**

- Provide specialized knowledge and insights in subjects within EIC communities.
- Offer guidance and support to CoP members based on their expertise.
- Contribute to the development of high-quality content and resources related to their thematic focus.
- Foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing within the community.
- Assist in shaping and implementing strategies that align with the community's goals and priorities.
- Develop needed reports such as activity reports and Best Practices Collection report and recommendations.

## Why to be involved?

### For EBN members

Engaging in the CoPs opens extensive **networking possibilities**, fostering valuable **connections and collaborations**.

By taking part in **knowledge exchange** and CoP discussions, EBN members can stay informed about **the latest industry trends**, ensuring they remain at the forefront of innovation.

Additionally, involvement in the CoPs provides a platform to showcase successes, **gain visibility**, and **attract potential partnerships and funding opportunities**.

### For EIC projects

The involvement in the CoPs offers the opportunities to EIC projects to take part in **networking activities**, develop discussions around topics of their interest, **exchange best practices** and capitalize results as well as to **participate in future EIC challenges and European projects**, give visibility to **success stories**, contribute to the discussion around future breakthrough technologies.

## Activities to be delivered:

Each thematic expert will be in charge of organizing for their CoP (Industry, Health or CleanTech) the following:

### Online Information Days:

- Two per CoP; one in Sept-Oct 2024 and another one in Sept-Oct 2025.
- Stakeholders involved: EIC projects, EIC representatives and stakeholders (EBN members, etc.)
- Moderated by the selected organizations and CoP managers (from EBN staff)
- Type of Activities: Panel discussions on latest policy/regulatory insights, Technological breakthroughs, Latest achievements of the CoP portfolio, Presentations of selected projects.

### Online Thematic Workshops:

- Potentially on the same day as the Information Day: Two per CoP; one in Sept-Oct 2024 and another one in Sept-Oct 2025
- Subjects related to the challenges identified by the EIC projects / latest innovation breakthrough.

### Role in the activities: Information Days and Thematic Workshops:

- Thematic experts will meet regularly with EBN team, EIC project partners and EIC PMs to organise the workshops and Information Days.

- They will lead in the design, implementation, and coordination of the activities.
- After the events/workshops, thematic experts will develop an activity report with main takeaways but also, novelties and added value that the projects are bringing, insights, experts, advice, and recommendations, etc.
- Thematic experts will serve in an advisory capacity as an integral aspect of their role across various activities. These include participation/attendance in pitching events scheduled for October 2024 and October 2025, engaging in bilateral exchanges set for February 2026, as well as attending to side activities like training workshops (averaging 3 per CoP).

#### Information days / Interactive Online Academies

- Organised online with the EIC Information Day with a view to develop synergies with them.
- Involving the EIC stakeholders and communities and built around 3 main activities:
  1. Three presentations (one per thematic area) delivered by EIC representatives focused on forthcoming opportunities in terms of Open and Challenge calls in plenary with all CoPs involved.
  2. Pitching sessions where experts will pitch their ideas for future projects or if available expertise, in order to apply to the presented calls.
  3. Matchmaking to cross Project and Experts from different areas to explore the potential creation of consortia for the presented calls.
- In the framework of the Information Day, 2 Future Tech Weeks will be launched.

#### Role in the activity:

- Thematic experts will meet regularly with EBN team, EIC project partners and EIC PMs to provide recommendations on the design of the academies.
- They will support in the moderation of the event.
- They will have a role in the point #3 on Matchmaking as they will contribute with recommendations of experts from their networks.

#### Available Budget:

Each organization selected and assigned to a specific topic (Industry, Cleantech, or Health) will be eligible to receive **10,000€** to be received upon the delivery of the activities and their reports. This financial support is intended for engaging an expert or a number of experts who will actively contribute to the design, coordination, implementation, and delivery of activities. Additionally, the allocated funds will cover the expert's involvement in report writing during the period from April 2024 to February 2026 (four activity reports

per CoP and one Best Practice collection report as per the template provided by EBN team members)

## How to be involved?

### Application Guidelines

- Submission of a cover letter specifying the interest in participating in the project and outlining how skills and expertise contribute to its success. The organisation should indicate in the cover letter to which of the 3 different CoPs it is applying.
- Submission of a detailed Curriculum Vitae (CV) highlighting the qualifications and experiences of the expert(s) seeking involvement in the assignment.
- Organisations should anticipate engagement in tasks such as report writing, recommendations, and a report on the collection of best practices.
- Submitted documents should provide evidence of meeting the required qualifications and experiences.
- All applications must be sent via email to the specified address: Joanna Abi Abdallah [joanna.abiabdallah@ebn.eu](mailto:joanna.abiabdallah@ebn.eu)
- Ensure timely submission of your application. **The deadline for applications is [April 3rd, 2024].**

### Selection Criteria

- Experience of the organization in topics of the EIC Communities project
- CV of expert (s) and work references
- Motivation to contribute to CoP activities (Cover letter), include the ability to commit for the full project duration until end February 2026

Your commitment to providing thorough documentation will enhance the evaluation process and contribute to a successful collaboration.

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