

The European Innovation Council

# Backing visionary entrepreneurs

*GovTech workshop*

Pedro Canto e Castro

European Innovation Council and SMEs

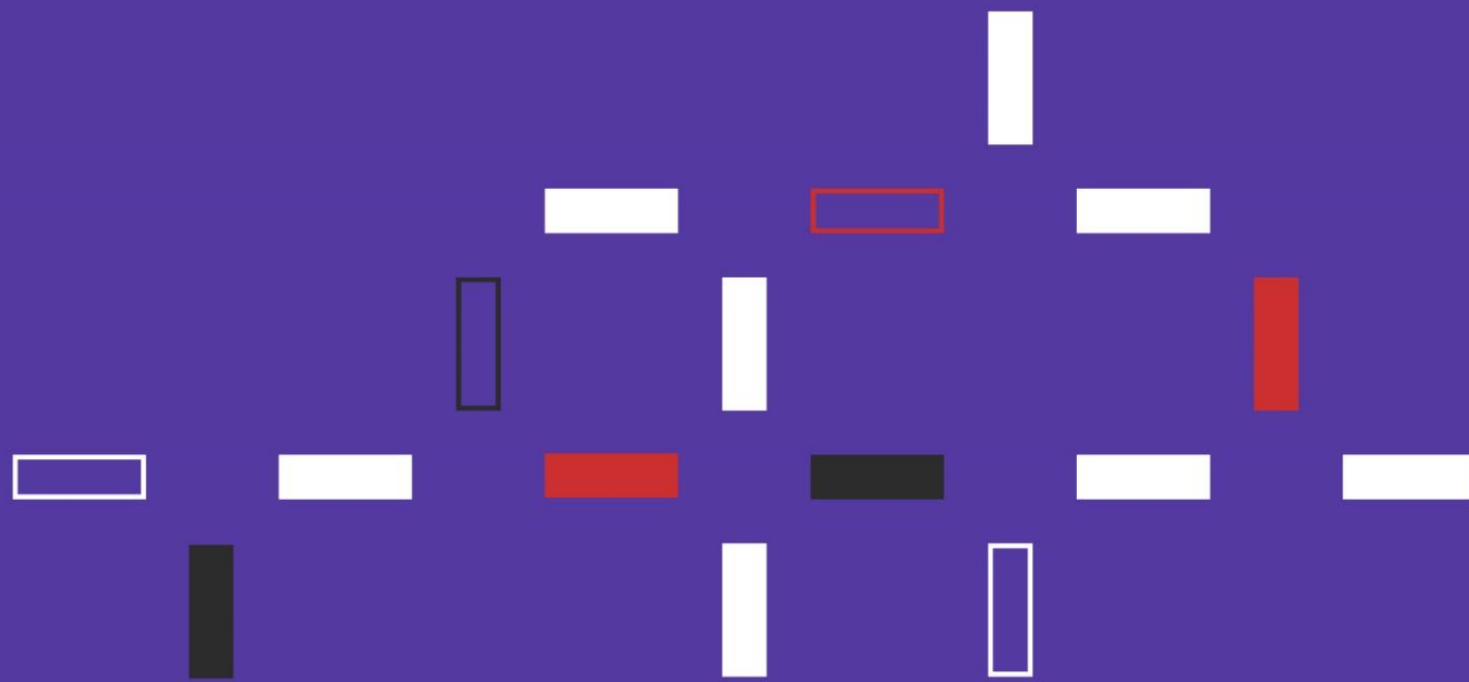
Executive Agency

European  
Innovation  
Council





# What is the European Innovation Council?



# What is the European Innovation Council?



**One stop shop** for  
breakthrough, deep-tech,  
market-creating innovators

- Open to all innovators, in any field, at any time
- Complemented by targeted funding on strategic challenges
- Highly competitive for Europe's high potential innovators

**Agile funding** from idea to  
investment

- **Pathfinder** for advanced research on emerging technologies
- **Transition** from lab to commercial setting
- **Accelerator & EIC Fund** to scale up innovations by start-ups/ SMEs

**Building ecosystems** and  
communities

- Access to Business Acceleration Services (coaches, mentors, corporates, investors & knowledge partners)
- EIC Programme Managers to develop visions for breakthroughs, manage portfolios, and connect to ecosystems
- Crowding in other investors (VC, corporates, etc.)



# Main characteristics of the EIC

- **€10 billion budget** to identify, develop and scale up breakthrough technologies and disruptive innovations in Europe
- **Unique** in the world to combine research on emerging technologies with Accelerator for startups, SMEs and scaleups
- **EIC Fund** largest VC deep-tech investor in Europe (over €3 billion)
- **Innovator-centric** steered by Board of leading innovators
- **Pro-active approach** through EIC Programme Managers and specific rules on dissemination and IPR
- Enhances the **European innovation ecosystem** (partnerships with ERC, EIT)
- Building on **successful €3.5 billion pilot phase (2018-20)**





# Part of the Innovative Europe pillar of Horizon Europe

## European Innovation Council

- Support to innovations with breakthrough and market creating potential

**€10.1 billion**

## European innovation ecosystems

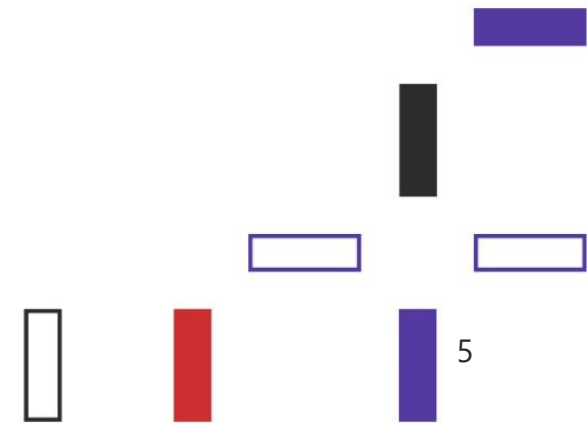
- Connecting with regional and national innovation actors

**€520 million**

## European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

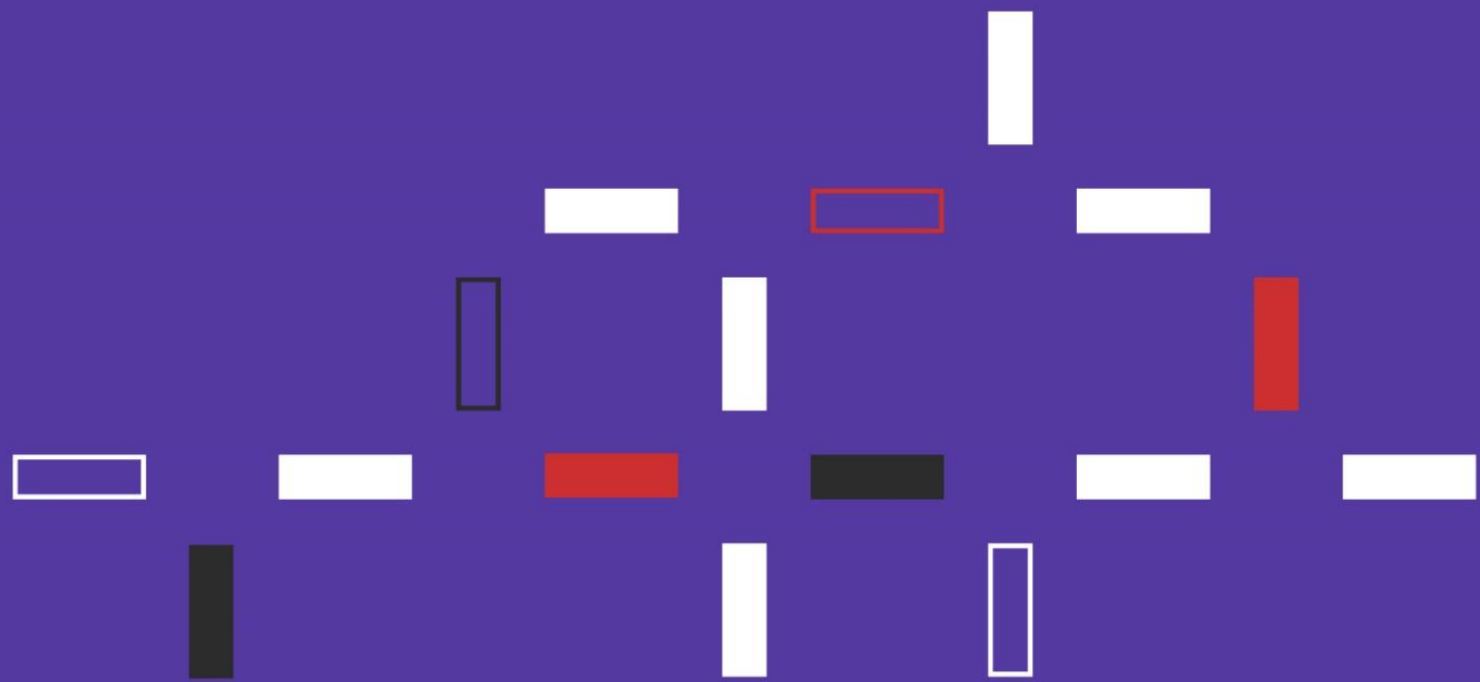
- Bringing key actors (research, education and business) together around a common goal for nurturing innovation

**€2.9 billion**





# Applying to the EIC Accelerator?





## EIC Accelerator: For startups & SMEs with:

- Disruptive/ breakthrough innovations
  - The potential to scale up at European/global levels
  - A strong team and high-risk profile which cannot be fully financed by private investors
- 
- **Individual companies: startups**, SMEs, in exceptional cases small mid caps (up to 500 employees)
  - **Continuously open** for applications (also from individuals intending to start a company and investors intend to support a company)
  - **Mainly open** (“bottom up”) but also **Accelerator challenges** (e.g. Green Deal, Strategic Technologies)
  - Mainly **blended finance (grant + investment)**, but options for “grant only” and “grant first” (with investment follow up)
  - **Funding up to €17.5m** (Grants up to €2.5 million; equity €0.5-15m)





# The EIC Fund

Manages equity investments in startups & SMEs selected by EIC Accelerator

Dedicated Venture capital fund – only for investing in companies selected by EIC

Bridges equity funding gap at early stage (seed, first rounds)

Crowds in other investors, provides investment opportunities for VCs and other Funds

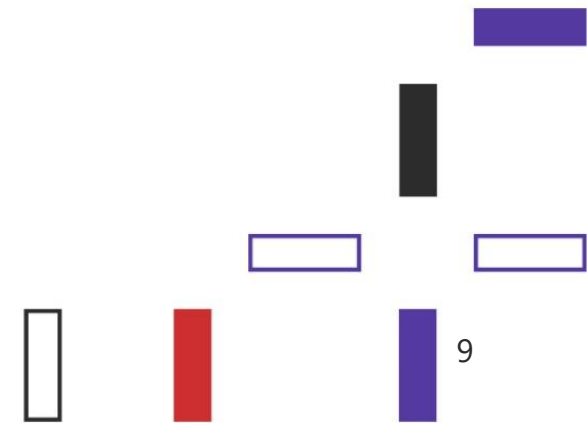






# EIC fund: Investment strategy

- Provides **patient capital** in the form of equity or quasi-equity.
- Invests at **early stage** (seed, start-up, scale-up) from €0.5 to 15 million.
- May reserve **follow-on capital** to invest in subsequent series.
- Usually targets **minority ownership** stakes (from 10 to 25%), but up to a blocking minority in cases of strategic interest for the EU.
- Investments will normally be made with a **long average perspective** (7-10 years) with a maximum of 15 years.





# EIC Business Acceleration Services



**Access to Advice:** Coaching, Mentoring, Expertise & Training  
Specific Support for: **Women Innovators, Reducing GHG** emissions



**Access to business partners:** Corporates, Investors, Procurers, etc

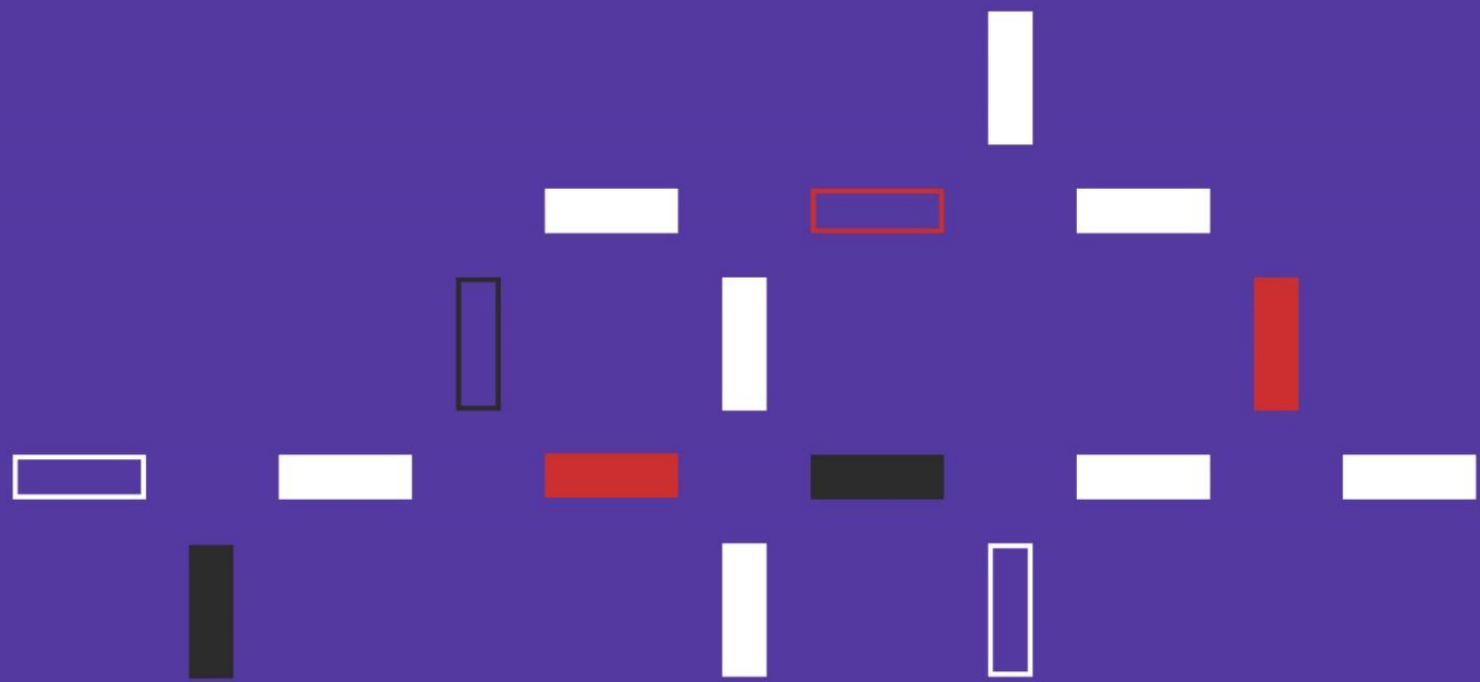


**Access to innovation ecosystem & peers:** EIT, EEN, Incubators, Accelerators, Agencies, IPR Helpdesk, Overseas Trade Fairs





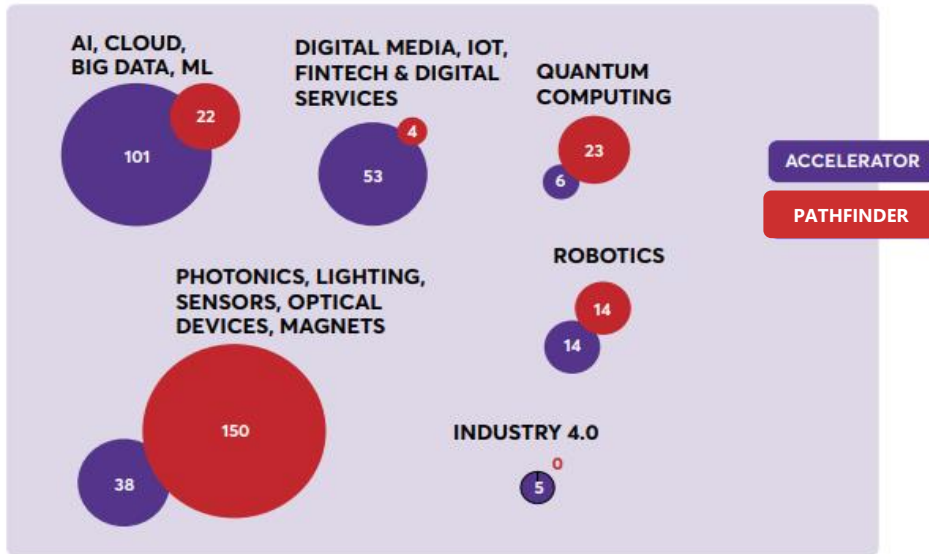
# European Innovation Council – First Impacts from pilot phase (2018-20)



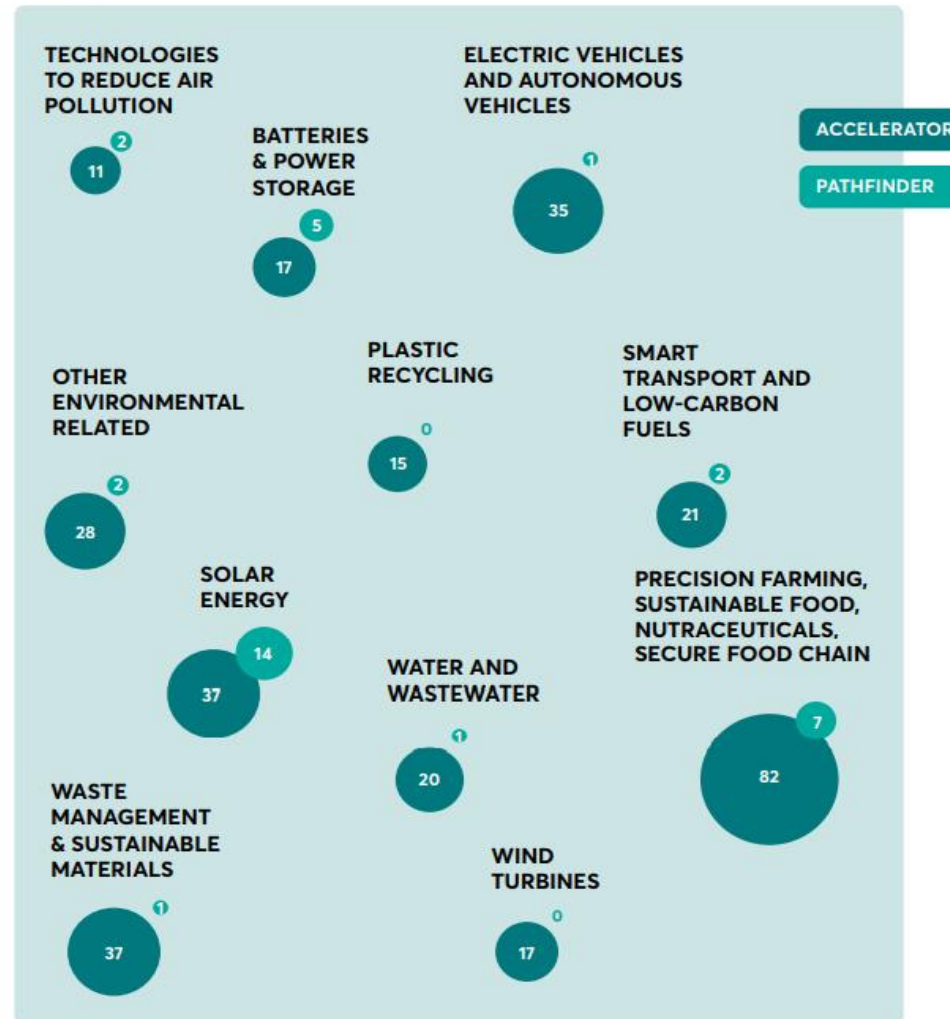
# 768 "Accelerator" companies and 330 "pathfinder" research projects



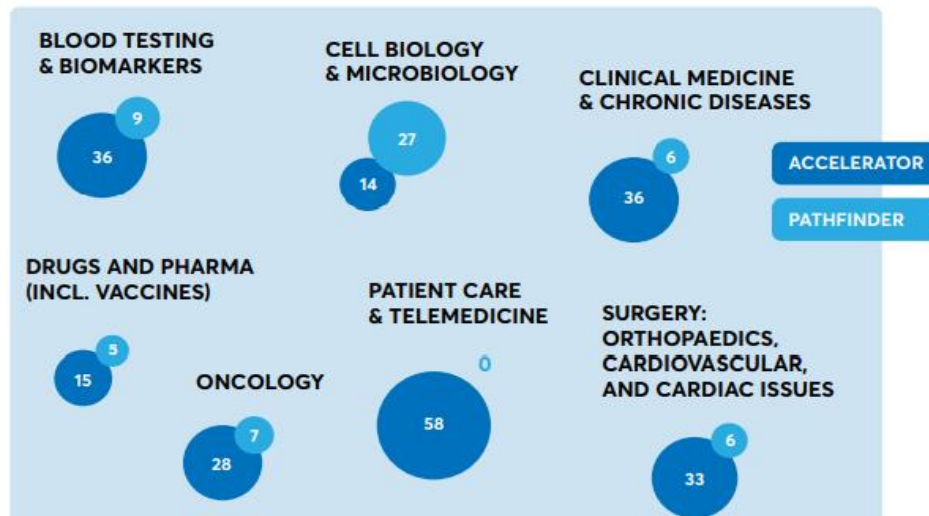
For Digital and Industry 5.0



For Green



For Health





## *Of which 137 EIC Fund investments (~€600m)*

- **CorWave**

- Medtech French startup developing an implantable heart pump based on breakthrough wave membrane technology.
- EIC fund investment of €15m as part of €35 million Series C round.

- **NIL Technology**

- Danish startup developing optical sensing and 3D imaging technologies.
- EIC Fund participated with €10 million in €26 million financing round.



## *3 startups supported by EIC pilot have become Unicorns*



**CELLINK (Sweden)** - designs and develops bioprinting technologies that enable researchers to 3D print organs and tissue.



**BioArctic (Sweden)** - research intensive biopharma company developing new treatments that address the causes of disorders that affect the Central Nervous System



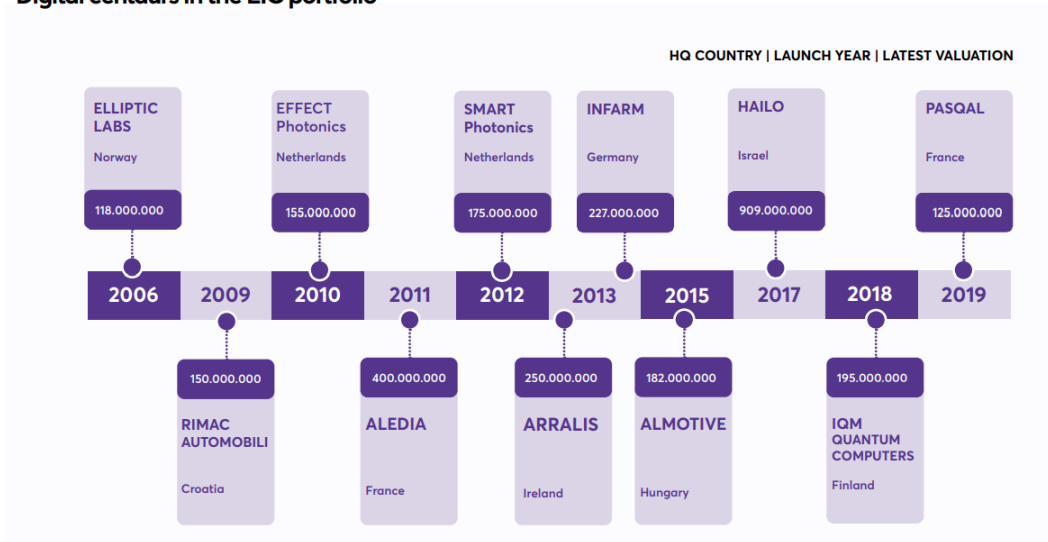
**Sword Health (Portugal)** - provides virtual therapy for musculoskeletal conditions



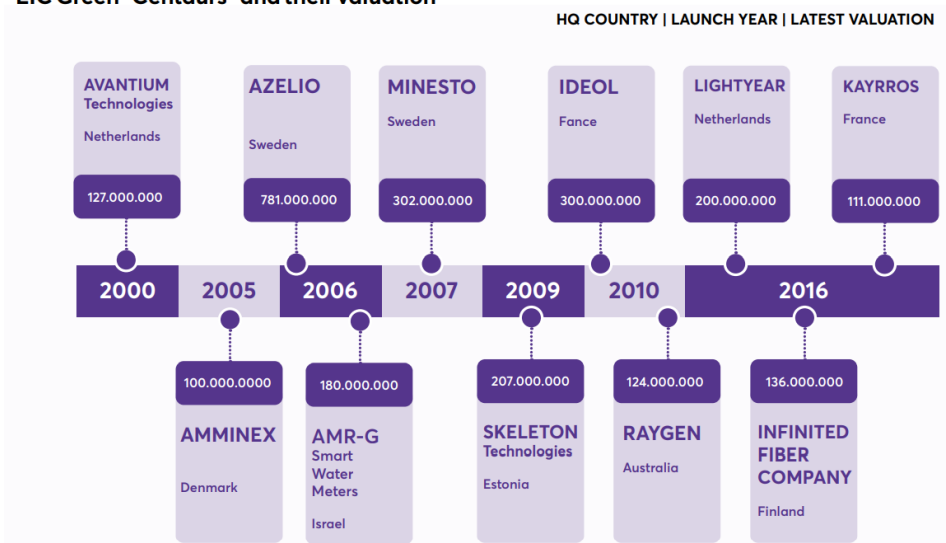
# 91 Startups supported by EIC pilot have become Centaurs



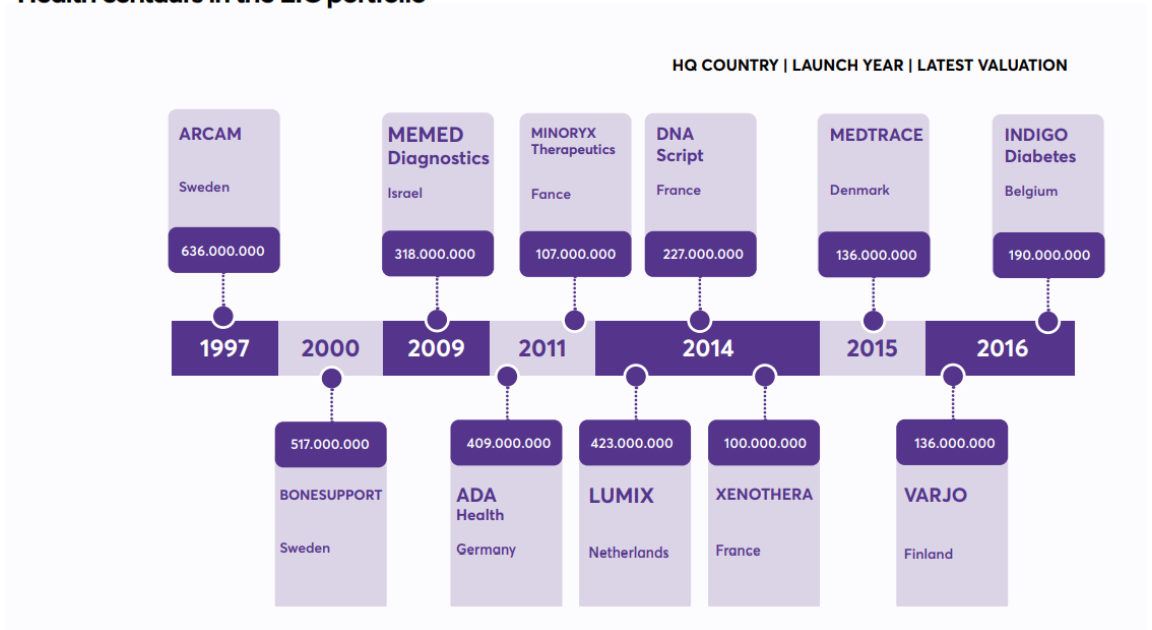
## Digital centaurs in the EIC portfolio



## EIC Green "Centaurs" and their valuation



## Health centaurs in the EIC portfolio





# Thank you!

[eic.ec.europa.eu](http://eic.ec.europa.eu)

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