

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN OPEN CALL FOR RECIPIENTS OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Action acronym: EmpoWomen

Action grant agreement number: 101120693

Action full name: Acceleration programme empowering women-led deep tech startups in Widening Areas

The action **EmpoWomen**, funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101120693, foresees as an eligible activity the provision of financial support to third parties, as a mean to achieve its own objectives.

EmpoWomen_OC#2 is committed to supporting **women-led deep-tech startups in Widening Areas**, particularly at the early stages. In the second open call, the EmpoWomen project will provide equity-free funding and support services to **up to 14 women-led startups**. Each selected startup will have access to a **6-month program**, which includes dedicated acceleration and investment readiness support services.

The financial support provided by the EmpoWomen project will consist of **three key components**:

1. **Grant:** Startups will receive a grant of **up to 45,000 EUR**. This funding is intended to support essential activities for business development, as well as to cover their participation in the acceleration program. The grant will be **distributed in three phases**, each aligned with key milestones in the EmpoWomen acceleration program.
2. **Demo Day Prizes:** The Demo Day will provide beneficiaries with the opportunity to present their startups to both programme mentors and external judges. On this day, the EmpoWomen Awards Ceremony will also take place, where startups will be assessed on their performance and potential. The **top three startups** chosen during this event will receive project prizes according to their ranking: Prize 1: 15,000 EUR; Prize 2: 11,500 EUR; Prize 3: 6,000 EUR.
3. **Vouchers:** The acceleration programme incorporates three distinct vouchers aimed at enhancing the entrepreneurial journey.
 - **Voucher 1. Access to Events:** Covering expenses for attending EU tech summits. Valued at 5,000 EUR per startup.
 - **Voucher 2. Business Angels (BA) Investment Readiness Programme:** Dedicated programme on business angels' investment provided directly by real angel investors. Valued at 2,400 EUR per startup.
 - **Voucher 3. Mentoring:** up to 16 sessions of a dedicated mentor for the company. Valued at 5,000 EUR per startup.



Open call launch: 01/10/2024.

Deadline: 02/12/2024, 17:00 CET

Expected duration of participation: 6 months (all phases).

Maximum amount of financial support for each third party: up to 60,000 EUR.

Call identifier: EmpoWomen_OC#2

Language in which application should be submitted: English

Web address for further information: www.empowomen.eu

Email address for further information: helpdesk@empowomen.eu

