

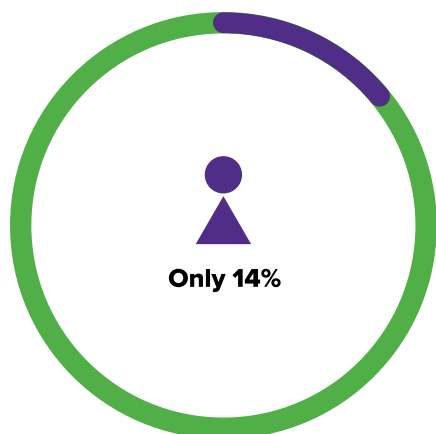
Analysis of the role and impact of EU public funding programmes in fostering women-led entrepreneurship in deep-tech.

Infographic / October 2025

www.empowomen.eu

Have any questions? Please contact
helpdesk@empowomen.eu

The Problem: Structural Barriers and Underfunding



Founders Representation

Only 14% of deep-tech startup founders in Europe are women (as of 2024). *Source: The Deep-Tech Talent in Europe Report (2024)*

Venture Capital Gap

Startups led exclusively by women receive less than 2% of total venture capital investment. *Source: Dealroom / European Women in VC*

Less than 2%

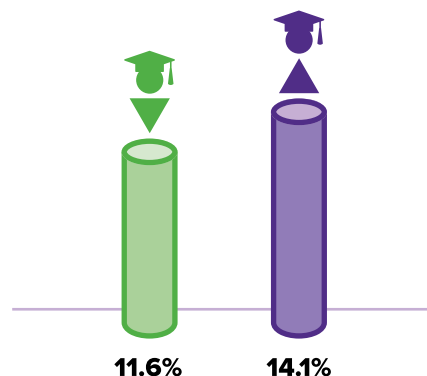


Funding Disparity

Men-led companies raise 1.8 times more capital on average than women-led companies. *Source: Dealroom / European Women in VC*

"Over-Qualification" Bias

14.1% of women deep-tech founders hold a PhD, compared to 11.6% of male founders. *Source: The Deep-Tech Talent in Europe Report (2024)*



The Proof & The Solution. EmpoWomen's Impact

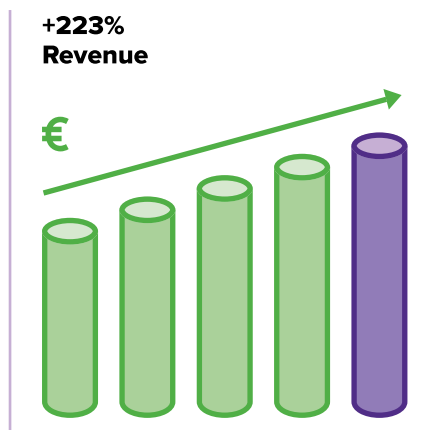


Capital Efficiency

Women-founded startups generated €0.78 in revenue for every €1 raised, more than double the €0.31 achieved by male-led firms. *Source: BCG (2018)*

Startup Resilience

Women-led deep-tech ventures have a failure rate of just 27%, compared to 59% for male-founded startups. *Source: BCG / GENDEX Report*

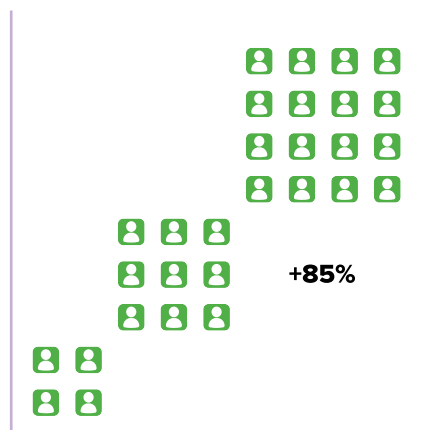


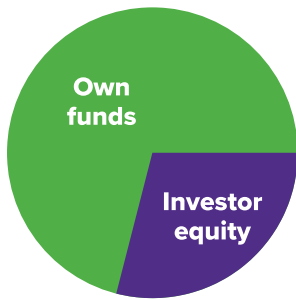
Impact of Public Funding (Revenue)

Women-led startups that received public funding (Cohort A) saw a remarkable +223% growth in revenue in the year after the program (vs. a decline in non-funded peers). *Source: EmpoWomen White Paper, Quantitative Analysis*

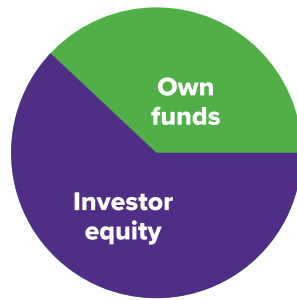
Impact of Public Funding (Jobs)

Cohort A experienced +85% growth in employment (Full-Time Equivalent employees) in the year after the program. *Source: EmpoWomen White Paper, Quantitative Analysis*





Cohort A



Cohort B

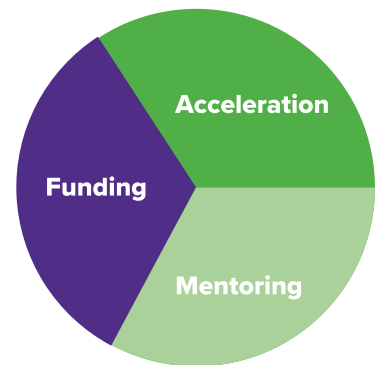
Impact of Public Funding (Equity Dilution) Reduced Dilution

Public support reduced the need for equity dilution in funded companies (+29% increase in private equity funding) compared to non-funded companies (+62% increase). *Source: EmpoWomen White Paper, Quantitative Analysis*

EmpoWomen Role

EmpoWomen, a Horizon Europe project, provides equity-free funding up to €60,000 alongside mentoring and acceleration in moderate and modest innovation regions.

Source: EmpoWomen Project Mandate



The evidence is clear: EU public funding is a powerful catalyst. Our study proves that support mechanisms like EmpoWomen and other similar programs generate a massive return on investment, propelling women-led deep-tech ventures to spectacular growth, including a 223% rise in revenue and an 85% increase in employment, as well as other effects, demonstrated in this infographic. Gender equity is not a social add-on—it is a precondition for excellence and competitiveness in Europe's deep-tech future.

We urge policymakers, investors, and all innovation stakeholders to take into consideration the 12 Policy Recommendations outlined in the Empowomen White Paper.

Unleash the full force of European innovation. Invest in women. Reform the system.

**Read the full
whitepaper:**



www.empowomen.eu

Have any questions? Please contact
helpdesk@empowomen.eu



**Funded by
the European Union**