



IMPETUS

Accelerator Call 2025

Frequently Asked Questions

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General

What is IMPETUS?

IMPETUS is a project funded by the European Commission to support and give recognition to citizen science in Europe.

IMPETUS' goal is to

- enable more diverse citizen science initiatives to access funding;
- bring citizen science closer to society and policy makers;
- acknowledge the role of citizen science in tackling the greatest challenges of our times; and
- enable citizen science initiatives to contribute to Green Deal and UN Sustainable Development Goal commitments.

IMPETUS will do this by directly **funding and supporting citizen science initiatives** selected through open calls; awarding the **European Union Prize for Citizen Science** to outstanding projects; and developing **resources that help citizen science initiatives** become more impactful and sustainable.

IMPETUS is funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Programme. It is delivered by [Zabala](#), [King's College London](#), [Science for Change](#), [T6 Ecosystems srl](#), [EUSEA](#), [Ars Electronica](#), and [Nesta UK](#). It started in July 2022 and will run until June 2026.

What is citizen science?

IMPETUS takes an inclusive view on citizen science. We broadly follow the [Green Paper on Citizen Science for Europe](#) from January 2014, which defines it as the public participating *“in scientific research activities, when citizens actively contribute to science either with their intellectual effort or surrounding knowledge or with their tools and resources.”*

The term covers a range of activities with different levels of participation, from data collection in projects led by trained scientists, to co-designing research questions and policy, to science literacy and public engagement. To truly be considered citizen science it is important that projects have the intention to contribute to research, to produce new research-based knowledge, and for their activities to be carried out by participating citizens. Citizen participation is inherent to citizen science projects and their goals.

Citizen science engages volunteers in a range of scientific activities. This helps educate and inform citizens in the subject matter and leads to greater



public understanding of how science and scientists work. Participation in citizen science can increase trust in science and expert opinions, enhance critical thinking, and ultimately fight misinformation, disinformation and fake news. Scientists can learn from citizen science about what people genuinely care about, the impact their work has or should have in society, and become more participatory, by involving volunteers early on in co-designing the research, collecting, cleaning, and analysing the data, documenting the results, and sharing the recognition.

While inclusive, various types of relevant activities are not citizen science. For example: for us it is important that there is a scientific question and methodology, and that the activities are *carried out by* participating citizens.

To get an idea of the type of project IMPETUS would like to support, please refer to the projects funded in our previous call on our website:

<https://impetus4cs.eu/accelerator/#csis>

Accelerator call

What is the call about?

IMPETUS is seeking to partner with:

- citizen science projects that want to contribute to measuring progress against sustainable development goals (SDGs);
- new citizen science projects that need support and funding to get off the ground;
- ongoing citizen science projects looking for support and resources to grow and become sustainable;
- communities interested in co-designing research in relevant disciplines;
- organisations in the public, private and third sectors exploring the use of citizen science in their work.

We are looking to fund and support citizen science initiatives tackling one of our two challenges:

1. Citizen Science for Circular Communities
2. Citizen Science for a Fair and Just Society

IMPETUS will provide support and funding for a seven-month project, alongside dedicated acceleration activities, resources and tools to set up and run the project. You will have access to a dedicated support programme, as



well as a community of like-minded initiatives, tackling similar challenges and contributing to common aims.

What kinds of grants are available?

Kickstarting grants support projects to develop a new citizen science initiative. Initiatives can have been under development beforehand, but should not be older than six months, and not have established data collection or processing procedures.

Sustaining grants support projects to further develop an already existing citizen science initiative. Initiatives should have already established processes, an engaged community, and initial evidence of impact, which you will need to provide in your online application form. We expect these grants to be awarded for the continuation, enhancing of impact, and/or further establishment of existing projects, but not to maintain general project activities.

How many calls will you have?

IMPETUS runs three open calls, between January and March in 2023, 2024, and 2025. The dates may change slightly. This FAQ is for the third open call only.

When does the call open?

7th January 2025, 12:00 (noon) Brussels time

When does the second call close?

13th March 2025, 12:00 (noon) Brussels time

How much funding is available?

IMPETUS will award a total of 2,25 million Euros in funding across all open calls. Funds are divided between kickstarting projects, funded at 20,000€ each, and sustaining projects, funded at 10,000€ each.

In this third open call, we aim to allocate 920,000€.

How many projects will be funded?

Overall, IMPETUS aims to fund 100 kickstarting projects and 25 sustaining projects.

For this second open call, we aim to recruit 36 kickstarting and 10 sustaining projects, though numbers may differ slightly depending on applications received.



How do I apply?

Follow the instructions from <https://impetus4cs.eu/>

Eligibility

Who is eligible?

Individuals, legal entities and **consortia** may apply.

All applicants must be **established, and** the project **delivered, in EU Member States or third countries in Europe** that are associated or negotiating an association agreement with Horizon Europe. A list of all eligible countries is available on our website.

Can individuals apply to IMPETUS?

Yes, **individuals** can apply, but they will be subject to additional checks before funding is released.

Can consortia apply to IMPETUS?

Yes. The funding is available to **consortia**. All consortium partners must meet the location eligibility criteria described above. One lead partner must submit the application, engage with IMPETUS, and distribute funds on behalf of the consortium. There is no minimum or maximum size for consortia, but they need to be appropriate to the amount of funding requested and to deliver the proposed project.

How do I know if I am eligible to apply?

Eligibility differs depending on the type of grant and challenge you want to apply for. The basic eligibility rules are:

1. Your topic has to fit into one of the IMPETUS challenges
2. You have to apply as an individual, legal entity, or consortium
3. You, your project, and all partners (if any) have to be based in the European Research Area
4. You must submit an application form that meets the formal requirements (see first page on the application form)
5. You have to submit a signed and dated declaration of honour.
6. Your project age, status, and proposed budget, have to be aligned with the type of grant you apply for.

Please also refer to the graphic guide on the call website, and the '[Guide for Applicants](#)', which describes the rules in more detail.



Are applicants from Switzerland eligible to apply?

Yes, under the terms of the transitional arrangement in place ahead of Switzerland receiving Associated Country status for Horizon Europe, Swiss individuals, legal entities and organisations are eligible to apply to and take part in the IMPETUS accelerator. Please note that all other eligibility criteria apply.

Submission

Can I submit more than one application for the same call?

You can participate one application only, either on your own or as part of a consortium.

Can I apply for the Accelerator call and the European Union Prize for Citizen Science?

Yes! This is not only possible, but strongly encouraged, especially if you are planning to apply for a sustaining grant. Please find details about the application process for the Prize here:

<https://ars.electronica.art/citizenscience/en/>

I already received funding in a previous call, can I apply again?

If you received a kickstarting grant in the past, you may apply for a sustaining grant in subsequent calls, and vice versa. You may not apply again for the same type of grant.

Does IMPETUS offer a pre-proposal check?

For this third open call, IMPETUS will be conducting rolling eligibility checks. We aim to complete an eligibility check for each submitted application within 3 working days and applicants will be informed of the eligibility check decision. Applicants will be advised if their application has been deemed to be ineligible and what changes – if anything – can be made to meet the eligibility criteria. However, please be advised that we expect to receive a very high number of applications from the **7th of March** onwards. Due to this high number of submissions, we will be unable to complete an eligibility



check for submissions made after this date prior to the submission deadline. Applicants who expect to rely on this rolling eligibility check are therefore **strongly** advised to submit their application as early as possible.

Please note, a finding that a project is eligible is no guarantee of acceptance. The acceptance of a project will be at the discretion of the review panel.

Can I apply if I am already receiving funds from another programme?

The activities you plan to carry out with IMPETUS cannot receive double funding. Synergies with other sources of funding, including other Horizon 2020 or Horizon Europe projects, are encouraged as long as the grants are used for complementary, not overlapping purposes.

Can I submit documents that are not in English?

No. All documents submitted to IMPETUS must be in English. IMPETUS will not be able to accept any documents in other languages.

How do I submit my application on EasyChair?

Please refer to our EasyChair [user guide](#) for a detailed overview.

How do I know my submission has gone through?

Our submission platform, EasyChair, will send an automated email to the address you added in the online application form. This will include confirmation that the submission was received, and your reference number. If you do not receive this email, please get in touch with us on opencall@impetus4cs.eu.

Do I need to submit a signed copy of the contract?

No, you do not need to submit a signed copy of the contract at the application stage. Contracts will be finalised and signed at the negotiation stage if your application is successful. However, you are asked to read the contract, ensure you understand it and indicate your agreement in principle to the terms while making your application. This does not bind you to the terms of the contract. However, since we have only a limited period of time for negotiations and given that we are unable to substantially edit the terms of the contract, applicants who are unable to agree to the terms at application are unlikely to be able to enter the accelerator.



Responsible research and innovation

What happens with the data the project collects?

Applicants will have to be clear in their applications about what data that will be collected or generated through the project. For citizen science projects in which citizens will produce data to help with scientific inquiries, the application needs to include details about how data will be managed during and after the project implementation, including, if relevant, any GDPR concerns. You do not need to share the data you collect with IMPETUS, though we encourage you to publish any non-sensitive data following open science best practice.

Who keeps the IP you develop?

You will be the sole owner of the results and outcomes of your project, and all associated IP. However, we expect projects to follow an open approach, sharing results and experiences widely with the community. In addition, IMPETUS or the European Commission may ask you to present your work as part of our public relations and networking events, in order to showcase the benefits of the IMPETUS programme.

Do I need to share everything openly?

We will give preference to proposals that are committed to making their data and outputs available for reuse, following an open science approach. IMPETUS will support successful applicants to do so.

What do I need to know about ethics?

IMPETUS expects all successful applicants to the citizen science accelerator to abide by guidelines for ethical research. Most significantly, projects will be expected to ensure the informed consent of any human participants, who should be provided clear and concise instructions on what is expected of them, what personal or sensitive data will be gathered about them and how they can request the deletion of this data. Moreover, we require all projects to ensure adequate data protection practises are in place to securely store any data gathered by or about volunteers including, but not limited to: pseudonymisation, anonymisation and aggregation of data; encryption and use of secure servers.



We expect applicants to outline their plans to ensure this in their proposal. In addition, IMPETUS will provide advice and support on dealing with these aspects throughout the accelerator.

Please also refer to the [IMPETUS Code of Conduct](#), which we encourage selected projects to abide by.

Evaluation

How does IMPETUS select applications?

We follow a four-step process:

1. Eligibility checks: IMPETUS checks if eligibility criteria are met. Proposals considered not eligible will not proceed to step 2 of the evaluation process.
2. Reviews and shortlist: Eligible proposals will be evaluated by at least two reviewers.
3. Interview: Shortlisted applicants will be invited to a remote interview with an expert panel.
4. Decisions: After the interview, the panel will decide whether to accept the applicant into the programme.

When will I know if I'm shortlisted?

By the 9th of April 2025

What will the interview consist of?

During the interview we will ask you to give a presentation of your application of no more than 5 minutes, followed by up to 20 minutes of questions from a panel.

How many people can participate in the interview?

There is no limit to the size of the team as long as the participants add to the discussions.

Will I receive feedback?

All applicants who have submitted eligible applications will receive comments from the reviewers on their application forms.



When will the interviews be?

All interviews will happen between 14th and 25th April. We plan to send out invitations by 9th April 2025, including a time slot for the interview.

Can I reschedule the interview?

Unfortunately, we will not be able to negotiate interview dates and related conditions with the applicants and may not answer any queries on the subject. If an applicant or any of their team members are not able to attend the interview, we will have to reject their application.

When will I know if my application was approved/rejected?

We plan to inform all applicants by the 9th of April whether they've been invited to interviews or not. Applicants who made it through the interviews will receive the outcomes by 30th of April.

Can I change my application once submitted?

You can update your application and resubmit as many times as you wish up until the deadline. Only the last submission made before the call deadline will be reviewed.

Can I apply again if my application is not successful?

If your application was not successful in the first or second calls, you can submit a new application in the third call. However, please note that each call has different challenges and requirements, and a project that was suitable for the first or second call may not be suitable for the third.

Costs, payments and legal

What funding is available per project?

Kickstarting projects can receive 20,000€.

Sustaining projects can receive 10,000€.

What can I spend the funding on?

The funding can be spent on salaries, equipment, consumables, travel, subcontracting to other entities, and indirect expenditure (calculated as 25% of the total direct costs), in accordance with Horizon Europe guidelines. ([See here for an accessible overview.](#))



Please explain in your application what specific activities the funding will be used for. More information on funding can be found in the Guide for Applicants.

How are the payments scheduled?

Funds will be transferred in two stages – 50% at the beginning of the project (end of June 2025), and the remaining 50% at the end after the final review, upon achievement of the milestones and deliverables (end of February 2026). Please be aware that this means that some of the costs will need to be advanced by projects until the final payment.

Is subcontracting allowed?

Applicants may subcontract some of their activities to other parties as long as they are also from a Horizon Europe eligible country. No indirect costs (overhead) can be charged on subcontracting costs. Note that we expect the applicant to carry out most of the tasks of the project themselves. Subcontracting cannot be used to carry out key tasks in the project.

What do I have to do to receive the final payment?

You will receive the final payment on completing all of the below activities:

- Implement a seven-month project as agreed during the negotiation phase and specified in the contract;
- During the project implementation:
 - Attend training sessions (minimum requirement Kickstarting: 4 of 5; Sustaining: 2 of 5; approx. one per month, two hours each);
 - Attend at least 1 of 2 Aperitive meetings (two hours each);
 - Attend monthly update calls with your mentor;
 - Provide pictures and text on your project to be shared on the IMPETUS website and social media channels;
 - Present your project at events as and when possible, acknowledging IMPETUS funding – all projects should allocate a portion of their budget to outreach activities;
 - Participate in IMPETUS impact assessment activities, defining and implementing a process for data gathering;;
 - Provide a formal report at the mid-term point;
- At the end of the project
 - Provide a formal report outlining your activities and achievements;
 - Compile a quali-quantitative impact assessment report following the methodology described in the IMPETUS training;
 - Create a short video and an article about the project;



- Attend an interview with and provide feedback to the IMPETUS team;
- Present your results at a final review meeting.



The accelerator

What will I need to do during the accelerator?

The Accelerator will be a very intense seven months, where you will be expected to develop and implement a project based on your application and the negotiation with IMPETUS. You will be expected to attend online events and provide information and documentation, and the workload for this will differ throughout the process:

- During the project implementation:
 - Attend training sessions (minimum requirement Kickstarting: 4 of 5; Sustaining: 2 of 5; approx. one per month, two hours each);
 - Attend at least 1 of 2 Aperitive meetings (two hours each);
 - Attend monthly update calls with your mentor;
 - Provide pictures and text on your project to be shared on the IMPETUS website and social media channels;
 - Present your project at events as and when possible, acknowledging IMPETUS funding – all projects should allocate a portion of their budget to outreach activities;
 - Participate in IMPETUS impact assessment activities, defining and implementing a process for data gathering;
 - Provide a formal report at the mid-term point;
- At the end of the project
 - Provide a formal report outlining your activities and achievements;
 - Compile a quali-quantitative impact assessment report following the methodology described in the IMPETUS training;
 - Create a short video and an article about the project;
 - Attend an interview with and provide feedback to the IMPETUS team;
 - Present your results at a final review meeting.

Where will the training take place?

- An initial workshop will take place online between 12th and 23rd May 2025, as part of the negotiation phase. This will help you define your work plan, which is part of your contract with IMPETUS.
- Further training and support sessions will be offered on online meeting platforms such as Microsoft Teams or Zoom.



Should I account for training in my budget?

- No. Trainings are free for supported projects, and we plan to hold all trainings and support sessions online.

Will I need to travel?

- You are not required to travel, but you can if you want to. We do not mandate any face-to-face events, but participants are strongly encouraged to include community engagement and outreach activities in their plans and budgets. All projects will also be invited to attend annual Ars Electronica Festival, which will offer an opportunity to meet IMPETUS peers and the project team. You will be able to get free access to the event, but you will have to pay for your own travel and accommodation.

How much time will I need to spend on Accelerator activities?

- We recommend expecting 1-2 hour every week for engagement with IMPETUS, for training, mentoring, and other engagement activities.
- Notice that, apart from this, there will be 3 periods of high intensity work with IMPETUS, coinciding with the beginning (negotiation phase), the middle (mid-term review) and the end of the project (final review).