

EPIC-X Open Call for Business Coaches

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

General information

[EPIC-X](#) invites experienced business coaches, strategic advisors, and other experts to support women-led deep-tech startups from 16 European countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Spain.

We are looking for expertise in areas such as market access, commercialisation, scaling, investment readiness, communication, leadership, deep-tech applications, and regulatory or IP-related matters to support 20 women-led deep-tech startups that have been selected for the EPIC-X Acceleration+ Programme, a six-month initiative running from April to September 2026.

Through this call, EPIC-X aims to build a pool of business coaches for possible matching during the Acceleration+ Programme. Inclusion in this pool is valid only for the duration of the EPIC-X Acceleration+ Programme and does not automatically guarantee a match with a startup.

This is an ongoing call assessed in two rounds, with cut-off dates on 30th April 2026 and 29th May 2026. Applications received by each cut-off will be reviewed shortly thereafter.

To apply, please complete the form below and upload the requested supporting documents. Applications must be submitted in English. For more information, read the [open call guidelines](#).

Personal details

* Name

* Email

* Phone number

* Country

Website or LinkedIn profile (*Please provide a link to your website if you have one. If not, please write "NOT APPLICABLE."*)

Availability and commitment

* Are you available to provide business coaching between April and September 2026?

- Yes
- No
- Partially

* Preferred coaching format

- Online
- Hybrid
- In person, where relevant
- Flexible

* Please indicate your general availability for coaching sessions

- Weekly
- Bi-weekly
- Monthly
- Flexible, depending on startup needs

* Are you able to provide coaching and communicate with startups in English? (*at least B2 - Common European Framework of Reference for Language skills*)

- Yes
- No

* Are you willing to work with women-led deep-tech startups in a constructive, inclusive, and founder-centred way?

- Yes
- No

* Do you accept that compensation for coaching will be arranged directly with the startup or startups you are matched with, in line with EPIC-X programme rules and the agreed scope of work?

- Yes
- No

Professional experience

* How many years of experience do you have in startup, innovation, investment, entrepreneurship?

- 5–7 years
- 8–10 years
- 10+ years

* Please describe your experience as a business coach or strategic advisor supporting startups or scaleups.

* Please indicate the type of support provided, the approximate duration of this experience, and any particular startup stages, sectors, or business challenges you have worked with.

* Please list any organisations, ecosystems, networks, investors, corporates, research organisations, accelerators, clusters, or public actors you have worked with in the last two years.

Areas of expertise

* Please select up to three areas in which you have the strongest expertise and where you believe you can provide the most value to EPIC-X startups.

- go-to-market strategy, market access/expansion, and internationalisation
- business development and commercialisation
- product development and productisation
- startup growth and scaling
- fundraising, investment readiness, and financial strategy
- communication, strategic positioning and visibility
- leadership and organisational development
- deep-tech, technical, or sector-specific guidance
- sector-specific regulatory, legal, IP compliance and technology transfer or market-entry considerations
- strategic partnerships and corporate collaboration

* Please briefly describe your expertise in the areas selected above. *Please focus on practical experience and the type of support you can offer to startups.*

* Please indicate whether you have experience in any of the following deep-tech or innovation-related domains. *Select all that apply.*

- AI / machine learning
- Biotechnology / health tech / medtech
- Advanced materials
- Energy / climate tech / cleantech
- Agritech / foodtech
- Mobility / transport
- Industry 4.0 / manufacturing
- Construction tech / PropTech
- Semiconductors / EDA
- Edtech
- HR tech / Future of work
- ESG / compliance SaaS
- Other deep-tech / innovation-driven domain
- No specific sector focus

If you select "Other", please specify.

* Please briefly describe your expertise in the domains selected above. *Please focus on practical experience and the type of support you can offer to startups.*

Startup Support Experience

* Please briefly describe up to 3 examples of startups you supported. *Please explain the challenge, your role, and the outcome achieved.*

* In which areas have you most frequently provided to startups? *Select all that apply.*

- go-to-market strategy, market access/expansion, and internationalisation
- business development and commercialisation
- product development and productisation
- startup growth and scaling

- fundraising, investment readiness, and financial strategy
- communication, strategic positioning and visibility
- leadership and organisational development
- deep-tech, technical, or sector-specific guidance
- sector-specific regulatory, legal, IP compliance and technology transfer or market-entry considerations
- strategic partnerships and corporate collaboration

* Please briefly describe examples in the areas chosen.

* Please indicate the startup stages you have most experience supporting.

- Early-stage
- Pre-seed
- Seed
- Post-seed
- Growth / scaleup

* Have you previously supported women-led startups?

- Yes
- No

Please describe any relevant experience supporting women-led ventures, promoting inclusive innovation, or addressing gender-related barriers in entrepreneurship.

Geographic and ecosystem knowledge

* Do you have strong knowledge of the startup or innovation ecosystem in one or more of the following EPIC-X countries *Select all that apply.*

- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Czech Republic
- Estonia
- Greece
- Hungary
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Malta
- Poland
-

- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- None of the above

* Please describe any relevant ecosystem, market, investor, cluster, corporate, research, or public-sector connections you can bring to the programme.

* Indicate the languages spoken professionally (*at least B2 - Common European Framework of Reference for Language skills*)

- English
- Bulgarian
- Croatian
- Czech
- Estonian
- Greek
- Hungarian
- Italian
- Latvian
- Lithuanian
- Maltese
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Slovakian
- Slovenian
- Spanish
- Other

If you selected "Other", please specify.

Supporting documents

Please attach your CV or professional biography highlighting relevant experience.

Please upload your statement of interest explaining your motivation to join EPIC-X, your relevant expertise, and the type of startups or challenges where you believe you can add most value, including relevant examples.

Conflict of interest

* Please declare if you have any actual or potential conflicts of interest with the startups involved in the EPIC-X Acceleration+ Programme. A conflict of interest may include, but is not limited to, any personal or professional relationships, investments, or affiliations that could influence the impartiality of your coaching.

- I have no conflicts of interest.
- I have a conflict of interest.

If you have a conflict of interest, please specify

Personal data consent

* By completing this form, you consent to the processing of your personal data by the EPIC-X consortium for the purposes of application, evaluation, selection, matching, contracting, and participation in the EPIC-X Acceleration+ Programme. This data will be processed in accordance with applicable EU and national data protection laws, particularly the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

- I give my consent
- I do not give my consent

Privacy notice

The personal data you provide in this form will be processed solely for the following purposes:

- Evaluating applications
- Selecting and matching business coaches
- Implementing the EPIC-X Acceleration+ Programme

Your personal data will not be shared with third parties without your consent, except as required by law.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the processing of your personal data, you may contact us at general@epic-x.eu.

In addition to the rights granted under the GDPR, you have the following rights regarding your personal data:

- Right to access: You can request a copy of your data.
- Right to erasure: You can request the deletion of your personal data, subject to certain conditions.

- Right to restrict processing: You can request limitations on how your data is used.

For more information, please refer to our full [Privacy Policy](#).

Contact

[Contact Form](#)