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# 14<sup>th</sup> MEETING SEAL OF EXCELLENCE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

## Experience and Plans of the Spanish National Scheme

21<sup>st</sup> October 2022  
Lucía Íñigo-Paarmann



# Horizon Europe - Support of EICA Seal of Excellence holders

## *SoE Programme*

- Next Generation EU as source of funds.
- Including two EICA cut-off dates: June + October 2021.
- 16 ES SME with EIAC SoE.

**20 M€  
2021**

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## *SoE Programme highlights I*

- Applying **GBER Amendment, article 25a**.
- Funding the grant part of the EICA project (TRL5-8), up to 2,5M€.
- #NextGenerationEU Funds.
- Call opened in November and closed in December 2021
- Managed by the Innovation Agency, including evaluation and technical and financial review of funded projects.

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## SoE Programme highlights II

- SoE in 2021 as eligibility criterion
- Call evaluation: no need of technical evaluation, only legal and financial checks, including checks of costs eligibility
- Delays due to late issue of the SoE certificates by EC
- Call resolution published in September 2022
- 15 ES companies applied (out of 16 eligible), asking for a total of 25,6M€. **14 projects to be financed, consuming 20M€.**

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## SoE Programme future

- SoE 2022: 30M€ for the 2022 EICA SoE.
- 31 eligible SoE projects from first and second 2022 cut-offs, requesting 64,25M€ in grant.
- Call to be published and closed in Q4 2022.
- End of #NextGenerationEU source of funds.
- No current plans to extend it with national funds in the future.

**30 M€  
2022**

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## SoE Programme challenges I

- No SoE **ranking** → additional criteria to rank proposals in case of total budget exceeding available budget.
  - Gender/previous SoE in 2020 (with ranking)/previous national Aid...
- #NextGenerationEU funds require compliance with **DNSHP** → DNSH is now an eligibility criteria in EICA 2022.

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## SoE Programme challenges II

- **Unpredictability:** number of Seals, timing...
  - Companies that submitted in March 21 and got results in June 21 only had their SoE certificates end April 22 (10 months after notification)
  - “Sealed proposal”: SoE certificate + Business Plan, end August 22 (14 months)
- SoE **certificates** needed to close the call process: need to wait until rejection letter? Companies losing opportunities when national funding is not guaranteed?
- “Sealed proposals” already available for **project/costs checks**.

# +info sobre programas y ayudas CDTI para proyectos de I+D empresarial e innovación



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