



**INNO-
-NEXT** | The Next
Generation
Innovation
Talents' Initiative

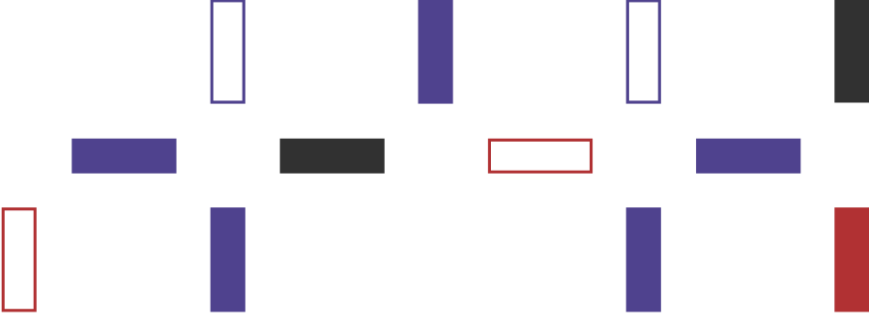
InnoNext Guide for Visiting Talents

Version n°1.2

European
Innovation
Council



Table of contents



1

**INNONEXT,
WHY SHOULD YOU APPLY?**



2

CAN YOU APPLY?



3

HOW DO YOU APPLY?



4

**HOW DOES THE SELECTION
PROCESS WORK?**



5

**WHICH TYPES OF FUNDING
CAN YOU GET?**

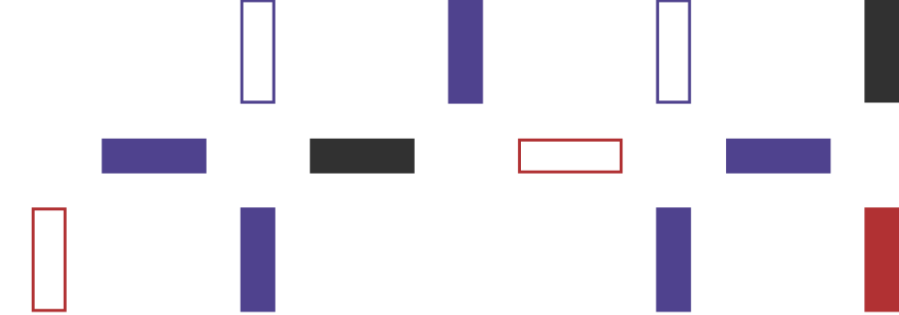


6

**HOW DOES THE INNOVATION
INTERNSHIP WORK?**

**Why should
you apply?**

What is InnoNext



InnoNext's mission is to **foster the development of an entrepreneurial mindset** by welcoming **researchers and innovators to work with startups** of member states operating in their areas of expertise by facilitating the matching, providing acceleration programs, and leveraging the EC network.

Boost the competitiveness of startups and SMEs

Mobilise individuals with **specific skills, knowledge, and competencies** developed in the excellence EU programmes.

Develop Entrepreneurial Mindset

Enable researchers and aspiring innovators to **gain practical experience** and understanding of the processes required to take research ideas beyond invention and foster an **entrepreneurial mindset** through specific **mentorship**.

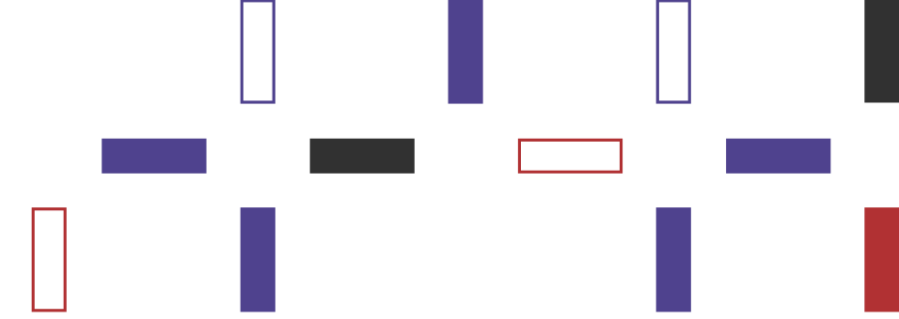
Facilitate Knowledge Transfer

Provide innovative startups and SMEs with **access to cutting-edge research insights and ideas**, thus accelerating the development of their breakthrough products and services.

Enhance and promote Equal Access to Research Talent

Innovative startups and SMEs supported by EU-funded programmes will have improved **access to research talent**, potentially leading to more innovative products and services.

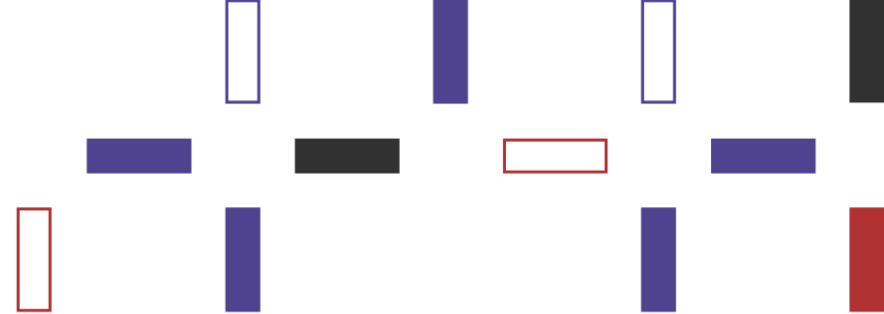
What can you obtain







By being a Visiting Talent you will access to:





- A **dedicated platform** that facilitates the **search for collaboration opportunities** by allowing talent to exploit scientific interest by **joining** existing competitive startups and SMEs.
- A **hybrid matchmaking process** based on an AI-based algorithm that will find the **best opportunities** for the Visiting talent, processing needs, and ambitions of the applicants and the vacancy descriptions.
- **Networking opportunities** allowing to take part in a community of innovative entrepreneurs.
- A comprehensive **mentorship plan** to offer and share knowledge and tailored support to nurture the entrepreneurship potential of participants. Background and skills such as innovation management, teamwork, and internal communication will be deepened in workshops for Talent and Enterprises.
- **Real-world market dynamics** as opportunities to learn-by-doing competencies such as market analysis, risk management, business strategy, and go-to-market path.
- **An Agreement kit** including all the administrative information and legal documents needed in order to start the internship and regulate the intellectual property.

What type of innovation internships

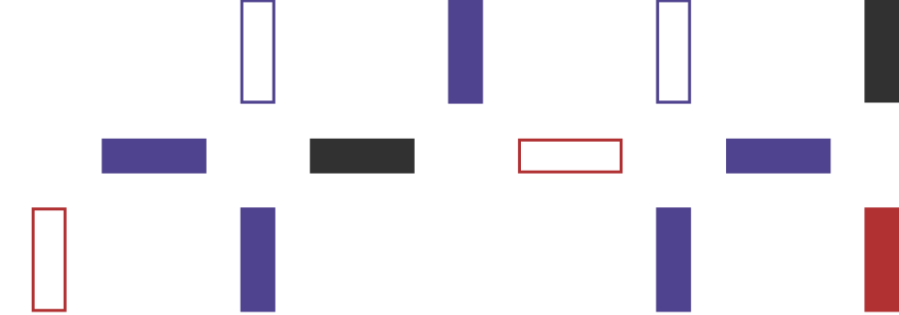


InnoNext supports 2 main streams:

 Deep Tech Talents	
 What	Research-focused internships entailing hands-on experience with cutting-edge projects where interns collaborate with the Hosting Company to solve complex technical challenges.
 For who	PhD candidates and postdoctoral researchers currently working in ERC, EIC Pathfinder, MSCA, EIT and RI actions.
 How long	3-6 months.

 Aspiring Innovators	
 What	Entrepreneurship-focused internships where aspiring innovators develop business attitude and competences through expert mentoring, while gaining practical insights into innovative companies.
 For who	Students in (and graduates from) EIT label Master and Doctoral programmes, EIT Alumni, EIT Jumpstarter.
 How long	Up to 6 months.

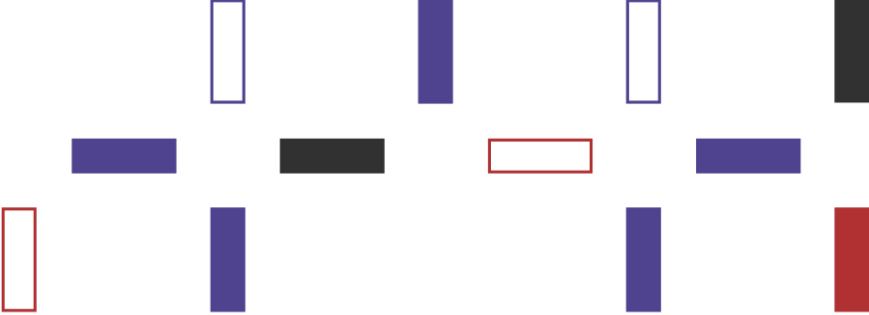
Who are the Hosting companies



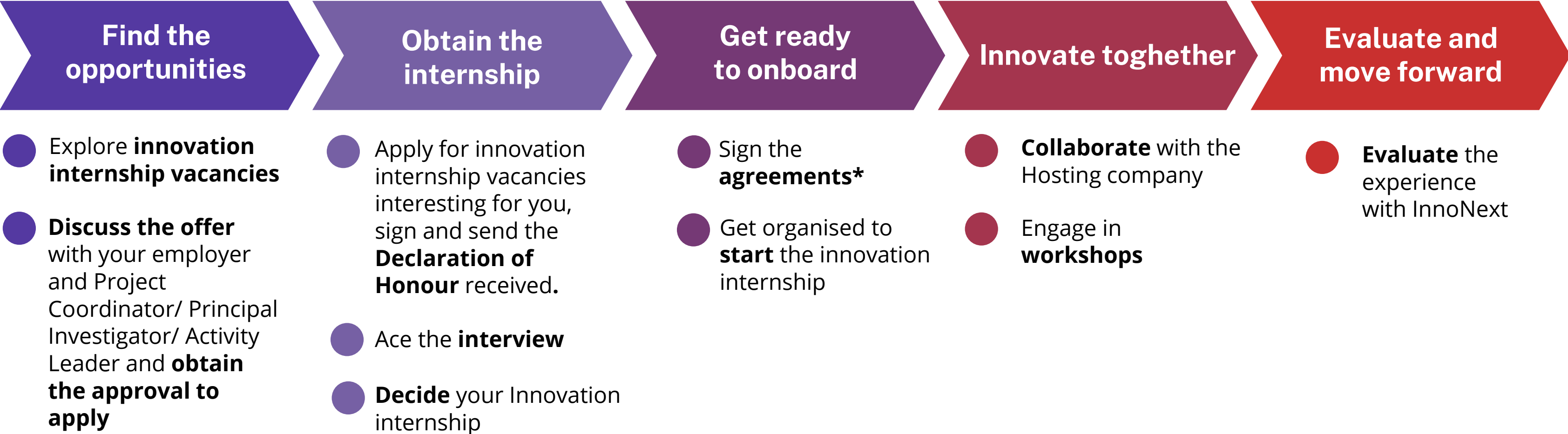
Innovative startups and SMEs that can host the innovation internship:

- Start-ups and SMEs supported by the **EIC Accelerator** (including H2020 SME instrument)
- **EIC** awarded **Seal of Excellence** companies
- Startups and SMEs supported by **EIC Transition**
- Startups and SMEs supported by **EIT KIC innovation and business creation services**
- Startups and SMEs created as a result of receiving support from **EIT KICs**
- Startups, scaleups, and SMEs that have been partners of **KICs for Innovation activities**.
- Startups and scaleups that have at least one co-founder who is an **EIT Alumni** member

The journey in InnoNext



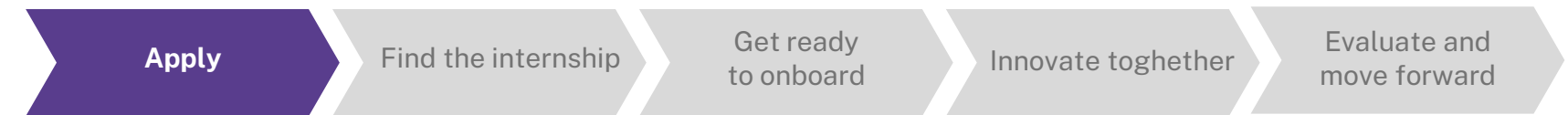
Your journey as a Visiting Talent in InnoNext, step by step:



*InnoNext drafts model agreements, adapting them to the specific requirements of each program

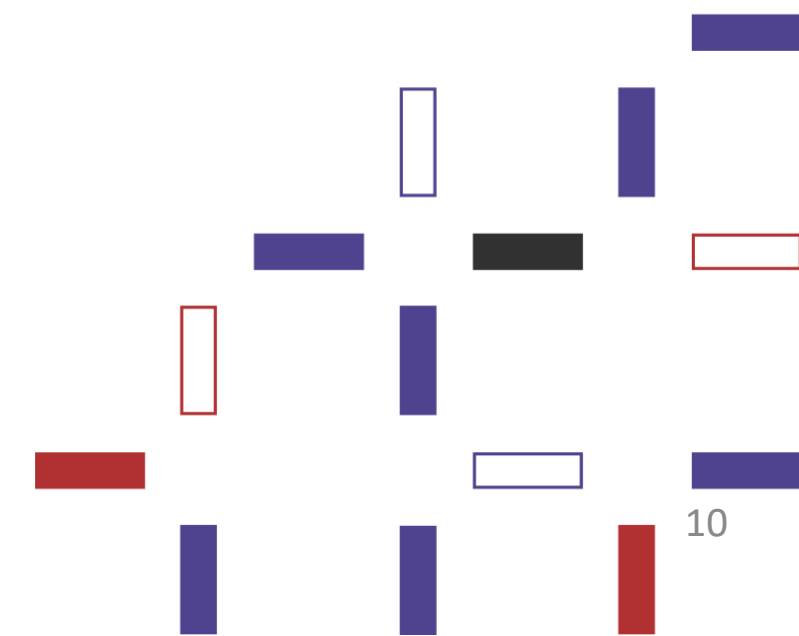
Can you apply?

Can you apply?



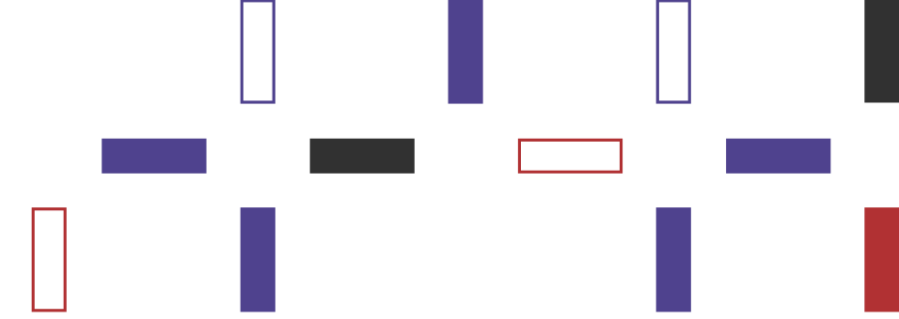
You're eligible to become a **Vising Talents in InnoNext** if you are:

- **EIC Pathfinder** PhD candidates
- **EIC Pathfinder** Postdoctoral researchers
- A PhD and/or postdoctoral researcher participating in projects funded by the **European Research Council (ERC)**
- A fellow participating in **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)** Doctoral Networks
- A fellow participating **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)** Postdoctoral Fellow
- A fellow participating **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)** COFUND
- A PhD and/or postdoctoral researcher participating as a consortium member in a project funded by the **Research Infrastructures part of Horizon Europe**
- A Student in (and graduate from) **EIT Label Masters and Doctoral** programmes
- An **EIT Alumni** member
- An **EIT Jumpstarter** beneficiary
- A participant from other postdoctoral training programmes supported by the **EIT KICs**



How to apply?

How to apply: steps




1 - Explore the website

Discover everything about InnoNext opportunities on the website.

www.innonext-project.eu

2 - Create your profile

Complete the form on the [InnoNext website](#) to **set up your profile**.

You will be registered and receive the link and instructions to access the [matchmaking platform](#) 

3 - Apply to vacancies

Look at the vacancies ranked for you in the [matchmaking platform](#) and apply to those that are more suitable for you. Remember that for each application you will then also have to upload the required [Declaration of Honour](#).

4 - Update and monitor

Whenever you want, you can **update your profile** and monitor newly added **internship vacancies** for which you can **apply**.

How to apply: details



1 - Explore the website

Look at the overall InnoNext schema at www.innonext-project.eu



2 - Create your profile

Fill in the form on the InnoNext website and upload your CV to create your profile.

Once you complete the form, you will **be registered on the [matchmaking platform](#)**

A confirmation email will provide you with the instructions to enter the platform and update your profile.



3-Apply to vacancies

Explore the Innovation [Internship vacancies](#) posted by Hosting Companies.

You can get suggestions from Innonext's matchmaking process, and when you find something interesting for you, **apply**. To complete an application, you are required to upload

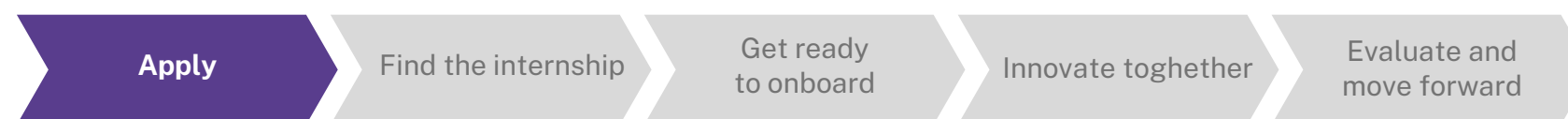
the [Declaration of Honour](#). The document is required to gather the consent of your employer/Project coordinator/ Principal Investigator/ Activity Leader.

To better inform them, you can share the **internship details and the [Letter of Commitment of the Hosting company](#)** .



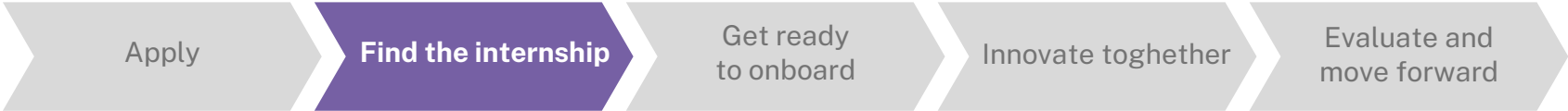
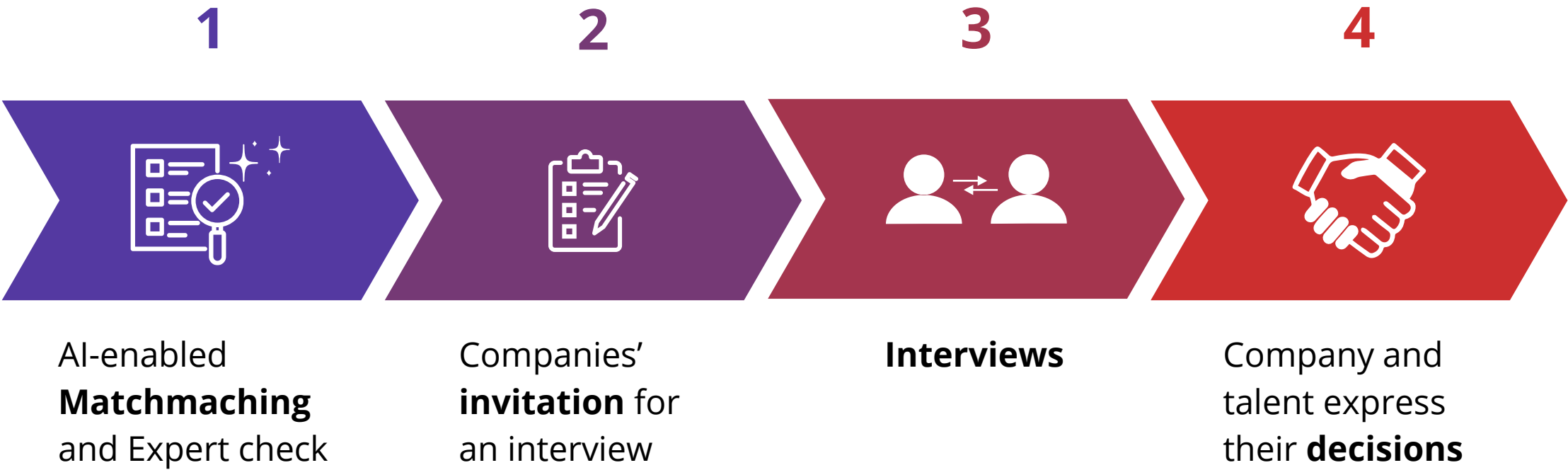
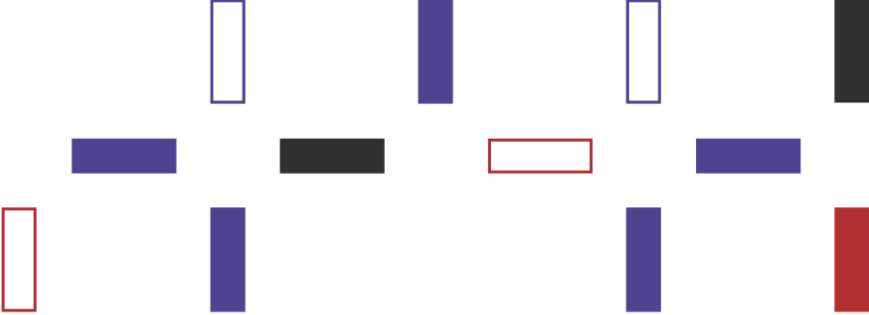
4 - Update and monitor

On the [matchmaking platform](#) you can always **add information** to update your profile, **monitor the application process** and **receive suggested vacancies** the matchmaking process deems most suitable for you.

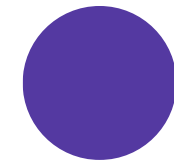
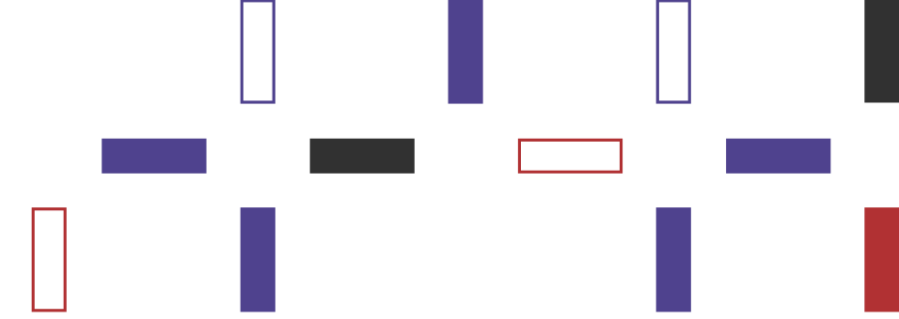


**How does
the selection
process work?**

The selection process

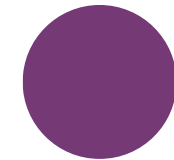


The selection process: details



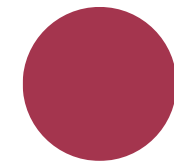
1- AI-enabled matchmaking and Expert check

The matchmaking platform streamlines **the processing of data from internship vacancies and applications**, utilising advanced algorithms to generate a curated shortlist of optimal matches, all under the supervision of InnoNext experts. The platform might suggest also internship vacancies that can match with your background expertise and preferences.



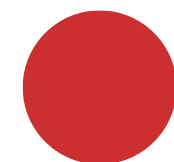
2- Companies' invitation for an interview

Once you've applied for an internship vacancy, the **Hosting company will review your application**. If they find your profile a good match, they may contact you directly to arrange an interview.



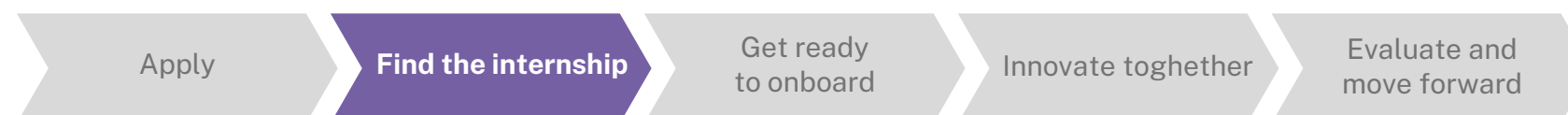
3- Interviews

The interview is a valuable opportunity for you as a candidate to **learn more about the Hosting company** and gain detailed insights into the internship proposal. It also allows you to showcase your research background, interests, and expertise. During this conversation, you can discuss and clarify the specifics of the internship, including **tasks, expectations, and working arrangements**, ensuring a mutual understanding and alignment between you and the company.



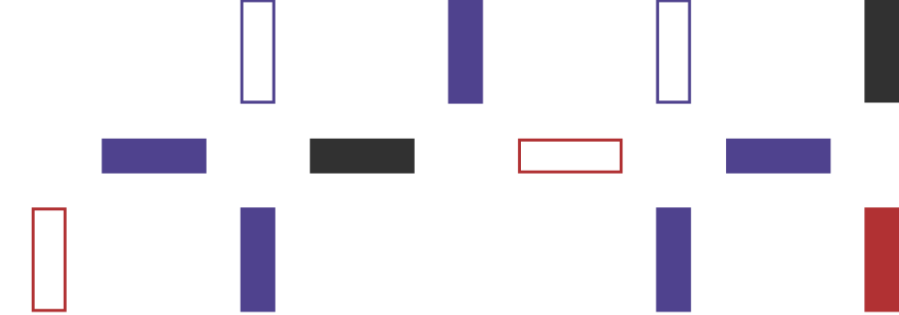
4- Talent and Company express their decisions

After the interviews, both you and the Hosting company can make your **decisions and finalise the administrative details** of the Innovation Internship, ensuring a smooth transition into the next phase of the collaboration.



**Which types
of funding
can you get?**

Internship activation



After being chosen by the company and accepting the offer of the internship you will have to sign the agreement.



The company will send you the completed and signed Letter of Commitment and you will have to sign Annex 2 and send it back to the company, that will forward it to InnoNext.



At this point, the administrative part is done, you just have to organise the logistics and start your internship.



If you are affiliated to a MSCA programme the company will have to sign the amendment for the **MSCA Grant Agreement (.pdf)**, to be added as an Associated partner. You will have to inform the PI/Project coordinator that notify the request to the European Research & Executive Agency's Project Officer (REA PO) via a Formal Notification in the Portal. Afterwards, a formal amendment procedure will finalise the changes.

Financial support



The Financial support of the Innovation internships depends on the **EU programme you are affiliated with;**

For researchers affiliated with:

- MSCA
- HE Research Infrastructure
- EIT/EIT KICs

The reimbursement of internship costs will be covered by the respective **home program.**

- ERC

InnoNext will reimburse researchers with a flat monthly rate, for a maximum of **3 months.**

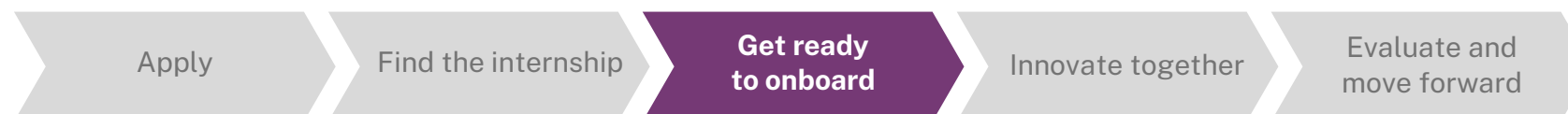
- EIC PATHFINDER

The personnel costs are eligible under the **Pathfinder grant** and an additional **mobility allowance** will be reimbursed* as **financial support to third parties** by **InnoNext.**

*The mobility allowance will be reimbursed only if the internship's location is **more than 150km** from the current place of work of the researcher and for a maximum of **3 months.**

Each programmes may have additional conditions according to their specific rules and requirements. Verify the [FAQs section.](#)

For more guidance, you can read the [FAQs](#) on the InnoNext website and refer to the terms of your home project.



**How does
the innovation
internship work?**

Roles



Within InnoNext, every actor plays a role:

HOSTING COMPANY

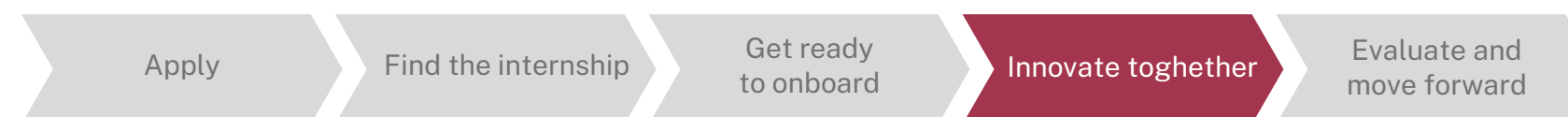
- **Coordinates** the work of the Visiting Talent
- **Provides** opportunities for learning-by-doing
- Participates in the **workshop**
- **Can ask for one-to one mentoring**
- Responds to **monitoring activities**

VISITING TALENT

- **Collaborates** in research and innovation activity
- **Develops** specific entrepreneur internship skills
- Participates in **workshops**
- Responds to **monitoring activities**

InnoNext MENTOR

- Propose a **plan of mentorship activities**
- **Conduct** workshops
- Facilitate the **collaboration** between beneficiaries, if the case
- Get direct **feedback**





You can find more information consulting:



FAQ

Dedicated section of questions and answers, covering every phase of the InnoNext journey and EU Partner Programmes specific requirements.

<https://www.innonext-project.eu/en/faq>



Resources

Templates of the needed document, to get prepared in any phase.

<https://www.innonext-project.eu/en/resources>



Contacts

For any other issue, please contact InnoNext:

<https://www.innonext-project.eu/en/contact>

European
Innovation
Council



INNO- -NEXT

The Next
Generation
Innovation
Talents' Initiative

info@innonext-project.eu | www.innonext-project.eu

