



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

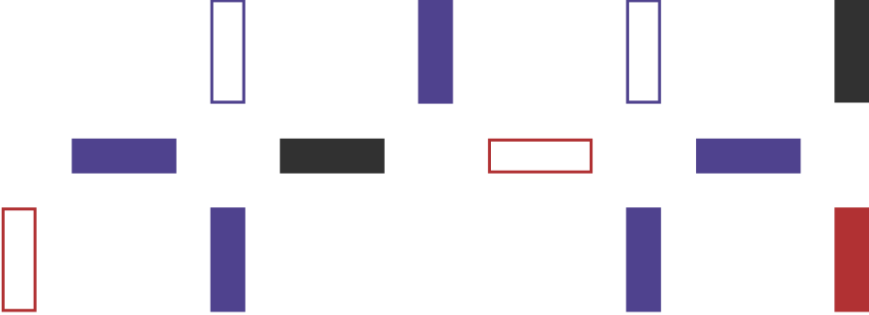
# InnoNext Guide for Hosting Companies

Version n°1.2

European  
Innovation  
Council



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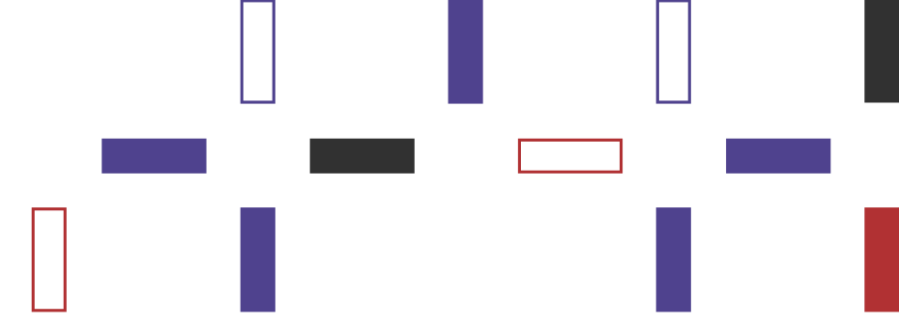
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**Why should  
you apply?**

# 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 fostering an **entrepreneurial mindset** through a 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.

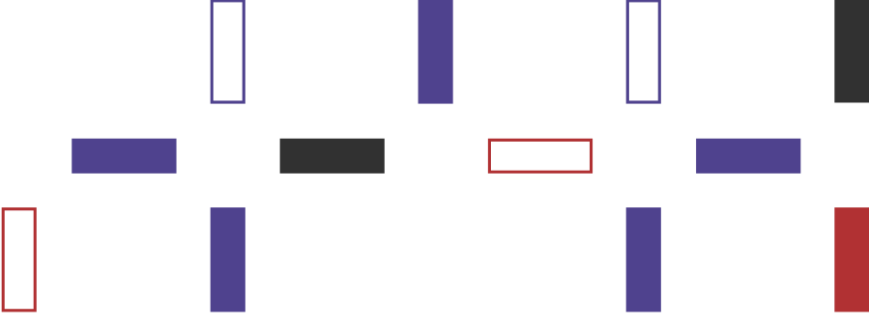
# What can you obtain







**By being a Hosting Company you will access to:**





- A **dedicated platform** that facilitates the creation of **internship vacancies**, enabling the company to access **cutting-edge research** and highly skilled researchers.
- A **hybrid matchmaking process** based on an AI-based algorithm will find the best candidates for the company, processing the internship description (task, competencies, outcomes) and applicants' needs and ambitions.
- Benefit from **fully-funded internships** valued at up to EUR 30,000, providing fresh talent and new perspectives.
- A comprehensive **mentorship plan** to offer and share knowledge and tailored support to nurture the entrepreneurship potential of participants. Innovation-oriented skills will be deepened in workshops for Talent and Enterprises.
- Access specialised expertise to solve technical problems, leverage innovative ideas to drive growth and expansion, and **improve the competitiveness** on a wider scale.
- **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 internships

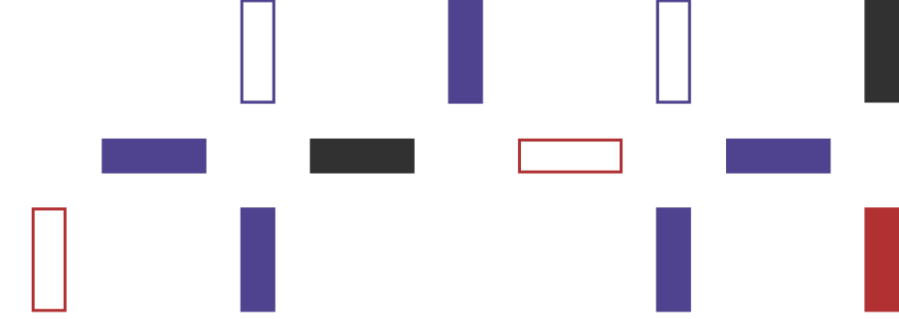


InnoNext supports 2 main streams:

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

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

# Who are the Visiting talents you can host

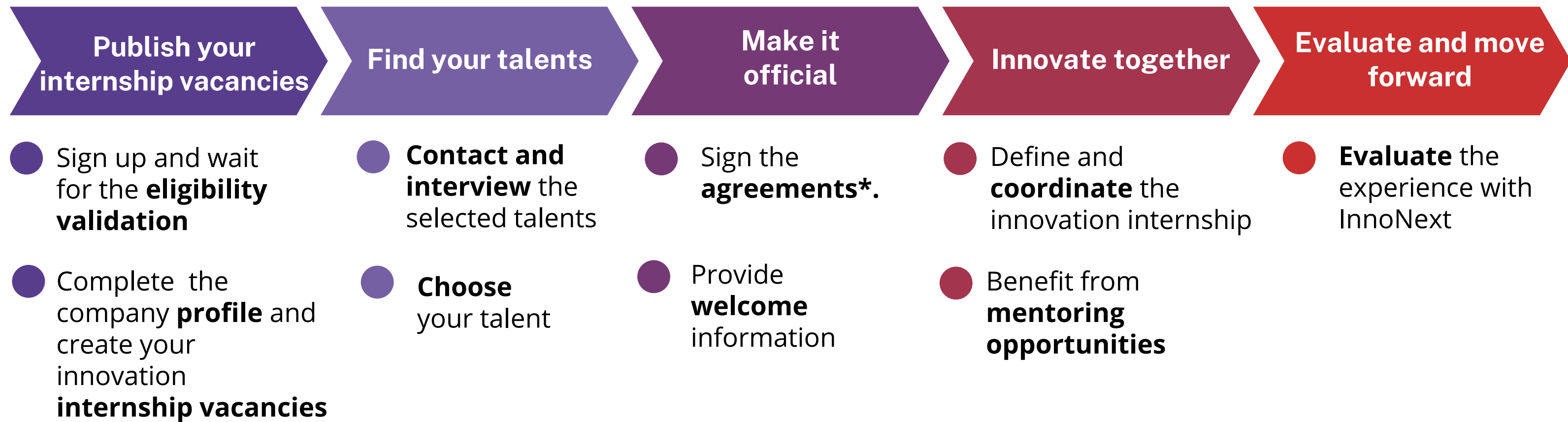


- **EIC Pathfinder** PhD candidates
- **EIC Pathfinder** Postdoctoral researchers
- PhDs and postdoctoral researchers participating in projects funded by the **European Research Council (ERC)**
- Fellows participating in **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)** Doctoral Networks
- Fellows participating **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)** Postdoctoral Fellow
- Fellows participating **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)** COFUND
- PhD and postdoctoral researchers participating as consortium members in a project funded by the **Research Infrastructures part of Horizon Europe**
- Students in (and graduates from) **EIT Label Masters and Doctoral** programmes
- **EIT Alumni** members
- **EIT Jumpstarter** beneficiaries
- Participants from other postdoctoral training programmes supported by the **EIT KICs**

# The journey in InnoNext



## Your journey as a Hosting Company in InnoNext, step by step:

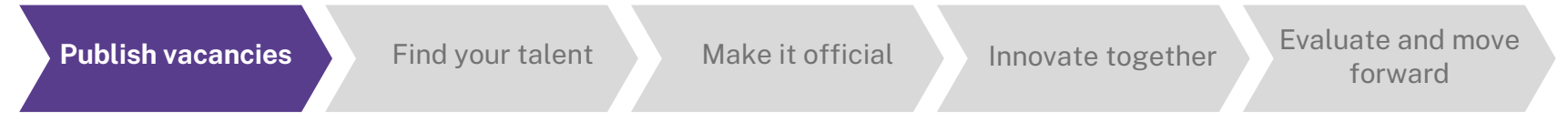


! The Hosting company will not provide any direct payment to the interns. The costs of the internships will be covered by the EU Partner Programme the researcher is affiliated with or by InnoNext.



**Can you apply?**

# Can your company apply

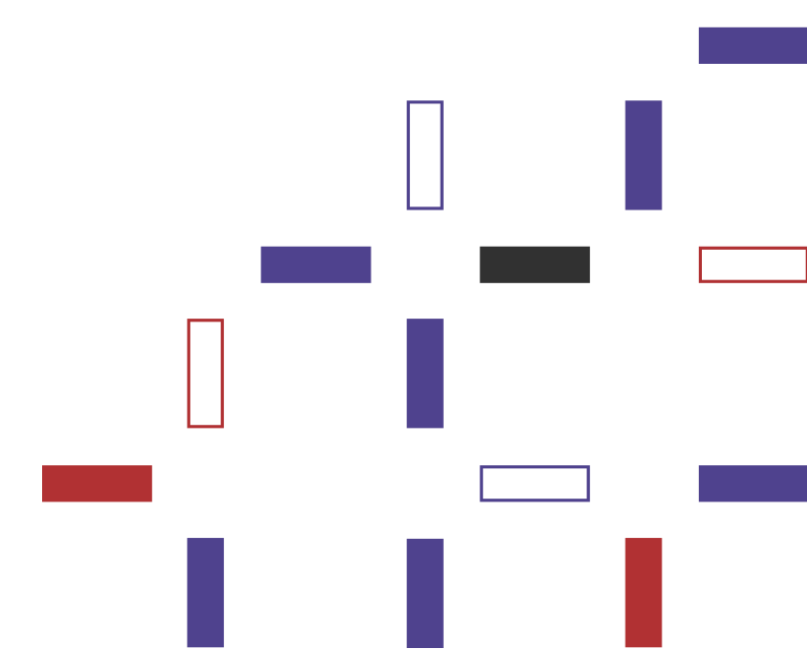


## Your company is eligible to become a **InnoNext Hosting Company** if it is:

- A Start-up/SME supported by the **EIC Accelerator** (including H2020 SME instrument)
- An **EIC** awarded **Seal of Excellence** company \*
- A Start-up/SME supported by **EIC Transition**
- A Start-up/SME supported by **EIT KIC innovation and business creation services**
- A Start-up/SME created as a result of receiving support from **EIT KICs**
- A Startup/scaleup/SME that has been a partner of **KICs for Innovation activities**.
- A Startup/scaleup that has at least one co-founder who is an **EIT Alumni member**



If your company has received the EIC Seal of Excellence, it is eligible to apply for InnoNext, whether the project is funded by another organisation or lacks alternative funding but remains a priority for the company to execute it.



**How to apply?**

# How to apply: steps



## 1 - Explore website

Discover everything about InnoNext opportunities on the website.

[www.innonext-project.eu](http://www.innonext-project.eu)



## 2 - Sign up

Complete the form on the [InnoNext website](#) to register your company. You will receive the confirmation of your request and the instructions to provide the [Letter of Commitment](#) that declare your eligibility.



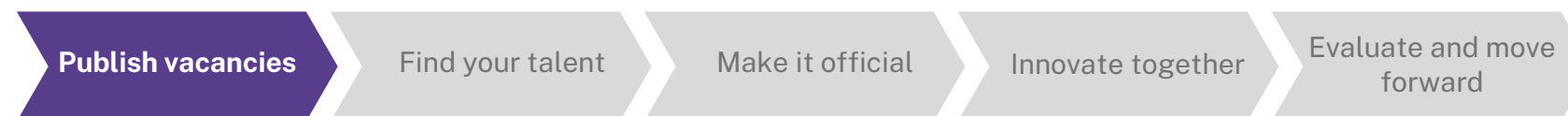
## 3 - Complete the company profile

After the validation of your request, you will receive via email the instruction to access the [matchmaking platform](#).



## 4 - Vacancies

Everything is ready now to start **posting the Innovation Internship vacancies**.



# How to apply: details



**1 - Explore the website** Look at the overall InnoNext schema at [www.innonext-project.eu](http://www.innonext-project.eu)



**2 - Sign up**

Fill in the form on the [InnoNext website](#) to register your company. You'll be required to enter the **PIC number, the EU programme you are affiliated with**, and (if applicable) the project ID funded by the selected programme. You will also be required to enter the **email of the reference person** coordinating the Innovation internship for your company. You will receive an email confirming your request and informing you how to provide the [Letter of Commitment](#), with this document you will declare your eligibility for the InnoNext initiative.



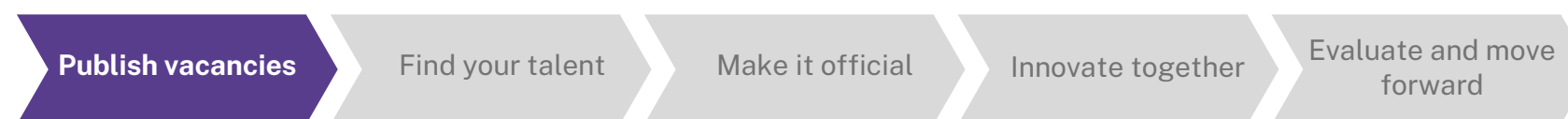
**3 - Profile**

Once verified the company eligibility, you will receive via email the confirmation and instructions on how to access the [matchmaking platform](#).



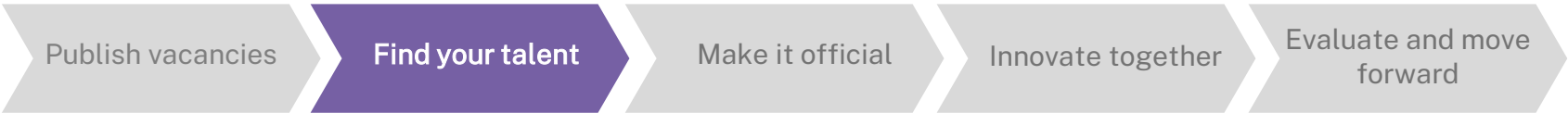
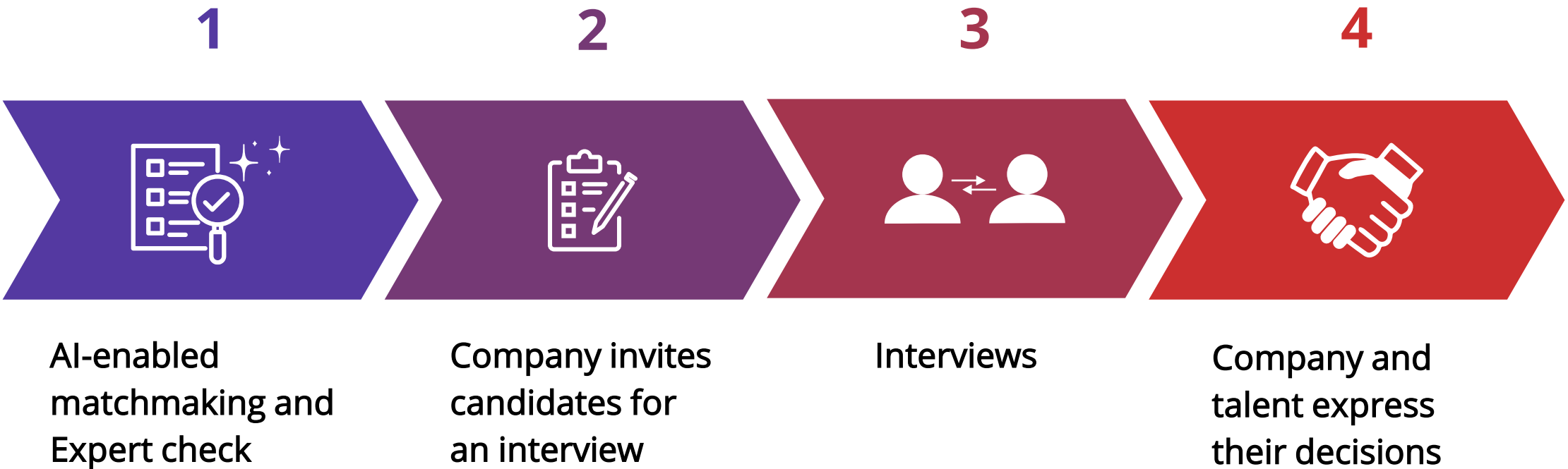
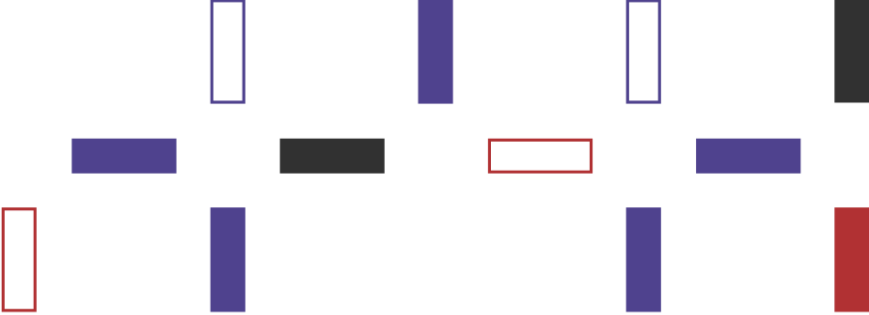
**4 - Vacancies**

Enter the [matchmaking platform](#) to create all **the Innovation internship vacancies** the company is willing to host. Writing the vacancy, it is recommended to carefully highlight and describe the **scientific goals and tasks** the Visiting talent will perform during the internship. This information is very relevant for informing the talents and their PI/project coordinator who has to authorise the internship.



**How does  
the selection  
process work?**

# The selection process



# The selection process: details



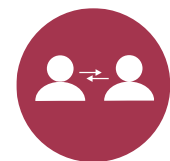
## 1- AI-enabled matchmaking and Expert check

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. Companies can seamlessly review the suggested applications, as well as any direct submissions, through the platform.



## 2- Companies' invitation for the interviews

Once identified the interesting applications, the **Hosting company can directly contact the candidates** to arrange the interviews.



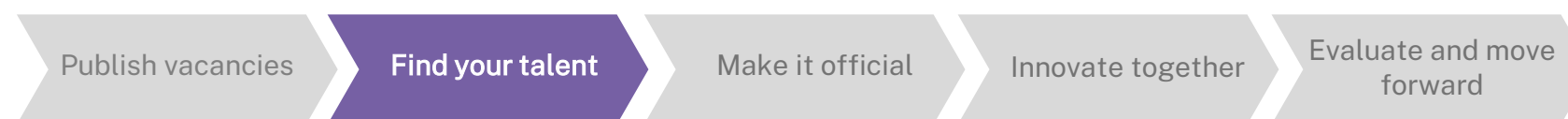
## 3- Interviews

The interview is a valuable opportunity to **introduce your company and provide detailed insights on the internship proposal**, while also getting to know the candidates, their research background, and their interests. It is during this conversation that the specifics of the internship, including **tasks, expectations, and working conditions**, can be discussed and mutually agreed upon, fostering a clear understanding between both parties.



## 4- Company and Talent express their decisions

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





**How does  
the innovation  
internship work?**

# Internship activation



Once you have identified the best candidate for your position, remember **to indicate him/her on the platform by changing his/her status**. This way the InnoNext team will be aware of your choice and will be able to activate the internship



The InnoNext team will send you the **Letter of Commitment previously signed by your company**, You will have to **complete and sign Annex 2** and **send it to the chosen researcher** so that he/she can also sign it and send it back to you.

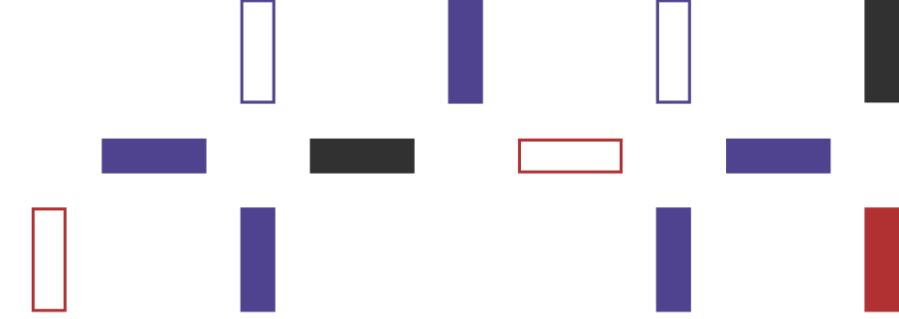


At this point, all you have to do is **send the fully signed document to InnoNext** and prepare for hosting the researcher.



If the chosen researcher is 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. The researcher will 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.

# Roles



Within InnoNext, every actor plays a role:

### HOSTING COMPANY

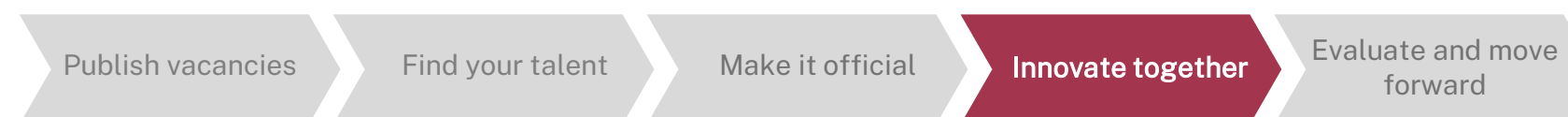
- **Coordinates** the work of the Visiting Talent
- **Provides** opportunities for learning-by-doing
- Participates in the **workshop**
- **Can ask for one-to one mentoring**
- Responds to **monitoring activities**

### 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**



# Resources



## 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>



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