

BoostER Program

Rules of Participation

Article 1 - Subject of the Regulation

These regulations govern the procedures for participating in the BoostER Program, an incubation program financed by the Emilia Romagna Region as part of the measures PR-FESR EMILIA ROMAGNA 2021-2027 Priority 1: RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS, Specific objective 1.1: Develop and strengthen research and innovation capacities and the introduction of advanced technologies, Action 1.1.6. Support for the development of incubators/accelerators - CALL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INCUBATORS AND ACCELERATORS.

The program is aimed at supporting and developing startups in the sectors operating in the sectors of the space economy, clean energy and digitalisation and is conceived and organised by dpixel s.r.l. and Urban Hub Piacenza - Univillage s.r.l., with the support of several strategic partners.

Article 2 - Eligibility Requirements

1. Startups and early-stage teams operating in the space economy, clean energy or digitalisation sectors are eligible for selection.
2. Informal teams can also participate, provided that at least one member of the team has a VAT number.
3. Participants from outside Emilia Romagna must declare their intention to establish their registered office or operational headquarters in the region. For the operational headquarters only, it is possible to activate the local unit in the coworking spaces belonging to the proponents' network.

Article 3 - Application Procedures

1. Application Period: Applications must be submitted between **1 September 2024** and **15 November 2024**.
2. Required Documentation:
 - A detailed business plan.
 - Team biographies and relevant experience.
 - A presentation summarizing the startup's vision, market potential, and business model.

3. **Submission of Applications:** Applications must be submitted through the program's online portal [\[application link\]](#).

Article 4 - Selection Process

1. **Initial Screening:** Applications will be reviewed by a panel of experts from dpixel and Urban Hub Piacenza.
2. **Interviews:** Shortlisted startups will be invited to interviews to discuss their business ideas and plans in detail.
3. **Final Selection:** Participation is open to **15 startups and/or teams** who will be selected to participate in the BoostER Program.
4. **Announcement of Selected Participants:** The announcement of the selected startups will take place on **15 December 2024**.

Article 5 - Evaluation Criteria

The selection process will be determined at the sole discretion of the Organization, using the following criteria:

1. **Relevance to the main sectors of interest:** Relevance of the project in the space economy, clean energy and digitalisation sectors.
2. **Relevance to the main technologies of interest:** Use of advanced and innovative technologies.
3. **General level of interest in the project presented:** Market potential and impact of the project.
4. **Level of innovation compared to the reference market:** Degree of novelty and originality of the project.
5. **Skills and experience of entrepreneurial teams:** Quality and capacity of the team.
6. **Clarity of the objectives expressed by the teams:** Precision and clarity in defining objectives and strategies.
7. **Scalability:** Potential of the project to grow and scale in the market.
8. **TRL:** Solutions must have a Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of at least 4, i.e., technology validated in the laboratory.
9. **Priority:** Priority will be given to projects that:
 - demonstrate clearly and unequivocally relevant aspects of environmental and social impact;
 - founding team consisting of a majority of women;

- are located outside the Emilia Romagna Region and/or have never had any relationship with the regional innovation ecosystem.

Article 6 - Phases of the Program

The program is divided into five main phases and takes place in a hybrid mode (both in person and remotely):

1. **Phase 1: Business Fundamentals:** Training sessions on business model development, financial management, marketing strategies and legal frameworks.
2. **Phase 2: Specialized Go-to-Market Mentorship:** Personalized mentorship focused on go-to-market strategies specific to the vertical.
3. **Phase 3: Technical Evaluation:** Technical validation and improvement of startup solutions.
4. **Phase 4: Open Innovation and Fundraising Support:** Facilitation of collaboration and innovation through organized events and networking opportunities with partner companies, Investors and other ecosystem players.
5. **Phase 5: International Roadshow:** Participation in international B2B events and meetings to promote startups and facilitate fundraising opportunities.

Article 7 - Conditions of Participation

1. **Free Participation:** Participation in the program is **free and equity-free**.
2. **Mandatory Participation:** Participants must actively participate in all program activities.
3. **Commitment of Participants:** Participants must accept the conditions of participation and comply with the program regulations.
4. **Participant Obligations:**
 - Actively participate in program sessions.
 - Provide periodic reports on the progress of the startup.
 - Collaborate with mentors and program partners.
5. **Registered or Operational Office:** if a selected startup/team does not have a registered or operational office within the territory of Emilia Romagna, within 10 days of admission it must proceed to open at least the local unit, providing suitable supporting documentation.

Article 8 - Financial Aspects

Participation in the program is **free and equity-free**. No expense reimbursements are provided for participation in the program. Each team/startup benefiting from the program will receive services worth €25,000, free of charge.

Participants in the program will receive services classified as indirect aid, in accordance with the recent EU Regulation 2023/2831 of 13.12.2023 on "de minimis". This aid falls within the definition provided in paragraph 4.3 of the European Commission Communication concerning the notion of State aid (Article 107(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union 2016/C 262/01). It is important that applicants verify that they have an availability of

approximately €25,000 in their de minimis ceiling, bearing in mind that the total limit of such aid must not exceed €300,000 in the three years from 1 January 2024.

Article 9 - Support and Resources

The BoostER Program offers a wide range of support and resources to help startups grow and develop.

Participants will have access to training sessions and mentorship from industry experts, networking opportunities and advanced technological resources. The international program will be aimed at B2B meetings and fundraising. The proponents' network is made up of professionals, industry experts, companies and corporates, and potential investors.

In particular, participants will be able to benefit from the following resources:

1. **Training and Mentorship:** Access to training sessions and mentorship from industry experts.
2. **Networking:** Participation in networking events organized by SMAU and other partners.
3. **Technical Support:** Access to advanced technological resources through partners such as CINECA, CIRI Aerospace, Officina Stellare and others.
4. **International Experience:** Opportunity to participate in an International Roadshow with Creative Valley in France.
5. **Coworking:** Free access for the duration of the project to the Coworking spaces made available by the partners: BIGBO in Bologna and Hurban Hub in Piacenza.
6. **Proponents' Network:** Participants will have access to the vast network of dpixel, Urban Hub Piacenza and other project partners, which includes professionals, industry experts, companies and corporates, and potential investors.

Article 10 - Intellectual Property and Confidentiality Clauses

1. **Intellectual Property:** Intellectual property rights in products and services developed during the program will remain with the participants.
2. **Confidentiality Clauses:** All participants and partners must respect the confidentiality of information shared during the program. Disclosure of confidential information to third parties without the written consent of the parties involved is prohibited.

Article 11 - Withdrawal from the Program

1. **Participant Commitment:** Participants commit to actively participate in and complete the program in all its phases.
2. **Consequences of Withdrawal:** In case of withdrawal from the program without justified reason, participants will be subject to a penalty consisting of the restitution of the value of the services used up to the time of withdrawal. The value will be determined by the organizers based on the actual costs incurred.

3. Exceptional Circumstances: In case of withdrawal due to force majeure (such as serious health problems or extraordinary family events), participants will not be subject to the penalty, upon presentation of supporting documentation and approval by the organizers.

Article 12 - Indemnification

1. Indemnification: Participants indemnify and hold harmless the organizers, partners and their collaborators from any damage, prejudice, loss, cost, expense (including legal costs) or penalty arising from participation in the program, including, but not limited to, violations of the regulations, negligence or willful misconduct.
2. Participant Responsibility: Each participant is solely responsible for their actions and the content of their project. The organizers will not be liable for any damage or loss suffered by participants during the program.

Article 13 - Disputes and Jurisdiction

1. Disputes: Any dispute arising from the interpretation or execution of these regulations will be resolved amicably between the parties. In the event of failure to reach an agreement, disputes will be resolved as set out in point 2 below.
2. Competent Court: For any dispute that cannot be settled amicably, the Court of Bologna shall have exclusive jurisdiction, being the main venue for the initiative.

Article 14 - Final Provisions

1. Amendments to the Regulations: The organizers reserve the right to make changes to these regulations. Changes will be communicated promptly to participants.
2. Liability: The program organizers are not liable for any damage or loss suffered by participants during the program.
3. Privacy: All information provided by participants will be treated in accordance with current privacy regulations.

Contacts

For more information, contact:

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