

Terms and Conditions for Acceleration & Incubation – LX Circular 2026

An addendum was made to this document, in order to update specific aspects of the document. In particular, the changes refer to the application deadline and the date of the bootcamp for the selected startups. The revised version of this document was updated and made available on the program's official website on 19/03, and is now the current version for public consultation.

Preamble

The LX Circular program is an initiative resulting from a partnership between Impact Hub and Unicorn Factory Lisboa and aims to provide an innovative and integrated response to the social and environmental challenges faced by contemporary society, particularly in Portugal and in the Lisbon region.

To this end, the program seeks to support startups with innovative solutions that promote the circular economy in the Lisbon region, helping them scale their businesses and create real impact.

This document refers to the terms and conditions for participation in this initiative.

Article 1

Objectives

The objectives of this initiative are as follows:

- To support the development of startups with innovative circular economy solutions that can be applied to the Lisbon region;
- To promote the Circular Economy through awareness-raising and capacity-building on the topic;
- To encourage reflection on the main challenges of the circular economy;
- To foster impact entrepreneurship by promoting entrepreneurship as a response to circular economy challenges and local social problems, particularly in the Lisbon region.

Article 2

Eligible Participants

Startups that meet the following conditions may apply to this initiative:

- Have an innovative solution within the scope of the Circular Economy that contributes to the program's objectives and demonstrates strong scalability potential;

- Be national or international;
- Be at least at the MVP stage or beyond;
- Have a founder or founding team with an ambitious vision and dedicated to the development of the startup;
- Have operations, or intend to establish operations, in the Lisbon Region (understood as any municipality belonging to the Lisbon Metropolitan Area).

Article 3

Application Process

- a) Applications must be submitted through the official application form available on the program's website: www.lxcircular.pt
- b) The application period runs from February 10 to March 22, 2026 (11:59 PM GMT);
- c) The organization reserves the right to unilaterally extend the application deadline, provided such extension is announced on the program's website;
- d) The organization shall not be held responsible for any loss or non-receipt of applications, even if resulting from network interruptions or failures or issues with the application submission website;
- e) Each startup may submit only one application;
- f) The promoter or team of promoters must be the owner(s) of the idea submitted under this initiative;
- g) In the case of teams, a single representative must be appointed to act as the main contact person and spokesperson throughout the entire process. The contact details provided in the application form must remain active and up to date throughout the duration of the initiative.

Article 4

Application Evaluation

- a) Applications will be subject to a preliminary review to verify formal eligibility requirements and a preliminary assessment based on the program's objectives for pre-selection purposes;

- b) Startups that do not meet the eligibility conditions referred to above, whose projects are not pre-selected, or that provide insufficient information will be informed by email that they will not proceed to the next evaluation stage;
- c) Evaluation will be based on the information provided in the application form;
- d) Following the preliminary analysis, selected projects will have the opportunity to present their project to a jury for final selection into the acceleration program, with up to 15 startups to be selected;
- e) The jury session will consist of a presentation supported by digital or other materials deemed appropriate by the promoters, allowing the jury to understand the project, solution, objectives, and motivation to join the program;
- f) The jury's evaluation will take into account the following criteria:
 - I. Startup with an innovative and differentiated solution within the scope of the Circular Economy;
 - II. Team quality and capacity to implement the project;
 - III. Feasibility of the proposed idea;
 - IV. Potential impact of the proposed solution;
 - V. Growth and/or scalability potential;
- g) The jury will consist of members from Unicorn Factory Lisboa, Impact Hub, partner entities, and invited guests;
- h) The decision regarding the selected finalist projects will be communicated to the promoters by email;
- i) The organization will make every effort to ensure the selection of at least 10 startups; however, it cannot be held responsible if this number cannot be achieved.

Article 5

Methodology

- a) An acceleration program is understood as a program that connects innovation, circular economy, and growth for startups seeking to scale solutions with positive impact;
- b) Participating startups will be offered an acceleration program, with mandatory participation by at least one founder;
- c) The acceleration program will preferably be conducted in English;

- d) The acceleration program will consist of the following activities:
- i. Bootcamp: An in-person bootcamp to take place on April 16 and 17 in Lisbon, aimed at deepening knowledge of the circular economy, fostering a sense of community, strengthening business models, aligning impact strategies, and supporting sustainable and differentiated growth
 - ii. Mentorship sessions: Sessions with experts and leading mentors in sustainability and circular economy, held remotely in May
 - iii. Peer mentoring sessions: To be held every two months, remotely or in a hybrid format, at Impact Hub Lisbon facilities
 - iv. Final session: An in-person final session to take place in Lisbon on a date to be announced, featuring final presentations by all participating projects
 - v. Investor meetings: Three sessions over the incubation period with institutional investors (VCs, sustainability funds, foundations, among others) or business angels
 - vi. Integration into an acceleration program managed by Unicorn Factory Lisboa, incorporating other verticals and areas of expertise
- e) During the acceleration phase, startups may use workspace facilities in a flex desk format until March 2027.

Article 6

Final Session

- a) The final session of the program will include, among other moments, a public, in-person final presentation of the projects in Lisbon on a date to be announced;
- b) During the final session, three winning projects will be selected;
- c) Each project presentation must be supported by digital or other materials deemed appropriate by the promoters to ensure clear understanding of the project, solution, main market differentiators, as well as the project's evolution and key developments throughout the program;
- d) The winning project will be selected based on the following criteria:
 - Startup with an innovative and differentiated circular economy solution;
 - Team quality and implementation capacity;
 - Feasibility of the proposed idea;

- Impact potential of the solution;
 - Growth and/or scalability potential;
 - Performance and evolution throughout the program;
- e) The winner selection will be carried out by a jury composed of members from Unicorn Factory Lisboa, Impact Hub Lisboa, partners, and invited guests.

Article 7

General Participation Conditions

- a) Participants are responsible for all information and content submitted as part of their project;
- b) Participants must always act courteously and respectfully, particularly with regard to organizational rules, procedures, programming, and safety requirements of the organization and partners;
- c) Inappropriate or abusive behavior, including the use of obscene or inappropriate language, will not be tolerated;
- d) The organization reserves the right to exclude any participant who fails to comply with these rules or who does not actively participate in the planned program activities.

Article 8

Prizes

- a) The total prize amount is €20,000, to be distributed among the three awarded startups;
- b) All participating startups will benefit from:
 - I. The opportunity to validate and prototype their project with potential clients and/or partners in a real market context;
 - II. Access to a broad network of mentors (founders, investors, sector specialists, among others);
 - III. Access to the networking networks of Unicorn Factory Lisboa and Impact Hub Lisboa;
- c) The monetary prize paid to the winners must be supported by appropriate fiscal documentation, in accordance with Portuguese law;

- d) For payment of the prizes, the winners must provide the IBAN to which the bank transfer should be made.

Article 9

Confidentiality

The parties undertake to maintain confidentiality regarding all information accessed under this initiative, including intellectual and industrial property, even after its conclusion, except where strictly necessary for the execution of the initiative and for the dissemination and promotion of the program.

Article 10

Intellectual Property

- a) Industrial property and intellectual property rights of the submitted solutions belong to the promoter(s);
- b) Promoters grant the organization permission to use non-confidential information for promotional and marketing purposes;
- c) The organization shall not be held responsible for any intellectual property infringement, misuse, or plagiarism by other applicants or external parties.

Article 11

Data Protection

The protection of user privacy and personal data is of great importance to Unicorn Factory Lisboa and Impact Hub Lisboa. By registering for the program through completion of the application form, applicants agree to the Privacy Policies of the respective entities, available at: <https://www.unicornfactory.com/privacypolicy> & <https://lisbon.impacthub.net/general-privacy-policy/>

Article 12

Final Provisions

- a) The organization reserves the right to amend these regulations and will inform applicants and participants of any changes;

- b) Situations not covered by these regulations will be reviewed and decided by the organization;
- c) Participation in the program implies express acceptance by the promoters of all terms and conditions set forth in these regulations.