

Evaluation Criteria and Selection Framework

2C FIMH Sprint & Roadshow Series

Twin City Future Innovation Manufacturing Hub

Version 1.4 (Full text)

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Call opening:	5 November 2025
Support type:	In-kind only (sprints, roadshows, mentoring/coaching, accent Makerspace use, A2M, partner/client introductions)
Batch size (target):	~5 teams per cohort
Submission platform:	Submittable

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1) Executive Summary

This Evaluation Criteria and Selection Framework defines the end-to-end call process for selecting and supporting startups and entrepreneurial projects (pre-incorporation) to enter the Twin City Future Manufacturing Hub—a cross-border initiative connecting the wider Vienna (AT) and Bratislava (SK) region.

The Evaluation Criteria and Selection Framework is implementation-ready and binding for all organizers.

The Evaluation Criteria and Selection Framework covers scope and eligibility, governance, evaluation criteria and process, onboarding and support, reporting/KPIs, legal & data provisions, risk management, and annexed templates (application, scoring, declarations, endorsement letters, support review document, branding, information and conditions to accessing accent Makerspace, FAQ).

What awardees receive (in-kind):

- Participation in the *2C FIMH Sprint & Roadshow Series*.
- Access to accent Makerspace and labs (Annex 10 and 11).

Mentoring, peer learning.

- Access-to-Market (A2M), customized partner visits.
- Visibility via 2C FIMH project and project partner channels.
- Demonstration opportunity.

2) Background & Rationale

2.1 2C FIMH Context

The *2C FIMH Sprint & Roadshows Series* is developed and organised within the framework of the **Twin City Future Innovation Manufacturing Hub** (2C FIMH), a cross-border project supported by the Interreg VI-A Slovakia–Austria Programme and co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund.

The Twin City Innovation Manufacturing Hub project aims to lay the groundwork for a transnational incubation hub for manufacturing innovation, leveraging the complementary strengths of Austria and Slovakia. The “Future Incubation” work package pilots sprints, roadshows, and a cooperation model and converges into a toolkit and strategic recommendations.

2.2 Problem–Opportunity

Manufacturing ventures often struggle with prototyping, manufacturability readiness, market access, and cross-border scaling. The *2C FIMH Sprint & Roadshow Series* addresses these challenges by providing hands-on support, practical methods, and tailored exposure activities—such as targeted industry visits—to help teams improve their prototypes and prepare for manufacturing. Through structured selection, capability building, and cross-border engagement, the program lays a strong foundation for future manufacturability and growth.

2.3 Guiding Principles of the Evaluation Criteria and Selection Framework

- Transparency & fairness
- Cross-border value (as a scored advantage, not a gate)
- Lean & practical (minimal admin; high utility)
- Inclusivity (early-stage teams welcome)
- Impact driven and cohort-conscious selection.

3) Scope of the Call

3.1 Applicant Types (Two Tracks)

- Track A — Startups (legal entity)
- Track B — Entrepreneurial Projects (pre-incorporation): teams from universities, RTOs, labs, or independent groups.

3.2 Thematic Fit

The call targets early-stage **hardware startups** developing physical products. Teams must have a **working prototype or functional mock-up** and a clear ambition to advance toward manufacturability and scaling.

3.3 Geographic Eligibility & Priority

The program is open to entrepreneurial projects and startups based in:

- **Austria:** Lower Austria, Northern Burgenland (NUTS 3 region AT112), and Vienna
- **Slovakia:** Bratislava Region and Trnava Region

Applicants from other EU Member States and Horizon27 countries may also be considered if their application demonstrates a clear and direct link to the above cross-border regions. Please note: No more than 20% of the final selected applicants may come from outside the specified Austrian and Slovak regions.

3.4 Supported Activities (In-Kind Only)

- 5 Sprints (in person sprint days): expert input + hands-on work + individualized action plans.
- Follow-up period: self-paced action plan execution, 1,5 h group mentoring, structured feedback.
- 24/7 access to accent Makerspace (tools/labs, by availability)
- Group mentoring, coaching, peer learning.
- 5 Roadshows (5 in person visits in SK and AT, curated introductions - partners/clients).
- Access to market (A2M) guidance-
- Visibility via 2C FIMH and project partner channels.

3.5 Languages

Working language: English.

4) Governance & Roles

4.1 Organizing Actors

- EIT Manufacturing (EITM): Call owner, process and platform lead (Submittable), A2M, visibility.
- accent Inkubator: outreach, jury organization, stakeholder engagement, sprint delivery, access Makerspace access, sprint coordination.
- STUBA/ INQB: stakeholder engagement, jury, sprint hosting,
- SAPIE: Outreach, jury participation, stakeholder engagement, roadshow organisation
- Other 2C FIMH Project Partners (AT/SK): Outreach, mentors, roadshow hosting, stakeholder engagement.
- External Evaluators: Independent subject-matter experts. Role: counselling.

4.2 Decision-Making Bodies

- Eligibility Desk: Admin/admissibility screening. (EITM)
- Evaluation Panel: 3 reviewers/application (accent, InQb, Sapie).
- Jury Committee: decision making body (2C FIMH WP2 partners).

4.3 Integrity & Compliance

- Confidentiality obligations for evaluators, staff and external contributors (Annex A6).
- GDPR-compliant data handling (Section 11).

5) Call Lifecycle & Tools

5.1 Batches & Timing

- Indicative opening for the first batch: 3 November 2025.
- Illustrative batch timeline :
 - Weeks 0–4: Applications open (Submittable).
 - Weeks 1–4: Admissibility/eligibility checks.
 - Weeks 5: Remote evaluation (Scoring).
 - Week 7: Decision board (Jury)
 - Week 7-8: Notifications.
 - Weeks 8–12: Onboarding (agreements, scheduling).
 - Weeks 13–33: Sprints and Roadshows+ Makerspace use.
 - Week 33/34: Demo Day (actual event may differ from cohort to cohort).

Note: Actual dates are published per batch on the call page. Organizers may adjust durations to ensure quality and participation.

5.2 Platform & Communications

- Submittable is used for application intake, evaluation, notifications.
- Official updates via the call page and email; FAQs maintained (Annex A1 2).

5.3 Required Documents

Track A (Startups):

- Online Application Form (Annex A1 fields)
- Pitch Deck (Annex A2)
- Company Registration Certificate
- Company Logo (vector or high-res)

Track B (Entrepreneurial Projects):

- Online Application Form (Annex A1 fields)
- Pitch Deck (Annex A2)
- Optional: team logo

Optional (both tracks): 2–3 min product/demo video; non-binding Letters of Interest.

6) Eligibility & Admissibility

6.1 Admissibility (both tracks)

- Submitted on time via Submittable; English; all mandatory fields and documents complete.

6.2 Eligibility – Track A (Startups)

- Legal entity in EU27 / Horizon Europe-associated country.
- Thematic fit

6.3 Eligibility – Track B (Entrepreneurial Projects)

- Team lead identified;
- Thematic fit

6.4 Exclusion/Disqualifiers

- False information, plagiarism, sanctions per EU Financial Regulation, conflict of interest breaches, repeated non-responsiveness.

7) Evaluation and Selection Process

7.1 Two-Stage Process

Remote review:

- Each application is evaluated by 3 reviewers using a scoring system (see Annex A4)
- Shortlisting is based on aggregated score, while ensuring national balance (min. 2 startups / country)

Pitch/Interview (online):

- 8 shortlisted applicants present (5' pitch + 15' Q&A).
- Independent experts give recommendations. Closed door discussion.
- Final decision done by the Jury committee.

Documentation

- The Jury Session is documented by voice recording (confidential) and a committee report.

7.2 Evaluation Criteria & Selection Factors

The 2C FIMH Sprint & Roadshow Programme seeks to identify and support 4–5 hardware startups for whom the programme can generate the greatest impact.

While startups in the pre-selection phase are assessed using a predefined scoring system, the final decision will be based on a qualitative evaluation, emphasizing relevance and growth potential within the programme framework.

Primary Considerations

- Availability and commitment to actively participate in all programme activities.
- Fit to the Makerspace environment – the tools, equipment, and spaces needed for the startup's advancement are available within the accent Makerspace. (more information: Annexes A10 and A11)
- Fit to the Sprint and Roadshow content, ensuring alignment between the team's development goals and the programme's focus.
- Coachability – openness to feedback, collaboration, and learning.

Advantages (Primary Factors)

- Projects demonstrating cross-border value or clear local/regional relevance will be prioritised.

Advantages (Secondary Factors)

- Have female founders or leadership, and/or
- Integrate sustainability principles into their products, processes, or business models.

Final decision factor:

- Group fit – final selection will take into account how well teams complement each other to foster peer learning and cross-exchange within the cohort. The programme aims to support 4-5 startups, where a minimum of 1 startups should be come from a different country.

8) Onboarding

8.1 Cohort Sizing

Target ~5 teams per batch (combined across tracks), minimum 1 team / country. Organizers may increase/decrease depending on quality and resources.

8.2 What Selected Teams Receive (In-Kind)

2C FIMH Sprint & Roadshows Series

- 5 in-person sprint days, including expert input, tailored guidance
- Follow-up group mentoring (≥1,5 h) and structured feedback;
- accent Makerspace access during the programme
- Roadshow programme (5 structured on-site visits that connect startups with manufacturing companies or industrial R&D centers)
- A2M support and curated introductions to partners/customers.
- Visibility via EITM, 2C FIMH Project and project partner's communication channels.
- Demonstration possibility at the Manufacturing Day 2026 (only for participants with 80% attendance rate at the sprints).

8.3 Contracting & Program Rules

- Declaration of Honour (Annex A5).
- Participation Agreement (organizer template).
- accent Makerspace usage agreement and liability waiver (more information: Annex A10, A 11).
- Support Review Document due within 1 month post-support (Annex A8).

De minimis criteria – applicable for established companies

With the application, the startup confirms that the proposed project complies with EU state aid regulations, specifically the De Minimis Regulation (EU) 2023/2831 and, where applicable, the previous Regulation (EU) No. 1407/2013.

The total amount of de minimis aid received by the startup (including this program) must not exceed EUR 300,000 over any rolling three-year period. The startup must ensure that the aid received does not violate any existing or former contracts or employment relationships of its owners.

Upon the signature of the support agreement the startup must be able to declare all previous de minimis aid received.

The total estimated value of support provided under the 2C FIMH Sprint & Roadshow series is 5.000 EUR (out of this the accent Makerspace access during the programme is estimated for 1.000 EUR).

9) Monitoring, KPIs & Reporting

9.1 Monitoring

- Checkpoints:
 - sprints and roadshow attendance,
 - mentor session logs,
 - evaluation reports,
 - final programme report (by the organizer team).

9.2 KPIs (program-level; indicative)

- Teams supported per batch (by track/country).
- New cross-border links (partners, sites, pilots).
- TRL/MLL movement; manufacturability readiness improvements.
- Qualified introductions to corporates/SMEs/investors.
- Satisfaction (participants/partners).

9.3 Final Reporting

- Support review documents + short outcome survey within 1 month after support ends.
- Organizers may conduct light follow-up up to 12–24 months for outcomes (pilots, customers, funding).

10) Communication & Dissemination

- Call page with timeline, templates, and FAQs; Open Day at accent Makerspace with Q&A possibility.
- Branding: EU/Interreg + WP2 partners visibility and wording per guidelines (Annex A9).
- Public outputs: non-confidential finalists, presence at Manufacturing Day 2025, outcomes.

11) Legal, Ethics & Data

11.1 Applicable Law & Jurisdiction (Dual)

- Activities executed primarily in Austria follow applicable Austrian law; activities in Slovakia follow Slovak law.
- English is the working language; German/Slovak official documents, certifications are accepted.

11.2 Intellectual Property

- Free of charge
- No equity taken
- No transfer of IP required
- Teams retain all developed IP
- No assignment to organizers is required.

11.3 Data Protection (GDPR)

- Data controllers/processors: EIT Manufacturing (and subsidiaries as needed), Submittable (processor).
- Personal data used strictly for application management, evaluation, support delivery, reporting, and visibility where consented.
- Retention: normally up to 5 years post-batch close.
- Rights: access, rectification, erasure, restriction, portability, objection; contact details provided on the call page.

11.4 Audits, Withdrawal & Appeals

- Grounds for withdrawal: fraud, ineligibility, serious breach, persistent non-cooperation.
- Appeals (procedural only): within 5 calendar days of decision notice via the email indicated on the call page.

11.5 Conflict of Interest & Confidentiality

- Evaluators and staff must sign conflict of interest & confidentiality forms (Annex A6).
- Applicants must mark confidential materials clearly within submissions.

12) Annexes (Templates & Tools)

Annex A1 — Application Form (field list)

Section 1: Applicant Information

Track

- ☐ A: Startup
☐ B: Entrepreneurial Project / Pre-incorporation Team)

Project/Company name: _____

Location

Region:

- ☐ Austria (Vienna, Lower Austria, Northern Burgenland)
☐ Slovakia (Bratislava Region, Trnava Region)
☐ Austria – other
☐ Slovakia – other
☐ Other country: _____

City: _____

Website (if any): _____

Primary contact

- o Name: _____
o Role: _____
o E-mail: _____@_____
o Phone: _____ (+ form)

Team size; _____

Key team profiles (short bios, roles, relevant experiences) _____

Section 2: What are you building?

Optionally, you may describe in your answer:

- What is the need your solution addresses?
- What is your solution? What makes it unique or innovative?
- What have you built so far? What are the main challenges in prototyping / making it manufacturable?
- Current development stage (eg. TRL/MLL – if known / Concept only / Prototype under development / Functional prototype / Testing phase)

Section 3: What is your business model?

Optionally, you may describe in your answer:

- Who is your target customer?
- How do you plan to bring your product to market?
- Do you have any current or planned activities, partners, markets, or stakeholders in Austria or Slovakia?

Section 4: Why do you want to participate in the 2C FIMH Sprint & Roadshow Series?

Optionally, you may describe in your answer:

- What specific challenges or goals are you hoping to address through this programme?
- How does this programme fit into your broader strategy for product or business development? Why is now the right time for your team to engage in this kind of support?
- How do you see the programme contributing to your product's development?
- Are you interested to use accent Makerspace, and if yes why and how?
- How do you see the programme contributing to your business` development? (eg. meeting potential partners, learning from peers)

Section 5: Are you prepared to commit to at least 80% of the programme activities?

If you foresee any challenges in meeting this commitment, please describe them.

Section 6: Attachments

- Pitch Deck (PDF/PPT)
- Track A: Registration certificate + logo
- Track B: (optional) logo
- Optional: Demo video link; letter of intent

Declarations

- Acceptance of the provisions published in the call; GDPR consent; Declaration of Honour.

Annex A2 — Pitch Deck Outline (10–12 slides)

The pitch deck is a required part of your application - but you may update or refine it before the jury presentation if you are selected. During the jury session, you will have 5 minutes to present your project.

The pitch deck is your visual story — a way to highlight your concept, team, progress, and ambitions. Feel free to use visuals, short videos, or storytelling elements to bring your idea to life.

The following guidelines are here to help you prepare. We understand that early-stage startups are still shaping their ideas and may not have answers to every point — just focus on being clear, relevant, and **showing the potential** behind what you're building.

1. Title, team & contact
Present your team, its competences, experience. Build trust in execution capacity.
2. Problem / customer pain
Clearly define the importance of the problem you are addressing with your proposed solution. Highlight the “specific pains” of the target customer (not the market as a whole). Explain why this problem matters (eg. insert data, stat.) Highlight urgency (what is at risk if nothing changes?) Briefly explain why the current solutions are inadequate.
3. Solution & key features
Introduce your breakthrough idea and how it solves the problem in a different, new way. Explain in simple, relatable terms, avoid jargon or deep technical explanations. You may use visual illustrations.
4. Market & use case(s)
*Assess the size of the market, state relevant trends.
Define your target customers, showcase how you plan to reach them.
Include early-stage feedback or validation (e.g. from potential clients or companies).*
5. Business model & scale path
Explain, how you intend to earn your income and grow.
6. Manufacturability status (what's proven / open issues)
Be transparent: share what's proven and what's still open. The programme is designed to help you advance in this area.
7. Traction (pilots, revenues, partnerships)
Highlight validation (if any: eg. grants, letter of intents, customer evidence, certification, prototype, pilot)
8. Program goals

*Explain what you would like to achieve by participating in the 2C FIMH Sprint & Roadshow Series.
Show what you need and why now.
Mention if your project has any cross-border or strong local relevance (Austria - Slovakia)*

Annex A3 — Eligibility & Admissibility Checklist

- Submitted via Submittable before deadline (Y/N)
- English; all mandatory fields completed (Y/N)
- Track A: Reg. certificate & logo attached (Y/N)
- Pitch deck attached (Y/N)
- Thematic fit clearly stated (Y/N)
- Declaration of Honour checked (Y/N)

Annex A4 — Scoring sheet

The applicant (max. 20 points, threshold: 10 points)	Idea (0-4)	<i>Clarity, relevance, and potential of the core idea.</i>
	0 – Poor	The idea lacks clarity or relevance; limited or no potential for adoption.
	2 – Adequate	The idea presents credible benefits and shows an initial pathway to adoption.
	4 – Excellent	The idea demonstrates a strong industrial case with high adoption potential and clear sector impact.
	Technology (0-4)	<i>Technical soundness, novelty, and feasibility.</i>
	0 – Poor	Weak or unclear technological foundation.
	2 – Adequate	Technically feasible; some novelty or differentiation.
	4 – Excellent	Strong technical foundation; clear innovation and development potential.
	Business Model (0-4)	<i>Viability and clarity of the business approach.</i>
	0 – Poor	Unclear or unrealistic business model.
	2 – Adequate	Defined milestones and market logic; risks acknowledged.
	4 – Excellent	Realistic and well-structured plan; strong market logic and risk mitigation.
	Impact (0-4)	<i>Potential for sectoral or societal impact</i>
	0 – Poor	Limited or unclear impact.
	2 – Adequate	Some potential for industry or societal benefit.
	4 – Excellent	High potential for sectoral transformation or broader impact.
	Team (0-4)	<i>Capability and commitment of the team.</i>
	0 – Poor	Weak or incomplete team; One-person shows
	2 – Adequate	Capable team with relevant skills and clear roles.
	4 – Excellent	High-caliber, well-balanced team with strong execution potential.
The application (max. 20 points threshold: 10 points)	Plan (0-4)	<i>Clarity and feasibility of the proposed activities</i>
	0 – Poor	Weak or unfitting plan.
	2 – Adequate	Reasonable plan with connection to program elements
	4 – Excellent	Clear, realistic plan with strong alignment and defined goals with the programme participation
	Sprint Engagement (0-4)	<i>Relevance and expected benefit from the sprint modules</i>
	0 – Poor	Unclear vision or unrealistic expectations for how the sprints will help advance the prototype; misalignment with sprint content and objective.
	2 – Adequate	General vision for improvement; sprints can support progress.
	4 – Excellent	Strong fit; clear strategy to leverage sprints for development. Great potential for impact

	Roadshow Engagement (0-4)	<i>Relevance and expected benefit from the roadshows</i>
	0 – Poor	Unclear or unprepared team for roadshows
	2 – Adequate	Some potential benefits identified
	4 – Excellent	Strong fit; clear potential to leverage roadshows activities
	Strategic fit (0-4)	<i>Alignment with the overall goals of the 2C FIMH project</i>
	0 – Poor	Weak or unclear alignment
	2 – Adequate	Reasonable fit; makes use of overall 2C FIMH integration.
	4 – Excellent	Tight fit with program goals; the same results could not be achieved in other programme offers.
	Readiness to engage (0-4)	<i>Motivation and preparedness to participate.</i>
	0 – Poor	Risks at availability or unclear motivation.
	2 – Adequate	Willing to participate; some constraints noted
	4 – Excellent	Highly motivated and fully prepared to engage throughout the program.
Bonus scores (non-threshold)	Cross-border value	
	+1	The applicant demonstrates clear regional/local relevance (eg. as plans to locate production, sourcing, or sales activities in the target regions)
	+2	The project shows strong cross-border relevance, including collaboration, market access, or supply chain integration across Austria and Slovakia
	Gender diversity	
	+1	The startup is led by (a) female founder.
	+1	At least 30% of the team members are women.
	Sustainability & Circularity	
	+1	The project makes a strong contribution to environmental or societal sustainability
	+1	The project applies / supports circular economy principles
Tie-brakers	Programme fit / then cross-border / 2C FIMH relevance / then higher Impact.	

Annex A5 — Declaration of Honour (Template)

I, the undersigned, representing [Applicant/Team Name], hereby declare that:

1. All information provided is true and complete; no material omissions.
2. We meet the eligibility conditions of the *2C FIMH Sprint & Roadshows Series* call.
3. We are not in any exclusion situation under applicable EU financial regulations.
4. We accept the Evaluation Criteria and Selection Framework, including evaluation, confidentiality, conflict of interest disclosure, and reporting.
5. We consent to data processing for call management per GDPR notice.

Signed: _____ Name/Title: _____ Date: _____

Annex A6 — Conflict of Interest & Confidentiality (Evaluator/Staff)

I declare no conflict of interest with any applicant/team. If a conflict of interest arises, I will immediately notify organizers and abstain.

I will treat all application materials as confidential, use them solely for evaluation/management, and not disclose to third parties.

Signed: _____ Role: _____ Date: _____

Annex A8 — Support Review Document (SRD)

- Team/Project name; Batch; Dates of support
- Activities received (sprint, mentoring hours, makerspace usage, A2M/introductions)
- Outcomes vs. goals (bullets)
- Follow-ups planned (pilots, customers, funding)
- Visibility/branding compliance confirmed

Signed by team lead and organizer representative;

Date

Annex A9 — Branding & Visibility (Summary)

- Acknowledge EU/Interreg and organising partners in communications.
- Use provided logos/emblems; do not alter; ensure equal prominence with partner logos.
- Coordinate press/PR with organizers for major announcements.

Templates and assets will be provided.

Annex A10 — accent Makerspace Access: Terms & Conditions

Selected startups of the program will be granted access to the **accent Makerspace** located in **Tulln an der Donau, Austria**. Information about the Makerspace, the available equipment and usage guidelines are provided in the Annex A11.

Access is free of charge and includes use of designated spaces, rooms, and tools; occasional overnight stays (subject to availability and prior arrangement).

To use the Makerspace, selected participants must:

- **Sign a Usage Agreement** with accent, which includes a **liability waiver** (*Note: Contracting is conducted in German or Slovak language; the usage agreement is additional to the participation agreement*)
- Hold a valid **business and liability insurance** that appropriately covers their activities (*Organizers will provide the requirements and conditions for this insurance; coverage is also provided by the organizers*)

Annex A 11 — accent Makerspace: Infosheet

Access to the accent Makerspace through the 2C FIMH Sprints & Roadshow Series



Participation in the **2C FIMH Sprints & Roadshow Series** grants startups free access to the **accent Makerspace**, a hands-on infrastructure designed to support prototyping and entrepreneurial development.

accent Makerspace – a framework for experimental product development and entrepreneurial growth

Located in a repurposed agricultural school building in Tulln an der Donau, the accent Makerspace offers a rich environment for knowledge exchange, peer community interaction, industry networking, and tailored support for prototype development in an innovative setting.

accent Inkubator I EPICLA

Frauentorgasse 72-74

3430 Tulln

AUSTRIA

<https://epic-lower-austria.at/> | <https://accent.at/en>

Let's prototype!

The accent Makerspace is specifically designed to meet the needs of innovative startups working in areas such as green tech, sustainable transformation, new materials, climate goals, creative industries, and service innovation.

It offers a wide range of workshops, networking opportunities, and resources, including:

- Infrastructure for multi-day work sprints for co-founders
- Workshops equipped with various tools and machines for prototyping
- A basic laboratory setup for applied research
- A large machinery hall for space-intensive experiments, large equipment, and prototype showcasing
- Storage halls and rooms
- 5 hectares of fields for cultivation trials and greenhouses of various sizes
- Co-working spaces with office equipment
- Professional meeting spaces for discussions with partners and investors
- Hands-on support: An in-house expert is available to assist with technical questions and help adapt or operate equipment
- Community: A collaborative atmosphere with other highly motivated startups working in similar fields, offering valuable networking opportunities
- 24/7 access

Introductory steps

During the kick-off the programme startups are invited to an introductory visit and guided tour of the accent Makerspace. This includes a walkthrough of the facilities, meeting the accent team and resident startups, and gaining an overview of available resources and upcoming workshops.

Terms & Conditions

Access to Makerspace is subject to signing a usage agreement that outlines terms of access, responsibilities, and includes a liability waiver. Startups Hold a valid **business and liability insurance** that appropriately covers their activities (*Organizers will provide the requirements and conditions for this insurance; coverage is also provided by the organizers*)

accent Makerspace – Summary of Usage Guidelines

1. General Principles

The Makerspace is intended exclusively for research, not for commercial or industrial operations. Startups must act responsibly and independently, ensuring their activities do not endanger people or property. Activities should not cause disturbances such as noise, odor, smoke, or emissions.

2. Examples of Permitted Activities

- Lab experiments with renewable raw materials and validation of results
- Optical and sensor-based tests, including movement and measurement of materials.
- Prototype development for research purposes (non-commercial).
- Collaborative research with other startups to build expertise and knowledge, as long as it's non-commercial.

3. Examples of Prohibited Activities

Hazardous experiments, such as: Self-igniting substances; Electrolysis producing explosive gases; Dry cutting that generates toxic dust; Toxic substances; Animal testing

Commercial activities, including: Production for sale; Selling goods; Providing paid services on-site (e.g., contract development)

4. Additional Notes

Startups are responsible for seeking legal advice and staying informed about applicable regulations.

Annex A12 — Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

- Q: Do we get cash? A: No. Support is in-kind (sprints, mentoring, makerspace, A2M, intros, visibility).
- Q: Do we need to be an Austrian/Slovak entity? A: No; but priority is given to the projects coming from Austria (Vienna, Lower-Austria, Northern Burgenland and to projects coming from Slovakia (Bratislava and Trnava regions). Projects having a direct link to the aforementioned cross-border regions - coming from EU or Horizon 27-associated countries may be considered.
- Q: Can pre-incorporation teams apply? A: Yes, via Track B.
- Q: What if we cannot travel? A: The program requires presence at least 6 times. The sprints are planned physically in Tulln and der Donau (AT) and Bratislava (SK), roadshows are physical visits or meetings. Hybrid options may be offered for some of the follow-up activities; but the programme includes about 12 presence days.
- Q: Is travel support offered? A: The costs for travel and accommodation incurred during the sprints or roadshows are not included. However, in specific circumstances—such as financial or social barriers—you may be eligible for the program to contribute towards these expenses. Please explain your reasons for requesting support with travel costs.
- Q: How many teams per batch? A: Target ~5; may vary by quality and capacity.

Document Control

- Document maintained by: EIT Manufacturing (with accent Inkubator)
- Updates: Organizers may amend Evaluation Criteria and Selection Framework for clarity/efficiency; any change will be posted on the call page.
- Contact: The call page will list a dedicated email address for inquiries.