Evaluation Criteria and Selection Framework

Prototype to Industry Program

Twin City Future Innovation Manufacturing Hub

Version 1.0 (Full text)

Prepared by: EIT Manufacturing & accent Inkubator (with WP2 partners)
Call opening: 29 June 2026
Support type: In-kind only
Cohort size (target): 4-5 teams per cohort
Submission platform: Submittable

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1) Executive Summary

This Evaluation Criteria and Selection Framework sets out the rules, process, and responsibilities for selecting teams for the *Prototype to Industry Program* implemented within the Twin City Future Manufacturing Hub.

The *Prototype to Industry Program* supports hardware startups and entrepreneurial teams in moving from prototype development toward manufacturability and industry access through sprint-based support, makerspace access, mentoring, and industry connection activities across the Vienna–Bratislava cross-border region.

The framework is implementation-ready and binding for all organizers. It defines eligibility, governance, evaluation and selection, onboarding and participation conditions, reporting, legal and data provisions, and the annexed templates and tools used throughout the call process.

1.1 Guiding Principles of the Evaluation Criteria and Selection Framework

- Transparency & fairness
- Cross-border value
- Lean & practical (minimal administration; high utility)
- Inclusivity
- Impact driven and cohort-conscious selection.

2) Background & Rationale

2.1 2C FIMH Context

The *Prototype to Industry Program* 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 sprint-based support, Industry Connection Days (roadshows), and a cooperation model, which will be consolidated into a practical toolkit and strategic recommendations.

2.2 Problem–Opportunity

Manufacturing ventures often struggle to move beyond early prototyping toward manufacturability, market access, and cross-border scaling.

The *Prototype to Industry Program* addresses this gap by helping hardware startups and entrepreneurial teams bridge the transition from prototype development to manufacturability readiness and industry access. It does so through sprint-based support, practical methods, makerspace access, mentoring, and industry connection activities.

Through structured selection, capability building, and cross-border engagement, the programme supports teams in strengthening both their technical development pathway and their readiness to engage with industrial partners and future markets.

2.3. What awardees receive (in-kind):

- Participation in the *Prototype to Industry Program*
- Access to accent Makerspace and labs (Annexes 10 and 11)
- Expert support through Sprint workshops
- Business Mentoring
- Peer learning opportunities
- Industry visits and partner introductions (Industry Connection Days)
- Visibility via 2C FIMH project and project partner channels.
- Opportunities to showcase the solution

3) Scope of the Call

3.1 Applicant Types

- Track A — Startups (registered legal entity).
- Track B — Innovation teams and entrepreneurial projects (pre-incorporation), such as university spin-offs, student teams, and innovation teams developing a commercialization pathway.

3.2 Thematic Fit

The programme aims to support teams in advancing their prototypes toward manufacturability with a pathway to market entry. Eligible solutions should typically be in the TRL 3–6 range and demonstrate relevance to manufacturing or industrial/ real-word application contexts.

The programme focuses on hardware-driven innovations involving physical products or systems. Purely digital or software-only solutions without a direct and essential link to manufacturing are not eligible.

Indicative areas include advanced production systems, industrial components, sustainable materials, energy-efficient production technologies, and human–machine interaction.

3.3 Geographic Eligibility & Priority

The programme is open to innovation teams 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 Horizon Europe-associated countries may also be considered if a clear and direct link to the target cross-border regions is demonstrated.
Normally, no more than one selected team 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 hours of group mentoring, structured feedback.
- 24/7 access to accent Makerspace (tools/labs, by availability)
- Team mentoring in entrepreneurship topics by business professionals (max. 4 sessions, subject to mentor availability).
- Peer learning.
- 5 Industry Connection Days (5 in-person visits in SK and AT, introductions to relevant industry partners).

- 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), visibility.
- accent Inkubator: outreach, jury organization, stakeholder engagement, free access to accent Makerspace, sprint coordination and hosting.
- STUBA / INQB: stakeholder engagement, jury, mentoring workshops
- SAPIE: outreach, jury participation, stakeholder engagement, Industry Connection Days organisation.
- Other 2C FIMH Project Partners (AT/SK): Outreach, mentors, stakeholder engagement, jury, support.
- External Evaluators: Independent subject-matter experts. Role: advisory support.

4.2 Decision-Making Bodies

- Eligibility Desk: Admin/admissibility screening. (EITM)
- Evaluation Panel: 3 reviewers per 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 Cohorts & Timing

Indicative call opening: 29 June 2026

Application deadline: 17 August 2026

Admissibility and eligibility checks: on a rolling basis

Remote evaluations: within two weeks after the call closes

Online pitching and jury selection: within a month after the call closes

Notifications: within two working days after the decision

Onboarding: September–October 2026

Programme implementation: October 2026–March 2027

Demo Day: May 2027

Note: This timeline is indicative and may be adjusted by the organizers if needed. Final dates are published on the call page.

5.2 Platform & Communications

- Submittable is used for application intake, evaluation, notifications.
- Official updates via the call page and in email; FAQs maintained (Annex A12).

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 (Innovation Teams and 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)

- Registered legal entity in an EU27 or Horizon Europe-associated country.
- Early- to mid-stage startup developing manufacturing-relevant technology with a clear pathway toward industrial application.
- Thematic fit and clear manufacturing relevance.
- Operational link to the Slovakia–Austria cross-border region through legal seat, core team presence, or pilot cooperation with an industrial or research partner in the region.
- The team must demonstrate sufficient capacity to execute the project. Applications submitted by a single individual without access to complementary technical or business support may be considered out of scope.
- The team must demonstrate sufficient technical development competence and business or commercialization capability, either within the team or through secured external support. Key competencies should not be concentrated in a single individual without access to complementary expertise

6.3 Eligibility — Track B (Innovation Teams and Entrepreneurial Projects)

- Early- to mid-stage innovation team, student team, university spin-off, or other entrepreneurial project developing a manufacturing-relevant technology with a clear commercialization pathway.
- Team lead identified.
- Technical development competence within the team and business or commercialization capability within the team or through secured support.
- Thematic fit and clear manufacturing relevance.
- Operational link to the Slovakia–Austria cross-border region through core team presence or pilot cooperation with an industrial or research partner in the region.
- The team must demonstrate sufficient technical development competence and business or commercialization capability, either within the team or through secured external support. Key competencies should not be concentrated in a single individual without access to complementary expertise

6.4 Exclusion/Disqualifiers

- False information, plagiarism, sanctions per EU Financial Regulation, conflict of interest breaches, or repeated non-responsiveness.
- Applications lacking the minimum technical or organizational capacity to reasonably execute their proposed development activities and to actively participate in the programme activities
- Trading models without own technological development.

- Purely theoretical research without physical prototyping.
- Consultancy-only models without proprietary product development.
- Purely digital or software-only solutions, including standalone SaaS platforms, AI applications, or digital tools, are not eligible unless they have a direct and essential hardware or physical manufacturing integration.

7) Evaluation and Selection Process

7.1 Two-Stage Process

The evaluation and selection process follows a two-stage approach: a remote scoring-based shortlist, followed by an online pitch and final jury decision.

Remote review:

- Each application is evaluated by 3 reviewers using a scoring system (see Annex A4). Based on the aggregated score, up to 8 teams are shortlisted and invited to the next round.

Pitch/Interview (online):

- Up to 8 shortlisted teams present (5' pitch + 15' Q&A).
- Independent experts may provide recommendations. The Jury Committee decides in a closed-door discussion.
- The final selection is based on the Jury Committee's qualitative decision and cohort fit, not on a second scoring round.

Documentation

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

7.2 Evaluation Criteria & Selection Factors

The *Prototype to Industry Programme* aims to identify and support 4–5 teams for whom the programme can generate the greatest impact.

In the first stage, applications are assessed through the remote scoring framework set out in Annex A4.

The final selection is based on the Jury Committee's qualitative assessment of programme fit, cohort composition, manufacturability potential, and expected programme impact. The selection process aims to ensure a balanced representation from Austria and Slovakia whenever sufficient quality applications are available

Primary considerations

- **Availability and commitment** to actively participate in all programme activities.

- **Expected programme impact**, including whether the team is likely to make a significant step toward manufacturability through the programme's specific support elements, such as makerspace access, Industry Connection Days, and manufacturing mentoring.
- **Fit to the sprint and Industry Connection Days content**, including whether the team's current challenges and objectives match the thematic focus of the programme activities.
- **Fit to the makerspace environment**, including whether the tools, equipment, and spaces needed for the team's advancement are available within the accent Makerspace (see Annexes A10 and A11).
- **Coachability**, including openness to feedback, collaboration, and learning.

Additional priority factor

- **Cross-border or territorial relevance**, including whether the project demonstrates clear cross-border value or strong local/regional relevance within the target Austria–Slovakia area.

Additional secondary factors

- **Gender diversity**, including female founders or women in leadership roles.
- **Sustainability** orientation, including the integration of sustainability or circular economy principles into the product, process, or business model.

Final selection factor

- **Cohort complementarity**, including how well including how well a team fits with the overall cohort in order to support peer learning, exchange, and strong group dynamics throughout the programme.

7.3 Cohort Size and Composition

The target cohort size is 4 to 5 teams per cohort, combined across both tracks. Organisers aim to ensure representation from both Austria and Slovakia, provided that a sufficient number of quality applications are received from both countries. The final number of selected teams may be adjusted depending on application quality and available resources.

8) Participation Conditions After Selection

8.1 What Selected Teams Receive (In-Kind)

Prototype to Industry Programme

- Participants of the Prototype to Industry Programme will receive:
- **Five in-person Sprint Days**, featuring expert-led sessions, hands-on workshops, and practical guidance on prototyping, product development, and manufacturing-related topics.
- **Individual Business Mentoring**, with up to four tailored mentoring sessions covering topics such as customer discovery, market validation, go-to-market strategy, stakeholder engagement, business model development, fundraising, and other business challenges relevant to the startup's development.
- **Free access to the accent Makerspace** throughout the duration of the programme, enabling teams to further develop and test their prototypes.
- **Five Industry Connection Days**, offering structured visits to manufacturing companies, industrial R&D centres, and innovation facilities to provide practical insights, networking opportunities, and exposure to real-world industrial environments.
- **Visibility across the EIT Manufacturing and 2C FIMH ecosystems**, including promotion through project partners' communication channels.
- **The opportunity to showcase their solution at Manufacturing Day 2027**, subject to participation in at least 80% of the programme activities.

8.2 Feedback, Evaluation & Support Review Document

Selected teams are expected to actively participate in feedback, evaluation, and follow-up activities during and after the programme. As this is a pilot programme, participant feedback is an important part of the overall learning and improvement process.

Selected teams must provide the information reasonably requested by the organisers for reporting, review, and learning purposes, including input to the Support Review Document and a short outcome survey.

The Support Review Document (Annex A8) is prepared by the organisers after the programme ends and completed together with the selected team.

9) Legal, Ethics & Data

9.1 Required Documents for Selected Teams

- Declaration of Honour (Annex A5).
- Participation Agreement (organizer template).
- accent Makerspace usage agreement and liability waiver (more information: Annex A10 and A11).

9.2 De Minimis

Applicable to established companies only. With the application, the startup confirms that the proposed project complies with EU state aid rules, 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 programme, must not exceed EUR 300,000 over any rolling three-year period. Upon signature of the participation or support agreement, the startup must be able to declare all previous de minimis aid received.

The total estimated value of support provided under the Prototype to Industry Programme is EUR 5,000, of which accent Makerspace access during the programme is estimated at EUR 1,000.

9.3 Intellectual Property

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

9.4 Conflict of Interest & Confidentiality

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

9.5 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-cohort close.
- Rights: access, rectification, erasure, restriction, portability, objection; contact details provided on the call page.

9.6 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.

10) Communication & Dissemination

- Call page with timeline, templates, and FAQs; information session with a Q&A segment.
- Branding: EU/Interreg + WP2 partners visibility and wording per guidelines (Annex A9).
- Public outputs: non-confidential finalists, presence at Manufacturing Day 2027, outcomes.

11) 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

- Name: _____
- Role: _____
- E-mail: _____@_____
- 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 Prototype to Industry Programme?

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. If you are selected, you may update or refine it before the jury presentation. 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. Programme goals

Explain what you would like to achieve by participating in the Prototype to Industry Programme.
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)
- Cross-border / territorial eligibility demonstrated (Y/N)
- Declaration of Honour checked (Y/N)

Annex A4 — Scoring sheet

The applicant (max. 20 points, threshold: 10 points)	Idea (0-4)	*Clarity, relevance, and potential of the core idea.*
	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)	*Technical soundness, novelty, and feasibility*.
	0 – Poor	Weak or unclear technological foundation, with no credible path toward manufacturability.
	2 – Adequate	Technically feasible; some novelty or differentiation and potential to progress toward manufacturability.
	4 – Excellent	Strong technological foundation, clear novelty or differentiation, and high potential to advance toward manufacturability.
	Business Model (0-4)	*Viability and clarity of the business approach.*
	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)	*Potential for sectoral or societal impact*
	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)	*Capability and commitment of the team.*
	0 – Poor	Weak or incomplete team; key capabilities are missing or concentrated in one person.
	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)	*Clarity and feasibility of the proposed activities*
	0 – Poor	Weak, unclear, or poorly aligned plan, with limited potential to benefit from the programme.
	2 – Adequate	Reasonable plan with relevant development goals and a workable connection to the programme elements.
	4 – Excellent	Clear, realistic plan with well-defined development goals and strong alignment with the programme support.
	Sprint Engagement (0-4)	*Relevance and expected benefit from the sprint modules*
	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
	Industry Connection Days Engagement (0-4)	*Relevance and expected benefit from the Industry Connection Days*
	0 – Poor	Unclear or unprepared team for *Industry Connection Days*
	2 – Adequate	Some potential benefits identified
	4 – Excellent	Strong fit; clear potential to leverage *Industry Connection Days* activities
	Strategic fit (0-4)	*Alignment with the overall goals of the 2C FIMH project*
	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)	*Motivation and preparedness to participate*.
	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 (max. 2)	
	+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 (max. 1)	
	+1	Female founder.
	+1	At least 30 % women in the team.
	Sustainability & Circularity (max. 1)	
	+1	The project makes a strong contribution to environmental or societal sustainability
	+1	The project applies / supports circular economy principles
Tie-breakers	Programme fit / then cross-border / Twin City Innovation Manufacturing Hub (2C FIMH project) 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 *Prototype to Industry Programme* 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; Cohort; Dates of support
- Activities received (sprint, mentoring hours, makerspace usage, industry visits)
- 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 accent Makerspace, selected participants must:

- **Sign a Usage Agreement** with accent, which includes a **liability waiver** *(Note: Contracting is conducted in German or English 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 Prototype to Industry Programme

Participation in the ***Prototype to Industry Programme*** 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://accentmakerspace.at/ I 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 programme consists of 5 in-person sprint sessions in Tulln an der Donau (Austria) and 5 Industry Connection Days held as in-person visits or meetings within the programme region (Austria: Vienna, North Burgenland, Lower Austria; Slovakia: Bratislava Region, Trnava Region). In total, the programme includes approximately 12 in-person days, with participation required on at least 6 occasions. Hybrid options are available for follow-up activities.
- Q: Is travel support offered? A: The costs for travel and accommodation incurred during the sprints or industry connection days 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 cohort? A: Target ~5; may vary by quality and capacity.

Document Control

- Document maintained by 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.