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Basque Open Innovation Platform

BIND

STARTUP IMMERSION PROGRAM

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

11th Edition

1. Programme Objectives

The main objective of the **BIND - Startup Immersion Program** is to connect selected innovative startups with the Basque industrial and innovation ecosystem through an immersive experience designed to foster collaboration, market access and business opportunities. The program provides participating startups with tailored support, access to leading companies and strategic stakeholders, networking opportunities, mentoring, ecosystem immersion activities, and visibility within the Basque Country innovation landscape.

2. Acceptance of the Terms and Conditions

The following terms and conditions are intended to establish the rules for participation in the **BIND - Startup Immersion Program**. Participation in the programme call means acceptance of these rules, without exceptions or conditions, as well as any decision about it that may be made by SPRI and/or the Programme Coordination and Evaluation Committee.

3. Terms and definitions:

For the purposes of this programme, the following definitions apply:

"SPRI": SPRI-AGENCIA VASCA DE DESARROLLO EMPRESARIAL, holder of Spanish Tax Identification Number (CIF) Q48007898 with registered address at ALAMEDA DE URQUIJO, 36-4ª, 48011 BILBAO. SPRI is a public company associated with the Department of Economic Development, Sustainability and Environment of the Basque Government.

Startup: a fledgling organisation searching for a scalable business model through the development of innovative products and/or services aimed at a target market.

Immersion programme: a structured programme, limited in time and aimed at boosting the development and growth of startups by providing various support services.

Mentors: professionals who exercise the function of advising startups on different areas that affect or may affect their business development. Mentors act as guides, giving their knowledge, personal experience and vision, in order to help develop startups more effectively.

Partner Companies: Intelligent Industry-related companies involved in the BIND initiative. Corporate Partners participate in the selection process of startup candidates and may offer the finalist startups the opportunity to work jointly on a real project during the immersion programme.

Matching: a phase of the selection process that consists of the promotion of private meetings between the startup finalists and partner companies, in order to reach a joint agreement aimed at producing a real project during the immersion programme.

Pitch: a presentation to talk about an idea or a business at a specific time and space.

Demo Day: a public event where the projects that have successfully completed the Immersion programme will have the opportunity to present their startup to a panel of potential clients, agents and investors. SPRI may invite investors it deems appropriate to this demo day. In addition, they can invite the members of the Coordination and Evaluation Committee, partner companies and mentors.

4. Types of startup candidates

The **BIND Startup Immersion Program** is mainly targeted at the following startup profiles:

- Startups offering technological products or services aligned with the strategic sectors and priorities defined in the Basque Government's Industry Plan 2030.
- Startups from any part of the world that are no more than 8 years old that propose using new technologies to improve industrial processes and that need to accelerate their business development.
- Applicants must have a validated technology with a level of market readiness and a business development stage compatible with the execution of industrial proof-of-concept projects. Solutions at the idea stage (without a functional prototype) are not eligible.
- Applying startups must be legally incorporated.

5. The participating startups will undertake to:

- Provide the dedication required for the development of the project with the partner company during the business accelerator programme.
- Attend the Programme's activities and comply with the work and deliverables defined within it, which should result in real progress by the participating startups. The commitment to the programme will not be related with the advance of the project with the partner company.
- Participate in the Programme communication and dissemination activities.

The Programme encourages participating startups to spend time in the Basque Country, with the aim of promoting their immersion and development in the Basque entrepreneurship and industry ecosystem.

The physical presence of participating Startups in the Basque Country will be concentrated in one immersion week during the 3 months duration of the Startup Immersion Program (around 4 days) together with the attendance at BIND Demo Day, the final event of each BIND Edition.

Each Participating Startup will sign a "Participant Agreement" that will regulate, among other things, the mandatory activities of the program.

Non-attendance of startups to the compulsory activities of the program or repeated negative assessment by the Coordination Team may lead to their expulsion from the Program, without any compensation or consequence on the part of SPRI.

6. Relationship between the Programme and the Startups

Each participating team leader must name a contact person with whom SPRI will maintain official communication. They must be over 18 and able to speak English fluently at all levels and act as the leader of the startup with sufficient or exclusive dedication to the Programme during its term.

This person must meet the legal conditions needed to settle and stay in the Basque Country at least during the immersion programme.

In turn, the contact person of each startup will be the person who will sign the programme contract and will be the person who is solely responsible for the decisions made by the startup during its participation in the programme.

The repeated negative assessment of the attitude of any participating startup by the Coordination and Evaluation Committee may lead to their expulsion from the Programme, they will not be entitled to compensation, nor will there be consequences for SPRI.

Among others, negative attitudes may include unwillingness and reluctance to communicate, repeated absence from training sessions and failure to provide the work defined in the Immersion Programme.

7. Confidentiality Policy:

The content of the applications submitted to the **BIND Basque Open Innovation Platform** and all documentation and information of any kind that is provided shall be confidential and private and will be treated as such by the BIND Programme promoters. The participating startups agree, as a general rule, to the Programme Coordination and Evaluation Committee's use of the basic project data during the evaluation and selection processes described in these Terms and Conditions.

8. Personal data protection

In accordance with the provisions of the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 on General Data Protection (hereinafter, RGPD) and other applicable regulations on the protection of personal data, we inform you that the data you provide us will be processed under the responsibility of Sociedad para la Transformación Competitiva -Eraldaketa Lehiakorrerako Sozietatea, SA (SPRI) in order to provide the requested service and, where appropriate, carry out your billing.

Participating startups authorize the program to share their contact information in order to boost their immersion in the Basque ecosystem and promote contacts with the companies and agents of the Basque Country.

The collected and processed data are solely those necessary to identify you in our systems. We may send you commercial communications which you may effectively object to through the received communication.

The legal basis on which this processing is based is the contractual relationship or the offer of services itself and the legitimate interest for marketing.

The data provided will be stored as long as the commercial relationship is maintained or during the years necessary to comply with legal, commercial and tax obligations.

Anyone has the right to obtain confirmation about whether SPRI processes their personal data or not. Interested persons have the right to access their personal data, as well as to request the rectification of inaccurate data or, where appropriate, request its deletion when, among other reasons, the data is no longer necessary for the purposes for which they were collected.

In certain circumstances, the interested parties may request the limitation of the processing of their data, in which case they will only be kept for the exercise or defence of claims. Also, under

certain conditions, and for reasons related to their particular situation, the interested parties may object to the processing of their data.

You may materially exercise your rights by sending an email to dpd@spri.eus. We inform you that the control authority where you can go if you need to request the protection of your data is the Spanish Data Protection Agency.

9. Contents

The candidate startups shall ensure that the work and content voluntarily contributed to the Programme (including summaries or presentations) do not infringe third-party rights and have all the authorisations necessary to participate in this programme. They must not be offensive or demeaning, nor incite violence, racism, nor violate fundamental rights or public freedoms recognised by the current regulations, including laws on the protection of children and young people, nor constitute or imply any intrusion into personal or family privacy of individuals or a violation of a third party's right to honour or secrecy of communications or be contrary to any current regulations.

In addition, the projects presented must ensure non-sexist use of language and images.

Moreover, each participating startup authorizes the promoting entities to use their name and likeness in publicity material related to the accelerator programme, including on the Internet, without receiving any payment.

10. Startup application process

- The application period for startups will be from the 2nd of July 2026 to the 4th of September 2026 at 12:00 PM (CEST).
- Startups' application will be done through an online form available on the programme website, www.bind.spri.eus
- Application of candidates must be carried out in English.
- The application forms must include a video presentation of the startup in English, where the reason for participating in the programme is explained. Moreover, it is possible to link to other attachments that can provide additional information (presentations, demos, etc.). This information should be consistent with the assessment criteria for candidate screening listed in the following section.
- Upon receipt of the documentation, an email confirming receipt of the registration application for the programme, will be sent.
- One candidate per Use Case will be admitted. If more than one entry is found from any startup, the last entry made will be taken as the valid one.
- Each startup may submit up to three (3) applications, each corresponding to a different Group Case. Only one application per Group Case will be accepted.

11. Selection procedure for startup candidates

The selection process is divided into three stages:

1. Pre-selection of candidates
2. Selection of finalist startups
3. Matching between partner companies and finalist startups to define and agree on the development of joint projects

STAGE 1 - Pre-selection of candidates

Applications will be evaluated by the BIND Coordination Team, which will pre-select the startups that pass to the next stage. Each application will be given a rating from 1 to 5 points using the following criteria:

Evaluation criteria	Punctuation
Startup Team	**(1-5)**
Professional profiles with professional qualification / basic experience	1
Professional profiles with professional qualification / medium experience	2-3
Professional profiles with professional qualification / specialized experience and/or additional to the average	4-5
Level of product innovation / service	**(1-5)**
Low	1
Medium	2-3
High	4-5
Level of customer adoption	**(1-5)**
Startups with unfinished product/service (no customer yet)	1
Startups with finished product/service (in search of proof of concept to validate their technology)	2-3
Startups with finished product/service (with at least one customer)	4-5
Quality of the project proposal	**(1-5)**
Level of description/project specification is low	1
Description level / appropriate project specification	2-3
Level of description / high project concretion (phases, scope, objectives, examples, ...)	4-5
Quality of the submitted video	**(1-5)**
Do not send video/ video not relevant (Ex: generic video presentation technology)	1
Generic startup video not made especially for BIND 4.0	2-3
Video made ad-hoc for Bind where the startup proposal is clearly explained	4-5

Some of the items in this table are subject to possible modifications. The Video section has a lower weight (x0.5). Adoption and Team sections have medium weight (x1). Innovation and

Project Proposal sections have higher weighting (x2). Additional criteria can add up to 5 additional points (Use Case fit, disruptive technology…)

The BIND Coordination Team will determine which candidates have obtained the highest scores in the application of the selection criteria and will go on to the next stage.

STAGE 2 - Selection of finalist startups

The preselected teams will be evaluated by partner companies, through 'pitching' interviews and group dynamics based on the evaluation criteria defined in this section. The pitchings will be held face-to-face or virtually.

For confidentiality and/or competition issues, preselected startups may request the exclusion of any partner company during their presentation. The startups must communicate this request to the Coordination Team before the pitching sessions.

The Coordination and Evaluation Committee will validate the finalist startups previously selected by the partner companies. The finalist startups will move on to Stage 3 - Matching between the partner companies and finalist startups.

STAGE 3 - Matching between partner companies and finalist startups to define and agree on the development of joint projects

SPRI will enable contact between the partner companies and startups, without thereby incurring any liability or responsibility in relation to commercial relations that can be established between them.

Partner companies may give the finalist startups an opportunity to develop a real project together for the duration agreed between the parties; SPRI will not participate in any way whatsoever.

To this end, they will be able to work on a series of meetings/contacts between the finalist startups and partner companies, to define the scope of the project and reach a possible partnership agreement. The scope, objectives, duration and economic conditions under which the joint project will be run will be defined and agreed upon by both parties, without the participation of SPRI.

While the final amount of the project and the conditions of the possible contract to be signed between the partner company and the startup will be agreed by the parties, depending on the scope and complexity of their project, the programme establishes an indicative minimum of €25,000 (excluding VAT).

The content of the contract shall oblige only the undersigned parties, i.e., the partner company and the startup, as it is a private agreement that establishes rights and obligations between them.

Therefore, payment of the agreed price will be made by the partner company, and SPRI will be exonerated of any liability or obligation.

12.Programme activities

The immersion programme includes following activities:

Activities that may be attended online:

- Kick-off session: Session where participating startups will get to know other participants, mentor testimony, activities calendar and other operational aspects of the programme.
- Commercial pitching coaching: session focused on the development of commercial skills and pitch presentations focus on the Demo Day.
- Mentoring sessions
- Investor pitching training and "Investor matchings" meetings: Startups will have the opportunity to pitch to some specific investors.

Face-to-face activities:

- B2B meetings with partner companies
- Immersion Week: one immersion weeks (around 4-5 days)
    - Specialized workshops: sessions with high-level trainers.
    - Networking activities: aimed to build relationships and new business opportunities.
- Demo Day
    - Special training session for the Demo Day: training session aimed to prepare the startups for an amazing pitch.
    - Demo Day: a public event where the projects that have successfully completed the immersion programme will have the opportunity to present their startup to a panel of potential clients, agents and investors.

Operational aspects of BIND Program

- The immersion programme will have a duration of approximately 3 months.
- The programme will be mostly in English, requiring at least one of the team members to have the necessary language skills.
- During the duration of the immersion programme, teams will have access to a workspace in one of the Business Innovation Centres (BICs) of the Basque Country and will be able to work on other complementary activities in other locations. Space allocation for each startup will take into account their particular characteristics and needs in order to facilitate their operations and logistics.

Main stages and milestones of the programme

STAGE	DATE	DESCRIPTION
Application period	2 July 2026 until 4 September 2026.	Candidates' acceptance period
Selection procedure for participating startups	2026/09/07 – 2026/11/06	Evaluation and selection of participating startups
Pitch week	2026/10/20 – 2026/10/22	Group dynamic sessions to present the startup's solutions to all the partner companies interested.
Communication with participating startups	2026/11/12	Notification on www.bind.spri.eus website.
B2B	2026/11/26	Face-to-face meetings with partner companies (on-site)
Kick-off session	2027/04/05 – 2027/04/09	Introduction and welcoming day. It will take place one day of the first week of April.
Immersion Programme	2027/04/05 – 2027/06/30	Programme tasks
Demo Day	2027/07/01	Exclusive event with investors, industrial companies, press and technological agents.

The dates given are indicative and may be subject to change. Deadlines and final dates will be posted on the www.bind.spri.eus website

13. Communications

All notifications concerning the development of the immersion programme, including the list of projects selected in each of the stages, will be published on the Programme website, www.bind.spri.eus

The startups will receive all communications issued by SPRI via email to the email account of the contact person of each initiative identified in the application form.

14. Claims

SPRI's decision is of a commercial nature and jurisdictional competence corresponds to the tribunals and civil courts. The participants, formally renouncing any other jurisdiction that may apply, expressly submit themselves to the courts of Bilbao for the resolution of any dispute,

disagreement, question or claim that may arise directly or indirectly concerning the interpretation or implementation of this Programme, the courts being competent to this effect.