

18th March, 2020
Lisbon, Portugal

“Dare the Unexpected”: EIT Digital Venture Program is back with its 2nd Edition and 25000 euros for the most talented Portuguese “techie” startups

Building Global Innovators hosts EIT Digital Venture Program in Portugal. The program opened on March the 10th, and seeks to offer up to € 25,000 to brilliant minds in the deep technology digital world. The debut of this initiative in Portugal was last year and counted on the participation of 6 startups ([Surgeon Mate](#), [Indoor 4.0](#), Serious Games For Health, [Fine Posture](#), [Pargist](#), [SensoMatt](#)), 14 entrepreneurs, +60 mentors and speakers, 1 DemoDay. All get financed by EIT digital and can get additional financing once they incorporate the company. For this year, anyone with an entrepreneurial project at an early stage in the digital area can apply for the program. This particular call, managed by BGI, is open to residents of Portugal and Malta.

EIT Digital Venture Program is a project that came from the international non-profit association EIT Digital IVZW. It consists of a three-stage competition with the goal of supporting deep technology-based startups. The program runs in five regional editions - Greece, Latvia, Poland, Portugal and Slovenia - and it's delivered by EIT Digital Innovation Partners: Building Global Innovators, ABC Accelerator, Krakow Technology Park, Foundation and Startup Wise Guys.

“Talent is equally spread across the world but opportunities are not. Entrepreneurs have a natural urge to go against the norm and find their own path. We at EIT Digital believe in innovators who set out to break down barriers and change an industry, no matter where they come from”. These are words that convey the mission of EIT Digital.

Candidates elected to be part of the program will participate in a two-stage competition. In the first stage, the teams have the opportunity to win a “Growth Package” which consists of a monetary prize of € 5.000 and a Pre-Acceleration Phase executed by Building Global Innovators and supervised by the Venture Program Committee. In this phase, training on the business skills will be provided through a two-day Bootcamp and an eight-week virtual mentoring program, in addition to a Pitch Day. At the end of the Pre-Acceleration Phase, successful participants must have executed and validated their Minimum Viable Product (MVP) and established their first venture in one of the current EU27 member states or the United Kingdom. The second phase gives participants who completed the previous phase the chance to win the “Final Prize” of € 10,000 or € 20,000 based on their performance.

The program also offers media coverage to its participants. All teams must participate in media and reporting opportunities related to the EIT Digital Venture Program. More specifically, participants must

provide a description of 500 characters in English during the Bootcamp that will be available to the media. In addition, all teams must participate in media interviews about the program.

As previously mentioned, the program targets strong value propositions from entrepreneurs, with an existing prototype or Proof of Concept (PoC) or that are close to carrying out their MVP. The program focuses on 5 market verticals, and participants must integrate one of the following strands:

1. Digital Industry
2. Digital Cities
3. Digital Wellbeing
4. Digital Tech
5. Digital Finance

To join the program, applicants must not have established a legal entity for their project. In addition, participants must be multidisciplinary teams with at least 2 qualified members with technology and management skills. It is crucial to have an innovative business idea, PoC or prototype in the digital world.

The Growth Package selection process will go through two phases:

1. Submission of applications, based on individual evaluations by the Selection Panel, followed by a consensus meeting.
2. Interviews via video conference with the teams. Only selected candidates will be contacted.

All entries must be submitted in English using the registration form provided at <https://fondazioneeitdigitalitaly.submittable.com/submit>. Those interested in participating can submit their application until April 26 at 23:59 CEST.

For more information see: <https://www.bgi.pt/eit-digital>

Press KIT: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1kQ56jDDLsi4uUa55g3WuXepcli05AK66?usp=sharing>

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