

Open call

Join the Acceleration Program Challenger Urban:Creative

challenger
URBAN:CREATIVE

Deadline for submission of applications

March / 20 / 2022

This project is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund through the Urban Innovative Actions Initiative.

The City of Košice, in cooperation with Creative Industry Košice and CIVITTA Slovakia, are announcing an open call for participation in the Challenger Urban:Creative acceleration programme aimed at promoting innovation and entrepreneurial potential.

The call is opened for teams and startup companies developing an innovative product or service that aims to improve the services or quality of life of residents and visitors of the City of Košice.

The acceleration programme is organized as part of the Košice 2.0 project and is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund through the Urban Innovative Actions Initiative.

MAIN PRIORITIES OF THE OPEN CALL

Solutions in the field of **urban services** of the City of Košice

- urban infrastructure and services for citizens,
- open data for the prosperity of the city and citizens,
- engagement of citizens in the city's activities and decision-making,
- improving housing affordability and accessibility, etc.

Solutions in the field of **climate change and the environment**:

- solutions and projects supporting the circular economy (waste management, recycling, etc.)

Mobility and urban innovation solutions:

- active mobility (non-motorised modes of transport - cycling, etc.),
- fostering innovation and improving mobility,
- mobility for all (improving transport availability for passenger from vulnerable target groups).

Solutions in the field of the **new economy** of the City of Košice:

- Safety Tech - technologies enhancing safety in the city,
- Health Tech - technologies improving healthcare, etc.,
- other IoT solutions improving the life of citizens.

Solutions to help refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine:

- Solutions and projects supporting services for refugees, including city services (material/ non-material assistance, psychological assistance, job search assistance, etc.)

Other solutions:

- The teams also have the opportunity to propose their own solutions beyond the main priorities of the challenge focused on improving services or the quality of life of the city's residents.

SPECIFIC PRIORITIES OF THE CHALLENGE

Supporting business potential in the City of Košice

Supporting cooperation with the municipality and the City of Košice

Supporting cross-sectoral cooperation

The call requires that the products or services are implemented in Košice and fall into one of the following areas:

1. CULTURE AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

2. GAMING INDUSTRY

3. URBAN AND DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT

WHAT IS CHALLENGER URBAN:CREATIVE ACCELERATION PROGRAM?

The Challenger Urban:Creative acceleration program provides entrepreneurial education for start-ups and companies, while enabling the community of starting businesses - start-ups - to work with the City of Košice to solve urban challenges.

DURATION OF THE PROGRAM: 10 WEEKS

Selection Bootcamp:	April 6, 2022 (online / 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.)
Program Kick-off:	April 20, 2022 (online / 4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.)
Sprint 1:	May 2 -6, 2022 (online / MON - THU 4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.)
Sprint 2:	May 23 - 27, 2022 (online / MON - THU 4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.) Or 2-day event in Kosice within the same week*
Sprint 3:	June 13 - 17, 2022 (online / MON - THU 4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.)
Individual mentoring and coaching:	based on agreement with mentors
Demo day:	June 28, 2022 (taking place in Kosice / 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.)

(*Finalists will be informed at least 3 weeks in advance whether the events will be held online or in-person in Košice.)

WHO SHOULD APPLY TO THE ACCELERATION PROGRAM?

Challenger Urban:Creative is designed for teams and starting businesses that deliver innovative solutions to improve the quality of life and services in the city.

A separate team can also apply to the program as a group of employees of a company developing a new product or service.

Only teams, not individuals, can apply to the acceleration program.

For the purposes of this call, a team is defined as a collaborative group of people (at least 2) who jointly develop a new product or service for the purpose of commercialisation.

Teams can also be understood as a unit within a larger company that develops a new product or service that the company has not yet commercialized, and its development is still ongoing.

Applicants from abroad (outside Slovakia) can also participate in the current call.

Eligible applicants are:

- Natural persons
- Natural persons - entrepreneurs
- Civic associations, non-profit organisations
- Legal person / business companies
- Foundations

Entities participating in the first round of the Challenger Urban:Creative acceleration program are eligible applicants only if they apply within the current call with a new product/service.

WHAT DOES THE ACCELERATION PROGRAM OFFER TO PARTICIPANTS?

Participation in group workshops and subsequent individual consultations on the following topics:

Presentation and public speaking skills

Customer discovery and segmentation

Business hypothesis validation techniques

Piloting

Needs and possibilities for cooperation in the City of Kosice

Sales and marketing techniques

Market entry strategies

Financial planning

Sources of financial support and preparation for investment

Legal bases of companies and foundations for the Intellectual Property protection

Individual mentoring with experts in two selected areas, determined based on an initial interview / 6 hours per company.

Individual coaching from organizers of the program / 6 hours per company.

Possibility to publicly present your product or service during the public finale of the "Demo Day" program.

The winner of the acceleration program will receive a cash prize of **10,000 Euros**.

(Note: The prize is subject to taxation regulated by Act No. 595/2003 On Income Tax, as amended.)

EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS

THE SELECTION PROCESS TAKES PLACE IN TWO STAGES.

In the first stage, 20 applicants are shortlisted for the Selection Bootcamp, based on the submitted applications. The selection committee is composed of 7 members.

City of Kosice	2 committee members	Open call announcer
Creative Industry Kosice	1 committee member	Open call administrator
Civitta Slovakia	2 committee members	Programme organizer
Evaluator from business sector	1 committee member	proposed by the Open call announcer
Evaluator from academic sector / wellbeing	1 committee member	proposed by the Open call announcer

In the second stage of the evaluation, 20 selected participants present their products/services during a Selection Bootcamp. The participants are evaluated by a selection committee composed of representatives of the Open call announcer, the Open call administrator and the programme organizer.

The top 12 participants from the 20 short-listed participants are selected for the Challenger Urban:Creative acceleration program.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The selection criteria at both stages of the evaluation process are based on the content of the application form. The selection committee will be evaluating the different parts of the form based on the following evaluation criteria using range of points from 0 to 5, where 0 is the smallest score:

- K1** The applicant is a start-up company.
- K2** The product/service supports the business potential in City of Košice.
- K3** The product/service reflects the main priorities of the call.
- K4** The product is innovative.
- K5** The product/service is in the proof-of-concept stage or at a higher level of technological readiness / TRL.
- K6** The product /service supports cooperation with the city / municipality / municipal enterprises.
- K7** The product/service supports cross-sectoral cooperation.
- K8** The product/service improves the quality of life in the City of Košice.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Call opened: Feb. 10, 2022

Deadline for submission of applications: March 20, 2022

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

The application is submitted electronically by completing the registration form:

<https://www.f6s.com/challenger-urbancreative-2022>

The application is submitted no later than March 20, 2022.

Applications submitted after the deadline shall not be considered for the selection process.

REGISTRATION

CONTACT

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