

Info Session - LLM-BRIDGE - Venture Incubation Programme - Open Call for Startups - 1st



April 27th, 2026

The LLM-BRIDGE project is co-funded by the European Union's Digital Europe Programme under Grant Agreement No. 101326136.

Call



LLM Booster for Regional Innovation and Digital Growth in Europe

The LLM Booster for Regional Innovation and Digital Growth in Europe project (LLM-BRIDGE) supports startups and scaleups in the fast-growing domain of Large Language Models.

LLM-BRIDGE aims to **strengthen national GenAI ecosystems** by equipping startups, scaleups, incubators and investors with the support needed to **build and deploy LLM-driven products**.

10 partners

Duration
Sept 2025 – August 2028



•LLM-BRIDGE has received funding from the European Union's Digital Europe Programme under Grant Agreement No. 101226136. The project started on 1 September 2025, for a duration of three years.



European LLMs for Digital Sovereignty

The LLM-BRIDGE project aims to connect **research, innovation, and market deployment** by linking:

Technical excellence

i.e. HPC resources, data spaces, and benchmark infrastructures

Entrepreneurial capacity-building

i.e. venture incubation and acceleration programmes

LLM-BRIDGE's programmes for support

Stay tuned for more
information on FSTP calls



Venture Incubation Programme

Start-ups and Incubators

·3 cohorts- 1st Open call – Open for Incubators (March)
Opening for start-ups end of April

Acceleration Programme

Start-ups aiming at Series A funding

·2 cohorts – 1st Open call opening June 2026

Entrepreneurial Education

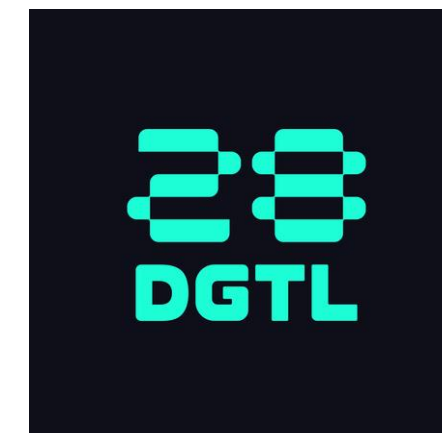
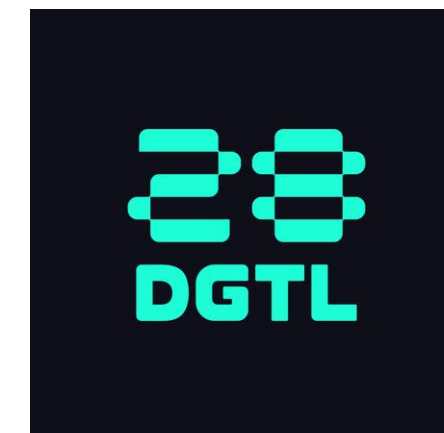
Pre-seed and seed start-ups

· 4 cohorts – 1st Open call opening Sept 2026

Venture Incubation Program – for

Startups

- In cooperation with an incubator
- From **prototype to investment** in less than a year
- Hone your entrepreneurial skills
- Create your **MVP**
- Establish your deep tech venture
- Get financial support of up to **€ 25,000**
- Get business development help from top international experts
- Find a first investor
- Join Europe's leading innovation ecosystem



Programme structure



12-week journey from prototype to market (MVP)



Online Training & Mentoring

WEEKS 2-11

Startup and entrepreneurship modules and dedicated mentoring sessions to shape the value proposition, achieve market and investment traction.

Mentoring

Workshops



Timing

Delivery between **June to September 2026**



Cohort Size

Expected **30 startup** per programme edition implementation.



Prize Payment

✓ Managed by 28DIGITAL team and the LLM-BRIDGE Consortium



Support in reaching out to teams



Bootcamp & Demo Day

WEEKS 1 & 12

Programme kick-off at bootcamp, end with Pitch Day

Venture Incubation Program- Who Should



Apply

Eligible:

- Teams (≥ 2 people) – not incorporated
- Early stage LLM and GenAI Startups
- country participating in the Digital Europe Programme*
- Prototype / PoC stage / Early commercialisation

Out of scope:

- Idea only → not ready
- Mature scaleups → not target

*https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/digital/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_digital_en.pdf

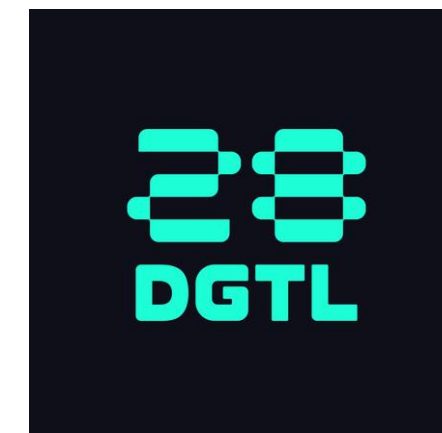
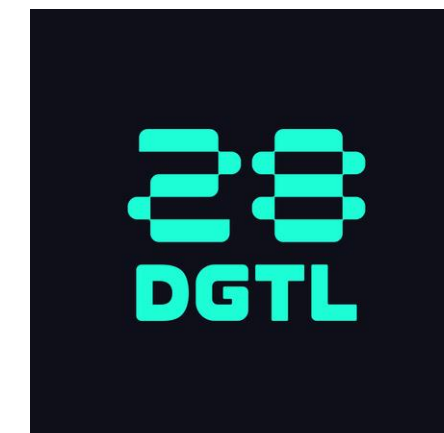
Venture Incubation Program – Focus

Focus on early-stage ventures developing innovative solutions using:

- Generative AI.
- Large Language Models.
- Natural Language Processing.
- Multilingual AI.
- AI applications with cross-sector impact.

The programme emphasizes:

- market validation.
- technical feasibility.
- responsible AI alignment.
- scalability potential.
- European strategic relevance.



Venture Incubation Program- Structure



Application → Selection → Growth Package → Final Prize

Open: April 2026

Deadline: June 2026

We evaluate:

- Technology
- Market problem
- Team
- Execution
- Responsible AI

Not academic research.

How:

1. Expert Review
2. Interviews (if necessary)
3. Ranking
4. Selection

Acceleration Phase:

- 12-week programme
- Bootcamp
- Mentoring
- Validation
- Investor readiness

Demo Day + Evaluation:

- Only after AP + incorporation
- Performance-based
- Prize: €25k + MentorMe

Venture Incubation Program – Program



Scope The program consists of group workshops, consultations with external experts, regular work with assigned mentors and work of startups on their solutions and business models.

- The topics of the individual program week examples (non-exhaustive list):

Customer segmentation and validation

Business model and business model validation

Bootcamp

Presentations of projects and teams

Sources of funding for start-ups

Developing the entrepreneurial team

Communication and Pitching

Marketing

Sales

The next steps (incorporation, follow on investors, access to public and other sources of funding etc)

Building sales competencies

Market validation

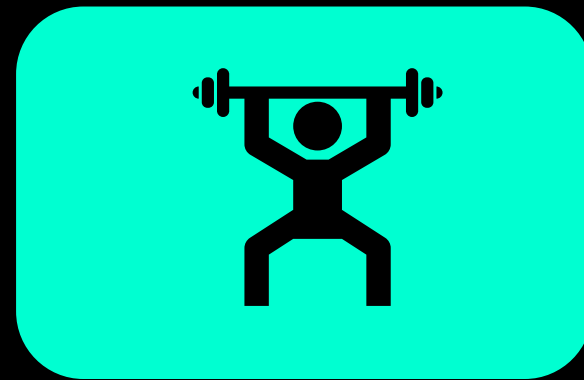
Technical feasibility

Responsible AI alignment

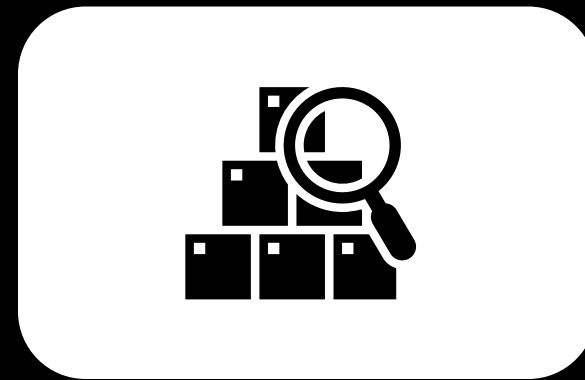
Scalability potential

European strategic relevance

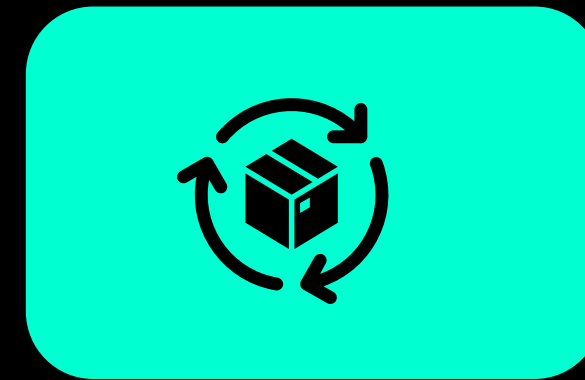
OUR EXPECTATIONS FOR STARTUPS



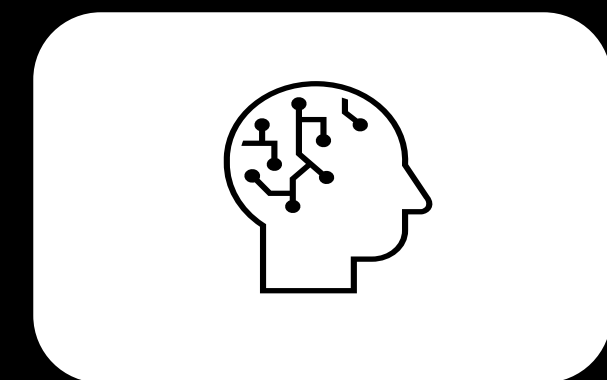
Active participation



MVP validation



Market testing



GenAI focus

DELIVERABLES!

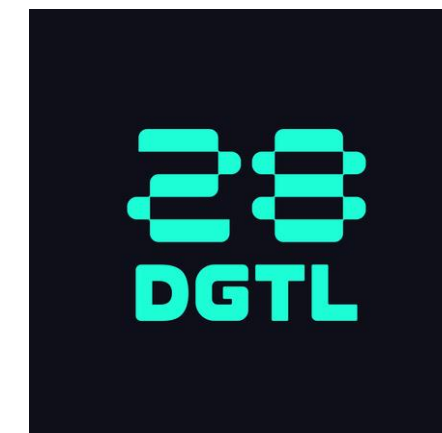
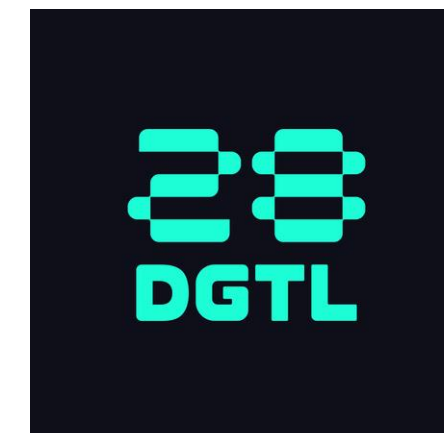


Venture Incubation Program- Application

Tips

Best applications show:

- ✓ Clear **problem**
- ✓ Real **customer** need
- ✓ **Prototype** evidence
- ✓ Strong **team**
- ✓ **Scalable** business model



Venture Incubation Program- What's Next?

Apply by **1 June 2026**.

Join the next generation of European LLM and GenAI founders.

Application System link: <https://www.f6s.com/llm-bridge-venture-incubationprogram-1/apply>

Email: llm-bridge@28digital.eu

ASK EARLY!

Stay tuned for more
information on FSTP calls



THANK YOU

