

Info Session – LLM-BRIDGE Acceleration Programme – Open Call – 1st Cohort

October 16th, 2026

The LLM-BRIDGE project is co-funded by the European Union's Digital Europe Programme under Grant Agreement No. 101226136.

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.

Co-funded by the European Union

LLM-BRIDGE's programmes for support

This session covers the Acceleration Programme 1st Cohort open call

Venture Incubation Programme

Start-ups and Incubators
·3 cohorts — 1st cohort underway; subsequent cohorts to follow

Acceleration Programme

Start-ups aiming at Series A funding
·2 cohorts — 1st Open Call NOW OPEN ★
Deadline: Nov 18, 2026 | 17:00 CET

Entrepreneurial Education

Pre-seed and seed start-ups
· 4 cohorts — 1st Open call launching Q4 2026

The Acceleration Programme at a Glance

A services-based 14-week acceleration programme for market-ready GenAI and Language Technology scale-ups (TRL 8–9). Services only — no financial support to third parties.

14 Weeks

Intensive delivery per cohort
Fully online; in-person at Wolves Summit (April 2027)

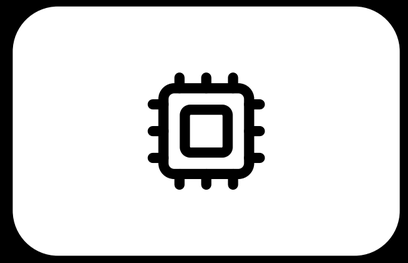
15 Companies

Selected per cohort via merit-based open call
2 cohorts total (≥30 companies supported)

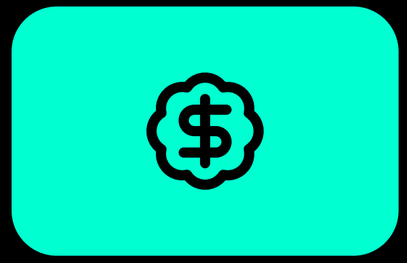
WHY PARTICIPATE? — WHAT YOUR STARTUP GAINS



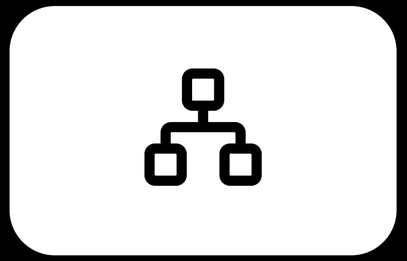
Expert mentorship — Specialist coaching from EU consortium partners in business scaling, technical AI/NLP and investment advisory



EU AI infrastructure — HPC compute resources and European language datasets to fine-tune and scale your LLM



Investment readiness — Structured 14-week pathway: 1-on-1 mentoring, fundability gap analysis, investor narrative and pitch preparation

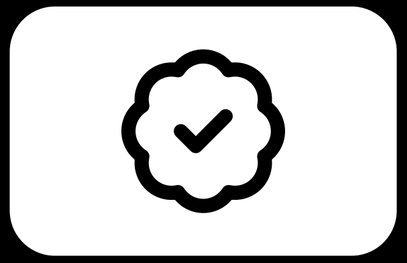


Networking & investor access — 15-company EU GenAI peer cohort; Wolves Summit matchmaking; Demo Day; Long Jump Prize

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA — WHO SHOULD APPLY?



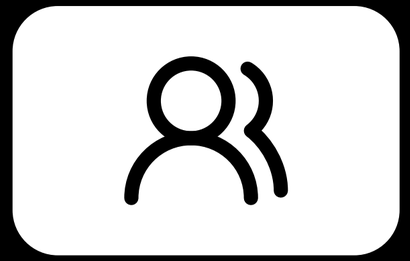
E1 — EU-based company in GenAI, NLP or Language Technology



E2 — Validated MVP with PMF signals; TRL 8–9



E3 — Prior funding (or bootstrapped with strong traction)



E4 — Relevant technical + business expertise in team

All 4 criteria are Pass / Fail — all must be satisfied to proceed to scoring

Programme Content — The 14-Week Journey

January 7, 2027 – April 2027 · 15 companies per cohort · Fully online + Wolves Summit

W1–2

Onboarding & Diagnostic

1

Company diagnostic
HPC onboarding

W3–8

Business Optimisation

2

Set 1–2 objectives for next 6 months
Identify main growth obstacles
Build OKR-based growth plan

W3–8

Technical Acceleration

3

LLM / NLP optimisation
EU language datasets

W7–9

Regulatory Compliance

4

AI Act alignment
ISO27001, NIS2

W9–12

Investment Readiness

5

Fundability gap analysis
Investor narrative & deck
1-on-1 mentoring

W13–14

Summit Preparation

6

Final pitch rehearsal
Summit matchmaking

Partners

- ✓ Led by 28DIGITAL · AIC4NL · ALT-EDIC · ADRA

Specialist consortium partners deliver each phase

THE ACCELERATION PRIZE

3 winners per cohort — 6 prize winners total across both cohorts

3

Winners per cohort

Selected at the Wolves Summit Investor Roundtable (April 2027 / April 2028)

Prize A

28DIGITAL A2F

12-month senior fundraising advisory (investor outreach, matchmaking, data room) — €48,000 base fee waived

Prize B

ADRA Membership

ADRF Convergence Summit access + investor network + bespoke sponsorship (€12,500 value)

No FSTP

Services Only

Services-based — no financial transfer to companies

HOW TO APPLY

Apply at llm-bridge.eu/programmes/ — Deadline: 18 Nov 2026, 17:00 CET

Required:

- Company overview (legal entity, founding date, team, location)
- Product / tech: TRL evidence, MVP deployment, market validation
- Commercial traction: customers, revenue, growth metrics
- Investment history & Series A readiness · Team CVs (GenAI/NLP + biz)
- Eligibility declaration & consent to data processing

English only. No PIC required.

8-Step Evaluation



Merit-based — 8 steps — max 35 points — thresholds apply

Apply Now Deadline

HARD DEADLINE

November 18th, 2026

17:00 CET (Brussels Time)

8-Step Evaluation

1. **Steps 1–3: Publication → Eligibility → Independent evaluation**
   Min. 2 external evaluators per proposal; max 35 points across 5 criteria
2. **Steps 4–6: Scoring → Reserve → Redress**
   Consensus score; reserve list; 10 working day redress window
3. **Steps 7–8: Approval → Dispute settlement**
   Final ranking approved; notification Dec 2026 – Jan 2027

Timeline

Programme start: Jan 7, 2027 ▪ Wolves Summit: April 2027

Apply Now

llm-bridge.eu/programmes/

English language only

No PIC required

Questions?

Contact the helpdesk before the submission deadline.

contact@llm-bridge.eu

Selection Criteria — Scoring Breakdown

C1 — Technical & Market Readiness · Max: 5 pts · Threshold: ≥3
Validated MVP in real-market conditions; evidence of customer acquisition or pilot partnerships.

C2 — Scalability & Growth Potential · Max: 10 pts · Threshold: ≥6
Ability to scale cross-border; multilingual/cultural strategy; plan to leverage HPC/LLMs.

C3 — Business Model Stability & Investment Potential · Max: 10 pts · Threshold: ≥6
Sustainable revenue pathways; completed funding round; Series A readiness.

C4 — Expertise & Complementary Team · Max: 5 pts · Threshold: ≥3
Technical ML/NLP expertise + business acumen; capacity to execute.

C5 — Capacity to Leverage Programme Resources · Max: 5 pts · Threshold: ≥3
Clear plan to use HPC infrastructure, advanced LLMs, and ALT-EDIC datasets.

NON-SCORED TIE-BREAKER — European Stack / Digital Sovereignty
Used only for equal scores. Carries no points or weight.

Maximum score: 35 points. All five thresholds must be met.



Key Dates at a Glance

All dates indicative. Applicants will be notified of any changes

Timeline

- Sep 18, 2026 — Call published
- Oct 16, 2026 — Information webinar (today)
- Nov 18, 2026, 17:00 CET — Submission DEADLINE

Nov–Dec 2026 — Eligibility screening & independent evaluation

April 2027 — Programme end + Wolves Summit

Dec 2026 – Jan 2027 — Results notification

Jan 7, 2027 — Programme start (Cohort 1)

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US

contact@llm-bridge.eu

LLM-BRIDGE Acceleration Programme — Open Call Helpdesk

Subject: “Open Call Helpdesk — LLM-BRIDGE Acceleration Programme 1st Call [Application ID]”

Apply by November 18th, 2026 — 17:00 CET
contact@llm-bridge.eu | llm-bridge.eu/programmes/

THANK YOU

LLM-BRIDGE

2B DGTL

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