

READY2SCALE

Catalogue of Existing Services and Programmes dedicated to startups, SMEs, and scaleups - version 2.0

Ready2Scale Deliverable 5.4

31.10.2025

This presentation highlights key European programmes and initiatives that support startups at different stages of growth. The authors have prepared concise summaries of each project to help readers easily identify the opportunities most relevant to their industry, maturity level, and growth ambitions.

This is the second edition of the catalogue, which includes the most up-to-date information on currently available services across Europe, as well as platforms where similar initiatives may be found in the future.

Each initiative is classified under specific categories to help readers determine which programmes best match their stage of innovation or business development. The following slide provides a detailed explanation of these categories.

Proof of Concept:

Design and Implementation of Pilot Projects



The Proof-of-Concept stage is focused on validating innovative ideas and solutions through the creation of prototypes or minimum viable products (MVPs). This phase involves testing these ideas in a controlled environment to assess their feasibility, functionality, and potential impact.

The goal is to gather initial feedback, identify any flaws, and make necessary adjustments before moving to larger-scale implementations.

Programmes in this category typically offer support for experimentation, testing, and refinement of new concepts.

Business Cases:

Implementation of the Solution



Business Cases involve taking validated concepts or MVPs from the Proof-of-Concept stage to real-world implementation. This phase emphasises refining the solution, tackling operational challenges, and demonstrating its value in practical settings.

Programmes within this category support startups and companies in developing business strategies, scaling operations, and optimising processes to ensure successful adoption. The goal is to achieve measurable outcomes and establish a sustainable business model.

Scaling:

Matchmaking with Private and Public Investors



Scaling is the phase where a validated business case is expanded to reach larger markets or new regions. The focus is on driving business growth through strategic partnerships, securing investments, and strengthening operational capabilities.

Programmes in this category connect startups and companies with private and public investors, offering resources, mentoring, and networking opportunities to help them scale effectively. The aim is to maximize the impact of the solution, achieve sustainable growth, and successfully enter new markets.

In some cases, the distinction between these categories is not always clear-cut, and a single project could align with more than one category.

This overlap typically occurs as a project progresses from an initial proof of concept to implementation and scaling or when different aspects of the project correspond to different stages of development.

These projects are often dynamic and versatile, requiring support across multiple areas of development. It is recommended to thoroughly review the project guidelines to understand the eligibility criteria, deadlines, and other essential details.

Title of the call	Proof of concept	Business Cases	Scaling
AID4SME			
Amaltea			
Challenger AI			
Cyber Accelerator			
EEN2EIC			
EIC Communities			
EUDIS Hackathon			
EUDIS Matchmaking			
FIERCE			
First Customer by Startup Migrants			
Flamingo Accelerator			
Founders12 Accelerator			
INNO4CFIs Accelerator			
Mobifree Call			
NATO DIANA Accelerator			
Next Generation Internet			
NGI Zero Commons Fund			
O-CEI			
Open Horizon			
SME Market Expansion			
UPTECH			
VR Health Champions			

Proof-of-Concept & Business Cases & Scaling



AID4SME

Category: Proof of Concept & Business cases

Website: [AID4SME](https://aid4sme.eu)

Target group: SMEs and start-ups in EU/Associated countries

Key services: AI/data solution development, industrial pilot test-beds, business-growth support

Funding: Up to €150,000 grant per selected project

Open call: Coming soon

Amaltea

Category: Proof of concept

Website: [Amaltea](https://amaltea.eu)

Target group: SMEs and start-ups operating in the construction and digital technology sectors as well as companies from the construction value chain

Key services: A 9–12-month programme providing business & technical mentoring and access to a real-world pilot site

Funding: Up to €100,000 for software solutions / up to €200,000 for hardware projects

Open call: Autumn 2026

Proof-of-Concept & Business Cases & Scaling



Challenger AI

Category: Scaling

Website: [Challenger AI](#)

Target group: Startups & scaleups

Key services: support in entering new markets, building partnerships, gaining customers, driving innovation, and improving products. Tailored resources, expert guidance, and global networks

Funding: Prizes

Deadline: November, 20th, 2025

Cyber Accelerator

Category: Proof-of-concept & Business Cases & Scaling

Website: [Cyber Accelerator](#)

Target group: Early-stage cybersecurity startups and spin-offs, student teams, SMEs

Key services: 6-months acceleration programme, cybersecurity-specific workshops, key mentors, individual mentoring sessions, access to co-working space, community events, supporting communication activities

Funding: €48.000

Call Opening: Spring 2026

Proof-of-Concept & Business Cases & Scaling



EEN2EIC

Category: Scaling

Website: [EEN2EIC](https://www.een2eic.eu)

(Enterprise Europe Network to European Innovation Council)

Target groups: Innovative companies, holders of the Seal of Excellence (SoE)

Key services: Supports more efficiently by improving the capacity of SMEs to apply to the EIC and by helping Seal of Excellence holders finance their projects

Funding: N/A

Deadline: July 31st, 2026

EIC Communities

Category: Business Case & Scaling

Website: [EIC Communities](https://www.eiccommunities.eu)

Target group: Beneficiaries of the EIC

Key services: Matchmaking between project beneficiaries and stakeholders in relevant sectors, including investors when possible

Funding: Equity-free acceleration support; potential access to investors and follow-up funding opportunities

Deadline: November 20th, 2025

Proof-of-Concept & Business Cases & Scaling



EUDIS Hackathon

Category: Proof of concept
Website: [EUDIS Hackathon](#)

Target group: Students, researchers, startups, deep tech dual use startups, defence primes employees, military personnel, investors

Key services: Challenge-based hackathon, access to the defence industry, mentoring programme for the winning teams getting tailored support to develop their solution

Funding: 6 month paid mentoring programme service

Call Opening: 2026

EUDIS Matchmaking

Category: Scaling
Website: [EUDIS](#)

Target group: Innovators, startups, scaleups, investors, corporates, end-users

Key services: Tailored matchmaking opportunities, support from dedicated success managers, Access to exclusive investor and industry networking events etc.

Funding: N/A

Ongoing call for applications

Proof-of-Concept & Business Cases & Scaling



FIERCE

Category: Business cases

Website: [FIERCE](#)

Target group: Self-employed individuals, micro, small and medium enterprises (incl. start-ups/scaleups) established in EU/Associated countries

Key services: 1-to-1 advisory tailored to the SME's business needs including use of downstream space data

Funding: Free advisory services + preparing for future funding call

Call Opening: 2026

First Customer by Startup Migrants

Category: Business cases

Website: [First Customer](#)

Target group: Startups (with at least one migrant founder)

Key services: Sales acceleration program to assist startups in finding their ideal customers, creating a go-to-market plan, a sales strategy and the necessary confidence

Funding: N/A

Deadline: Future editions announced on a rolling basis

Proof-of-Concept & Business Cases & Scaling



Flamingo Accelerator

Category: Proof of Concept & Business cases

Website: [Flamingo Accelerator](#)

Target group: Healthtech and life science start-ups from the EU and Associated Countries developing innovative solutions for healthcare, wellbeing, and medical technologies

Key services: Tailored mentoring, proof of concept validation, pilot collaborations with hospitals and health partners, and scaling support across EU networks

Funding: Equity-free funding

Deadline: Spring/Autumn 2026

Founders12 Accelerator

Category: Proof of Concept & Business cases

Website: [Founders12](#)

Target group: Startups in education, social media, and nutrition sectors

Key services: Access to experienced mentors and industry experts for refining and validating business ideas, opportunity to test solutions in real-world conditions

Funding: €12,000 funding per team

Deadline: January 2026

Proof-of-Concept & Business Cases & Scaling



INNO4CFIs Accelerator

Category: Proof of Concept & Business cases

Website: [INNO4CFIs](https://www.inno4cfis.com)

Target group: European SMEs, startups, and innovators developing solutions for sustainable agriculture and carbon farming

Key services: 4-month acceleration including mentoring, technical validation, investor matchmaking, and networking

Funding: Up to €60,000 (equity-free)

Deadline: September 2025

Mobifree Call

Category: Proof of Concept & Business cases

Website: [Mobifree](https://www.mobifree.com)

Target group: Independent researchers, individuals or organisations (incl. startups, SMEs, NGOs, research organisations) in EU/Associated countries

Key services: Open-source innovation, digital sovereignty, community collaboration

Funding: Up to €50,000 per project

Deadline: December 1st, 2025

Proof-of-Concept & Business Cases & Scaling



NATO DIANA Accelerator

Category: Proof-of-concept & Business cases & Scaling

Website: [NATO DIANA Accelerator](#)

Target group: Startups (from NATO countries)

Key services: 6-months acceleration program, workshops, expert, 60hrs individual mentoring sessions, access to co-working space, community events, supporting communication activities, access to over 180 test centers

Funding: Up to €400.000

Call Opening: Spring 2026

Next Generation Internet

Category: Proof of Concept & Business cases

Website: [NGI](#)

Target group: High-tech startups and SMEs working on internet innovation, AI, IoT, privacy, open source

Key services: Offering various targeted services

Funding: €30,000 - €150,000 per project

Ongoing: Multiple open calls throughout 2025

Proof-of-Concept & Business Cases & Scaling



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NGI Zero Commons Fund

Category: Proof-of-concept & Business Cases & Scaling

Website: [NGI Zero](#)

Target group: Individuals, research organisations, non-profits, companies of any size from EU/Associated countries

Key services: Open-source infrastructure innovation, open hardware and software development, digital commons, support services (audit, licensing, accessibility)

Funding: Grants up to roughly €50,000 for initial projects; possibility to scale up to higher amounts.

Call Opening: Spring 2026

O-CEI

Category: Scaling

Website: [O-CEI](#)

Target groups: individual SMEs (including startups) from EU/Associated countries

Key services: Support for Cloud-Edge-IoT innovation through pilots, interoperability, and open calls, technical and ethics mentoring

Funding: Up to €100,000

Deadline: November 20th, 2025

Proof-of-Concept & Business Cases & Scaling



Open Horizon

Category: Proof of Concept & Business cases

Website: [Open Horizon](#)

Target group: Women-led, digital & deep-tech early-stage startups from EU/Associated countries

Key services: Mentoring, pilot collaborations with corporates

Funding: Up to €55,000 (equity-free)

Open Call: December 2025

SME Market Expansion

Category: Business Case & Scaling

Website: [SME Market Expansion](#)

Target group: SMEs in the urban mobility sector (EU / Horizon Europe associated countries) looking to access wider market opportunities

Key services: Support for piloting products or services with an end-client (public or private) in a real-world setting

Funding: Approximately €59,500

Deadline: December 1st, 2025

Proof-of-Concept & Business Cases & Scaling



UPTECH

Category: Scaling

Website: [UPTECH](#)

Target groups: Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), Research Centres and innovation hubs, Startups and SMEs, Students and recent graduates, policy makers and regional authorities

Key services: Education, mentorship and training combined with support for startup creation and the building of collaborative networks

Funding: N/A

Deadline: Ongoing (course-based schedule)

VR Health Champions

Category: Business Case & Scaling

Website: [VR Health Champions](#)

Target group: Small and medium-sized enterprises in EU/Associated countries

Key services: Funding, XR healthcare innovation, clinical/regulatory support, ecosystem access

Funding: Up to €60,000 lump sum grant

Deadline: November 30th, 2025

Below platforms are aggregating information about funding calls, acceleration programmes, and collaboration opportunities across Europe and beyond.

Platform	Description	Website
	Global platform for startup funding and acceleration programmes, connecting founders with accelerators, investors, and EU-funded opportunities. Enables startups to find and apply to thousands of open calls and programmes.	www.f6s.com
	Curated database of grants, startup competitions, and funding programmes. Helps startups discover financing and growth opportunities from both public and private sources.	www.sploro.com
	Platform connecting startups with investors and accelerators. Provides tools for fundraising, company profiles, and investor relations management.	www.gust.com
 FUNDSUP	Helps startups find and connect with verified investors and accelerator programmes. Focused on early-stage fundraising and investor matching.	www.fundsup.co
	European platform connecting innovators, startups, and organizations with growth opportunities, including EU-funded projects, events, and collaborations. Supports innovation through a centralised database and networking tools.	https://hub.getonepass.eu

READY2SCALE

This publication has been developed by an international team supporting European startups. We invite you to get in touch and hope that our work will help your startup find funding, new clients, or opportunities to develop your product.

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