Bridge to Scale 2.0: Programme and Selection Rules

1. About These Rules

These Rules describe eligibility, the application and selection process, and core participation expectations for Bridge to Scale 2.0 (the "Programme"), delivered by Socialboost Global Ltd, operating as 1991 Accelerator (the "Organiser"), with funding from the European Union and oversight from the EBRD. By applying, you confirm you have read and agree to these Rules. Selected startups will additionally sign a Participation Agreement, which governs the full legal terms of participation, including intellectual property, liability, data protection, and dispute resolution; in case of any conflict, the Participation Agreement prevails.

2. Programme Overview

A three-month acceleration programme for 12 startups, part of a seven-month engagement including preparation and outreach beforehand and Demo Day closeout after. Includes 1:1 mentoring, expert-led workshops, a two-day in-person Bootcamp in Warsaw, investor matchmaking, and a Demo Day in Warsaw.

3. Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to apply, an applicant must satisfy all of the following criteria at the time of application and must continue to satisfy them throughout the duration of the Programme:

3.1 Business establishment. The applicant must operate a business already legally established and registered in one of the following EBRD countries of operation: Poland, Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Estonia, Latvia, or Lithuania (each a "Target Country").

3.2 Ownership and founder status. Majority ownership by Ukrainian founders is preferred. At minimum, the business must have at least one owner who is a Ukrainian national and who holds temporary protection status in an EU country, including a Target Country — or who has previously held such status and has since naturalised there.

3.3 Date of departure from Ukraine. The qualifying Ukrainian owner(s) must have legally left Ukraine on or after 24 February 2022.

3.4 Nationality restriction. Applicants with Russian or Belarusian nationality are not eligible to participate, whether as sole founders, co-founders, or significant equity holders.

3.5 Priority sectors. The applicant's business should operate in one of the following priority sectors, though this list is not exhaustive: Artificial Intelligence / Machine Learning, IoT and Smart Technology, Fintech (excluding cryptocurrency), Cybersecurity, Sustainability / CleanTech, or Robotics. Dual-use technologies are not eligible under any sector.

3.6 Stage of development. The Programme is designed primarily for pre-seed stage startups. Seed-stage applicants may be considered on an exceptional basis. Applicants who are clearly beyond seed stage will not be considered.

3.7 No overlapping participation. The applicant must self-declare that they are not currently participating in, have not been selected for, and are not in active discussions with any other EBRD-funded programme, including the Star Venture or Advice for Small Business programme. The Organiser will cross-check this declaration with the relevant EBRD teams in Poland and Ukraine.

3.8 Attendance commitment. The applicant must self-declare that the lead founder and/or a co-founder will be able to attend both mandatory in-person events in Warsaw: the Bootcamp and the Demo Day.

3.9 Data protection consent. As part of the application, applicants must consent to the processing of their personal data, including the sharing of relevant data with the EBRD and to being contacted approximately six months after the Programme ends for post-programme impact reporting.

3.10 Supporting documentation. All eligibility criteria must be verified through official documentation. Informal statements or unverified declarations alone will not be accepted as proof of eligibility. The Organiser reserves the right to request additional documentation at any stage of the selection or programme delivery process.

4. Application & Selection Process

1. Apply via the official channel on this website within the published window. Late or off-channel submissions are not considered.
2. Screening against the eligibility criteria above.
3. Evaluation of eligible applications based on innovation, traction and business validation, scalability, and founder commitment.
4. The selection panel proposes a shortlist; the final list of 12 is agreed with the EBRD before notification.
5. Notification of outcome to all applicants. Selected startups sign the Participation Agreement to confirm their place.

The Organiser has sole discretion over screening, evaluation, and final selection. Eligibility does not guarantee selection, and individualised feedback is not guaranteed.

5. What Participation Involves

Selected startups are expected to engage actively with mentors and programme sessions, attend the Bootcamp and Demo Day in person, keep progress trackers updated, prepare pitch materials and a data room with mentor support, and complete programme surveys, including the six-month post-programme questionnaire. Full obligations, including conduct standards and grounds for removal, are set out in the Participation Agreement.

6. No Guarantee of Investment

Participation, mentorship, and investor introductions are offered on a best-efforts basis and do not guarantee any funding, investment, or commercial outcome.

7. Questions

For questions about eligibility or the application process, contact us via the official Programme contact channel on this website.

Bridge to Scale is implemented by the 1991 Accelerator with the support of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, carried out with funding by the European Union. The content reflects the views of the consultant and does not necessarily represent the views or official position of the European Union or the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.