



**OPEN
CALL**



Frequently asked
questions
Open Call 1

APPLY AT -> WWW.D2XCEL.EU

Frequently asked questions¹ for D2XCEL Open Call 1 (OC1)

- Opening Date: 2 April March 2024, 14:00 CET
- Closing date: 14 June 2024, 17:00 CET

General project questions

1. What is the D2XCEL project?

D2XCEL falls under the call designation HORIZON-EIC-2022-STARTUPEU-01. It is a project funded by the European Commission under grant agreement number 101121100.

2. What is the duration of the project?

The D2XCEL has a duration of 30 months, starting on 1 November 2023 and ending on 30th April 2026.

3. What is the goal of the project?

The project will establish a scaling programme with a focus on deep tech and digital ventures in 10 market opportunities. D2XCEL empowers startups and scaleups to provide market-ready applications, foster growth, and contribute significantly to the sustainability and European sovereignty of these crucial industries while serving as a catalyst to enhance the European startup ecosystems.

4. Who will be part of the D2XCEL Scaling Programme?

200+ investors, public and private lead customers, and innovation hubs who will support 100 startups and scaleups in 10 high-potential market opportunities. The companies will be selected through 2 open calls.

5. What are the benefits of the programme?

All selected ventures will benefit from tailored and collaborative mentoring provided by the D2XCEL consortium partners, top-class expert mentors and relevant network partners.

¹ This document will be regularly updated during the application process and will be available on www.D2XCEL.eu

General questions about the 1st Open Call

1. Who can apply?

Applicants for the D2XCEL open call should be representatives of an entity legally established in one of the eligible countries listed in the application form. All companies that apply should comply with the eligibility criteria which are described in the Guidelines for applicants available on www.d2xcel.eu.

2. When can I apply?

The 1st Open Call will be launched on 2 April 2024. The deadline for submission of applications is 14 June 2024, 17:00 CET.

3. How can I apply?

The application form for the D2XCEL scaling programme is on the website of the project. You can directly access the application form [here](#).

4. Do I need to prepare anything in advance when applying?

The application form will require from you general information based on the eligibility criteria as well as uploading a pitch deck in .pdf or PowerPoint format not larger than 100MB.

5. Can I update my application after submission?

Yes, applicants can submit a new form until the application process is open. The system will automatically recognize the latest version of your application. If you experience problems, you can reach out our team at info@D2XCEL.eu

6. What fields does the 1st Open Call cover?

The first open call focus on 5 market opportunities as listed below:

- AI Powered Digital Services for Sustainable and Smart Cities
- Large-scale Stationary Energy Storage
- Logistics (Freight Tech, Warehouse Tech, Last Mile Delivery)
- Sustainable and Circular Construction
- Sustainable Freight Transportation

7. How many companies will benefit from the 1st Open Call?

We will select 50 ventures, 10 in each of the 5 markets opportunities.

8. What does the Scaling Programme include?

The D2XCEL Scaling programme offers tailored support and collaborative mentoring. The programme will provide holistic mentoring to identify both the specific challenges of each venture but also the industry ones.

Companies will receive coaching and support from top experts and industry-specific stakeholders on:

- access to pan-European growth funding, both dilutive and non-dilutive, public and private
- access to pan-European markets and internationalisation (incl. legal/tax issues, setting up local subsidiaries, etc.)
- access to lead customers, across borders
- strengthening your founder team and boards and attract the best talent (pan-EU and global)
- building and managing strong IPR portfolios

9. Do I receive any financial support?

No, the programme does not provide direct financial support.

10. Can I withdraw my participation after selection?

If you do not confirm your participation within the required deadline, we will invite another company.

11. Do I need to sign any documents if I am selected?

Yes, you will sign a declaration to state your commitment to participate in the programme.

12. When does the second open call will be launched?

In Autumn 2024.

13. Can I apply for the 2nd Open call?

You can apply only for one of the calls.

14. What are the focus areas of the 2nd Open Call?

- AI Powered Utility Management for Sustainable and Smart Cities

- Circular Models for Cities/Regions
- Renewable energy production
- Supply Chain Management & Trade Finance
- Sustainable Mobility

General questions about the evaluation process

1. Who will review my application?

A group of experts in the relevant market opportunity you have applied for.

2. Will I see my evaluation review?

Yes, it will be sent to you after the evaluation process.

3. When will the evaluation happen?

It will start shortly after the deadline for application of 14 June 2024.

4. What are the evaluation criteria?

They are listed in the Guidelines for applicants available on www.d2xcel.eu.