

Blue Bio Value Acceleration 2024

Rules and Regulations

I. Introduction

1. The present document establishes the access terms, rights and obligations of entrepreneurs and startups participating in the 7th edition of the Blue Bio Value Acceleration Programme (hereinafter be referred to as “the Programme”).
2. Blue Bio Value Acceleration is a programme promoted by the Oceano Azul Foundation and implemented by Maze Impact in collaboration with BlueBio Alliance.
3. The Organizing Committee for 7th edition of the Blue Bio Value Acceleration Programme includes the following members: the Oceano Azul Foundation, the Maze Impact and BlueBio Alliance.
4. The 7th edition of Blue Bio Value Acceleration has a duration of nine weeks, from September 23rd to November 29th, 2024.
5. The first seven weeks of the programme will be held remotely [September 23rd to November 8th], while the final two weeks [November 18th to November 29th] will encompass an in person visit of the startups' founders to Portugal, allowing participants to explore and build relations with the local blue bio ecosystem.
6. Each participating startup will receive an amount aimed at supporting the travelling and accommodation costs (more details in point III. 7).

II. Description and objectives of Blue Bio Value Acceleration

The mission of Blue Bio Value Acceleration is:

1. To accelerate the transition to a global and sustainable blue bioeconomy, capable of serving multiple industries while promoting a productive and healthy ocean, by contributing to the emergence of competitive and innovative businesses operating in the marine bioresources value chain.
2. To support startups' entrepreneurs to create and shape commercially viable and sustainable innovative businesses. The Programme seeks solutions in the marine bioresources value chain that can scale up to market applications in different industries while tackling global societal challenges.
3. To establish a network of partners, including entrepreneurs, global companies, investors, universities, research and technological centres and the scientific community, public authorities, among others. The Programme offers significant advantages to the participants, enabling them to transform research into products and startups into globally competitive companies.

III. Conditions of participation

1. Participation is open to startups or SMEs with at least 2 full-time employees, where one must be the company's founder.
2. Participants must guarantee the presence and involvement of at least two employees in the 9 weeks of acceleration, where at least one must be a founder. Whenever impossible, a key decision maker of the startup must substitute the founder during their absence.
3. The elements representing the startups or teams must be aged 18 or more.
4. The programme is targeted at startups or teams of any nationality (the programme will be held in English).
5. The selected candidates are required to confirm their participation in the programme by e-mail up to 5 (five) business days after receiving confirmation of selection by the Blue Bio Value organisation.
6. Participation in the Blue Bio Value requires online attendance of the team during the first 7 weeks of the programme and in-person participation in Portugal for 2 weeks.
7. Each startup participant will receive an amount to support the in-person weeks in Portugal. The amounts provided depend on the geographical location of the teams and cover a maximum of two people per startup. The maximum payment contribution to each participant will be:
 - Portuguese-based teams: 600€ (six hundred euros) per person
 - EU-based teams: 1,000€ (one thousand euros) per person
 - Non-EU based teams: 1,800€ (one thousand and eight hundred euros) per person
8. If participants who have already received the financial support do not take part in the in-person sessions in Portugal, the amount received will be refunded to the Programme.
9. In the impossibility of hosting founders in Portugal, Blue Bio Value will activate a contingency plan to replicate the initiatives in an online format.
10. Participation in all sessions of the Programme by at least one representative of each startup is mandatory.
11. The deadlines established with the Blue Bio Value team, experts and advisors are regarded as of the utmost importance. It is mandatory to meet the deadlines established with the Blue Bio Value organisation team, the experts, and the advisors that each startup's members are working with and inform the relevant stakeholders on time whenever it is not possible.
12. It is mandatory to provide all requested information by the Blue Bio Value organisation team deemed as relevant for participation in the programme and the achievement of the initially set goals and objectives for the programme.
13. It is mandatory to conduct testimonials about participating in Blue Bio Value throughout the programme and post-programme through video or written interviews to be made publicly available in Blue Bio Value and respective partners' media channels.

14. It is mandatory to provide all requested information by the Blue Bio Value organisation team about the startup deemed as important for the programme monitoring and impact measurement, namely information about the startup's key growth KPIs. It is requested the commitment to share this information on an annual basis for a minimum of 3 years after the end of Blue Bio Value.
15. It is mandatory to acknowledge and publicise, on the startup's website, the participation in Blue Bio Value and Blue Bio Value's logo.

IV. Dates

1. Blue Bio Value Acceleration 2024 comprises 6 (six) phases:
 - Applications: between April 1st and May 20th at 11:59pm GMT+1
 - Selection and interviews: between May 20th and July 31st
 - Decision and communication of participants: by July 31st
 - Acceleration support (remote): between September 23rd and November 8th
 - Acceleration support (in Lisbon): between November 18th and November 29th
 - Final Pitch Day: between November 18th and November 29th
 - Ongoing support: between December 2nd and February 21st

V. Pre-Final Pitch and Final Pitch Day

1. At the end of the acceleration programme, a Pre-Final Pitch Day will be organised.
2. In the Pre-Final Pitch Day a group of startups will be selected by a formal jury panel to pitch at the Final Pitch Day.
3. Participants selected to be in the Final Pitch Day will pitch to an audience of investors, potential clients, industry partners and the wider community.
4. The group of participants selected to be in the Final Pitch Day will be considered for the award attribution, whose attribution decision will be conducted by a formal jury panel.
5. The Final Pitch Day will be held in person, in Lisbon, in the last week of the in-person visits to Portugal.

VI. Ongoing Support

1. In the following 3 months after the end of the Programme, participating startups will receive ongoing support in a lighter and ad hoc format.

VII. Evaluation and Final Prize

1. The Programme will award one to three startups selected according with the established criteria with a total and global prize corresponding to 45.000,00 € (forty-five thousand euros), which the winners will be able to benefit by using the Blue Demo Network services (link [here](#)).
2. The Blue Demo Network is a technological platform that brings together and make accessible a set of infrastructures and services to startups test and demonstrate their product or process on blue bioeconomy, including laboratories, access to water (fresh, brackish, and saltwater), office spaces, support services such as legal advice, among other services and benefits.
- 3.
4. The winner is chosen by the Programme's Jury, which shall be composed by members from the Organizing Committee and external and independent members invited by the organization.
5. The Jury is free to choose more than one winner, and, in that case, the total prize is equally divided among the winners.
6. The Jury will decide in accordance with its independent and free judgement and shall take into consideration the following criteria:
 - Performance throughout the acceleration programme;
 - Business model potential;
 - Team;
 - Technology proposed;
 - Track record;
 - Scalability potential;
 - The advantage that can take from the award;
 - Performance at the pre-pitch event;
 - Performance at the final pitch day event.

VIII. Copyright

1. It is for each team to define who holds the rights over the presented and developed ideas and it is each participant's responsibility to secure the intellectual property rights on their ideas if they so wish.
2. The Oceano Azul Foundation, maze, and BlueBio Alliance do not ensure, nor do they make any representation or warranty concerning the protection of the originality of the ideas, projects or concepts and will not be held responsible in case any of the ideas presented within the programme is copied, imitated, plagiarized or in any way used by a third party.
3. The previous paragraph does not apply to all confidential information under the preceding Clause IX.
4. The participants are solely responsible for protecting their intellectual property rights (patents, trademarks, copyright, trade secrets, etc.).
5. The Organizing Committee hereby informs all participants and whoever may be concerned that there are always certain risks involved in programmes of this nature regarding intellectual property. Because the Blue Bio Value organisation is not in a position to protect or advise anyone on intellectual property rights, it does not take any responsibility for the disclosure of information

provided in the application form. The Blue Bio Value organisation expressly states that it does not require non-disclosure agreements or other confidentiality obligations from anyone involved in the process.

6. All participants expressly represent and warrant that their participation does not infringe and will not infringe any rights of third parties (including, without limitation, copyrights and other intellectual property rights) and that they shall indemnify and keep the entities involved in the Blue Bio Value organisation indemnified against any claims from third parties in this respect.

IX. Disclosure

1. The participants acknowledge and accept that Oceano Azul Foundation shall have the right to use one or more times and whenever considered necessary or adequate the materials produced by the teams that are not confidential in public events, media publishing in every format and reproduction for communication and advertising purposes, without any fee or financial compensation and without the need of previous authorization.
2. Under this agreement confidential information means any and all information, in any medium, which is provided by one party ("Discloser") to the other party ("Recipient") including, without limitation, information that is either (i) related to business practices, financial statements, financial information, pricing, vendors, resellers, methods, techniques, processes, and employee data; (ii) marked using a legend such as "confidential," or similar words; or (iii) any information which Recipient should have reasonably considered to be confidential under the circumstances surrounding disclosure.
3. The confidentiality obligations established in this Rules and Regulation shall remain in force throughout the life of this Blue Bio Value Startup Acceleration and for 3 (three) additional years after its termination.
4. Each of the participants undertakes to deliver to the other participants and/or the Programme's organisation all confidential information it may hold, or which may be in the hands of its employees or collaborators, or to destroy such information on the reasonable and express instruction of the other participants and/or the Programme's organisation in the manner requested, depending on how such information is recorded. Moreover, the participants shall be obliged to certify that they have returned, deleted or destroyed all material in their possession in accordance with the preceding paragraphs and, therefore, to provide the other participants and/or the Programme's organisation with assurances that it does not hold any copies of the confidential information, either in whole or in part.

X. Responsibility

1. Oceano Azul Foundation, BlueBio Alliance and Maze Impact cannot be held responsible for the cancellation, postponement, or any change in the 7th edition of the Blue Bio Value Acceleration Programme on any of its phases due to unforeseen causes or in cases of force majeure.

2. Under Blue Bio Value Acceleration it is considered as a force majeure any event or circumstance which is beyond the reasonable control of a Party which results in or causes that Party's failure to perform any or all of its obligations under this Blue Bio Value Startup Accelerator [(including act of God, strike, lockout or other industrial action (not involving the workforce of that Party), war (declared, undeclared or threatened), terrorist act, riot, civil commotion, public demonstration, act of vandalism, explosion, or requirement of a Competent Authority)].

XI. Acceptance of the regulation

1. Participating in Blue Bio Value Acceleration Programme implies full acceptance of the rules and regulations in this document by the participants and the renouncement and express waiver of claims, complaints, or appeals, legal or otherwise, regarding the course of events of the Programme or any decision made by the Organizing Committee, insofar as legally admissible.

XII. General provisions

1. The Organizing Committee cannot be held responsible for the cancellation, postponement or any change in the Blue Bio Value Acceleration Programme on any of its phases due to unforeseen causes or in cases of *force majeure*.
2. The Organizing Committee may modify, suspend, or cancel this initiative in circumstances of force majeure, not implying a compensatory allowance to the applicants.
3. The participations that are considered fraudulent will be notified to the competent authorities and may be prosecuted. Any unauthorized attempt of intrusiveness in the computing or communication systems supporting this initiative will be considered illicit and shall be notified to the competent authorities.
4. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to inhibit the participation of applicants that it considers to be competing fraudulently.
5. The Blue Bio Value organising team cannot be held responsible for any human or technical error that may occur during this initiative, and that is not committed through gross negligence or wilful misconduct and disclaims any liability resulting therefrom.

XIII. Applicable Lex Forum

1. This Blue Bio Value Acceleration Programme and any non-contractual obligations arising out or in connection with it shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with Portuguese law;
2. In the event of any dispute, the Parties shall use their reasonable endeavours to resolve the dispute amicably and any such solution that is agreed between them shall be binding upon all Parties;
3. Applicants accept that any litigation within the Programme will be submitted exclusively to the Civil Courts of Lisbon.

XIV. Promoters and Partners

The **OCEANO AZUL FOUNDATION** is a Portugal-based Foundation with the purpose of contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean, notably with a view to:

- Developing blue literacy and fostering the public's understanding of the challenges of ocean sustainability;
- Contributing to the conservation of the oceans, promoting the value of biodiversity and the development of sustainable uses;
- Contributing to a new system of governance of the oceans, guided by ethical values and based on scientific knowledge, as well as contributing to the development of an innovative, environmentally sustainable blue bioeconomy.

Maze Impact is a European impact investing company based in Portugal created in 2013. Maze Impact invests in effective solutions that solve social and environmental challenges and supports entrepreneurs in expanding their solutions to the European market through an impact investing fund, acceleration programmes and through working with the public sector to improve the impact of social service delivery.

The **BLUEBIO ALLIANCE** is a national network that includes all subsectors of the marine bioresources value chain in Portugal. It ranges from raw material producers, R&D units, to biotech SMEs, transforming centres and manufacturers, public sector entities and support companies, up to the final consumer product developers. The BLUEBIO ALLIANCE aims at collectively organising this value chain, to foster its relations and dynamics, leveraging its SMEs growth and accelerating their internationalization by increasing their outreach and exportations, leading to more jobs and value creation for Portugal.