



Web Summit 2026

Rules for Participation

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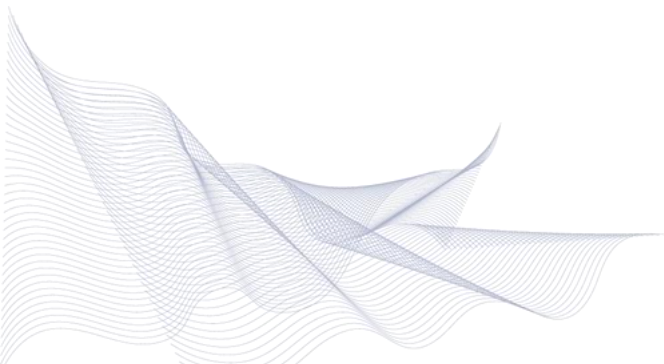
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Preamble and Legal Basis

The present document establishes the official Regulatory Framework and Rules of Participation governing the application, selection and commitment process for the BSC AI Factory Booth Programme at Web Summit 2026.

The BSC AI Factory (BSC AIF) itself is a European consortium led by the Barcelona Supercomputing Center (BSC). It brings together key national research and innovation, including:

- Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT) – Portugal
- The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) – Turkey
- Institutul Național de Cercetare-Dezvoltare în Informatică (ICI Bucharest) – Romania

As part of its ongoing mission to accelerate the adoption, development and the visibility of advanced artificial intelligence technologies in Europe, the BSC AI Factory launches this initiative as defined in WP8 to showcase its ecosystem and highlight some of the most promising start-ups that are direct users of the BSC AI Factory services as well as engaging with new startups for potential users of BSC AIF services. Through participation in [Web Summit 2026](#), held in Lisbon from 9 to 12 November 2026, the BSC AIF aims to strengthen its role as a catalyst for innovation, providing a unique platform for startups to connect with industry leaders, investors and policymakers in a dynamic and internationally recognized environment. This action not only promotes the BSC AIF community but also reinforces its commitment to fostering entrepreneurship and collaboration in the field of applied AI.

SECTION I. DEFINITIONS AND SCOPE

Article 1. Definitions

- The Programme:** BSC AI Factory Exhibition Programme at Web Summit 2026
- The Organizer:** The BSC AI Factory Consortium, led by Barcelona Supercomputing Center (BSC-CNS), and including Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT), The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) and Institutul Național de Cercetare-Dezvoltare în Informatică (ICI Bucharest).
- Applicant:** Any AI company seeking admission to the Programme.
- Beneficiary:** An Applicant formally selected and admitted to the Programme
- Selection Committee:** selected AI experts from the AI ecosystem will be in charge of the evaluation of the applicants the established criteria

Article 2. Scope

These rules define the framework for the application, evaluation, and selection of companies to exhibit with the BSC AIF booth at Web Summit 2026, which will take place in Lisbon from 9 to 12 November 2026. They apply to companies seeking allocation to one of the eight exhibition booths contained in the stand. The process established here is designed to be transparent, objective, and

non-discriminatory, ensuring equal treatment and traceable decisions throughout the selection process.

SECTION II. MANDATORY ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Article 3. Criteria for Applicants

In accordance with the principles and regulations governing the BSC AI Factory, all applicants must comply with a set of **mandatory eligibility criteria** to be considered for participation in the Web Summit 2026 exhibition. These requirements ensure that selected companies align with the mission and strategic priorities of the BSC AI Factory.

The following criteria **must be fully met at the time of application** and will be subject to verification by the Selection Committee. Detailed requirements for each criteria are presented in the Table below:

Criteria	Requirement
1. Legal Status	The Applicant must be a legally established company with a valid fiscal identification number, registered in any European Union Member State .
2. Corporate Age	The applicant must have been legally established for less than six (6) years as of the date of application and should be user of any of the BSC AIF services
3. AI Technology	The company must demonstrate that artificial intelligence forms a core component of its business model, product, or service. Applications must clearly describe the AI technologies employed and show a high level of technological readiness and maturity .
4. Technological and Scalable Nature	The company must exhibit a strong technological foundation and demonstrate clear potential for scalability and growth
5. Sector Priority	The Company should operate in one or more of the BSC AI Factory's priority sectors: Health, Agriculture & Climate, Finance & Legal, Public Administration, Communication & Media, Energy
6. Organizer's policy	At the time of application, the startup must at a minimum be launched and live with their own working website. The startup must provide BSC with a logo available in .eps format. The startup must have their own unique software product or solutions or they must be working on their own connected hardware devices. Consultancies, agencies, developers, marketing/advertising agencies, public companies will not be accepted.

Startups must be their own independent company and not a subsidiary of a larger organisation. A startup already registered for the Web Summit as an exhibitor is not eligible to participate in this programme.
A startup is not permitted to exhibit on more than one startup island.

These criteria are **non-negotiable** and establish the essential conditions for entering the selection process.

Article 4. Discretionary Consideration

Startups operating outside the defined strategic sectors and meeting all other criteria may be considered, provided there's remaining capacity in the selection process.

SECTION III. APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURES

Article 5. Exhibition Schedule

The BSC AI Factory stand at Web Summit 2026 (booth 0303-80, pavillion 4) will feature a total of eight (8) exhibition booths for startups located at the Partner Startup Island Lisbon. However, to maximize visibility and participation opportunities, the programme will select twenty-four (24) beneficiaries in total.

The allocation of exhibition days will be determined according to the **final evaluation ranking** established during the selection process. Specifically:

- Startups ranked in **positions 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, 19 and 22** will exhibit on **10 November 2026**.
- Companies ranked in **positions 2, 5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20 and 23** will exhibit on **11 November 2026**.
- Companies ranked in **positions 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21 and 24** will exhibit on **12 November 2026**

Each Beneficiary will be assigned a 1.5m startup booth equipped a branded hanging banner above the partner startup island, and BSC AIF team will provide a dedicated template with exact measures to make sure that BSC AIF bran will co-exist with the company's own brand. Beneficiaries will be asked to provide all necessary materials (brochures, screens, and slogans) to complete each individual stand. This rotation system ensures that all Beneficiaries have equal opportunity to showcase their projects, products, and technologies under the BSC AIF framework.

Article 6. Application Process

The application process for participation in the BSC AI Factory Booth at Web Summit 2026 is designed to ensure consistency with the Programme's selection principles. All Applicants must complete the application submission by:

1. Completing the [application form](#) until **28 September 2026 (23:59 CET)**.

All fields in the form must be completed to be considered valid. The form will include a set of questions aimed at gathering essential information about the company that will be used for assessing its eligibility.

2. Uploading a presentation deck (maximum 12 slides) in PDF or PowerPoint format and logo in EPS format. The deck should provide a clear and concise overview of the company, including the following information:

- Description of the **product or service** offered
- Identification of the **sector of activity**.
- Value proposition and **business model**
- **Financing and company roadmap**, including milestones achieved and plans of future.
- **Team structure**, highlighting key roles and expertise.

Only complete submissions received before the stated deadline will be evaluated by the Selection Committee. Late or incomplete applications will be rejected.

Article 7. Selection Process

The selection of companies to exhibit at the BSC AIF startup island at Web Summit 2026 will follow a structured, and merit-based evaluation procedure consisting of three sequential steps:

- **Step 1 – Assessment of Eligibility Criteria** - All applications received by the deadline will undergo an initial compliance review to verify that they meet the mandatory requirements established in Article 3 (Mandatory Eligibility Criteria). This verification phase will take up to one (1) week from each application deadline.
Only applications that fully comply with the eligibility requirements will proceed to the evaluation phase. Submissions that fail to meet the minimum requirements or contain incomplete or inconsistent information will be automatically disqualified.
- **Step 2 - Technical Evaluation and Scoring** - After confirming the list of eligible candidates, each application will be evaluated in detail to establish a ranked list of companies to receive exhibition space at the BSC AIF Web Summit 2026 startup island.
This evaluation will be carried out by a designated External Evaluation Committee and will consider the following five main criteria, with their corresponding weights in the final score:

Weight	Evaluation Criteria
25%	The level that AI is fundamental to the Applicant's business model and value proposition.
25%	Degree of disruptiveness.
20%	Impact of the proposed solution (economic, environmental, or social).
10%	Team composition and leadership balance.
5%	Internationalization and global scalability potential.
15%	Previous participation in any BSC AI Factory service (One Stop-Shop Interview, Incubation Space, AI Infrastructure Access...) <i>*This 15% will be granted directly to companies that demonstrate the service and will be reviewed by the Committee.</i>

The evaluation phase will last up to two (2) weeks, and final scoring will be decided by the External Evaluation Committee. The **final resolution** of the Technical Evaluation and Scoring will be completed **no later than 21st October 2026**.

- **Step 3 - Provisional Resolution and Waiting List** - Following the previous evaluation step, a provisional resolution sheet will be published, listing the twenty-four (24) Beneficiaries for the eight (8) available spots during the three days, together with the proposed Exhibition Schedule.

**If the number of eligible applications exceeds the available exhibition spaces, a waiting list will be established and Portuguese startups will be prioritized due to the venue's location. Should any selected company fail to confirm participation within the specified period, replacements will be made according to the order established in the waiting list until all spaces are filled.*

This process guarantees a **transparent, objective, and audit-able selection** fully aligned with the mission and operational principles of the BSC AI Factory.

SECTION IV. BENEFICIARIES' RIGHTS, MANDATORY COMMITMENTS AND COST

Article 6. Beneficiaries' Rights

Companies selected as Beneficiaries of the BSC AIF Exhibition opportunity at Web Summit 2026 will be granted access to a series of benefits that facilitate their participation and visibility during the event:

- **Exhibition Space:** Allocation of one booth within the BSC AI Factory startups island for a period of one (1) day at Web Summit 2026 (10, 11 or 12 November 2026), depending on the ranking order established in the selection process.
- **Event Access:** Provision of up to **two (2) full-access passes** to Web Summit 2026 per company, valid for the entire duration of the event (9–12 November 2026).
- **Visibility and Promotion:** Inclusion of each company's name, logo, and project description on the official BSC AIFwebpage and related promotional materials developed for the Web Summit 2026 event.
- **Stand Infrastructure:** Access to standard stand configuration, including basic furniture, electrical connection and branding aligned (logo, resource image, slogans) with the official stand, ensuring consistency with the institutional image of BSC AI Factory.

Article 8. Mandatory Commitments

Beneficiaries must comply with the following obligations:

- **Presence and Representation:** Each Beneficiary must ensure a **continuous and active presence** at the assigned booth during the **entire duration of their allocated exhibition period and within official event hours**, guaranteeing that the space is never left unattended.
- **Provision of Information:** Beneficiaries must **submit** all required information and materials including attendee names and contact details for ticket management, audiovisual content, logos, and other communication assets within the deadlines established by the BSC AI Factory organization team.
- **Coordination and Compliance:** Beneficiaries must follow the operational guidelines, logistical instructions, and communication protocols issued by the BSC AI Factory team to maintain consistency across all exhibitors and maintain a professional presentation of the shared Stand.

Article 9. Cost for Beneficiaries

Participation in the BSC AI Factory Booth Programme at Web Summit 2026 is entirely free of charge for beneficiaries. No participation fee will be invoiced by the BSC AI Factory team. However, travel and accommodation expenses related to attendance at the event will be the sole responsibility of the participating start-ups.

For transparency and to acknowledge the value of the support provided, Beneficiaries are informed that the services and activities included in the Programme represent an estimated cost of 2.000 EUR (excluding VAT) per company. This amount reflects the resources allocated to organizing and coordinating a dedicated networking session for participating startups and partners within the Web Summit 2026 framework, as well as the associated operational and visibility-related benefits provided by the BSC AI Factory.

By accepting these Rules and confirming participation as a selected Beneficiary, each company acknowledges the value of the benefits received under the Programme, even though no financial contribution is required.

SECTION V. TIMELINE OF THE CALL

Article 10. Timeline for the call

1	Application period	11 September 2026	28 September 2026
2	Eligibility Criteria	Until 30 October 2026	
3	Technical Evaluation and Scoring	Until 12 October 2026	
4	Provisional Resolution	Until 13 October 2026	

ACCEPTANCE OF THE RULES FOR PARTICIPATION

All applicants must acknowledge and accept these Rules of Participation as a mandatory condition to take part in the selection process. A signed copy of this document must be uploaded together with the application submission materials through the official form at the time of application.

By signing this document, Applicants declare that they have fully read, understood, and accepted the terms and conditions governing participation in the **BSC AI Factory Booth Programme at Web Summit 2026**, including all obligations, costs, and operational requirements described.

Name and Surname	
Phone Number	
Email address	
Company Name	
ID Company Identification Number (CIF or similar...)	
Position	
Acceptance	[Signature]