SWITCH2PRODUCT REGULATIONS 2025

17th Edition

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1 What is S2P

Switch2Product (hereinafter also "S2P" or the "Initiative") is an Innovation Program designed to enhance the value of research outcomes and foster an entrepreneurial culture within the Politecnico di Milano (hereinafter also the "University"), by promoting technology transfer to the market activities and supporting the creation of innovative startups.

S2P is organized by **PoliHub S.c.a.r.l. Società Benefit**, the Innovation Park & Startup Accelerator of the Politecnico di Milano (hereinafter also "PoliHub"), the **Technology Transfer Office** of the Politecnico di Milano (hereinafter also "TTO"), and **Officine Innovazione** of Deloitte Italy (hereinafter also "Deloitte", and collectively with PoliHub and TTO, the "Organizers").

The Initiative is carried out in collaboration with its **Partners** (hereinafter also "Partners"), namely companies, public institutions, foundations, venture capital firms, and other stakeholders of the innovation ecosystem who actively contribute to the program. These Partners may support S2P through: (i) direct funding, including the provision of Special Grants awarded to the most deserving projects (see Section 6.2); (ii) mentorship, support, and training for participating teams; (iii) networking opportunities and access to strategic resources for startup development; (iv) collaborations for Proof of Concept (PoC) development and technology validation; (v) potential incubation and acceleration programs, in synergy with PoliHub and the Politecnico di Milano.

The Initiative is aimed at teams (hereinafter **S2P Teams**) seeking to accelerate the technological and market validation of their projects in order to maximize their potential and launch their own startup.

S2P provides a set of opportunities aimed at supporting business and technological development, including:

1. Access to an innovation program called *Innovation Fundamentals*, lasting between six (6) and eight (8) weeks, which provides participants with the essential tools to clearly articulate their project and identify potential market applications;

2. Access to a *three (3)-month Incubation Program*, which equips participants with the basic skills to launch a business and the methodologies to validate their solution on the market;

3. A financial contribution of €30,000.00 (hereinafter the "S2P Grant") provided by the TTO of the Politecnico di Milano or by PoliHub, dedicated to the funding of technology development and validation activities, supporting the progression of the innovative solution along the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) scale—from early-stage laboratory settings, through functional prototyping, toward industrial scale-up;

4. A financial contribution of up to €30,000.00 (hereinafter the "Special Grant") provided by the Organizers or Partners, with the amount and allocation criteria defined jointly by them;

5. Vouchers for the acquisition of professional and technological services made available by the Initiative's Partners;

6. Access to a network of mentors, industry experts, and companies for validating proposed solutions;

7. Opportunities to meet with investors from the PoliHub network.

All conditions and terms of participation in the Initiative are governed by this document (hereinafter also the "Regulations").

2 Elegibility criteria

2.1 Definition of S2P Team

For the purposes of these Regulations, a **S2P Team** is defined as a group composed of no fewer than two (2) and no more than seven (7) **Participants** jointly submitting an innovative project within the scope of S2P. Individual applications will not be considered.

The S2P Team may consist of individuals who have not yet incorporated a legal entity, or of an already established company. In the case of an established company, the S2P Team corresponds to the **Operational Shareholders** of the company, provided that at least one of such shareholders meets the eligibility criteria described herein.

Operational Shareholders are those shareholders of the participating company who, at the time of application, play an active and documented role in the development of the entrepreneurial project. This role must be evidenced by official company documents (e.g., articles of incorporation, corporate bylaws, shareholders' resolutions, or collaboration agreements).

Passive financial investors, equity shareholders without managerial roles, and advisors without executive responsibilities are not considered Operational Shareholders.

All members of the S2P Team must be of legal age and, in the case of non-EU citizens, must hold a valid residence permit for the entire duration of the Initiative.

2.2 Eligibility Requirements

To be admitted to S2P, at least one member of the S2P Team must be affiliated with the Politecnico di Milano. For this purpose, the team member must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Be an alumnus/a who has graduated from, or a student currently enrolled in, a Bachelor's, Master's, or postgraduate program (First or Second Level Master's Degree) at the Politecnico di Milano, the **Polimi Graduate School of Management** (including Master, MBA, or EMBA), or at **POLI.design S.c.a.r.l.**;

- Be a PhD candidate, researcher, lecturer, or professor at the Politecnico di Milano (including research fellows, grant holders, and adjunct faculty).

2.3 Exclusions and Limitations

In accordance with principles of ethics and decency, and to safeguard the reputation of the Politecnico di Milano and the Initiative's Partners, the following S2P Teams (whether companies or informal groups) shall be excluded from the program: (i) those engaged in activities related to the production or distribution of alcoholic beverages, gambling, or the promotion of gambling addiction; (ii) those whose proposals or content are discriminatory on the basis of sexual orientation, religion, or gender; (iii) those whose activities are contrary to public decency, applicable laws, or the values of the Initiative.

Exclusions shall be decided by the Organizers. Such exclusions are carried out pursuant to Article 2035 of the Italian Civil Code, which prohibits activities contrary to public order and decency. The Organizers reserve the right to exclude any project at any stage of the Initiative should any circumstances arise that render the participation incompatible with the program's values.

3 What we are looking for

S2P seeks new business ideas, innovative solutions, new technologies, and original scientific inventions that can be brought to market through advanced technology transfer processes, with the goal of launching new startups or spin-offs.

The program aims to reward and support the most promising innovative projects in both **Deep Tech** sectors (including, but not limited to: AI, Data Science, Machine Learning, Cybersecurity, Blockchain, Photonics, Electronics, IoT, Sensors, Advanced Materials, Robotics & Automation, Drones & Aerospace, Quantum Computing, Biotech & Healthcare, AR & VR) and in other high-tech and digital innovation fields.

Specifically, S2P has established five (5) categories, each with corresponding subcategories, for the submission of applications:

3.1 Health & Med Tech

We are looking for innovative solutions, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, vaccines, diagnostic technologies, biotechnologies, and digital health systems aimed at improving prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and disease management. The focus is on applying advanced research to develop effective and accessible tools that improve the of quality of life of human beings and strengthen the healthcare sector through innovative approaches in telemedicine, artificial intelligence, bioengineering, and personalized therapies.

3.2 Climate Tech & Circular Economy

We are seeking technologies, products, or entrepreneurial ideas that mitigate the impact and growth of global greenhouse gas emissions (**Climate Tech**) or improve performance, productivity, and/or production efficiency while minimizing negative environmental impacts (**Cleantech**). This includes solutions that harness renewable energy sources such as sunlight, wind, or water (**Green Energy**) or that are based on principles of eliminating waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use, and regenerating natural systems (**Circular Economy**).

3.3 Industries Transformation

We are seeking technologies, solutions, and innovative models that transform industrial processes through advanced automation, artificial intelligence, IoT, robotics, data analytics, and new materials. The objective is to enhance production efficiency, optimize supply chains, reduce environmental impact, and improve the management of goods and people flows.

3.4 New ways of working and living

We are looking for innovative solutions for work and society, including technologies for remote work, AI-based enterprise management platforms, augmented and virtual reality tools for collaboration, digitalization of organizational processes, smart living models, and innovations in digital education and well-being. This category also includes innovative design projects that enhance user experience, sustainability, ergonomics, and human-technology interaction in the evolving landscape of work and life.

3.5 Space Tech & Aerospace

We are seeking technologies, products, or entrepreneurial ideas that drive innovation in the aerospace sector, including solutions for flight, navigation, propulsion, and avionics. This category includes drones and Urban Air Mobility (UAM) for autonomous transport, logistics, and safety; advanced avionics for cockpit systems, sensors, and communications; new electric, hybrid, or hydrogen propulsion technologies; innovative materials for enhanced efficiency and sustainability; solutions for satellite deployment and space debris management; new aerodynamic configurations for safer and more efficient aircraft; and AI-based software for predictive maintenance and air traffic management.

4 Evaluation Bodies

4.1 Definition of Evaluation Bodies

The **Technical Selection Committee** (hereinafter also the “Technical Committee”) is composed of representatives from PoliHub, the Technology Transfer Office (TTO) of the Politecnico di Milano, and subject matter experts appointed by the Organizers or by the Partners. The Technical Selection Committee is responsible for determining the **TOP 100** S2P Teams that will be admitted to the *Innovation Fundamentals* program. The composition of the Technical Committee shall be determined by the Organizers in agreement with the Partners, ensuring appropriate representation of the

technical competencies necessary for project evaluation.

The **Institutional Jury** (hereinafter also the "Jury") is composed of representatives from PoliHub, the Technology Transfer Office (TTO) of the Politecnico di Milano, and subject matter experts appointed by the Organizers or by the Partners. The Jury is responsible for identifying the **Finalist Projects** (see Section 5.2) and the **Winning Projects** (see Section 6). The composition of the Jury shall be determined by the Organizers in agreement with the Partners, ensuring adequate representation of the skills necessary for project assessment.

The members of the Technical Selection Committee and the Institutional Jury will sign confidentiality agreements to ensure the protection of project information during the evaluation phases.

4.2 Decision-Making Autonomy of Evaluation Bodies

By submitting their application and thereby accepting these Regulations, the S2P Teams expressly consent to and acknowledge the full decision-making autonomy of the Technical Selection Committee and the Institutional Jury. They agree not to challenge:

- The composition of these bodies, which is established by the Organizers in agreement with the Partners based on criteria of technical competence, sector experience, and stakeholder representation;
- The decision-making process, which shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures set forth in these Regulations, and in compliance with the principles of impartiality, transparency, and good faith, pursuant to Articles 1175 and 1375 of the Italian Civil Code;
- The evaluations and determinations adopted by these bodies, which shall be deemed final and not subject to appeal, being based on discretionary criteria of merit, innovation, feasibility, and development potential of the projects, as specified in the Regulations.

It is expressly stated that the decisions of the Institutional Jury and the Technical Selection Committee do not constitute administrative acts subject to judicial review by competent authorities, nor may they be challenged or appealed by Participants, except for the right to request explanations of the reasoning behind the decisions, by submitting a request within 15 days of the official communication of the results, in compliance with the principle of transparency as set out in Articles 2 and 3 of Law No. 241/1990.

Participation in the Initiative implies full acceptance of these terms, and an express waiver by the Participants of any claim, reservation, or action aimed at disputing the outcomes of the selection process.

5 Participation procedures and program phases

5.1 Application opening

Participation in S2P is free of charge.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and are evaluated annually in correspondence with the **cut-off date**, which is set for **1 September 2025** for the 2025 edition of the program. Applications submitted after this date will be considered for the following edition.

Projects must be submitted by completing an online application form available at **www.s2p.it**, no later than the cut-off date established for the current edition.

5.2 Program Phases

September 2025 – Evaluation and Selection for Innovation Fundamentals

By 30 September, the Technical Selection Committee will select up to 100 (one hundred) projects (hereinafter the "Selected Projects"), following the evaluation of the submitted information and possible interviews with applicants.

The Selected Projects will be admitted to the first phase of the Initiative and will gain access to the *Innovation Fundamentals* program. However, participation in this phase does not automatically entitle access to subsequent phases, which will be subject to a new evaluation by the Institutional Jury.

October to November 2025 – Innovation Fundamentals

The Selected Projects will take part in a five-week *Innovation Fundamentals* program, designed to provide core knowledge for clearly defining their project and identifying potential market opportunities.

December 2025 to January 2026 – Evaluation and Selection of Finalist Projects

All Selected Projects will present their ideas to the Institutional Jury, which will identify up to 50 (fifty) **Finalist Projects**. These will be the projects that successfully complete the Innovation Fundamentals phase and are admitted to the **Incubation Program**, becoming eligible for the allocation of Grants.

All selection sessions will be conducted privately, with appropriate confidentiality measures in place regarding the information disclosed.

In addition, the Institutional Jury—drawing on evaluations collected throughout the program—will assist in identifying the **Winning Projects** (see Section 6).

The Winning Projects will be announced in **February 2026** during a public event titled **"Startup Year 2026 Opening"**, attended by the press and innovation ecosystem stakeholders.

March to May 2026 – Incubation Program

Starting in March, all Finalist Projects will be automatically admitted to a three-month incubation program organized by PoliHub. Participation in this program is a mandatory requirement to access the additional support offered by the Initiative, including any potential Grants or services.

During the incubation period, teams will receive mentorship, entrepreneurial training, and strategic and technical support, with the aim of consolidating their business model, validating their solution, and developing a sustainable growth plan.

Activities may take place in person or remotely, depending on organizational needs. Any changes to the format or program phases will be communicated in a timely manner during the course of the Initiative.

6 Types of Grants

For the purposes of these Regulations, **Winning Projects** are those selected at the end of the evaluation process by the Institutional Jury as the most promising among the Finalist Projects, based on criteria of innovation, technological feasibility, and potential for industrial or market development.

Designation as a Winning Project may entail, depending on the type of award conferred:

- The disbursement of an **S2P Grant**;
- The disbursement of a **Special Grant**;
- The possibility of establishing collaborations with Partners, subject to mutual agreement on the terms and nature of such collaborations.

The official list of Winning Projects will be announced during the final award event (**Startup Year 2026 Opening**) and published on the S2P platform thereafter.

The **Grants**, i.e., financial contributions toward the development of the Winning Projects, consist of awards of up to **€30,000.00** each. These are disbursed by the Technology Transfer Office (TTO) of the Politecnico di Milano and/or by the Organizers or Partners of the Initiative, and are defined as follows:

- **S2P Grants**, disbursed by the TTO, are reserved exclusively for projects submitted by professors, researchers, PhD candidates, and students affiliated with the Politecnico di Milano who maintain a formal working or research relationship with the University;
- **Special Grants**, provided by the Organizers and/or Partners of the Initiative, are disbursed through PoliHub and/or the TTO.

Grants are managed via the S2P platform and are strictly tied to the purposes of the competition as outlined in Sections 5.1 and 5.2. Their disbursement and use are governed by specific development plans agreed upon by the S2P Teams, the Organizers, and/or the Partners, with reporting requirements defined in Sections 6.1 and 6.2.

Grants are non-transferable and non-convertible, and participants may not request substitution in any form.

This Initiative does not constitute a prize competition or a prize promotion and is expressly excluded under **Art. 6, letter a) of Presidential Decree No. 430/2001**.

6.1 S2P Grant

S2P Grant Recipients are S2P Teams whose projects stem from research activities carried out within the Politecnico di Milano and who are selected as winners at the end of the evaluation process (hereinafter also the "S2P Grant Recipient Team").

S2P Grants are reserved exclusively for projects submitted by faculty, researchers, PhD candidates, or students affiliated with the Politecnico di Milano who have a verifiable employment or research relationship with the University. Eligibility is subject to validation of the research origin, which must be traceable to scientific results, patents, publications, or funded projects developed at the Politecnico di Milano. This validation is conducted by the Organizers.

For the 2025 edition, the standard amount for each S2P Grant is **€30,000.00 per project**, to be used within **12 months** of award, subject to an extension of up to **18 months** upon justified request and approval by the TTO.

The relationship between the Politecnico and the S2P Grant Recipient Team is governed as follows:

- The S2P Grant is disbursed by the TTO according to a timeline agreed with the Recipient Team;
- The disbursement methods vary based on the legal status of the team:

If the S2P Grant Recipient Team has incorporated, or intends to incorporate within 12 months, a new company (NewCo):

- The grant will be disbursed (net of applicable taxes) directly to the newly formed capital company (S.r.l. or S.p.A.) within 12 months from the award or acceptance of the grant;
- The company must be duly registered and have at least one operational unit at the time of disbursement;
- Disbursement is contingent on submission to PoliHub of the company registration certificate and bank account information within the 12-month deadline.

If the S2P Grant Recipient Team has not incorporated a NewCo and does not intend to do so within 12 months:

- The grant will not be disbursed directly to the team, but will be administered by PoliHub or the TTO, following operational procedures defined by the Initiative.

The use of the S2P Grant is restricted to competition-related purposes and must align with a development plan shared with the TTO and/or PoliHub. Eligible expenditures may include:

- Support for technological development/validation and TRL advancement;
- Development of prototypes and PoCs;
- Experimental testing or field deployment;
- Purchase of materials, services, and specialized consulting;
- Hiring of personnel (employees or contractors) dedicated to the project.

S2P Grants may be combined with **Special Grants** offered by the Organizers and/or Partners (see Section 6.2).

If post-award verification reveals ineligibility, the grant may be denied or, if already awarded, revoked and subject to reimbursement. In such cases, the recipient must repay the full amount within **60 days** of the revocation notice, except for verifiable and approved expenditures.

Acceptance of the S2P Grant is not mandatory; it remains at the sole discretion of the S2P Team.

Disbursement is contingent upon signing the **S2P Grant Acceptance Form** by all members of the S2P Grant Recipient Team.

6.2 Special Grant

Special Grant Recipients are S2P Teams whose projects align with strategic priorities identified by the Organizers and/or Partners, and who are selected as winners at the end of the evaluation process (hereinafter the "Special Grant Recipient Team").

For the 2025 edition, the maximum amount per project is **€30,000.00**, subject to availability as determined by the Organizers and/or Partners. Grants must be used within **12 months**, extendable to **18 months** upon justified request and approval.

The relationship between the Organizers and/or Partners and the Special Grant Recipient Team is governed as follows:

- The Institutional Jury includes representatives of the Organizers and/or Partners, who sign confidentiality agreements to safeguard project data;

If the Special Grant Recipient Team has incorporated, or intends to incorporate within 12 months, a NewCo:

- The grant will be disbursed (net of applicable taxes) directly to the newly formed capital company

(S.r.l. or S.p.A.) within 12 months of award or acceptance;

- The company must be duly registered and have at least one operational unit;
- Disbursement is subject to submission of registration documents and bank account details to PoliHub.

If the team has not incorporated a NewCo and does not intend to do so within 12 months:

- The grant will be administered by PoliHub or the TTO, following procedures defined by the Initiative.

Use of funds must follow a development plan agreed with PoliHub or the TTO, who will monitor project progress and proper allocation of resources. Permitted expenses include:

- Support for technology or innovation development beyond the lab, i.e., TRL advancement;
- Development of prototypes and PoCs;
- Experimental testing or field deployment;
- Purchase of materials, services, and expert consulting;
- Hiring of personnel (employees or contractors) dedicated to the project.

During incubation, Organizers and/or Partners will engage with Special Grant Recipient Teams to explore potential technological or business development collaborations.

Special Grant Recipient Teams agree not to enter into negotiations with competing companies of the relevant Organizers and/or Partners for the duration of the incubation program and for up to **six (6) months** thereafter, unless explicitly authorized. Exceptions may be granted if collaboration with a competitor is deemed essential and non-detrimental to the Partner's interests.

If post-award eligibility checks fail, the Special Grant may be revoked and subject to full reimbursement within **60 days** of notice, except for approved and documented expenditures.

Acceptance of the Special Grant is optional and remains at the S2P Team's discretion.

7 Intellectual Property

1 Pursuant to the "University Regulation on Industrial Property" (Rectoral Decree no. 14834 dated 05.12.2023), the following rights belong to Politecnico: (i) Rights arising from Inventions made by employees of Politecnico within the scope of independent research activities; (ii) Intellectual property rights arising from Inventions made by internal collaborators who are not employees of

Politecnico, if such inventions are developed within research activities, laboratory work, or undergraduate/master's degree programs; (iii) Inventions made by employees and internal collaborators who are not employees of Politecnico within the scope of research contracts and research collaborations — including, but not limited to, PhD scholarships, research fellowships funded by third parties, workshops, or other activities promoted and funded by third parties — concluded by Politecnico.

2 Results generated by students during internships and/or company traineeships that are not part of commissioned or co-funded research activities shall belong to the students who produced them.

3 For the purposes of this article, "Invention" refers to any useful result of technical-scientific research that has asset value and is eligible for an exclusive right, including industrial inventions, utility models, industrial designs and models, new plant varieties, know-how, trademarks, and software.

4 Participation in the program requires, as a necessary condition for the acceptance of any Grant, a commitment to carry out any actions required — if not already performed — to ensure that the aforementioned ownership is effectively transferred to Politecnico.

5 In the event that the Inventions or any intellectual property rights related to the innovative project submitted to S2P are owned by parties other than Politecnico, each Proposing Team must promptly notify Politecnico and PoliHub prior to participating in the program, so that they can assess their relevance and determine whether a transfer to Politecnico is necessary. Politecnico, PoliHub, and the Proposing Team shall in good faith define the terms or necessity of such transfer. Where required, the transfer to Politecnico shall be a condition for participation in the acceleration program and/or for obtaining the Grant. If the transfer is agreed upon and the Proposing Team wins the Grant or takes part in the acceleration program, the Team commits to complete the transfer at the end of the selection process. In the absence of an agreement, the parties may discontinue the collaboration and the Proposing Team may withdraw from the program without incurring any cost or penalty.

6 If Inventions are generated using the Grant, the Proposing Team must notify Politecnico and PoliHub. Such Inventions shall be the exclusive property of Politecnico. Politecnico, PoliHub, and the Proposing Team shall in good faith define the terms for the commercial exploitation of such Invention by the Proposing Team within 12 months of the conclusion of the acceleration program. The above provisions apply to all Inventions made within 6 months following the later of: (i) completion of the program; or (ii) use of the Grant.

7 Politecnico and PoliHub reserve the right to revoke the Grant to any Proposing Team that refuses to transfer — or fails to transfer after having committed to do so — the intellectual property to Politecnico, or that disputes Politecnico's ownership.

8 Incubated Projects

All **Finalist Projects** will be granted access to a **three-month incubation program** organized by **PoliHub**.

Participation in this program is a **mandatory condition** for the potential disbursement of Grants. Unjustified withdrawal from the incubation program may result in the **revocation of any awarded contributions**, unless otherwise determined at the sole discretion of the Organizers.

The objective of the incubation program is to foster **entrepreneurial and technological development** through a structured growth path for each project. This path aims to achieve outcomes such as team consolidation, market definition, prototyping and product development, business model definition, entrepreneurial and technical development roadmapping, and access to financing.

Being selected as a Finalist Project and gaining access to incubation **does not automatically entitle** a team to receive a Grant. Grants will be awarded according to the procedures set forth in **Section 6**.

Access to the incubation program is contingent upon the signing of a specific **agreement with PoliHub**, acknowledging the value of the support provided throughout the various growth stages of the project—from the incubation phase through to company formation and capital raising. This agreement must be signed **within 15 days** of the notification of admission to the incubation program, unless an extension is granted by the Organizers.

Following completion of the incubation program, some Incubated Projects may be eligible to receive **additional support from the Initiative's Partners**, such as further financial contributions or access to professional and/or technological services, or to be included in extended incubation programs at PoliHub.

Moreover, the Initiative's Partners may provide **dedicated acceleration programs** to selected Incubated Projects, either standalone or in conjunction with PoliHub's incubation program. These programs may include, by way of example: specialized training on specific verticals, corporate mentorship, development of in-company PoCs, and more—all aimed at maximizing the value contributed by the Partners to the projects.

Participation in the incubation program is **neither transferable nor convertible**, and no alternative form of access may be requested by Participants.

9 Confidentiality Guarantees

During the project collection and evaluation phase, the members of the **Technical Selection Committee** and the **Institutional Jury** shall act in accordance with the principles of **good faith** (*Art. 1175 of the Italian Civil Code*) and **professional integrity**, ensuring the confidentiality of the information provided by the S2P Teams and adopting best practices for data protection.

Materials submitted for participation in S2P will not be returned and will be handled with strict confidentiality, in compliance with applicable data protection laws, including **Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR)** and **Legislative Decree No. 196/2003**, as amended by **Legislative Decree No. 101/2018**.

However, the duty of confidentiality **does not apply** to general ideas or non-patentable solutions that are already in the public domain or that become public through causes not attributable to the Organizers or to the Partners of the Initiative.

The **Organizers**, **Partners**, **Technical Committee**, and **Institutional Jury** shall not be held liable for any claims concerning the **originality or ownership** of the submitted projects, or parts thereof, nor for any **restrictions arising from third-party rights**.

The S2P Teams hereby **release and hold harmless** the Organizers and all parties mentioned above from any claims, demands, or legal actions connected to the disclosure of their projects within the scope of the Initiative.

10 Obligations of S2P Teams

By submitting their application and the required documentation for participation in the evaluation process, the **S2P Teams** declare, under their own responsibility, that all information provided is **truthful, complete, and accurate**. Any false declarations, forged documents, or use of false documentation will result in **immediate disqualification** from the selection process and, if already awarded, **revocation of any services or financial contributions**, in addition to any **civil and criminal liability** that may apply.

Applications may be submitted in either **Italian or English**.

Failure to comply with the formal requirements or the omission of **essential information** within the application may result in exclusion from the evaluation process, with **no right of appeal**.

Acceptance of the application implies the **commitment of the S2P Teams** to fully comply with these Regulations and to **unconditionally accept** the decisions of the **Technical Selection Committee** and the **Institutional Jury**, which shall be deemed **final and non-appealable**.

11 Limitations of Liability

In light of the methods of participation in S2P, the **Organizers** accept **no responsibility** for any technical malfunctions related to hardware, software, or network infrastructure that may affect the registration, application submission, or participation of interested parties.
In particular, the Organizers shall not be held liable for:

- Interruptions or malfunctions in network connections, servers, or platforms used for managing applications;
- Registration errors, applications not received, incomplete, illegible, damaged, delayed, lost, or incorrectly transmitted submissions due to causes not attributable to the Organizers;
- Technical problems related to content upload, including system errors or incompatibility with required formats;
- Delayed, missing, or undelivered electronic communications due to email malfunctions, spam filters, misconfigurations, or issues attributable to users or telecommunications service providers;

- Unauthorized access, alterations, or data loss caused by cyberattacks, viruses, malware, or any other external force majeure event.

Participants acknowledge that the responsibility for correctly submitting the application and required documentation rests entirely with them. Any **technical issues beyond the control of the Organizers** may not be used as grounds for disputing or challenging the outcome of the selection process.

12 Warranties and Hold Harmless Clauses

Participants in S2P **warrant** that the content submitted:

- **Does not infringe** upon the rights of third parties, including but not limited to copyrights, patents, trademarks, trade secrets, utility models, designs, or any other form of intellectual or industrial property, in compliance with applicable law (**Law No. 633 of 22 April 1941 on copyright and Legislative Decree No. 30 of 10 February 2005 – Industrial Property Code**);
- **Does not contain** unlawful, defamatory, offensive, or discriminatory material, and is in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations, including the present Regulations;
- May be **lawfully and legitimately used** in accordance with these Regulations, as the participant either holds the rights to use the submitted content or has obtained such rights from all relevant rights holders, having ensured full satisfaction of any legal and/or economic claims of the authors or other entitled parties, including those concerning related rights.

Participants in S2P declare that they are fully aware that **any legal responsibility**, including criminal liability, for the content of the submitted projects lies **exclusively with them**, and they expressly **hold the Organizers harmless** from any third-party claims arising from such content.

Members of the Institutional Jury are **exempt from any liability** in connection with potential disputes regarding the **originality or ownership** of the submitted work or parts thereof, or any **limitations** imposed by third parties.

13 Personal Data Processing

Pursuant to **Article 14 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR)**, the **personal data** provided by Participants within the scope of this Initiative shall be processed by the Program's Organizers in accordance with the principles of **lawfulness, fairness, transparency, data minimization, and data security**.

The complete privacy notice regarding the processing of personal data is available on the PoliHub website.

By joining the program, each participating team and its members **declare that they have read the privacy notice** and **consent** to the processing of their personal data, within the scope and for the

purposes described therein.

14 Final Provisions

Any **tolerance** by the Organizers of conduct by Participants that is in **violation** of the provisions of these Regulations shall **not be construed as a waiver** of their rights, nor shall it preclude the Organizers from requiring full compliance with these terms and conditions at any time.

If one or more of the provisions contained in these Regulations is found to be **null, invalid, or unenforceable**, in whole or in part, such circumstance shall **not affect the validity and effectiveness** of the remaining provisions. Any invalid or unenforceable clause shall be interpreted or replaced so as to **best reflect the original intent** of the Organizers and the objectives of the Initiative, as described in these Regulations.