

EUC Startup programme powered by Microsoft

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY CYPRUS

CALL FOR APPLICANTS: 5TH CALL – APRIL 2026

The 5th European University Cyprus is pleased to announce the launch of the 5th **Call for Applicants** for the **EUC Startup Programme powered by Microsoft**.

The Programme supports **6 Cypriot start-ups** through a structured combination of **training, mentoring, networking opportunities, as well as access to Microsoft-related resources**, with the aim of helping them strengthen their business model, accelerate growth, and improve market readiness.

The Programme is organised by the **School of Business of European University Cyprus**, in collaboration with **Microsoft** and leading organisations from the Cypriot entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Innovation Partners

The Innovation Partners supporting the Programme are:

BSM Cyprus, CNP Cyprus, CYTA, ExxonMobil, EY, Gnomi, GrantXpert Consulting, Eurobank, IMH, Logicom, Microsoft, NetU and NewCyTech.

The **Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI)** also supports the Programme.

WHAT THE PROGRAMME OFFERS

Selected start-ups will benefit from the following:

- A. Tailored Training
- B. Dedicated Mentoring
- C. Networking Opportunities
- D. Access to Microsoft for Startups Benefits
- E. Free Participation

A. TAILORED TRAINING

Participants will receive practical training in key entrepreneurial and business topics, adapted to the stage and needs of each start-up. Training may be delivered online or onsite and will be scheduled mainly in the afternoons and on weekends. Online sessions will be recorded. Indicative topics include:

- Entrepreneurial skills
- Financial projections
- Lean Start-up principles
- Customer segmentation
- ICT and technology trends
- Team collaboration
- Market analysis
- Pitching to investors
- Microsoft technologies for start-ups
- Introduction to Microsoft for Startups Founders Hub

B. DEDICATED MENTORING

Participants will benefit from dedicated mentoring from experienced experts, adapted to the stage, goals, and specific needs of each start-up. Each selected start-up will be matched with a mentor from a broad network of professionals with expertise in areas such as business consulting, ICT, marketing, banking, insurance, EU funding, accounting, public relations, shipping, and other relevant sectors.

The mentoring process will support start-ups in strengthening their business model, addressing key challenges, refining their growth strategy, improving market readiness, and identifying opportunities for collaboration, funding, or commercialisation. Mentors will work closely with each team over a period of three months, offering up to **10 hours of tailored mentoring support**.

C. NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

Participants will have the opportunity to connect with:

- business professionals and senior executives
- investors
- venture capital representatives
- business angels
- founders and entrepreneurs

These networking opportunities are designed to support collaboration, market access, and commercialisation.

D. ACCESS TO MICROSOFT FOR STARTUPS BENEFITS

Start-ups participating in the **EUC Startup Programme powered by Microsoft** will have the opportunity to be introduced by Microsoft representatives to the **Microsoft Startup Enablement Pack** and the **Microsoft for Startups** programme. Through this, participants may benefit from:

- **Onboarding support from Microsoft** to explore access to the **Microsoft for Startups** programme, including potential benefits such as **up to \$5,000 in Azure credits**, expert guidance, and tools designed to support early-stage growth, subject to programme approval and applicable terms and conditions.
- **Tailored one-hour sessions or workshops** delivered by Microsoft on topics such as **AI, Security, Architecture Optimisation, and Marketplace**.

E. Free participation

The Programme is offered free of charge to the selected start-ups. Any travel or accommodation costs, where applicable, must be covered by the participants.

WHO CAN APPLY

Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Be a **mature start-up** located in or operating in Cyprus
- Be beyond the initial idea or concept stage
- Be committed to fully participating in the **training and mentoring programme** until December 2026
- Be available to attend the **Graduation Ceremony in December 2026**

SELECTION PROCESS

A total of **10 Cypriot start-ups** will be selected based on the following criteria:

1. **Unique value proposition** – 10%
2. **Scalability potential** – 10%
3. **Commitment and motivation of the founders** – 10%
4. **Soundness, credibility and feasibility of the business idea** – 15%
5. **Innovation and originality of the proposed solution** – 10%
6. **Added value and benefit** – 10%
7. **Maturity of the business idea** – 20%
8. **Contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals** – 15%

TIMELINE

- **May 2026** – Call announcement
- **10/06/2026** – Application deadline
- **10/06/2026 - 18/06/2026** Evaluation and selection of participants
- **18/06/2026 - 30/11/2026** – Training and mentoring activities
- **December 2026** – Graduation Ceremony at European University Cyprus

HOW TO APPLY

To apply, fill in the [application form](#) **by the 10th of June 2026, [here](#).**

For more information [here](#):

- Contact Ms. Stephani Theophanous at startup@euc.ac.cy
- Social media pages:

