INDUSAC frequently asked questions (FAQs)

FAQ from COMPANIES
FAQ from STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS
FAQ from UNIVERSITIES
FAQ about the INDUSAC PLATFORM / IT QUESTIONS

WWW.INDUSAC.EU

COMPANIES

THE INDUSAC PROJECT

Q: How do I join the INDUSAC project?
A: First register on the INDUSAC platform (https://indusac.innogetcloud.com/). There, select "Sign up as Company" and enter your company data. Once you create a profile, you may submit one or more Challenges through forms available on the platform.

Q: Is there a video available explaining the INDUSAC project and how to use the platform?
A: A recording of the Informative Virtual Event describing the project and the platform is available on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7gy_hs7WRdY.

Q: How can I contact the INDUSAC project if I have questions?
A: You may contact indusac@ijs.si to help you determine your contact point.

ELIGIBILITY

Q: Are companies from non-EU countries eligible to submit Challenges?
A: Companies established in EU and Associated countries (Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, Morocco, UK) can submit Challenges.

Q: My company has a branch office in the Netherlands but our headquarters are in the USA. Are we eligible to post a Challenge?
A: Yes. Companies established in the EU and associated countries are eligible to submit Challenges. Establishment in this sense covers branch offices and subsidiaries.

Q: Is a company from Israel eligible to publish Challenges?
A: Yes - companies established in EU and associated countries (including Israel) can submit Challenges.

Q: Is the offer available to UK-based companies?
A: Yes - companies established in EU and associated countries (including the UK) can submit Challenges.

Q: My company is from Peru. May I post a Challenge?
A: No. Only companies established in EU and associated countries can submit Challenges.

Q: How large must a company be - is there a limitation in size (turnover, employees etc) for companies that can submit a Challenge?
A: There is no limitation for company size - companies of all sizes may submit Challenges.

Q: Can a spinout team that has not yet established a company, post a Challenge?
A: In accordance with the Call for companies https://indusac.eu/open-call/ the company has to be already established. Challenges may be submitted up until 15 September 2024.

Q: Apart from SME-engineering manufactures, are construction service companies like plumbers or carpenters also amongst the participants of your project?
A: There are no restrictions regarding sector, type or size of the company.

Q: We are a national association of pig producers interested in launching a Challenge; we are a non-profit organisation that represents and defends the interests of pig farmers and our members are national/regional associations of swine producers, cooperatives, livestock companies, and individual farmers. Can we submit a Challenge?
A: No. Only companies may submit Challenges (but you are encouraged to invite your members-companies to do so).

Q: What types of companies can participate?
A: The list of company types that are eligible to submit a Challenge within INDUSAC:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_legal_entity_types_by_country

Q: Is the main objective product focused?
A: Any type of technological or business challenge can be addressed. Companies can focus on a product or on a service, but also on solutions in form of plans, analyses, strategies, roadmaps, scenarios, etc. When preparing challenges, companies should take into account that students (not experts) will be developing solutions in no more than 4-8 weeks, so the difficulty of the challenges should be adjusted accordingly.

TIMELINE

Q: Is there a deadline for Challenge submission?
A: Challenges are accepted continuously, but no later than 15 November 2024.

Q: Can we submit one Challenge now and one in the next round?
A: Yes. A company may submit more than one Challenge, and the two Challenges can be connected - for example, a Solution obtained in the first Challenge may represent the basis for the next Challenge. You may also choose to keep your Challenge published during the next round (for example, to attract students in the next round as well) regardless if you have started a co-creation project or not.

REGISTRATION

Q: I have registered my company on the platform and also invited my fellow cofounder to register as well. It seems his registration is being treated as a new one and requires all the details which I had filled in while registering. Is there an option to add colleagues under the already-registered company?
A: The platform doesn't have the option to add several members under the same company and considers every registration separate. One solution is for all company representatives to use the same registration details for posting Challenges, enabling the company to have control over all its Challenges (rather than have them spread over several company profiles).

Q: Our company's NACE code is not available in the list. Should we choose "Other services activities"?
A: In this case the company can select "Other service activities".

Q: We are supposed to enter a VAT number and an ID number. What is the ID number?
A: ID number is the company registration number (the one from the registry).

PREPARATION OF CHALLENGE

Q: What are the instructions for writing a Challenge?
A: A Challenge is written into a form that is provided on the INDUSAC platform once the company is registered. The most important points are: (1) write only non-confidential information; (2) clearly describe the assignment (avoid generalisations like "visualising the future", "knowing our customers" and similar), and (3) clearly describe your expectations of the team, so students and researchers can see if they fit the profile. Examples of published Challenges can be found here https://indusac.innogetcloud.com/challenges?page=1. Submitted Challenges are reviewed by the INDUSAC consortium and if they need to be modified, they are returned to the company.

Q: Should a Challenge be from a sector with technological / digital focus?
A: There are no limitations regarding the sector or business type. The project targets four major cross-cutting areas, ie. circularity, sustainability, digitalization, and industry 4.0. Challenges may thus be technological, digital, entrepreneurial or any other type.

Q: I am not proficient in English. Can I submit a Challenge in my native language instead?
A: No, Challenges should all be submitted in English.

Q: Can a Challenge also include legal solutions, eg. in real estate? How about informatics, telecommunications, business solutions or translation services?
A: There are no limitations regarding the sector or business type. Note that Solutions are provided by students and researchers (rather than experts) and the difficulty level of the Challenges should be adapted accordingly. According to the Terms and Conditions of the INDUSAC Call for Companies, the company must ensure that the activities under the action do not include human embryonic stem cells, human embryos, human fetal tissues/cells, cause harm to the environment, animals, or plants, include military applications, or malevolent / criminal / terrorist abuse.

Q: I run a Food-tech startup in Poland. We want to assess potential applications and toxicological profiles of alternative food sources. May I submit such Challenges?
A: There are no limitations regarding the sector or business type. Note that Solutions are provided by students and researchers (rather than experts) and the difficulty level of the Challenges should be adapted accordingly. According to the Terms and Conditions of the INDUSAC Call for Companies, the company must ensure that the activities under the action do not include human embryonic stem cells, human embryos, human fetal tissues/cells, cause harm to the environment, animals, or plants, include military applications, or malevolent / criminal / terrorist abuse.

Q: Our Challenge does not clearly fit into any of the nine Challenge types. We are looking for technical optimisation of production processes rather than a solution for end users. Can we submit a Challenge, and what Challenge type should we choose?
A: Challenges are in principle not limited to specific areas and choice of Challenge type is a guideline rather than a rule. Given your description you may choose type [6. Service and product ideas of the future (Basis Scenarios)] or any other that may better describe your issue. Most importantly, the Challenge should clearly describe the problem, taking into account the difficulty level, as it will be presumably solved by students, and clearly outline your expectations of the co-creation team.

Q: What should we write in the 'Desired profile' section of the Challenge form?
A: Clearly describe your expectations of the team, in terms of skills and experience, so students and researchers can see if they fit the profile. Note that the co-creation team will not be composed of experts but mostly students and possibly researchers.

Q: Are Challenges checked by the INDUSAC consortium so as not to be too ambitious given the time constraints? How much time should I plan in a Challenge - between four and eight weeks is a large range?
A: Project duration is estimated by the company since the company has the best 'feeling' for how long a project should take. The time limitation to 4-8 weeks is a guideline, making sure that assignments are neither too simple (doable in less than 4 weeks) nor too complex (more than 2-month projects). The Challenge should be manageable but still challenging enough for students to invest time in learning new skills.

Q: Do we have to follow the TO DOs (in the Excel file)?
A: The Excel file with TO DOs is a suggestion (not an obligation) from INDUSAC that can help you with the process of Challenge preparation, so it is advisable to consider it.

Q: How many Challenges can a company publish?
A: There is no limit - a company may publish more than one Challenge. The company should, however, make sure to keep the number of Challenges manageable as there will be milestone meetings at which a company representative should be present to make the process of finding a Solution for a concrete Challenge a success. A single Challenge may also be solved by more than one team, if the company so decides.

Q: I have questions / problems while uploading the Challenge. To whom can I turn to?
A: You may contact indusac@ijs.si to report the issue, with a concrete description of the problem.

THE CO-CREATION TEAM

Q: Students from which study areas will be applying?
A: Students from any study may apply. They must be attending public universities and be from EU or associated countries, and comprise 3-6-member international teams. The company is advised to clarify in the Challenge what type of students in terms of skills and background is desired.

Q: Is the call also for students and researchers to form co-creation teams to solve Challenges within the same country? Or do the students and researchers need to be from different countries to form co-creation teams?
A: The entire team of researchers and students cannot be from the same country. Members need to be from at least three different countries. The team size is between 3 and 6 members, so more than one member can be from the same country as long as the overall team meets the criteria. For details, please refer to the eligibility in the Call for students and researchers.

Q: Who selects the teams that can solve our Challenges?
A: Companies themselves select the teams that will be solving their Challenges, by approving or rejecting received Motivation Letters according to the Evaluation criteria (https://indusac.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/INDUSAC-appendix-4-Template-for-Evaluation-of-Motivation-Letters.pdf).

Q: How many teams can be selected to solve our Challenge?
A: The company selects as many teams as it wishes to work with. The company should make sure to keep the number of teams manageable as there will be milestone meetings at which a company representative should be present to make the process of finding a solution for a concrete Challenge a success.

Q: What happens if no team applies to solve our Challenge?
A: In this case you are asked if you want to keep the Challenge published until the next cutoff date within the Call for Students and researchers. If no teams apply to solve the Challenge, the co-creation project does not take place.

IMPLEMENTATION

Q: I submitted a Challenge. What are the next steps?
A: The Challenge is now being reviewed by INDUSAC. If there is no need for adjustments, the Challenge will be posted on the platform and visible to students and researchers. If they choose to apply to solve your Challenge, they will submit a Motivation Letter (about which you are notified via email) that you may accept or reject. If you accept, the co-creation project can start.

Q: Who selects the Challenges that will be solved?
A: Student / researcher teams freely choose which Challenge they will solve. All Challenges are thus given equal opportunities. If there is a good match between your expectations and the team's motivation, you approve the Motivation Letter and the co-creation project takes place.

Q: Is it possible to download the Motivation Letter as a PDF or Word document, which is easier to read, as opposed to reading on-screen?
A: You will be able to access and read the Motivation Letter only on the platform.

Q: Can I chat with the co-creation team on the INDUSAC platform?
A: Yes. Once the FSTP Declaration has been signed, the option to chat opens on the platform. To access chat, go to [My Activity], select the Motivation Letter and go to the [Open the chat] button. For already initiated chats, go to [Messages].

Q: Is it possible for a company to communicate also in German?
A: Official language is English as members of each co-creation team have to be from at least three different countries.

Q: What if I don't receive a Solution that I like?
A: The company organises a kick-off meeting with the co-creation team to define expectations. It further meets with the team during the co-creation project to avoid misunderstandings and make sure the work is progressing in the right direction and to the benefit of the company.

COSTS

Q: How much do I / my company need/s to pay to post a Challenge and get a Solution?
A: The INDUSAC co-creation process is free of charge. When posting a Challenge, the company needs to commit to providing sufficient resources (ie. time) to work with the teams and to give feedback to INDUSAC partners at any stage.

Q: What do the companies have to do (during "project assistance")? How much is the company involved in finding a Solution to the Challenge? What are the terms for 'project assistance' (e.g. number of meetings, communication tools, response time)?
A: The company selects a team (one or more) that fits their needs. The company meets with the students / researchers at the beginning (highly recommended), in a kick-off meeting, to give the team instructions, at the end to review the Solution, and in between as needed (eg. 2-3 times, to check that the Solution is progressing in the right direction). There are no specific rules on communication tools or response time. In principle, the team is expected to work as independently as possible, but the company is expected to provide assistance if asked.

Q: Is the company supposed to host the students for a while or is the work taking place remotely? If hosting is included, does the host company bear any costs?
A: Location of the work done depends on the arrangements the team makes with the company. If the company and the co-creation team agree on a visit at the company premises, the company is not obliged to cover the team's travel and accommodation costs; the team's (ie. student team members') costs may be covered by the financial support from INDUSAC, which the students receive upon successfully finishing the project. Visiting the company is recommended, but it's not mandatory. Depending on the agreement with the company, the work can also take place remotely, and communication may take place via Zoom or similar channels.

Q: Who will finance the hired student and for how long?
A: Students are provided financial support from the INDUSAC project. The company has no financial obligations towards the co-creation team. An individual student may receive from INDUSAC up to 1000 EUR gross per co-creation project, and may participate in up to three co-creation projects.

Q: Does a company need to reward the co-creation team financially?
A: The company does not need to reward co-creation teams as students already receive financial support from INDUSAC. There are no financial obligations from the company.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND IPR

Q: How is the company's sensitive information managed during and after the project?
A: Challenges are published along with the name of the company. Companies should not include sensitive information in Challenges. Nevertheless, the INDUSAC consortium members have signed Non-disclosure statements. Companies may opt to prepare and sign additional Non-disclosure agreements outside of the INDUSAC project, between companies and the co-creation teams (students and researchers). Additional agreements are subordinates of the INDUSAC Terms and conditions for companies and INDUSAC Terms and conditions for students and researchers (where IPR and confidentiality are already managed) and thus INDUSAC is not liable for any additional agreements or contracts. If there is a conflict, the INDUSAC Terms and conditions for companies and INDUSAC Terms and conditions for students and researchers prevail.

Q: Are there any NDA templates a company can, or should, use, to sign with the co-creation team?
A: No. The company may use a form of NDA most suitable for the company and which is prepared outside of the INDUSAC project. However, agreements between companies and co-creation teams are subordinates of the INDUSAC Terms and conditions for companies and INDUSAC Terms and conditions for students and researchers (where IPR and confidentiality are already managed) and thus INDUSAC is not liable for any additional agreements or contracts. If there is a conflict, the INDUSAC Terms and conditions for companies and INDUSAC Terms and conditions for students and researchers prevail.

Q: If a Solution includes a new product development, will it be publicly available?
A: A company's Challenge, which should not include confidential information, is published and as such publicly available. The Solution provided by the co-creation team should include: 1) Deliverables (according to a specific Challenge type) 2) Questionnaire "after" – filled out by each member of the co-creation team, incl.: Upskilling questionnaire, Testimonial, Short description of the project results, Inclusiveness statement, Compliance with the ethics requirement which will be submitted via the platform to the companies and / or INDUSAC. Only Testimonials and Short descriptions of the project results will be published on the INDUSAC website and on the EU platform - the texts being prepared by the company, students and researchers should not include confidential information, including patentable information.

Q: Who owns the Solution - the company or the students? If students prepare a study, does the company own the study and is free to use the solutions? Can a company publish the study?
A: Students and researchers must follow the guidelines set by the company in regards to intellectual property disclosure and ownership. Regardless of status and intellectual property rights transfers, student/researcher retains the right to be listed as co-author on the Solution. Details on intellectual property can be found in the Call for companies https://indusac.eu/open-call/, under 'Terms and Conditions for companies'.

STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS

Q: I'm a student at a private university in Torino, Italy. May I apply?
A: No. Only students from public universities may apply.

Q: I am from outside of Europe. May I apply?
A: You may apply if you have citizenship outside of Europe only if you also have a tax number / residency in one of the eligible countries.

Q: I study in Germany, but I'm originally from India. May I apply?
A: Students and researchers with citizenship or residency in Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, or UK, may apply.

Q: I'm a researcher at a private research organisation. May I apply?
A: No. Only researchers from public research organisations may apply.

Q: I'm a young researcher at the University of Alicante, I'm employed there. May I apply?
A: Yes, you can apply as a researcher.

Q: I'm a technician at the University of Alicante, I'm employed there. May I apply?
A: Yes, you can apply as a researcher.

Q: I'm a technology/knowledge transfer expert at the University of Alicante, I'm employed there. May I apply?
A: Yes, you can apply as a researcher.

Q: I'm a researcher at a company, I'm employed there. May I apply?
A: No, only students from public universities and researchers from public research organisations may apply. You can, however, post a Challenge.

Q: I'm a support staff at the public research organisation, I'm employed there. May I apply?
A: Yes, you can apply as a researcher.

Q: I'm a student with a part-time job outside of the University. May I apply?
A: Yes. Students employed for performing services unrelated to the Challenge may apply.

Q: I'm a student / researcher at a university / research institute that is a partner in the INDUSAC Consortium. May I apply?
A: Applicants cannot be affiliated (directly or indirectly, for example through board members or third parties) to any of the INDUSAC consortium partners. They can't be INDUSAC consortium partner's employees or board members.

Q: Can the same team participate in three different challenges of the same company if all three of their Motivation Letters are approved?
A: Yes. Each student can participate in solving up to three different Challenges even if they are posted by the same company, just as long as the challenges are different.

Q: I've participated in solving three Challenges in the first round. May I apply for further Challenges or is the limit set to three Challenges over the entire project?
A: The limit is three Challenges over the entire project (not over a round).

Q: If a team comprises three female colleagues, can the team apply to solve a Challenge?
A: No. Only teams with at least two out of the three gender options (male, female, would-rather-not-say) may apply to solve a Challenge. In the case above, the team requires at least one additional member not declared as female.

REGISTRATION

Q: Do I need to register in order to view Challenges?
A: No. All Challenges are published on the INDUSAC platform (link) and access does not require registration.

Q: What if my study course is not included (in the registration form)?
A: You should select the study course closest to your own.

Q: How do researchers fill in forms that ask for studies / universities etc.?
A: Registration forms for researchers (https://indusac.innogetcloud.com/request-access-researcher) are separate from those for students (https://indusac.innogetcloud.com/request-access-student), and this particular question does not appear in the researchers' registration form.

Q: When selecting gender, is a diverse option possible?
A: You may select "male", "female", or "Would rather not say".

CO-CREATION TEAM

Q: Can I apply independently or is it necessary to form a team?
A: You cannot apply to solve Challenges individually, but have to find at least two partners, who may be students or researchers. You are welcome to register on the platform, review published Challenges, and if you find one you like, optionally join a Slack channel through which you can meet other interested students once they sign up.

Q: If I don't know anyone, how can I find people interested in the same Challenge as me? How can I find team members (students or researchers from other countries) to form a co-creation team and apply to solve a Challenge? How am I going to find other people's emails so I can invite them?
A: You can easily find team members interested in the same Challenge or invite others to join your team. You are invited to visit the third-party platform Slack (slack.com). The link to the Slack channel for the specific Challenge is visible in the Challenge posting. In this Slack channel, you can express interest and list your skills necessary to solve this Challenge. In this channel, you can also read what other interested parties (students / researchers) have posted. By going through the provided information of every interested person, or engaging in chats, you can start to find a co-creation team. So, invitations are made through Slack rather than email, since other individuals' emails are not disclosed.

Q: Is there one Slack channel per Challenge or is it all mixed?
A: By clicking on a link to Slack on a Challenge, you are directed to the general Slack channel, where you can find detailed instructions on how to proceed.. To join a concrete Challenge channel, simply use the search bar to find it; you can search for the corresponding code (ID) assigned to each Challenge, which is visible in the URL for the Challenge.

Q: I've clicked on the channel link on the Challenge, but joined a general slack space. How do I find my particular Challenge?
A: To join a Challenge channel, simply use the search bar to find it; you can search for the corresponding code (ID) assigned to each Challenge, which is visible in the URL for the Challenge. You can also search for the channel by typing in a part of, or full, title of the Challenge.

Q: Are we obliged to use Slack for the creation of the co-creation team?
A: No, but it is advisable as other individuals can conveniently be found there and you can directly see who is interested in the Challenge you would also like to solve.

Q: Can I apply for a team / search for members prior to preparing a Motivation Letter?
A: You cannot submit a Motivation Letter without a team.

Q: In how many co-creation teams can a student or a researcher participate?

A: Students and researchers can participate in multiple teams but only in up to three (3) submitted Motivation Letters. A student or researcher cannot participate in more than one Motivation Letter submitted to the same Challenge.

Q: If I apply for multiple Challenges and just want to do one project but I get accepted for multiple ones, what do I do? Can I cancel one of them?
A: You are encouraged to prepare a single strong Motivation Letter rather than several applications that could end up rejected and thus cost you a valuable opportunity (since the maximum number of Motivation Letters (throughout all three cut-off dates) is three). Furthermore, by cancelling, you are putting your team members in a position where they no longer fulfil conditions for participation.

Q: Is it fine if we have 2 girls in our group and one person with the gender status of "prefer not to say"?
A: Yes, this is acceptable, as at least two of the gender groups are represented.

Q: Our mixed-gender team consists of only students, and no researchers. Is that ok?
A: The team may consist of students only. Teams cannot consist of researchers only.

Q: Our team so far consists of two students from the same country and a third student from another country. Can we apply, or do we need a fourth person who is from a third country?
A: Co-creation team members must be from at least three different EU Member States or Associated Countries. At least 60% of the members of the co-creation team must be from Widening Countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia). The list of widening countries is also available on the European Research Executive Agency website.

MOTIVATION LETTERS

Q: Does the Motivation Letter have to follow a specific structure? What should a Motivation Letter contain?
A: A Motivation Letter follows a structure given in the Motivation Letter form that is part of the platform. The Motivation Letter contains a description of your motivation and your skills required to solve the Challenge.

Q: By whom is the selection of the Motivation Letters done?
A: Companies check and approve / reject Motivation Letters. Members of the INDUSAC Consortium only review rejected Motivation Letters to check for formal errors.

Q: What does the company expect?

A: Expectations from the company's side, particularly regarding academic background and skills, are outlined in each Challenge.

TIMELINE

Q: When does the 4-8 week period to solve the Challenge start? Immediately after the last team student member signs the FSTP declaration?
A: Yes.

IMPLEMENTATION AND REPORTING

Q: How much time do the teams have to solve the Challenge? Do we have to create a project with a min / max duration? What is the min / max duration of a project?
A: The co-creation projects may take anywhere between 4 and 8 weeks.

Q: Where are the teams performing the work - is it at their faculty or do they go to the company that published a Challenge? Can they perform the work remotely?
A: Location of the work done depends on the arrangements the team makes with the company. If the company and the co-creation team arrange a visit at the company premises, the company is not obliged to cover the team's travel and accommodation costs; the team's (ie. student team members') costs may be covered by the financial support from INDUSAC, which the students receive upon successfully finishing the project. Visiting the company is recommended, but it's not mandatory. Depending on the agreement with the company, the work can also take place remotely, and communication may take place via Zoom or similar channels.

Q: Can I chat with the company on the INDUSAC platform?
A: Yes. Once the FSTP Declaration has been signed, the option to chat opens on the platform. To access chat, go to [Messages] on your dashboard where you can chat.

Q: Is only the company providing assistance?
A: The company organises a kick-off meeting with the co-creation team to define expectations. It further meets with the team during the co-creation project to make sure the work is progressing in the right direction.

Q: What is the schedule and format for submitting Solutions?

A: Solutions are reported as Co-Creation Implementation Reports, through the INDUSAC platform, and via a questionnaire sent to you by email, following the timeline defined in the Call for students & researchers. The implementation report will include deliverables, the questionnaire "after", the upskilling questionnaire, a testimonial, short description of the project results, an inclusiveness statement, and the Compliance with the ethics requirement. Only the team leader (1) fills out the report template on the platform and (2) submits on the platform all relevant documents according to the challenge type. All members of the co-creation team (also the team leader) are asked to fill in the questionnaire.

Q: What should we write under "Testimonials" - should it be in respect to our team or from the company's point of view?
A: Testimonials describe your own experience and (generally, positive, non-confidential) impressions after the project, so they should be written from your point of view. But you can, if you like, include your impressions of working in a team as well as your impressions of working with the company.

Q: Who approves the Solution?
A: The company evaluates the Solution. Only if the Solution is rejected by the company, the INDUSAC Evaluation Board reviews the Solutions as well.

Q: What happens if a favourable Solution is not reached / the Solution is not approved?
A: At the start of the co-creation project, the company organises a kick-off meeting with the co-creation team to define expectations. It further meets with the team during the co-creation project to avoid misunderstandings and make sure the work is progressing in the right direction and to the benefit of the company, in the interest of approving the Solution. The INDUSAC Evaluation Board then reviews the rejected Solutions and makes a final decision.

Q: Will students receive any certificate from the project or from a university for their participation?
A: Students receive a certificate from the project.

Q: Once the project is completed, do students have any commitments towards the company or the project?
A: If all requirements outlined in the Call for students and researchers have been fulfilled
(1) Deliverables (according to a specific Challenge type) 2) Questionnaire "after" – filled out by each member of the co-creation team, incl.: Upskilling questionnaire, Testimonial, Short description of the project results, Inclusiveness statement, Compliance with the ethics requirement which will be submitted via the platform to the companies and / or INDUSAC), students have no further commitments towards the company or project.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Q: When can I expect to receive the grant? How will students receive payments?
A: If you are a student, the grant will be transferred to your bank account no more than 1 month after the final confirmation of the submitted Solution by the company (provided that the administrative procedure from your side has been finalised).

Q: Do all members of the co-creation team receive funding?
A: Only student members of the co-creation team receive funds (FSTP), after the final confirmation by the INDUSAC Evaluation team. Please see the Call for students and researchers for details.

Q: Is the funding allocated to students only for those partnering the Project or is there a possibility for external enrollment (as a problem solving team)?
A: Funding is received only by team members, not external individuals offering support.

Q: What is the maximum amount of funds a team can receive?
A: The team can receive up to 3,000 EUR gross per co-creation project.

Q: What is the max amount a student can receive under the INDUSAC project?
A: A single student receives up to 1,000 EUR gross for each successfully solved co-creation project and is limited to up to 3,000 EUR gross if the student participates in 3 co-creation projects.

Q: I am a researcher. Do I receive a grant?
A: No. Only students receive financial support.

Q: If a team comprises three students and one researcher, how much money does each team member receive?
A: Students receive up to 1,000 EUR gross each. Researchers do not receive funding.

Q: If a team comprises four students and two researchers, how much money does each member receive?
A: The team receives up to 3,000 EUR gross which is divided between student members of the teams. Each student receives up to 750 EUR gross.

Q: If a team comprises one student and two researchers, how much money does each member receive?
A: The student receives up to 1,000 EUR gross; the researchers do not receive funding.

Q: Can a team comprise only one student and two researchers? If so, does only the student receive the 3,000 EUR?
A: A team may comprise one student and two researchers. In that case, the student receives up to 1,000 EUR gross. The researchers do not receive funding.
CONFIDENTIALITY AND IPR

Q: What happens if the project gives rise to intellectual property? What is the method of exploitation?
A: See the Terms and conditions set in the Call for companies and in the Call for students and researchers.

WHY PARTICIPATE?

Q: I am a researcher, but I do not receive funds. Why should I join in solving a particular challenge if I receive nothing? What's the main goal for the researchers in participating in the project?
A: Researchers get in touch with companies (which can be beneficial for future collaboration) and in touch with students (which may represent potential future PhD students), as well as potentially learn new skills.

UNIVERSITIES

Q: If our university signs the letter of support, what are our obligations?
A: If you sign the Letter of Support, your university agrees to promote the project among its students and researchers. The university does not join the consortium as an associated partner, has no obligations in reporting, and has no financial obligations towards the project whatsoever.

Q: Students ask us about the project. To whom should we redirect them?
A: You may direct them to the project website www.indusac.eu; if they do not find the desired information there, they may contact us at indusac@ijs.si.

Q: Is there a difference if one applies as student or researcher?
A: One can apply as a student if one studies at a public university (the student needs to have a status of a student at least until the team's Solution is submitted to the company). Students receive up to 1000 EUR gross for successfully solved Challenges. One can apply as a researcher if one is employed at a public research organisation.

Q: As our university, we are interested in the INDUSAC project. However, our university is a foundation university, ie. a private university that is not operated by the government. Are the students or researchers of our university eligible to apply for the call?
A: No. According to the Call rules, only students from public universities and researchers from public research organisations may apply to solve Challenges.

Q: Are universities eligible for the Call for companies? We are a university and are looking for solutions to promote research on social media, looking for customers. The topic is purely commercial.
A: The INDUSAC project connects companies to students and researchers. In the project, a company issues a Challenge, which teams of students and researchers then solve. The role of universities is such that a university is welcome to promote the project to its students. However, a university cannot issue Challenges for students to solve. On the project website, detailed eligibility criteria for companies, and for students and researchers can be found.

Q: I'm an assistant professor at the University of Lisbon, with know-how and some resources to participate in a Challenge. What kind of support is provided if my students are selected to collaborate with the company? In other words, what's "in it" for us?
A: If your students submit a Motivation Letter and are chosen, they can expect to gain various experiences and monetary compensation. As their professor, you may be able to see how they approach the problem, perhaps resulting in publications and contact with the company for potential further collaborative projects.