Regulations for the LX Circular 2026 Ideation Phase

"Sprint Circular"

Preamble

The LX Circular programme is an initiative funded by Portugal Inovação Social, resulting from a partnership between Impact Hub Lisbon (IHL), Unicorn Factory Lisboa (UFL), and Instituto de Empreendedorismo Social (IES).

This initiative aims to provide an innovative and integrated response to the social and environmental challenges faced by contemporary society, particularly in Portugal and the Lisbon region, by fostering social entrepreneurship ideas and businesses, specifically in the field of the circular economy, as promising solutions that seek to maximise the value of natural resources and address deep-rooted socio-demographic challenges.

The LX Circular programme focuses on two main areas:

1. Ideation
2. Incubation and acceleration of circular economy ideas and businesses

This document sets out the regulations for the second *edition* of the *Ideation* phase, known as *Sprint Circular*, for the year 2026, developed by Impact Hub Lisbon.

Article 1 – Objectives

The event aims to mobilise young people to address concrete challenges faced by the municipality of Lisbon through circular solutions. The objectives of this initiative are:

- **Support the development of new circular economy projects:** supporting Lisbon residents in developing project ideas that address local challenges.
- **Promote Impact Entrepreneurship:** encouraging entrepreneurship as a response to circular economy challenges and local social issues, particularly in the Lisbon region.
- **Encourage the implementation of the Circular Economy:** raising awareness and building capacity around the circular economy, in line with the *Action Plan for the*

Circular Economy (PAEC) 2023–2027 of the Portuguese Environment Agency, in collaboration with the Directorate-General for Economic Activities.

- **Promote reflection on the main challenges of the circular economy:** empowering the local community and aligning efforts across different sectors – public, private, and third sector – to address real-world challenges and create systemic impact.

Article 2 – Scope of the Sprint Circular

Participants in the LX Circular Ideation Hackathon must apply by proposing innovative and circular solutions to sustainability challenges relevant to the city of Lisbon. These solutions should have the potential to evolve into a business model or an association with a positive social and environmental impact.

Therefore, any solutions that promote the Circular Economy will be eligible to pitch, namely those that contribute *"to reducing resource extraction and waste in order to decouple economic growth from increased consumption of natural resources, while keeping economic development within the limits of the planet,"* in accordance with the PAEC definition.

Article 3 – Date and Location

All participants must ensure their in-person attendance at the Sprint Circular.

The event will take place on **13 November 2026**, Friday, from **9:00 AM** to **7:00 PM**, at **Fundação Portuguesa das Comunicações** (R. do Instituto Industrial 16, 1200-225 Lisboa).

Article 4 – Language

All sessions and activities of Sprint Circular will be conducted in **English**.

Article 5 – Applications and Places

Applications will be open from **13 October to 12 November 2026**. Participation is free of charge but mandatory registration is required. Applications must be submitted online by completing the registration form.

Places are limited to **75 participants**. If the number of eligible applications exceeds this limit, participants will be selected based on their profile, with the aim of ensuring diversity among participants.

Article 6 – Event Format

Throughout the event, each team will work on solving a circular challenge presented by one of our *Challenge Owners*. The development of the solutions will be supported through specialised mentoring, supporting materials, and opportunities for teams to share and exchange ideas.

The event will conclude with a final pitch by each team before the jury, which will select **3 winning teams**.

Teams will be formed by the organisers (IHL) based on the challenge they choose. If participants wish to participate as part of a pre-existing group, they must select the same challenge and express their interest in forming a team during that stage of the process.

Food and refreshments during the event will be provided by IHL, including lunch and two coffee breaks. Participants' dietary requirements will be collected in advance.

Article 7 – Challenge Owners

The event will feature **three different challenges**, each presented by one of our Challenge Owners. This edition will feature the following challenges:

- **Delta** – *How might we give our company's workwear a second life?*
- **Gandaia** – *How might we align production with actual demand to avoid overproduction?*
- **Vista Alegre** - *How might we make packaging and delivery more sustainable and circular while preserving the premium customer experience?*

Article 8 – Prize

The three winning teams will have access to:

- **€500 per winning team** to support the development of their solution (paid by bank transfer in equal amounts to all team members);
- **16 hours of additional training**;
- **4 hours of individualised mentoring**.

Article 9 – Participation Requirements

Only applications from individuals who meet the following requirements will be accepted:

- Are between **18 and 35 years old**;
- Do not yet have a formalised solution, such as a company or association;
- Are available to participate **in person** at the event – **Fundação Portuguesa das Comunicações** (R. do Instituto Industrial 16, 1200-225 Lisboa) – on Friday, **13 November 2026**.

Article 10 – Certificate of Participation

All participants who complete the Ideation phase of the Sprint Circular will be entitled to a Certificate of Participation, issued by the organisation.

The certificate will attest to the participant's involvement in the initiative and may be used for CV, portfolio, or professional profile purposes.

The Certificate of Participation **does not constitute professional or academic certification or accreditation**, nor does it confer any formal degree or qualification.

Article 11 – Solution Evaluation Criteria

The solutions developed by the teams will be evaluated by a jury based on the following criteria:

- Alignment with the principles of the Circular Economy;
- Relevance of the solution in relation to the PAEC 2023–2027;
- Creativity and innovation;
- Feasibility of implementation;
- Social, environmental, and economic impact;
- Quality of the final presentation.

Article 12 – Intellectual Property Rights

The ideas and solutions developed during the Sprint Circular will collectively belong to the groups that created them.

However, the organisation reserves the right to share and promote the projects as outcomes of the event, with due acknowledgement of their authors.

Article 13 – Final Provisions

The organisation may amend these regulations whenever necessary, ensuring that participants are informed in a timely manner.

Participation in the Sprint Circular implies full acceptance of these regulations.

Any questions or queries should be sent to: **lxcircular.lisbon@impacthub.net**.