Terms and conditions

EUDIS Defence Hackathon and Mentoring program 2026 | Spring Edition

Last update: 1/03/2026

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Glossary

EU: European Union

EC: European Commission

DEFIS: Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space

EUDIS: European Union Defence Innovation Scheme

MS: EU Member States

NO: Norway

EDA: European Defence Agency

MoD: Ministry of Defence

EUDIS implementation team: It is a consortium of entities responsible to implement the EUDIS Defence Hackathon and mentoring programme 2026 on behalf of DEFIS. Led by CIVITTA, its partners are CARSA, CECOFORMA and TEHNOPOL. More information is to be found on the website https://eudis-hackathon.eu/

Action: The set of activities implemented under the EUDIS initiative, including its components such as the Open Call and Hackathon Submissions; The Action is carried out by the EUDIS implementation team ("us", "we", "our" or the "Organisers") on behalf of and under contract with the European Commission.

Local organizer: Local Hackathon Organizers are dedicated facilitators and coordinators of the EUDIS Defence Hackathon on a regional level. Selected through an open call process, play a pivotal role in orchestrating the success of the hackathon within their respective localities.

Central Hub: The main coordination hub for the EUDIS Defence Hackathon and local events. It employs two-way streaming to connect locations - facilitating interactive sessions between the Central Hub and local hackathons. Managed by Tehnopol, it hosts and streams shared hackathon sessions like keynotes and awards. The Hub ensures smooth communication and is equipped with quality tech and staff to manage streaming and inquiries.

Hackers: Enthusiastic individuals who actively engage in the EUDIS Defence Hackathon, bringing their diverse skills, creativity, and problem-solving capabilities to the event. These include students, young professionals, military academy alumni, young military personnel, startups and entrepreneurs, SMEs, mid-caps, and innovators within large enterprises.

Idea Mentor: These are local experts recruited by the local hackathon organizers who assist teams in their hackathon journey up till the mentoring programme. They have a vast knowledge of startups, lean practices, agile processes, coaching, and innovation.

TAIKAI: TAIKAI is a hackathon platform often used by innovators, corporates, developers to enable the registration of participants, connect and support the matchmaking, perform evaluations, and confirm the awarding of winning teams.

Discord: Discord is a communication platform used as the main "town square" of the EUDIS Hackathon and information sharing to registered participants.

Introduction

Please read these Terms & Conditions ("Terms", "Terms & Conditions") carefully before:

- Participating in the EUDIS Hackathons & Mentoring Programme action (the "Action");
- Applying for the EUDIS Hackathons (the "EUDIS Hackathon", "EUDIS Hackathons") through the Action's Open Call (the "Open Call") via the online platform provided by TAIKAI S.A. (the "Hackathon Platform");
- Registering for and accessing the EUDIS Hackathons' online events (the "Hackathon Events") via the online event platform provided by TAIKAI S.A. (the "Event Platform");
- Registering or physically attending or visiting the Hackathon Events;
- Registering for and accessing the online communication platform provided by Discord, Inc. (the "Communication Platform");
- Accessing the Hackathon Platform to submit a hackathon pitch on behalf of a hacker team (the "Hackathon Submission", or "Hackathon Submissions");
- Accessing the Website, Hackathon Platform, Event Platform, or the Communication Platform (jointly the "Platforms").

Your application for, access to, participation or involvement in the Action is conditioned on your acceptance of and compliance with these Terms. These Terms apply to all visitors, applicants and others who seek to participate in the EUDIS Hackathons, who attend the Hackathon Events, or who access or use the Platforms, and to all applicants, participants, local organisers, and Selection Board Members of the Action.

You confirm that:

- You are of legal adult age (18 years or older), and you are legally capable of entering into binding contracts.
- You are a citizen of an eligible country, specifically:
    - Any of the EU-27 Member States;
    - Norway; or
    - Ukraine.

By applying for, accessing, or participating in the Action, or by accepting the invitation to be part of the Action's local organisation, or Hackathon Submissions jury, you agree to be bound by these Terms. If you disagree with any part of the Terms, then you may not apply for or participate in the Action, nor become part of the local organisers or Hackathon Submission Selection Board.

Each participant attending the hackathon on-site will be required to complete and sign the "EUDIS Defence Hackathon 2026 – Spring Edition: Participation, Data Processing & Confidentiality Terms."

Please note that the dates for the EUDIS Hackathon stated in this document can be subject to change due to approved decisions of the EC.

1. Terms & Conditions

1.1. Background and objective of the EUDIS Hackathons

a) The European Defence Fund[1] (EDF) is set up to enhance the competitiveness, innovation, efficiency, and technological autonomy of the Union's defence industry. Innovation in the defence sector does not only come from entities within the defence area, but also from non-traditional entities and individuals active in this sector. The EU Defence Innovation Scheme[2] (EUDIS) aims to build a stronger defence innovation ecosystem throughout the EU. It will incentivise and facilitate technological co-operation between actors in the innovation ecosystem. Parts of the EUDIS builds on the EU Commission's Competitive Space Start-ups for Innovation initiative (CASSINI)[3], and there is continuous co-operation between the two initiatives. One of the implementing measures under the EUDIS are the hackathons, which are awareness and outreach events that proposes innovative solutions for the defence area. In line with their awareness and outreach objective, the hackathons are:

- Promoting skills development and attract the next generation of defence innovators and talents for the defence sector;
- Fostering and bridge various communities with each other, for example by connecting young researchers and innovators with experts from the defence industry and defence end-users (such as from the Armed Forces);
- Providing a stimulating and nurturing environment for creating innovative defence ideas, solutions or prototypes to support the needs of the EU Member States/Norway, which would contribute to a more competitive and innovative European defence industry.
- Communicate and promote the EUDIS initiative.

b) The Action consists of multiple hackathons (the "EUDIS Hackathon", or "EUDIS Hackathons") and a mentoring programme (the "Mentoring Programme"). Each EUDIS Hackathon features several Hackathon Events, such as dedicated online training sessions (including webinars), a hackathon taking place in a weekend (the "Hackathon Weekend"), Workshops and mentoring sessions, and the Live pitching competition (the "EU-wide pitching competition"). Each edition of the EUDIS Hackathons is taking place simultaneously in up to eight (8) different locations.

1.2. Contracting party

The contracting party in these Terms is the EUDIS implementation team Led by:

- CIVITTA INTERNATIONAL OÜ, with its registered address at Riia tn 24a, 51010 Tartu, Estonia;

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[1] ì REGULATION (EU) 2021/697 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 29 April 2021 establishing the European Defence Fund, CELEX:32021R0697:EN:TXT.pdf.

[2] https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-defence-industry/eu-defence-innovation-scheme_en
[3] https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-space-policy/space-entrepreneurship-initiative-cassini_en

And its partners:

- Sihtasutus Tallinna Teaduspark Tehnopol, with its registered address at Teadusparagi 6/1, 12618, Tallinn, Estonia;
- Conception, etudes et cooperation de formation, with its registered address at Rue Leon Fredericq 14, 4020 Liege, Belgium; and
- Consultores de automatizacion y robotica SA, with its registered address at Carretera Asua La Avanzada 6, 48930 Getxo Bizkaia, Spain.

1.3. Local organiser

The implementation of the Action is supported by sub-processors (the "Local Organisers"), which ensure the local implementation of the EUDIS Hackathons in up to eight different locations for each EUDIS Hackathon edition.

1.4. Hacker & Hacker team

a) The Hackers (the "Hacker", or "Hackers") are individuals who have registered to participate in the Action. Each participating Hacker is eventually part of a team (the "Hacker Team" or "Hacker Teams"). Each Hacker can only be part of one Hacker Team. Each Hacker Team is represented by a leader (the "Team Leader", or "Team Leaders").

b) The Team Leader is the formal and sole contact point with the Local Organisers concerning the Hackathon Submissions and any prize, benefit or recognition that may result from the Hackathon Submission.

c) Any planned or unplanned changes to the team composition of a Hacker Team are to be announced to the Local Organisers by the Team Leader without undue delay. Changes to the team composition of a Hacker Team can allow for merged teams, split teams, or additional teams, as communicated to the Local Organisers by the original Team Leader and after the Local Organisers approval. Additional or split teams appoint new Team Leaders.

1.5. Selection Board Members

The Selection Board Members are the individuals who support the Local Organisers, the EUDIS Implementation Team, the EC to select the winning teams, during the Hackathon Weekend or for participation in the Mentoring Programme and EU-wide pitching competition.

1.6. Content

a) Our Platforms allow you to post, link, store, share and otherwise make available certain information, text, graphics, videos, or other material (the "Content").

b) You are responsible for the Content that you post to the Platforms, including its legality, reliability, and appropriateness.

c) By posting Content to the Platforms, you grant us the right and license to use, modify, perform, display, reproduce, and distribute such Content on and through the Platforms.

d) You retain the ownership and any and all of your rights to any Content you submit, post or display on or through the Platforms. You agree that this license includes the right for us to make your Content available to other users of the Platforms, who may also use your Content subject to these Terms.

e) You represent and warrant that:
- The Content is yours (you own it) or you have the right to use it and grant us the rights and license as provided in these Terms; and
- The posting of your Content on or through the Platforms does not violate the privacy rights, publicity rights, copyrights, contract rights or any other rights of any person.

f) Further, you warrant that:
- The Content will not cause you or us to breach any law, regulation, rule, code or other legal obligation;
- The Content will not or could not be reasonably considered to be obscene, inappropriate, defamatory, disparaging, indecent, seditious, offensive, pornographic, threatening, abusive, liable to incite racial hatred, discriminatory, blasphemous, in breach of confidence or in breach of privacy;
- The Content will not be unsolicited, undisclosed or unauthorised advertising;
- The Content does not contain software viruses or any other computer code, files, or programs designed to interrupt, destroy, or limit the functionality of any computer software, hardware or telecommunications equipment; and
- The Content does not bring us or the Platforms into disrepute.

g) You agree to keep all records necessary to establish that your Content does not violate any of the requirements this clause and make such records available upon our reasonable request. **We are under no obligation to regularly monitor the accuracy or reliability of your Content incorporated into the Platforms.** We reserve the right to modify or remove any Content at any time.

1.7. Code of Conduct

a) Any activities promoting or related to alcohol, tobacco, religion, politics, intolerance, violence, pornography, obscenity, gambling, or illegal drugs are explicitly excluded from participation to the Action.

b) We are dedicated to providing a harassment-free experience for everyone, regardless of race, creed, colour, ethnicity, nationality, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, age, physical appearance, body size, disability, or marital status. We do not tolerate harassment of hackathon participants in any form.

c) Sexual language and imagery are not appropriate for any hackathon venue, including hacks, talks, workshops, parties, social media, and other online media.

d) Any Hacker, Hacker Team, Local Organiser, or Selection Board Member violating these rules may be sanctioned or expelled from the Action at the discretion of the Organisers.

2. Participation as a Hacker

2.1. Open Call

2.1.1. Objective of the open call

The Open Call is a registration period to mark the intention to participate in the Action as a Hacker. **The Open Call will open an entry period for registrations between 16 February 2026 09:00 and 20 March 2026 23:59 CET** before the start of the Hackathon Weekend. Late registrations during the Hackathon Weekend may be accepted at the discretion of the Local Organisers.

2.1.2. Personal data shared through your Open Call registration

a) To begin participation in the Open Call, the creation of a user account is required. When creating a user account, we will require you to share personal data such as your name and e-mail for the purposes of contacting you to validate your information and regarding your participation in the Open Call. You will be required to read and accept these Terms & Conditions and Privacy Policy for Events and IT Tools before registering as a Hacker.

b) The personal data that you share during user registration will not be shared with any parties other than the Organisers, the Local Organisers, the Selection Board Members, the Mentors, and the EC, and will be used solely for the purposes of executing the EUDIS Hackathons. Explicit consent for any other uses of your personal data is requested during the registration process. Further details on the Data protection, processing and management are available in the EUDIS Hackathon Privacy policy[4].

2.2. Right of participation

a) Only natural persons of legal adult age (18 years or older) are allowed to participate in the Action as a Hacker. Participation in the Action is accepted on the condition of compliance with the eligibility criteria to participate, namely, **the person is a citizen of a European Union Member State, Norway, or Ukraine** for the whole duration of the Action.

b) The action welcomes all participants and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, colour, ethnicity, nationality, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, age, physical appearance, body size, disability, or marital status.

c) Participation of a Hacker to the Hackathon Weekend is accepted on the condition of compliance with the following additional eligibility criteria, namely:
- Hackers must be part of a single Hacker Team to take part in the Hackathon Weekend;
- The choice of which Hacker Team each Hacker belongs to must be communicated to the Local Organisers by each Hacker via the Hacking Platform, the latest at the start of the Hackathon Weekend;

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[4] https://eudis-hackathon.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Privacy-statement-for-meetings-and-events-EUDIS-Hack-Autumn.pdf
https://eudis-hackathon.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Privacy-statement-for-meetings-and-events-EUDIS-Hack-Autumn.pdf

- Each Hacker Team must have appointed a Team Leader;
- The Team Leader must confirm the final team composition of the Hacker Team to the Local Organisers, the latest at the start of the Hackathon Weekend;
- Hacker Teams must have at least two (2) Hackers
- Hacker Teams must have an idea to work on, the latest at the start of the Hackathon Weekend.

2.3. Conditions of participation

2.3.1. Intentions and commitments from Hackers

Upon participation in the Action, Hackers agree to do this to their best intentions and commitments, which includes:

a) Participation to the relevant Hackathon Events;

b) Timely completion of required documents for participation;

c) Active participation and contribution to the Hacker Team during the entire Hackathon Weekend;

d) Inform the Local Organisers of any changes to the Hacker Team (see section 1.4);

e) Inform the Local Organisers when your participation to the Action becomes void, for example, if you stop pursuing the idea formulated in the Hacker Platform or discontinue your membership of a Hacker Team; and

f) Any failure to deliver the minimal above commitments is a breach of your participation as a Hacker and may result in a termination of your participation to the Action.

g) Hackers whose teams are selected as winners following their pitch presentation agree to participate in the Mentorship Programme. This includes attending all mandatory mentoring sessions, follow-up events, and related activities organized under the Action. The Mentorship Programme is an integral continuation of the Hackathon process, and participation is a condition for maintaining the status and benefits of being declared a winner. Failure to actively participate without prior approval from the Organisers may result in revocation of the winning status and withdrawal of any associated prizes, benefits, or opportunities.

2.3.2. Hackathon Weekend rules

Hackers and Hacker Teams commit to the following rules during the Hackathon Weekend:

a) Teams are allowed to enter the Hackathon with an existing idea, MVP, or prototype. However, teams must clearly declare what existed prior to the Hackathon and demonstrate meaningful development, improvement, or validation of their solution during the Hackathon Weekend. Judges will evaluate both the pre-existing work and the progress achieved onsite.

b) Any enhancements, new features, integrations, testing, validation, or technical developments presented as part of the final pitch must be substantially developed during the Hackathon Weekend. Teams may use pre-existing code, publicly available or openly licensed APIs, SDKs, frameworks, and other software libraries, provided they have the right to do so.

c) This is a fully onsite Hackathon. All participating team members must be physically present at the official event location for the duration of the Hackathon Weekend. Remote participation is not permitted.

d) Organisers reserve the right to verify attendance onsite.

e) Any software development tools and/or programming language can be used.

f) Any failure to adhere to the above rules is a breach of your participation as a Hacker or Hacker Team and may result in a termination of your or your Hacker Team's participation to the Action.

2.3.3. Cost reimbursement

The Organisers will not reimburse any costs the Hackers incur as part of their participation in the Action. If local organisers provide any financial support, services, or benefits (e.g., covering travel costs, accommodation, meals, or other resources) as part of their local organisation sponsorships, such provisions are entirely at the discretion of the local organisers. The Organisers and the EC are not involved in, nor bear any responsibility for, such agreements or commitments made by local organisers.

2.4. Selection at the Hackathon Weekend winners

2.4.1. Winners' selection process

a) The selection process of the winners of the local Hackathon Weekend is executed exclusively in English via the Hackathon Platform and/or pitching in the local hackathon.

b) For the Action, **each location in the EUDIS Hackathons** will select one (1) winning Hacker Team that is invited to participate to the Mentoring Programme and the subsequent EU-Wide Pitching competition for a total of eight (8) Hackathon weekend winners.

c) Local Organisers and their partners or sponsors may grant additional prizes at their own discretion.

2.4.2. Submission process

To complete a valid Hackathon Submission during the Hackathon Weekend, each Hacker Team must submit one (1) completed project page on the official Hacking Platform.

The project page must include the following elements:

- A short summary of the project;
- All team members with brief biographies and their roles in the team;
- A pitch deck or link to a video or screen capture of their solution;
- Link with the theme and one of the challenges; data, information, services and signals used;
- Any unique hardware used in the project

a) Only upon completion of all required fields your application is considered complete. The submission deadline is March 28 at 12:30 CET. You are encouraged to submit your application before the deadline in case IT issues arise. Each Hacker Team can submit only one Hackathon Submission.

b) Hackathon Submissions that have not been submitted, or Hackathon Submissions submitted past the abovementioned deadline, are not eligible for evaluation and will under no circumstances be reviewed by the Selection Board Members. Following the application deadline, eligible submissions will be reviewed by the Selection Board Members.

c) The final decision on the selection is made by the Selection Board Members for each location. These decisions shall be final and binding for all Hackers and Hacker Teams in the Action in any selection procedure.

2.4.3. Judging criteria

All submissions will be evaluated and scored by the Selection Board Members on four criteria:

Criteria	Weight
Relevance of the idea, solution or prototype with regards to the EU Member States/Norway/Ukraine defence needs and the defence hackathon themes and challenges;	25%
Innovativeness of the idea, solution or prototype, its uniqueness, and its value created for defence end-users;	25%
The comparable progress made of the teams' ideas, solutions or prototypes during the hackathon weekend; and	30%
Quality of the team (defence, technical and business expertise, understanding of the thematic area, commitment to the project, ability to present the idea, solution, prototype or business model).	20%

2.4.4. The Hackathon Submissions Selection Board Members

a) The Selection Board Members are carefully selected by each local organiser to represent a qualified group of 4 judges. Respectively 2 with relevant and varied expertise from hackathons, innovation competitions, innovation or start-up support schemes and 2 judges with relevant defence expertise.

b) Each Selection Board Member is bound by a non-disclosure and confidentiality clause (see Section 3.6) before reviewing the Hackathon Submissions, confirming that they will not share any of the information contained in your Hackathon Submission that is not publicly available on the Hackathon Platform with anyone other than the other Selection Board Members, the Local Organisers, the Organisers or the European Commission and DEFIS.

2.5. Mentoring Programme

a) The eight (8) selected Hacker Teams of the Hackathon Weekend will be given access to the Mentoring Programme during the following two (2) months. Together with a lead mentor appointed by the Organisers, Hackers can review the Mentor profiles, and select their preferred Mentors, based on their mentoring needs.

b) The Organisers cannot guarantee that Hackers will be given the opportunity to receive mentoring from their preferred Mentors, due to the limited availability of some Mentors. The Organisers nevertheless intend to facilitate an optimal allocation of mentoring relations.

c) In total, the selected Hacker Teams can receive up to forty (40) mentoring hours from the lead mentor and the Mentors, that will combine:
- Key-mentor guidance focused on TRL advancement & positioning
- Specialised ad-hoc expert sessions
- Two targeted online workshops
- A 2-day in-person Defence Innovation Meetup
- 1:1 mentorship dedicated to capability building and technical/commercial road-mapping

d) Participation in all elements of the mentoring programme by at least one team member is a mandatory condition to qualify for the EU-wide pitching competition.

2.6. Selection at the EU-Wide pitching competition

2.6.1. Submission process

a) The selection process of the EU-Wide winners of the overall EUDIS Hackathon edition is executed exclusively in English via live pitching by the Hacker Teams in a dedicated remote session with the Selection Board Members, EC, and additional stakeholders.

b) The session will take place after the mentoring programme is completed. For the Action, the Selection Board Members will select three (3) Hacker Teams that are invited to participate and showcase their ideas, solutions or prototypes at one technology or defence event and with travelling, accommodations, and tickets costs for the event covered by the Organisers.

c) The final decision on the selection is made by the dedicated Selection Board Members. The decisions shall be final and binding for all Hackers and Hacker Teams in the Action.

2.6.2. Judging criteria

The same criteria and weight specified in section 2.4.2 will be applied during the EU-Wide Pitching competition for the selection of the EU-Wide winners.

2.6.3. The EU-Wide pitching competition Selection Board Members

The Selection Board Members are carefully selected by the Organisers and EC to represent a qualified group of at least 4 judges. Respectively 2 with relevant and varied expertise from hackathons, innovation competitions, innovation or start-up support schemes and 2 judges with relevant defence expertise.

a) Each Selection Board Member is bound by a non-disclosure and confidentiality clause (see Section 3.6) before reviewing the Hackathon Submissions, confirming that they will not share any of the information contained in your pitching that is not publicly available with

anyone other than the other Selection Board Members, the Local Organisers, the Organisers or the European EC.

2.7. Personal data shared through your participation to the Action

a) Your personal data including but not limited to citizenship, residency, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers, which you share during your participation to the Action will not be shared with any parties other than the Organisers, the Local Organisers, the EC, the Selection Board Members, your Mentor, the Platforms, and the event organisers or security teams of the events where the Hackathon Events take place.

b) With your participation in the Action as Hacker, you agree to the use of your personal data for the following purposes:

- **Promotion & Communication:** the Action is funded by the EC. In its objectives to support start-ups using the EUDIS programme, a comprehensive communication campaign is essential. The Action's and its overarching EUDIS initiative's communication tools, such as the Website, newsletter and social media, are used as multipliers for the visibility of participants, contributing to their business potential. The Action may use your Hacker Team name and a description of your start-up or technical/business idea for such public promotion and communication purposes. The Action will establish a repository of photos, videos and other audio-visual recordings of the event[5]. For the use of your personal data in this context, you provide your consent as part of your registration;

- **Hackathon Events:** for smooth organisation of the events, which may be subject to security measures, we may invite you to share and use personal data, such as your travel schedules, first and last name, birth date, nationality, passport or ID-card number, dietary preferences. These data will be shared with the Platforms, event venues and local security teams and will only be used for the organisation of the events;

- **Mentorship:** to ensure a good interaction with your Mentor, we will provide him/her with your first and last name, company name, e-mail address and phone number. These data will only be used for mentorship purposes; and

- **Essential notifications:** to administer your participation in the Action, the Organisers or Local Organisers send notifications to the e-mail addresses of the Hackers in the Action. As alumni to the Action, your subscription to these notifications will survive your participation to the Action but can be ceased any time by clicking on the respective link in the bottom of the notification, or by writing us a message at **contact@eudis-hackathon.eu.**

c) Specific details on how we process, store and protect your data please refer to the privacy statements on EUDIS Defence Hackathon Event policy and EUDIS Defence Hackathon IT Tools privacy policy.

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[5] Participants that do not wish to be part of the above web-streaming and recording/publishing activities have the possibility to object to processing, by sending an e-mail to the organiser prior to the event.

3. Participation as a Selection Board Members

3.1. Right of participation

Individuals of legal adult age (18 years or older) and on the condition of compliance with the eligibility criteria to participate, namely, the person is a citizen **AND** resident of a European Union Member State, Norway, or Ukraine for the whole duration of the Action, are allowed to participate as a EUDIS Hackathons Selection Board Member, after an invitation to do so by the Organisers, the Local Organisers or the EC.

3.2. Selection of the Selection Board Members

The decisions on the selection of Selection Board Members are made by the Organisers, the Local Organisers or the EC.

3.3. Evaluation process

a) The evaluation process is organised and executed exclusively in English and via the Hackathon Platform. To begin the evaluation process of Hackathon Submissions, the creation of a Selection Board Member user account may be required. When creating a user account for you, we will require you to share personal data such as your name and e-mail for the purposes of contacting you to validate your information and regarding your participation as a Selection Board Member.

b) You will be required to read and accept these Terms & Conditions and Privacy Policy before registering or participating as a Selection Board Member.

c) The evaluation of the Hackathon Submissions consists of two parts, and the Selection Board Members may be invited to either part: 1) the evaluation of a number of Hackers Team submissions participating in a specific location at the Hackathon Weekend, 2) the evaluation of a number of Hacker Teams at the EU-Wide Pitching Competition.

3.4. Conditions of participation

Upon participating as a Selection Board Member to the Hackathon Weekend or the EU-Wide Pitching competition, Selection Board Members agree to the following commitments, which include:

- Completion of the evaluation process with diligence and in all fairness; and
- Timely indication and flagging of any potential conflict of interest during the whole evaluation process, and abstention from voting should such conflict of interest arise.

3.5. Personal data and company information shared through your participation

a) The following personal data may be shared with the Hackers for reasons of transparency: first name, last name, occupation, and company name.

b) Any other personal data that you share during user registration will not be shared with any parties other than the Organisers, Local Organisers, and the EC.

c) Specific details on how we process, store and protect your data please refer to the EUDIS Defence Hackathon Event policy and EUDIS Defence Hackathon IT Tools privacy policy.

4. Participation as a Mentor

4.1. Right of Participation

Individuals of legal adult age (18 years or older) and in compliance with the eligibility criteria applicable to the Action – namely, being a citizen and resident of a European Union Member State, Norway, or Ukraine for the duration of the Action – may participate as Mentors upon invitation and confirmation by the Organisers or Local Organisers. Mentors may include, but are not limited to, Lead Mentors and additional expert Mentors contributing to the Mentoring Programme.

4.2. Role and Capacity of Mentors

a) Mentors act strictly in an advisory capacity. Their role is to provide guidance, expertise, and constructive feedback to Hackers and Hacker Teams during the Hackathon and/or Mentoring Programme.

b) Mentors shall not assume any decision-making authority over Hackers or Hacker Teams;

c) Mentors shall not represent themselves as partners, co-founders, employees, agents, or legal representatives of any Hacker or Hacker Team;

d) Mentors shall not enter into any binding agreement on behalf of Hackers or Hacker Teams.

e) Participation as a Mentor does not create any employment, partnership, joint venture, agency, or fiduciary relationship between the Mentor and the Organisers, the European Commission, Local Organisers, or any participating Hacker or Hacker Team.

4.3. Confidentiality

a) During the Hackathon and Mentoring Programme, Mentors may receive access to non-public information, including but not limited to technical, commercial, strategic, or operational information shared by Hackers or Hacker Teams (the "Confidential Information").

b) Mentors agree to:
- Treat all Confidential Information with strict confidentiality;
- Not disclose Confidential Information to any third party without prior written consent from the relevant Hacker or Hacker Team;
- Not use Confidential Information for personal, commercial, or competitive advantage;

- Apply at least the same level of care in protecting Confidential Information as they apply to their own confidential information, and in any case no less than a reasonable standard of care.

c) These confidentiality obligations shall remain in effect until 31 December 2026 or until the Confidential Information lawfully becomes public through no fault of the Mentor, whichever occurs first.

4.4. Intellectual Property

a) All intellectual property rights developed by Hackers or Hacker Teams before or during the Action remain exclusively with the respective Hackers or Hacker Teams, as defined in Section 5.3 of these Terms.

b) Mentors do not acquire any ownership, license, right, title, or interest in any idea, concept, prototype, solution, or other intellectual property developed by Hackers or Hacker Teams;

c) Mentors shall not claim authorship, co-ownership, or entitlement to any results of the Hackathon or Mentoring Programme;

d) Mentors shall not commercially exploit any idea or solution presented during the Action without a separate written agreement directly concluded with the relevant Hacker or Hacker Team.

e) Nothing in these Terms shall prevent voluntary collaboration between a Mentor and a Hacker or Hacker Team outside the scope of the Action, provided that such collaboration is governed by a separate written agreement independent of the Organisers and the European Commission.

4.5. Conflict of Interest

a) Mentors must disclose to the Organisers without undue delay any actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest that may arise in relation to a Hacker, Hacker Team, or project.

b) A conflict of interest includes, but is not limited to:
- Direct or indirect financial interest in a competing solution;
- Employment or consultancy relationship with an entity that may benefit from access to Confidential Information;
- Personal or professional relationships that may impair impartiality.

c) Where a conflict of interest is identified, the Organisers may reassign the Mentor or limit their involvement to ensure fairness and integrity of the Action.

4.6. Code of Conduct and Compliance

a) Mentors are bound by the Code of Conduct set out in Section 1.7 of these Terms.

b) Mentors must:
- Act professionally and respectfully at all times;
- Refrain from discriminatory, inappropriate, or unethical conduct;

- Avoid influencing evaluation or selection processes unless formally appointed as Selection Board Members under separate terms.

c) Any breach of these obligations may result in immediate termination of participation as a Mentor.

4.7. Limitation of Liability

Mentors provide advisory support only. The Organisers and the European Commission shall not be liable for any actions, decisions, or outcomes resulting from advice provided by Mentors. Hackers and Hacker Teams remain solely responsible for their projects, decisions, implementation strategies, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

5. Termination

a) We may terminate your participation to the Action in written (by letter or e-mail) if you breach these Terms & Conditions. Before termination, we will provide you with a written notice specifying the breach and granting you a period of 10 business days to remedy the issue, unless the breach is severe enough to warrant immediate termination.

b) If the breach is not remedied within the given period or if it is deemed irremediable, termination will take effect immediately upon sending the termination letter or e-mail. The date indicated on the postmark, or the time stamp of the email will serve as the legal basis for termination.

c) If you disagree with the termination, you may submit a written response within 10 business days of receiving the notice, outlining your position. We will review your response in good faith before finalizing the termination.

d) If you wish to terminate your participation to the Action, you may do so in writing (by letter or e-mail). This termination will take effect once the Organisers acknowledge such termination letter or e-mail.

e) All provisions of the Terms & Conditions which by their nature should survive termination shall keep on applying, including, without limitation, ownership provisions, warranty disclaimers, indemnity, limitations of liability and Non-Disclosure Agreements.

f) We shall not be liable to you or any third party for any claims or damages arising out of any termination or suspension, or any other actions taken by us in connection therewith.

6. General Clauses

6.1. Accounts

a) When you create accounts on our Platforms, you must provide us information that is accurate, complete, and current at all times. Failure to do so constitutes a breach of the Terms, which may result in immediate termination of your account on our Platforms and your participation to the Action.

b) You are responsible for safeguarding the password that you use to access the Platforms and for any activities or actions under your password, whether your password is with our Platforms or a third-party service.

c) You agree not to disclose your password to any third party. You agree to be fully responsible for activities that relate to your account or your password. You must notify us immediately upon becoming aware of any breach of security or unauthorised use of your account.

d) You may not use as a username the name of another person or entity that is not lawfully available for use, a name or trademark that is subject to any rights of another person or entity other than you without appropriate authorisation, or a name that is otherwise offensive, vulgar or obscene.

6.2. Copyright policy

a) We respect the intellectual property rights of others. It is our policy to respond to any claim that Content posted on the Platforms infringes the copyright or other intellectual property of any person ("Infringement").

b) If you are a copyright owner, or authorised on behalf of one, and you believe that the copyrighted work has been copied in a way that constitutes a copyright infringement that is taking place through the Platforms, you must submit your notice in writing to the attention of "Copyright Infringement" of **contact@eudis-hackathon.eu** and include in your notice a detailed description of the alleged infringement, as well as the following information:
   ▪ Your name and address;
   ▪ Details of the alleged breach of copyright; and
   ▪ URL link to the alleged breach of copyright (if applicable)

c) You may be held accountable for damages (including costs and attorneys' fees) for misrepresenting that any content is infringing your copyright.

6.3. Intellectual property

a) The ownership of any intellectual property developed by Hackers during and within the scope of the Action will remain with the individual Hackers. Within the Hacker Team, the Hackers should agree among themselves on the distribution of the intellectual property rights. Hackers can choose, at their own discretion, to open source the intellectual property and license it.

b) The Action, the Platforms, and their original content (excluding Content provided by Hackers, Mentors, or Mentor Applicants), features and functionality are and will remain the exclusive property of the Organisers.

c) The Action and the Platforms are protected by copyright, trademark, and other laws of Estonia. Our trademark and trade dress may not be used in connection with any product or service without the prior written consent of the Organisers. Nothing in these Terms constitutes a transfer of any Intellectual Property rights from us to you.

d) You are permitted to use the Action and the Platforms only as authorised by us. Our Intellectual Property must not be used in connection with a product or service that is not affiliated with us or in any way brings us in disrepute.

e) You must not modify the physical or digital copies of any Content you print off or download in any way, and you must not use any illustrations, photographs, video or audio, or any graphics separately from any accompanying text.

f) As a user of the Platforms, you are granted a limited, non-exclusive, revocable, non-transferable right to use the Platforms to create, display, use, play and download Content subject to these terms, for the purpose of featuring your Content on the Platforms.

g) Any opinions, advice, statements, services, offers, or other information or content expressed or made available by any other users on the Platforms are those of the respective authors or distributors and not of us.

h) Any images taken by the Organisers during Action are and remain the property of the Organisers and the EC. You may not print, copy, reuse or distribute these images without permission.

6.4. Links to other sites

a) Our Action and Platforms may contain links to third-party websites or services that are not owned or controlled by the Organisers.

b) The Organisers have no control over, and assume no responsibility for, the content, privacy policies, or practices of any third-party websites or services. You further acknowledge and agree that the Organisers shall not be responsible or liable, directly or indirectly, for any damage or loss caused or alleged to be caused by or in connection with the use of or reliance on any such content, goods or services available on or through any such websites or services.

c) We only provide links to external websites as a convenience, and the inclusion of such a link to external websites does not imply our endorsement of those websites. You acknowledge and agree that when you access other websites on the internet, you do so at your own risk.

d) We strongly advise you to read the terms and conditions and privacy policies of any third-party websites or services that you visit.

6.5. Indemnification

a) As a condition of your participation to our Action, and/or access to and use of our Platforms, you agree to indemnify us, our subcontractors and our successors and assigns for all damages, costs, expenses and other liabilities, including but not limited to legal fees and expenses, relating to any claim arising out of related to your participation to the Action and access to and use of the Platforms, or your breach of these Terms & Conditions and any applicable law or the rights of another person or party.

b) This indemnification section survives the expiration of your registration and applies to claims arising both before and after the registration ends.

6.6. Limitation of liability

a) You agree that we shall not be liable for any damages suffered as a result of participating in the Action and/or using the Platforms, as well as copying, distributing or downloading Content from the Action and Platforms.

b) In no event shall we be liable for any indirect, punitive, special, incidental or consequential damage (including loss of business, revenue, profits, use, privacy, data, goodwill or other economic advantage) through your application to the Action on the Platforms, or through your participation in the Action, however it arises, whether for breach of contract or in tort, even if the possibility of such damage has been previously advised of.

c) In no event shall we be liable for any claims by a third party in tort or contract, including, but not limited, to any misleading statements made and/or incorporated into any Content provided by third parties, such as manufacturers and wholesalers, and users of the Platforms. It is your sole responsibility to ensure the accuracy of the data inputted on the Platforms.

d) You have sole responsibility for adequate security protection and backup of data and/or equipment used in connection with your usage of the Platforms and will not make a claim against us for lost data, re-run time, inaccurate instruction, work delays or lost profits resulting from the use of the Platforms. You must not assign or otherwise dispose of your account to any other person.

6.7. Disclaimer

a) Your participation to the Action or your use of the Platforms is at your sole risk. The Action and its Platforms are provided without warranties of any kind, whether express or implied, including, but not limited to, implied warranties of merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose, non-infringement, or course of performance. The Action and its Platforms are provided on an "AS IS" and "AS AVAILABLE" basis.

b) The Organisers do not warrant that a) the Action or Platforms will function uninterrupted, secure, or available at any particular time or location; or b) the results of participating in the Action or using the Platforms will meet your requirements.

c) This disclaimer of liability applies to any damages or injury caused by any failure of performance, error, omission, interruption, deletion, defect, delay in operation or transmission, computer virus, communication line failure, theft, or destruction or unauthorised access or, alteration of or use of record in connection with the use or operation of the Platforms, whether for breach of contract, tortious behaviour, negligence, or any other cause of action.

d) We make no representations or warranties of any kind, express or implied, about the completeness, accuracy, reliability, suitability, or availability with respect to the content contained on the Platforms for any purpose. Any reliance you place on such information is therefore strictly at your own risk. We disclaim any express or implied warranty representation or guarantee as to the effectiveness or profitability of the Platforms or that

the operation of the Platforms will be uninterrupted or error-free. We are not liable for the consequences of any interruptions or error in the Platforms.

6.8. Exclusions

Some jurisdictions do not allow the exclusion of certain warranties or the exclusion or limitation of liability for consequential or incidental damages, so the limitations above may not apply to you.

6.9. Governing law

a) These Terms & Conditions shall be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of Estonia, without regard to its conflict of law provisions.

b) Our failure to enforce any right or provision of these Terms & Conditions will not be considered a waiver of those rights. If any provision of these Terms is held to be invalid or unenforceable by a court, the remaining provisions of these Terms & Conditions will remain in effect. These Terms & Conditions constitute the entire agreement between us regarding our Action and supersede and replace any prior agreements we might have between us regarding the Action.

6.10. Changes

a) We reserve the right, at our sole discretion, to modify or replace these Terms & Conditions at any time. If a revision is material, we will try to provide at least 30 days' notice prior to any new terms taking effect.

b) **It is your sole responsibility to periodically check these Terms & Conditions for any changes.** If you do not agree with any of the changes to these Terms, it is your sole responsibility to stop using the Platforms or participating in the Action. Your continued use of the Platforms or participation in the Action will be deemed as your acceptance thereof.

6.11. Contact us

If you have any questions about these Terms, please contact us at **contact@eudis-hackathon.eu**