

**meet  
in italy**  
FOR LIFE SCIENCES

13-14 October 2026

Roma  
Auditorium della  
Tecnica

Genesis4LifeScience  
for MIT4LS 2026



Institutional Partner



ITALIAN TRADE AGENCY

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THE ITALIAN HOUSE OF BUSINESS

A project of



Advanced Life Sciences in Italy

# Premise

ALISEI – the Italian National Technology Cluster for Life Sciences, which promotes and enhances research and innovation by connecting the main stakeholders at national and international level, including companies, universities, research organizations, innovation hubs, regional clusters and districts, science parks, and the public and private healthcare system – in collaboration with:

- ART-ER
- Bio Industry Park
- BION Cluster lombardo scienze della vita
- Confindustria Dispositivi Medici
- Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR)
- Distretto Tecnologico Campania Bioscience
- Fondazione Hub Innovazione Trentino (HIT)
- Fondazione Toscana Life Sciences
- Istituto superiore di Sanità (ISS)
- Lazio Innova
- Polo Tecnologico Alto Adriatico
- Sardegna Ricerche

has launched the Genesis4LifeScience x Meet in Italy 2026 program to support innovation in life sciences through dedicated training and coaching pathways.

Moreover, ALISEI has joined forces with BRIDGE - an EU project funded by I3 under the ERDF - and its consortium to launch a track focused on advancing early-stage ventures in the medical biomanufacturing field. The consortium includes the following members:

- Distretto Tecnologico Campania Bioscience
- Biocat, BioRegion of Catalonia
- Górnośląski Akcelerator Przedsiębiorczości Rynkowej sp. z o.o.
- BioTekNet S.C.p.A.
- European HealthTech Innovation Center (EHTIC)
- Reig Jofre
- InnoStars EIT Health

In summary, three tracks have been identified:

1. **GROWTH**, addressed to already established startups operating in the life sciences sector.
2. **TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER**, addressed to project ideas and startups in the life sciences sector.
3. **BRIDGE**, addressed to medical biomanufacturing project ideas and startups from Catalonia (ES), Silesia (PL), or Campania (IT)



# Call for Applications

PHASE	DATE / PERIOD
Opening of the call	06 May 2026
Application deadline	20 June 2026 – 23:59 (CET)
Eligibility check and evaluation	22 June 2026 –27 June 2026
Notification of selected applicants	29 June 2026
Online training program	June–September 2026
Final event	13–14 October 2026 (Rome)

## Art. 1

### OBJECTIVES

The initiative is promoted by **ALISEI** – the Italian National Technology Cluster for Life Sciences – and is part of its activities to foster entrepreneurship and technology development in the life sciences sector by National and European researchers and startups, with the BRIDGE track jointly delivered with the BRIDGE consortium. Its objective is to strengthen startups’ capabilities in business, regulatory and strategic areas, improve their ability to communicate value and innovation to investors and stakeholders, facilitate access to national and international networking opportunities, and support the growth and integration of startups within the industrial life sciences ecosystem.

The objectives of the **Genesis4LifeScience** program are the following:

#### “Growth” track

To provide up to 10 startups with (per selected organization):

- 10 hours of horizontal training on finance, IP, market access, clinical strategy, and pitching in the life sciences sector.
- 4 hours of vertical training (Medical Devices, Pharmaceuticals, Biotech), depending on the startup’s field of activity, delivered by industry experts.
- Up to 4 hours of coaching and mentoring.

Selected applicants will benefit from free marketing activities through publication on the website and strategic visibility during **Meet in Italy for Life Sciences 2026**, to be held in Rome on **13–14 October 2026**.

Selected applicants will be invited to present their pitch during **Meet in Italy for Life Sciences 2026** before an audience of investors, business angels and companies operating in the sector.

#### “Technology Transfer” track

To provide up to 10 technology (per selected organization):

- 10 hours of horizontal training on finance, IP, market access, clinical strategy, and pitching in the life sciences sector.
- 2 hours of coaching specifically dedicated to pitch preparation.

Selected applicants will benefit from free marketing activities through publication on the website and strategic visibility during **Meet in Italy for Life Sciences 2026**, to be held in Rome on **13–14 October 2026**.

Selected applicants will be invited to present their pitch during **Meet in Italy for Life Sciences 2026** before a jury, which will assess both the potential of the idea and the effectiveness of the pitch.

## “BRIDGE” track

BRIDGE (Biomanufacturing Regions for Integrated Development and Growth in the Ecosystems) is a two-year project, funded by the European Union under the Interregional Innovation Investments (I3) Instrument. It focuses on advancing medical biomanufacturing, a field at the intersection of pharma, medtech, and biotechnology. A key aspect of the project is regional collaboration. BRIDGE connects one more developed region—Catalonia—with two less developed regions—Silesia and Campania—to build a shared, interconnected ecosystem of biomanufacturing innovation. Through knowledge transfer, joint initiatives, and access to advanced innovation networks, the project aims to strengthen capabilities in the less developed regions.

10 selected biomanufacturing teams from the BRIDGE targeted regions (Catalonia, Campania and Silesia) will be supported in addressing key needs and challenges in the biomanufacturing field by advancing early-stage ideas into more structured proof-of-concept developments, including support for pitch refinement, investor narrative building, and value proposition definition to strengthen their readiness for future fundraising and market entry. In detail:

- 10 hours of horizontal training on finance, IP, market access, clinical strategy, and pitching in the life sciences sector.
- Up to 5 hours of vertical training delivered by experts addressing the opportunities, challenges and pitfalls of the biomanufacturing market for early-stage ventures
- Up to 5 hours of coaching specifically dedicated to strengthen business and investment planning capacities.

Selected applicants will benefit from free marketing activities through publication on the website and strategic visibility during Meet in Italy for Life Sciences 2026, to be held in Rome on 13–14 October 2026. During this event, selected applicants will be invited to pitch in front of a jury, which will assess both the potential of the idea and the effectiveness of the pitch.

The participating teams will have the opportunity to connect to the BRIDGE consortium network and possibly engage in interregional activities.

## Art. 2

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

#### 2.1 Growth track

Entities meeting the following criteria are eligible:

- **Startups legally incorporated** at the time of application.
- **No more than 5 years** old at the time of application.
- Operating across the **life sciences value chain**, including, by way of example:
  - o biotech, biopharma and drug discovery
  - o digital health and AI applied to health
  - o medical devices and IVD
  - o nutraceuticals
  - o regenerative medicine and advanced therapies
  - o synthetic biology and bioengineering
- Technology readiness level between **TRL 5 and TRL 7**.
- Scalable technology with potential industrial or clinical impact.
- Availability to participate in the full online training program and to be present in Rome on 13–14 October 2026 at own expense.

The call is open to Italian and international startups.



## 2.2 Technology Transfer track

Entities meeting the following criteria are eligible:

- **Legally incorporated startups and non-incorporated entities**, including research teams, presenting a project based on innovative technology in the life sciences field, including, by way of example:
  - o biotech, biopharma and drug discovery
  - o digital health and AI applied to health
  - o medical devices and IVD
  - o nutraceuticals
  - o regenerative medicine and advanced therapies
  - o synthetic biology and bioengineering
- Technology readiness level between **TRL 2 and TRL 4**.
- Availability to participate in the full online training program and to be present in Rome on 13–14 October 2026 at own expense.

## 2.3 BRIDGE track

Entities meeting the following criteria are eligible:

- **Legally incorporated startups and non-incorporated entities**, including research teams, presenting a project based on innovative technology in the medical biomanufacturing field.
- **Based on one of the three following regions**:
  - o Campania (IT)
  - o Silesia (PL)
  - o Catalonia (ES)
- Technology readiness level between **TRL 2 and TRL 4**.
- Working language: English
- Availability to participate in the full online training program and to be present in Rome on 13–14 October 2026 at own expense.
- Applicants may apply to either the Technology Transfer track or the BRIDGE track but are not permitted to submit applications to both tracks.

## Art. 3

### APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Each applicant shall submit:

1. the duly completed **Application Form – Growth Track, Application Form Technology Transfer Track**, Application Form – BRIDGE track including the personal data processing notice;
  2. a presentation of the company and the proposed solution, in ppt or pdf format (applicants are requested to check the guidelines in the relevant track application form for any applicable limits);
- through the online application form no later than 30 May 2026.**

ALISEI reserves the right to reopen the application period if, by the deadline of 30 May 2026, the number of applications received is not sufficient for the program to start. Consequently, the timing for the work of the Selection Committee referred to in the relevant article may also be adjusted.

Applications submitted after the deadline, not properly completed in accordance with the provisions of this call, or lacking the required documentation, will not be considered.

## Art. 5

### STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAM (ONLINE)

Selected startups will take part in an intensive pathway between June and September 2026 based on the following components:

#### 5.1 Horizontal training

- Pitch & Investor Narrative
- Grants & Competitive Funding Calls
- IP Strategy, Tech Transfer & Contracting
- Clinical Evidence, HTA & Market Access Strategy
- Go-to-Market & Procurement in the Health Sector

#### 5.2 Vertical training by sector

- Medical Devices and IVD
- Pharma & Biotech
- Digital Health & Software as a Medical Device
- Innovative and Advanced Therapies
- Medical Biomanufacturing (A dedicated biomanufacturing-specific module delivered with the involvement of BRIDGE experts and/or invited specialists, focusing on market opportunities, scale-up and industrialization challenges, regulatory and quality considerations, and common pitfalls in medical biomanufacturing.)

#### 5.3 Dedicated coaching and mentorship

Each startup/project team will receive tailored sessions with mentors and experts from the life sciences sector.

## Art. 6

### FINAL EVENT: MEET IN ITALY FOR LIFE SCIENCES 2026

#### 6.1 Growth track

Selected startups will take part in **Meet in Italy for Life Sciences 2026**, which will be held in **Rome on 13–14 October 2026**.

The planned activities include:

- a Demo Day, with pitch presentations before key stakeholders from the sector;
- opportunities for B2B meetings and networking with companies, research centers, investors and representatives of the life sciences ecosystem.

*The duration of the pitches will be communicated closer to the event, depending on the number of selected startups and participants.*

#### 6.2 Technology Transfer track

Selected startups/projects will take part in **Meet in Italy for Life Sciences 2026**, which will be held in **Rome on 13–14 October 2026**.

The planned activities include:

- pitch presentations before a jury, which will assess the potential of the idea and the effectiveness of the pitch;
- opportunities for **B2B meetings and networking** with companies, research centers, investors and representatives of the life sciences ecosystem.

*The duration of the pitches will be communicated closer to the event, depending on the number of selected startups/projects and participants.*

### 6.3 BRIDGE track

The 10 selected BRIDGE teams will take part in **Meet in Italy for Life Sciences 2026**, which will be held in **Rome on 13–14 October 2026**.

The planned activities include:

- Demo Day pitch presentations in front of a jury, which will assess the potential of the idea and the effectiveness of the pitch;
- opportunities for B2B meetings and networking with companies, research centers, investors and representatives of the life sciences ecosystem.

*The duration of the pitches will be communicated closer to the event, depending on the number of selected startups/projects and participants.*



## Art. 7

### SELECTION CRITERIA

Selection for participation in the three tracks will be carried out by a jury composed of experts representing:

- the research community;
- industry and companies operating in the health sector;
- investors and venture capital actors active in life sciences.

Applications will be assessed through a dedicated evaluation process involving three independent evaluators with relevant subject-matter expertise according to the following criteria:

CRITERIA	ASSESSMENT DIMENSION	MAX SCORE
Problem Identification	Clarity and relevance of the problem and its impact	15
Innovation	Novelty and differentiation of the solution	25
Market	Market understanding (size, competition, barriers)	15
Feasibility	Realism of development path, validation approach, and risk awareness	25
Team & Motivation	Team capability, commitment, and ability to execute and benefit from the program	20

Evaluation scores will be awarded for each criterion according to the defined scoring guide, ensuring a structured and objective assessment. There are no predefined thresholds; instead, proposals will be ranked based on their total evaluation scores. The top ten highest-scoring proposals will be selected.

For Bridge track regional balance will be sought at least two selected participants from each of the three regions, provided applications from that region meet the minimum quality threshold of 60.

## Art. 8

### SELECTION COMMITTEE

Selection Committee will be composed of experts drawn from ALISEI members organization as well as from the BRIDGE consortium partners. The Committee will examine and assess the applications based on the information and documentation submitted, in accordance with the objectives of the initiative and the overall consistency of the proposals with the goals of the respective tracks. The Committee will ensure that they have no conflict of interest, following the established evaluation principles of transparency, independence, impartiality, objectivity, accuracy, consistency, and confidentiality. For the purpose of assignment to each track, the declared technology readiness level must be consistent with the expected range: **TRL 5-7** for the “Growth” track and **TRL 2-4** for both the “Technology Transfer” and BRIDGE track.

The decision of the Selection Committee shall be final and not subject to appeal.

The Selection Committee is expected to meet on **22 June 2026** in order to identify the 10 startups selected for the “Growth” track, the 10 projects selected for the “Technology Transfer” track and the 10 projects selected for the “BRIDGE” track.

## Art. 9

### COMMUNICATION TO APPLICANTS

The outcome of the selection process shall be communicated to applicants within 10 days from the date on which the ranking is finalized.

## Art. 10

### REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION

Requests for clarification regarding participation must be submitted no later than 5 days before the call application deadline.

## Art. 11

### PARTICIPATION COSTS

- Participation in the program is **free of charge**.
- **For the Tech Transfer Track and Growth Track no reimbursement** is foreseen for travel, accommodation or other expenses related to participation in-person events.
- For the BRIDGE track, travel and accommodation for the final event in Rome will be organized by InnoStars for all selected participants. No cash is paid to participants.



## Art. 12

### PRIVACY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- ALISEI shall act as the Data Controller of the personal data provided during the application process, in accordance with applicable data protection legislation.
- Intellectual property rights relating to the technologies presented shall remain entirely with the startups/projects.
- All information and materials submitted for the purposes of the selection process shall be deemed non confidential and treated as such. Accordingly, applicants are advised not to submit any confidential information

## Art. 13

### REPORTING AND FOLLOW-ON ENGAGEMENT (BRIDGE TRACK)

Aggregated information about BRIDGE track participants, and the high-level description of their solutions, may be reported in BRIDGE deliverables — in particular Deliverable 3.4 (Long list of interregional collaboration opportunities) and to the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency as part of BRIDGE reporting obligations. BRIDGE participants may be invited, on a voluntary basis, to engage with consortium partners on follow-on interregional initiatives, including potential proposals for I3 or other EU funding instruments.

## Art 14

### COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION (BRIDGE TRACK)

All external communication from selected projects within the BRIDGE track must show the BRIDGE project and the European Union emblem (these will be provided). Moreover, in case of digital network communication, BRIDGE should be tagged. More detailed instructions will be provided.

Communication activities of the participants related to the action (including media relations, conferences, seminars, information material, such as brochures, leaflets, posters, presentations, etc., in electronic form, via traditional or social media, etc.) must acknowledge EU support and display the European flag (emblem) and funding statement.

The emblem must remain distinct and separate and cannot be modified by adding other visual marks, brands or text. Apart from the emblem, no other visual identity or logo may be used to highlight the EU support.

When displayed in association with other logos (e.g. of participants or sponsors), the emblem must be displayed at least as prominently and visibly as the other logos.