

**LUISS ENLABS: LAUNCH OF THE CALL FOR STARTUPS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
NEXT EDITION OF ACCELERATION PROGRAM**

***Applications to have access to the 5-month program that the Rome-based Startup
Accelerator runs twice a year will be open until April 2nd 2017***

Rome, February 21st, 2017

From today, February 21st 2017, until April 2nd 2017, startups will be able to respond to the Call for Applications to join the next edition of the **Acceleration Program run by LUISS ENLABS**, one of the leading Startup Accelerators in Europe, resulting from a joint venture between LVenture Group, a holding company listed on the stock exchange operating in the venture capital industry, and LUISS University.

THE PROGRAM - Answering the Call, open twice a year, the most promising startups will have the opportunity to access an intensive 5-months path aimed at transforming projects in the early stages of life into companies generating revenues on the market. The program will begin in June 2017 and will take place in the LUISS ENLABS spaces: a 5000sqm innovation hub in the heart of Rome, in the historic wing of Termini Station.

Startups will participate in seminars and will be supported in business development, investor networking, management, and technology development by a team of experts and a Board of Advisors of over 50 prominent members with various sectoral responsibilities. In addition, startups will receive an investment from LVenture Group of 80 thousand Euros, of which 30 thousand in cash and 50 thousand in services, in return for a 9% equity¹.

The Accelerator adopts the Scrum method: a management system of the work of the team aimed at accelerating the growth of companies and based on the definition of objectives to be achieved in 2-weeks "sprints" followed by "Demo Days" in which to present the results obtained and data collected. After the first 2 months, mainly dedicated to the development of the product, the phase of validation

¹ The investment is carried through Participatory Financial Instruments (Strumenti Finanziari Partecipativi, SFP) issued by startups themselves, that can be converted into equity at the end of the Acceleration Program if the startup has proven to be able to achieve significant results on the market.

and tests on the market will start. In the last month, startups will have to produce revenues and prepare for the presentation to investors, corporate and press during the Investor Day, the final event of the program to be held in November 2017.

THE OPPORTUNITY - Among the strengths of LUISS ENLABS, there are a community of startups and actors in the innovation world and a network of investors, large corporates and institutions. *"The synergies and contacts arising within our "ecosystem" are precisely what spurs the rapid growth and success of startups"* said **Augusto Coppola, Director of LUISS ENLABS Acceleration Program** - *"We rely on numbers to confirm the validity of our model. The success rate in terms of startups collecting new investments after graduating from the Acceleration Program is particularly interesting: it stands at 94%, well above the 61% average estimated by the Global Accelerators Network (GAN), network of best accelerators in the world, of which LUISS ENLABS is part"*.

THE SELECTION - The selection process begins by applying online through LUISS ENLABS' website by April 2nd, 2017. Applications will be evaluated in April and an initial selection of startups will participate in the "Selection Day", a meeting with LUISS ENLABS' Team and part of the Board of Advisors. The final choice will be made in May. Startups must meet the following requirements to participate:

- Being digital startups and having at least a working prototype of the product or a validated idea (Minimum Viable Product);
- Having a team with a full set of skills, especially tech development skills, willing to move to Rome for the duration of the program and commit to working on the project full-time;
- Propose a competitive solution in a strongly growing market sector.

To participate in the call: luissenlabs.com/applications/

LVenture Group SpA is a holding company listed on the MTA of the Italian Stock Exchange operating in the Venture Capital industry, with an international perspective, by investing in digital startups with high growth potential. It's currently a leader in these segments: 1) Micro-Seed financing: investment of limited financial resources in startups participating in LUISS ENLABS' Acceleration Program; 2) Seed financing: investments in startups in more advanced stages of growth that require more financial resources to support product development and market entry.

www.lventuregroup.com

LVenture Group S. p. A.

Via Marsala, 29 H / I Share Capital: 8.444.949i.v.
00185-Roma P.IVA 01932500026
T 39 06 45473124 CF 81020000022
Pec: lventuregroup.pec@legalmail.it REA RM - 1356785
lventuregroup.com

LUISS ENLABS

Via Marsala, 29 H / I
00185-Rome
T 39 06 45473124
luissenlabs.com
info@luissenlabs.com

LUISS ENLABS "The Factory of Startup" is one of the leading Startup Accelerators in Europe, born in 2013 from a joint venture between LVenture Group and the LUISS University. Its mission is to support startups in the process of growth and development, to enable them to operate successfully in their own reference sector. Financial resources for the Acceleration Program are provided by LVenture Group. LUISS ENLABS is based in Rome, inside Termini Station, via Marsala 29H, within a space of about 5.000 square meters, where over 40 startups that employ more than 500 people operate.

Luissenlabs.com

LVENTURE GROUP:

External Relations Manager

Bianca Santillo

Via Marsala, 29 H - 00185 Rome

M +39 347 88 46 872

bianca.santillo@lventuregroup.com

www.lventuregroup.com

LVenture Group S. p. A.

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