Co-funded by the European Union, 2024-2026, GA 101135986

LAUDS Factories

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

LAUDS REPLICATION **OC2-2025-laudsrep-01**

CALL COORDINATOR:

INOVA+

Co-funded by the European Union

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

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1. INTRODUCTION

This is the second Open Call for Experiments Proposals under the project ***LAUDS Factories - Local Accessible Urban Digital and Sustainable Factories: New European Bauhaus Approach to Open and Decentralised Urban Manufacturing***[1], which is co-funded by the European Union.

Through the *Open Call #2 | LAUDS Replication (OC#2)*, LAUDS project aims to take its model to other contexts, by supporting hybrid teams (composed of at least artistic/creative entities and technology providers) to collaborate and co-design the development of a LAUDS factory, replicating the models and adjusting them to the contextual specificities, while answering to pressing challenges related to the mobility, energy and agriculture/food production sectors.

Funding per Experiment: EUR 27 000

Number of Experiments to be Funded: 8 Experiments

Experiments expected duration: 6 to 9 months (Nov.2025–Aug.2026)

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[1] Project website: https://lauds.eu/. Project on Cordis: https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101135986/en

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2. BACKGROUND

Societal transformation and appropriate innovation governance models along with new technical solutions are seen as important pillars in solving environmental problems. Today, seeds of this societal and industrial transformation exist.

Digital communities gather around open-source innovative projects, makers create collectives of professionals, artists and tinkerers in third places to **co-create solutions while designing global and manufacturing local**.

SMEs, looking for more sustainable new business models, are inventing circular and sense-making businesses in various territories. An **agile co-creation based on "do no significant harm" principle** is a known development practice that can be expanded to the whole manufacturing chain.

The transition to a low carbon, resource efficient, circular and sustainable bioeconomy, with its technological potentials and proven applications and initiatives like the **New European Bauhaus** offers solutions to the challenges society is facing today.

Transformation processes towards a climate positive society call for finding new ways and patterns of decentralised, local and urban manufacturing within existing ecosystems. Small, versatile factories, close to innovators and customers allow various types of customised products to be produced in regions close to the consumer that create a virtuous cycle based on design-produce-use-repair-recycle loops.

Such factories can enable the production of customised products in small series at a cost comparable to mass-produced products, helping to promote new skills and new job opportunities, and create activity in the local area, with the subsequent economic benefits to the community.

By bringing production inside the local market, small factories can reduce transportation costs and time, increase resilience by cutting the supply chains and making it easier for customers to access the products they need and subsequently reduce the required resources of the production process, which aligns with the sustainability goals of many modern consumers and those envisioned by the EU.

3. OBJECTIVES AND CHALLENGES

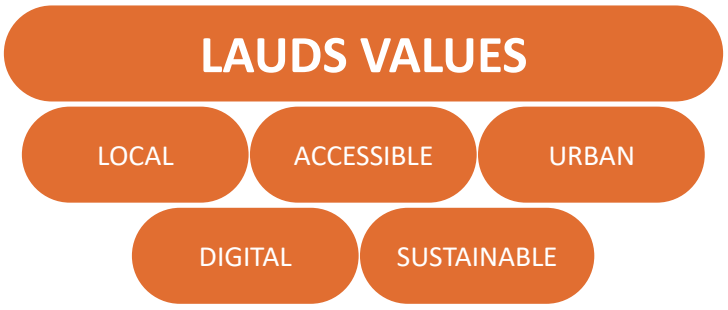
***LAUDS Factories* — Local, Accessible, Urban, Digital and Sustainable Factories** — is an innovative concept aiming at promoting and creating small, versatile factories in local and urban areas to co-create and produce customised products in small series.

The project aims to incorporate innovative and active resiliency capabilities at production and supply chain levels, as part of a green, circular, and digital transformation. The project seeks to create an increased personalised experience for customers, enhance their satisfaction and loyalty to local manufacturing businesses and, more generally, to boost local development of open and decentralised manufacturing ecosystems.

The *Open Call #2 | LAUDS Replication* will award 8 Experiments, proposed by hybrid teams, that replicate LAUDS models and adjust them to the contextual specificities, while answering to pressing challenges related to the mobility, energy and agriculture/food production sectors (*see challenges detailed descriptions in the OC#2 - Catalogue of Challenges*).

The selected teams will implement their projects in cooperation with one of the *LAUDS Factories Experiments Hosting Partners* (*see Table 1*), benefiting from the guidance and support of LAUDS Factories partners, while contributing to improve the LAUDS Factories Partners and Project processes and procedures, connecting potential manufacturers partners, creatives and end-users.

Within the proposed activities, Applicants are asked to explore the LAUDS values[2], implementing activities such as development of open-source hardware either as new solutions or further development of existing solutions; conception of novel uses of technologies that help push for green solutions; or replication of alternative design methods using artistic practices creating new industrial models, following the LAUDS values.



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[2] Local, Accessible, Urban, Digital and Sustainable.

***Table 1** - LAUDS Factories Experiments' Hosting Partners and related Challenges*

LAUDS Factories Experiments Hosting Partner	Domain	Challenges
Bauhaus-Universität Weimar (Germany)	Mobility	Designing effective solutions for active and non-motorized transport
	Energy	Reimagining energy delivery systems
METALAB (Ukraine)	Agriculture/ Food	Advancing Urban Sustainability Through Community-Based Green Education and Cultivation Systems
	Agriculture/ Food	Local production of affordable and sustainable materials for agriculture
SUPSI University of applied sciences and arts of Southern Switzerland. (Switzerland)	Mobility	Imaginative solutions for inclusive and accessible transportation
	Energy	Reusing Fabrics and Advanced Biomaterials for Energy-Efficient Interiors
TMDC Taller para la Materialización y el Desarrollo de (grandes) Conceptos (Spain)	Mobility	Reducing carbon footprint of urban transport systems
	Energy	Democratizing energy through DIY renewable energy solutions
Université de Lorraine, Lorraine Smart Cities Living Lab (France)	Agriculture/ Food	From Waste to Resource: community-driven food waste valorisation solutions
	Mobility	Innovative solutions for informed, accessible decision-making

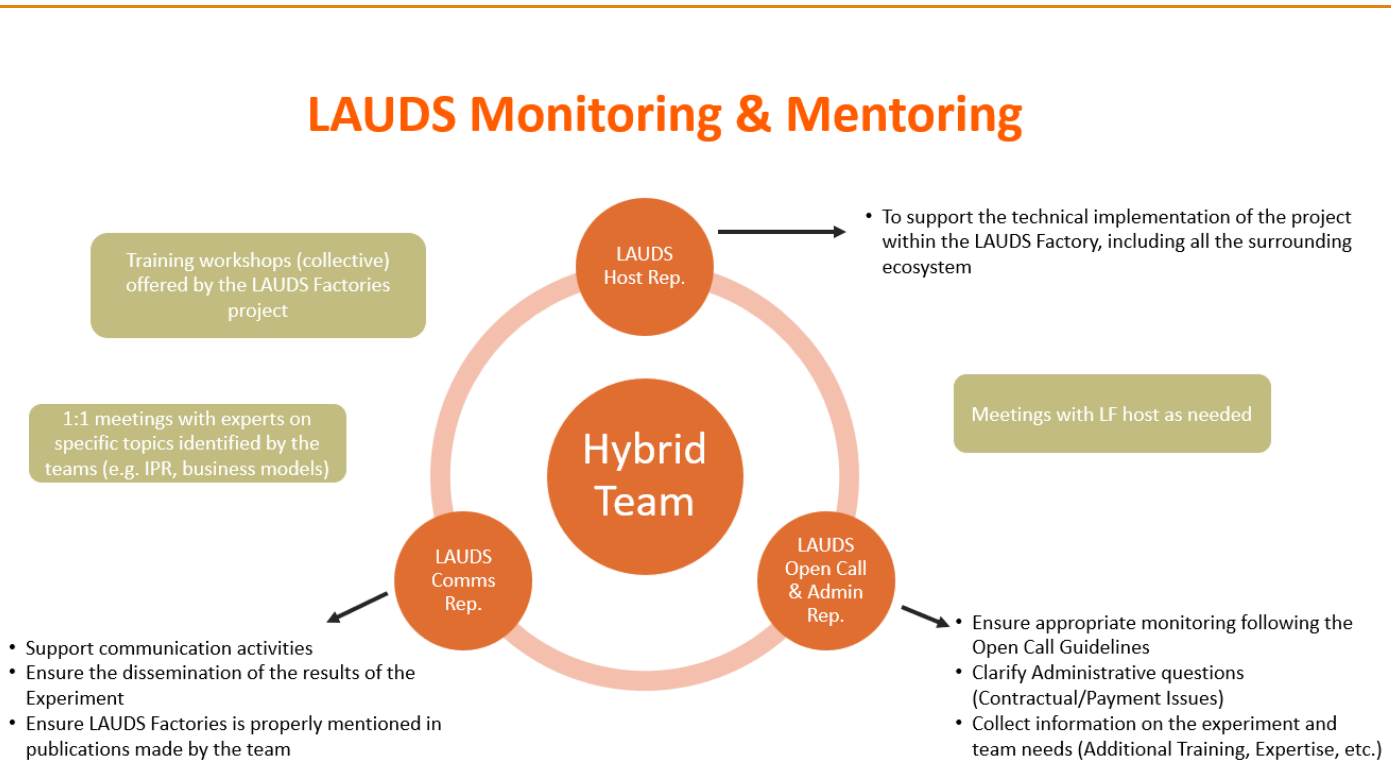
Detailed information about the challenges is available in the **OC#2 - Catalogue of Challenges**, accessible on the ***OC#2 Call Kit Documentation*** at the LAUDS Factories website: https://lauds.eu/open-calls/2.

The *Open Call #2 | LAUDS Replication* expects to select two (2) proposals per 3 LAUDS Factories, one (1) challenge per 2 LAUDS Factories and at least one (1) proposal per domain. Nevertheless, the LAUDS Factories Project reserves the right to decide differently on this distribution based on the quality of the proposals received.

4. LAUDS BENEFITS

OC#2 of LAUDS Factories will support at least 8 Experiments with:

- Up to 27.000 EUR each Experiment;
- 3 types of mentoring and assistance: administrative (provided by INOVA+), technical (provided by LAUDS Factories Hosting Partner) and communication (SUPSI). Meetings to be scheduled as needed;
- 1:1 meetings with experts on specific topics identified by selected teams (e.g. IPR, business models);
- Training workshops (collective) offered by the LAUDS Factories Partners and other experts;
- Networking and promotion opportunities.



5. EXPECTED OUTPUTS

Selected Experiments shall implement activities addressing the challenges, objectives and requests mentioned in this *Call for Proposals*. Experiments will be asked to deliver at least the following outputs:

1) one ***challenge-focused report*** describing the developed replication process including a blueprint of the proposed solution (where relevant);

2) one ***final report*** on the collaboration with the LAUDS Factories Partners;

3) ***Photos, videos and social media content*** reporting the process, outputs and events implemented within the experiment. At least 10 photos, 2 short videos; 3 key short stories for social media (Instagram and LinkedIn);

4) A visual LAUDS Blueprint Canvas to document and communicate the process. The Blueprint is developed with the support of the communication coaches of SUPSI.

5) ***Feedback on Experiment's impact through short surveys and interviews;***

6) Participation in one LAUDS Factories event promoted within the project LAUDS Factories.

Templates will be provided to selected Experiments.

6. EU FUNDING VISIBILITY AND EXPERIMENTS PROMOTION

Selected Teams must clearly acknowledge the European Union's contribution in all activities related to the selected Experiment and seek to promote as much as possible the Experiment and its activities through communication and dissemination actions. Selected teams will be required to give prominence to the name and emblem of the European Commission on all their activities implemented under the co-financed action. Where appropriate, they should also use the LAUDS Factories logo and visuals. Guidelines will be provided to the successful applicants. Moreover, Applicants will be asked to include in applications **plans to promote their Experiments** through appropriate dissemination and communication actions.

7. TIMETABLE

The indicative schedule for the different stages of the selection procedure is as follows:

Table 2 *- LAUDS Replication Open Call Timetable*

Stage of the Open Call	Planned Date
Call opening	2 June 2025
Deadline for applications submission	15 September 2025 – 17:00 (CET), Brussels time
Applications' Evaluation	16 September – 14 October 2025
Information on evaluation results	21 October 2025
Sub-grant agreement signature	10 November 2025
Experiment execution timeframe	11 November 2025 – 31 August 2026

The LAUDS Factories project reserves the right to adjust the planned timetable and any change will be announced in the communication channels of the project.

8. AVAILABLE BUDGET

A total budget of 216.000 Euros is allocated to the LAUDS Replication Open Call to fund the participation of at least 8 Experiments[3].

Selected Experiments will receive a grant that **cannot surpass 27.000€** per Experiment. The grant will be paid in three lump sums:

- one at the beginning of the project (40% with the sub-grant agreement signature),
- the second with an interim assessment (40%),
- and at the end of the project pending the achievement of agreed milestones and deliverables (20% with expected outcome).

At the proposal stage, applicants must submit a budget overview for the implementation of their Experiment, including the expected costs concerning Staff Costs; Travel Costs; Equipment/Tech Consumables Costs (depreciation) and, whenever required, Subcontracting Costs. Following the standard flat rate applicable in the Horizon Europe programme, a flat rate of 25% for overheads will be applied.

All payments will be subject to tax and other reductions according to the laws of all involved countries.

Multiple applications are possible under this call. In these cases, applicants need to submit one application form per Experiment proposal. However, only one proposal can be awarded per applicant.

9. ADMISSIBILITY AND DOCUMENTS

- Proposals must be submitted **electronically** via https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/lauds-call-2-replication. Paper or email submissions are NOT admissible.
- Proposals must be submitted in **English** using the Application Form and templates provided on the submission page.
- Proposals must be complete, containing all requested documents and information requested in the Application Form.
- Additional supporting documents (e.g., bank account validation) will be requested only from selected applicants.

Consult all detailed guidelines in LAUDS OC#2 Guide for Applicants.

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[3] The LAUDS Factories Consortium reserves the right not to award all available funds or to redistribute them between the open calls planned within the project, depending on the quality of the applications received and the results of the evaluation.

10. SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications meeting the eligibility criteria will be evaluated according to four criteria, as presented in the Table next:

***Table 2** - LAUDS Replication Open Call evaluation criteria*

Evaluation Criteria (EC)	Description
EC1. Technical approach & Art-Tech congruency	• Soundness of concept, quality of objectives and innovative elements of the proposal. Interaction with hosting LAUDS factories. • Quality and effectiveness of the work plan and outputs. • Synergy between members of the hybrid team will be assessed.
EC2. Innovation potential and impact	• Originality and novelty of presented ideas. • Relevance and credibility of the expected impacts of the proposed contribution, including at local, economic, environmental and social levels. • Quality of measures for exploitation and scale-up, including communication and dissemination actions.
EC3. Technical capacities	• Demonstration of competences and skills of the project team and its capacity to carry out the activities of the proposal. • Complementarity of partners.
EC4. Cost-benefit	• Adequacy of budget requested against the proposed workplan.

* Innovation potential and impact criterion is given a weight of 1.5 to determine the final ranking.

Each criterion will be scored from 0 to 5, following the rationale below:

0	Fail	The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be judged due to incomplete or missing information.
1	**Poor**	The criterion is inadequately addressed or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
2	**Fair**	The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
3	**Good**	The proposal addresses the criterion well, but several shortcomings are present.
4	**Very Good**	The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
5	**Excellent**	The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

The threshold for each criterion is three (3). Any proposal receiving a score below 3 in any single criterion will be automatically rejected without further review. Only proposals meeting or exceeding the minimum thresholds will advance to the competitive selection phase. For proposals that successfully pass the threshold requirements, final selections will prioritize those with the highest cumulative scores across all criteria. The final selection will consider the following planned distribution:

- Two (2) proposals per three LAUDS Factories Hosts;
- One (1) challenge per two LAUDS Factories Hosts;

- A minimum of one (1) proposal from each domain.

Nevertheless, the LAUDS Factories Project reserves the right to decide differently on this distribution based on the quality of the proposals received.

11. PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

The reply to any call for proposals involves the recording and processing of personal data (such as name, e-mail, and address). Such data will be processed pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016[4] on the protection of natural persons regarding the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data. Unless indicated otherwise, the questions and any personal data requested that are required to evaluate the application in accordance with the call for proposal will be processed solely for that purpose by the LAUDS consortium.

12. CONTACT INFORMATION

If, after reading the **Guide for Applicants** and the **FAQs** available in the call webpage, you have further questions regarding the Open Call process, please send us an email at lauds.opencall@inova.business.

The LAUDS consortium will provide information to the applicants via LAUDS Factories website, so that the information (question and answer) will be visible to all participants. No binding information will be provided via any other mean (e.g., telephone or email).

** In case of any technical issues, please include the following information in your message:*

- *your name and your email address;*
- *details of the specific problem (error messages you encountered, bugs descriptions, i.e. if a dropdown list isn't working, etc.);*
- *screenshots of the problem.*

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[4] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02016R0679-20160504

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LAUDS OC#2 CALL:

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

CATALOGUE OF CHALLENGES

LAUDS FACTORIES CONSORTIUM PARTNERS

TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN / GRENOBLE INP-UGA / G-SCOP LABORATORY / UNIVERSITE GRENOBLE ALPES / HSU – HELMUT-SCHMIDT UNIVERSITY / UNIVERSITY OF THE FEDERAL ARMED FORCES HAMBURG / UNIVERSITÉ DE LORRAINE / ZENTRUM FÜR SOZIALE INNOVATION GMBH / INOVA+, INNOVATION SERVICES, S.A / MAKER V-10 / STICHTING DYNE.ORG / BAUHAUS-UNIVERSITÄT WEIMAR / FAB CITY HAMBURG E.V. / HIWW UG / FABLAB DIGITAL FABRICATION AND OPEN INNOVATION LAB SUPSI / MEKANIKA / METALAB / TMDC

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