

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
ICMPD EMLINK Project

SHORT-TERM MOBILITY PROGRAMME IN BELGIUM FOR GEORGIAN START-UPS

Strengthening the Partnership between Belgium and Georgia through Temporary Mobility of Entrepreneurs (EMLINK)

The project “Strengthening the Partnership between Belgium and Georgia through Temporary Mobility of Entrepreneurs (EMLINK)” is aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation between Belgium and Georgia by designing a pilot temporary mobility scheme for outstanding entrepreneurs. The EMLINK project is funded by the European Union through the Migration Partnership Facility (MPF) and implemented by International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) on behalf of Belgium. By promoting the managed mobility of businessmen and women, the initiative is designed to facilitate access to new markets and business opportunities, all while increasing the competitiveness of the private sector, incentivising job creation, and increasing foreign investments, that is in its turn the main goal of the SME Development Strategy of Georgia for 2021-2025. To foster collaboration between Georgia and Belgium, EMLINK delivers tailored guidance and support, and connects Georgian entrepreneurs with Belgian stakeholders keen to support startups in their growth journey.

For this aim, ICMPD EMLINK project is launching the call for participation for start-ups in Georgia. The sector-agnostic program is committed to advancing early-stage, ambitious Georgian start-ups that demonstrate clear potential for international expansion.

Selected start-ups will have the opportunity to:



Participate in the study tour to Belgium for establishing useful contacts and form strategic partnerships



Get acquainted with local start-up eco-system and acceleration possibilities in Belgium



Network with investors, VCs and accelerators in Belgium



Explore opportunities provided by the EU-funded programs for start-ups

Interested candidates are invited to submit applications by **31 March 2024!**

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Program Activities: What to expect?

- Pre-departure training and orientation sessions for start-ups enabling for the engagement in the tour to Belgium
- Counselling to selected start-ups on access to acceleration grants, both in Georgia and in Belgium
- Networking sessions with Belgium investors, VCs, accelerators, startup support organizations, and EU representatives
- Workshops and masterclasses by industry experts onsite in Belgium

Eligibility and Selection Criteria: Who can Apply?

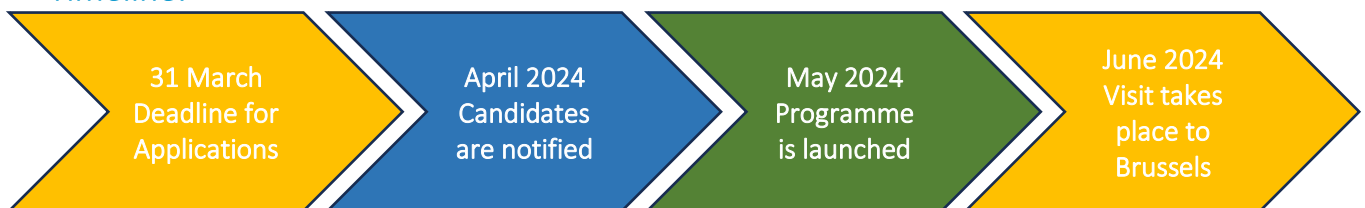
The Programme is open to all start-ups fulfilling the following criteria:

- ✓ **Innovation Focus:** Commitment to technology and innovation with unique and scalable solutions
- ✓ **Rapid Growth Potential:** Capacity for rapid growth and scalability
- ✓ **Investment Readiness:** Potential to attract investment
- ✓ **Market Entry Ambition:** Aspiring to expand beyond local markets, especially into the Belgian one
- ✓ **Pre-seed or Seed Stage:** Armed with a fully functional MVP or a product on the market
- ✓ **Founding Team:** Founders with proven abilities to execute and collaborate effectively
- ✓ **Market Potential:** Addressing sizable and growing markets with potential for significant impact
- ✓ **Traction:** Initial traction or clear evidence of market interest
- ✓ **Commitment:** Full-time commitment and dedication to your startup's success
- ✓ **Knowledge of English language (working level) is a must.** Knowledge of German and/or French will be an advantage.

Fees and Costs:

Application and participation in the programme are **free of charge**. All fees including travel to (and back from) Brussels, Belgium, individual accommodation and meals for the duration of the training, as well as in country transportation will be covered by ICMPD.

Timeline:



How to Apply:

The application process is virtual and only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Please submit your application via the WeTransfer platform to the following e-mail address: emlink@icmpd.org

Make sure to include the following documentation:

- ✓ Filled out application form. [Access the form here](#)
- ✓ Pitch deck
- ✓ CV of the Founder(s)/Co-founder(s)
- ✓ CV of the CEO

For Questions:

Send all your queries related to the programme or the application process to emlink@icmpd.org

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