



Funded by
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LIRA Innovation Program



Applicant Guide YEAR 2025

PROGRAM COORDINATOR



PROGRAM PARTNERS



INTRODUCTION

The L.I.R.A Innovation Program 2025, launched by IRALEB, in its second edition is a groundbreaking initiative supporting early-phase innovation for academic researchers and talented students. Focused on applied research projects in sectors like agrifood, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, ICT, and creative industries, the program aims to foster collaboration and develop impactful projects with real-world applications. With a legacy of over 25 years, L.I.R.A. national program with core mission to support youth and industrial advancements has been enhanced. This uplifting of the program conducted under the umbrella of "Lebanon Innovate" and funded by the "European Union" is empowering researchers to turn their innovative ideas into successful ventures or industrial solutions with the support of both Lebanese and European partners.

The graphic features a central lightbulb with the text "APPLY NOW & GET" inside. Surrounding the lightbulb are icons and labels for "ACCELERATION", "INCUBATION", "HACKATHON", "GRANTS 65,000 €", and "HEALTHCARE AGRIFOOD ICT". A QR code is located at the bottom right with the text "FOR MORE INFO WWW.IBALEB.ORG". At the top, logos for the European Union, Lebanon Innovate, and IRA are displayed. The bottom section lists the Program Coordinator (Berytech) and Program Partners (ANIMA, ebn, IRI, IRA, LEITAT).

In the context of Lebanon Innovate, we added to our LIRA competition entrepreneurship components by providing applicants with not only financial support but also capacity-building training, acceleration, incubation, access to EU networks, mentorship, legal consultancy, and opportunities for collaboration with international partners.

TWO DISTINCT TRACKS

*Empowering
Lebanon's
Academic
Researchers
for Industrial
Impact*



LIRA Application form



Call for interest:
industrial partnership

IRALEB is offering two distinct tracks to cater to your goals.

Track 1 targeting **Commercially Viable Innovations** is funded under Lebanon Innovate with a financial support of €50,000 allocated for 5 innovators engaged in the **creation of innovative startups or spinoffs**.

The LIRA program offers a range of benefits to participants. By joining, you will have the opportunity to receive financial support for your project up to €10,000, along with capacity-building training, acceleration, and incubation services.

How to engage?

Consult our website iraleb.org and call for projects to prepare the required information: description of your project, uniqueness, innovation, detailed design, budget, industrial application, expected deliverables, and virtual render.

Apply to LIRA through the online application portal from February 5 till March 10 2025.

Track 2 is dedicated to address **Real Industrial Innovative Challenges developed in partnership with Industrialists**. IRALEB will be co-funding €15,000 for three high-caliber projects. These projects focusing on enhancing existing products, upgrading production lines, or developing entirely new production lines.

How to engage?

If your project is developed with an industrial partner, prepare the letter of engagement and required information (as previous) and start filling the application on the February 5.

Opportunity for Industrial Partnerships: If you are looking for an industrial partner: [watch our teaser](#), start by filling the [Call for interest form](#) to choose your industrial partner. Iraleb will connect you with interested industrial partners matching your field. After reaching an agreement, join efforts to apply for LIRA funding supported by your industrialist and transform your industrial challenges into impactful solutions. The endorsement letter, specifying industrial contribution to the project is required.

PHASES AND ACTIVITIES

Phase I: Capacity-building Hackathon [by IRALEB experts] (March 2025)

- **Objective:** Host 25 teams in Track 1 (2 per team) of innovators to address challenges with focus on Innovation Management, Commercialization, Spin-Offs. 10 shortlisted teams from Track 2 will undergo capacity building.
- **Activities:** Students and researchers participate in the "Innovation Olympics with a 3 days training. 10 ideas are selected for the following acceleration phase.

Phase II: Acceleration [by Berytech experts] (April - June, 2025)

- **Objective:** Empower 10 teams through a 25-hour acceleration bootcamp, emphasizing Market Validation, Commercialization, and IP Strategy.
- **Activities:** Tailored research acceleration support includes group coaching over 20 hours in three months. At the end, a professional screening committee selects 5 teams for incubation by Berytech. Acceleration is optional for track 2.

Phase III a: Incubation [by Berytech experts] (July - Dec, 2025)

- **Activities:** Incubation program provides technical assistance in developing business plans and prototypes. Support includes access to business and funding networks. Incubation is optional for innovators engaged in track 2.

Phase III b: Grants [by IRALEB] (July - Dec, 2025)

- **Financial Support:** LIRA Innovation Program allocates €50,000 for 5 researchers/innovators for developing prototypes and MVPs (track 1). IRALEB co-funds not less than €15,000 for three applied research projects addressing industrial challenges (track 2).
- **Reimbursements:** Issued based on the assessment of submitted official invoices and receipts, milestones, conditional on executing and demonstrating the functional prototype in the LIRA Forum.

Phase IV: Award Ceremony (January 2026)

- **Event:** Closing ceremony exhibits prototypes in the forum and awards special prizes.



Strong tangible
industrial
development



Validated proof
of concept



Program
Commitment



5 teams selected
track1 & 3 teams
track2

ELIGIBLE RESEARCHERS

Track 1:

1. Applied Research projects submitted by students or faculty members
2. Legal Entity Commitment: Teams committed to establishing legal entities for funding access.
3. Applied Research showing applied research outcomes preferably with published and validated proof of concept.
4. Innovative Projects with the potential to create commercial spin-offs that generate impact (either as a commercialize-able or market ready product)
5. Projects showing a strong potential for tangible industrial development.

Track 2:

1. Projects submitted by Academia: team of students and supervisors or faculty members
2. Projects Solving Industrial Challenges
3. Researchers co-applying with Industry Partners with financial engagement.

Do you have any commercially innovative Idea?

Did you develop a prototype that needs to be upgraded to MVP?

Is your MVP accomplished and you need to commercialize and register it?

Are you eager to develop prototypes addressing industrial challenges?

Are you looking for an industrial partner?

START YOUR INNOVATION JOURNEY WITH LIRA PROGRAM

EVALUATION CRITERIA

First Jury selection (based on online application)

Track 1:

70% – Innovation

30% – Market Applicability

Track 2:

40% – Innovation, including scalability

20% – Potential Impact

40% – Applicability to the Industry/Market



Additional Scoring is given for:

1. Implemented Prototypes aiming for MVP
2. Applied Research, prototypes or Innovation with IP component
3. Project focused on Product Development & Commercialisation
4. Multi-disciplinary projects
5. Projects developed in collaboration with an industrial partner, another local university, international academic institutions, or research centers.



Interested in taking part in this exciting journey, submit your application through our online portal before the deadline of march 10, 2025!

