ENCUBATOR REGULATION – FAQ

1. **To apply for the Encubator call, do we necessarily need to have a prototype?**
   It is a mandatory requirement of the application to present projects with a technology readiness level of at least 4 or 5. Therefore, it is necessary to have validated the basic functionalities of the technology in a laboratory (TRL 4) or to have demonstrated the overall performance of the technology in an operational environment (TRL 5). Projects with a lower technology readiness level will be automatically excluded.

2. **What is the TRL?**
   TRL stands for Technology Readiness Level, and it is the maturity level of a technology. In case of further doubts, please refer to Appendix 2. "Definitions and descriptions of the nine technology readiness levels (TRLs)" (pag. 52) of the BCG Report: http://media-publications.bcg.com/from-tech-to-deep-tech.pdf.

3. **Do we necessarily need to be incorporated at the time of the application?**
   No. You can either be registered or not registered as a company when you apply for Encubator. However, in case you are not incorporated and you are selected among the winners, you are required to do so within 6 (six) months from the proclamation of the winners. In case this requirement will not be respected by the winners who were not incorporated yet, they will not have access to the grant and to the acceleration program.

4. **What do we access to if we are selected among the winners of the call?**
   The winners will have access to a business acceleration program of 4 months delivered by PoliHub, Innovation District and Startup Accelerator of Politecnico di Milano. Besides this, the winners will receive a grant of €25k each.

5. **What types of agreements and collaboration we are not allowed to establish with competitors of the program's Partners?**
   The type of agreements and collaboration that cannot be undertaken are agreements for the realisation of a Proof of Concept (POC) or, more in general, any type of collaboration that would disclose sensitive information about your project for the entire duration of the acceleration program.

6. **How much time do we have to spend the grant?**
   The total amount of grant received should be spent within 12 (twelve) months from the effective disbursement (Art. 7). The invoice dates will be used to check the compliance with this criterion.