

Accelerating Investment in Montenegro (AIM)

Call for Expressions of Interest – AIM Startup Competition

The **AIM Startup Competition** is the early-stage innovation pillar of the **Accelerating Investment in Montenegro (AIM)** programme, a joint initiative of the Government of Montenegro through the Montenegrin Investment Agency (MIA) and the European Union Delegation. It offers a **structured route from early-stage application to high-visibility exposure**, culminating at the **AIM Investment Conference on 20–21 October 2026** in Portonovi, Montenegro, where finalists pitch on the main stage and the winner receives an award presented by the Prime Minister of Montenegro, in the presence of EU representatives and international investors.

Who can apply?

Open globally to founder-led startups seeking to scale and engage with Montenegro's emerging investment ecosystem. Applicants should typically:

- Be **less than five years old** and have raised **less than EUR 5 million** in total funding to date.
- Operate in one of the following sectors: **agribusiness, energy, ICT, transport, or logistics**. Startups in adjacent sectors are also encouraged to apply.
- Be **founder-led**, with a founder actively involved in day-to-day management, and demonstrate ambition for growth and regional or international expansion.

Competition tracks

The competition runs in **two tracks**, with applicants assessed only against peers within their own track. Both tracks are assessed on the same criteria and the same scoring scale:

- **Seed Track:** pre-funding to early-traction ventures with little or no capital raised (indicatively up to EUR 500,000).
- **Growth Track:** ventures with demonstrated traction that have raised more than EUR 500,000 and **less than EUR 5 million**.

What finalists receive?

Five to eight finalists are pre-selected from across both tracks and pitch on the main stage before 300+ participants — the Prime Minister, ministers, the EU Delegation, investors and corporates. The winner will:

- **Gain** high-level visibility at the AIM Investment Conference;
- **Receive** facilitated access to the AIM investor network and financing partners;
- **Access** a complimentary coworking space for two years via the Science and Technology Park of Montenegro (NTP);
- **Earn** a place in a structured 12-month AIM accelerator programme.

Process & submission

Applications combine a standardised slide deck, a short video pitch (2–3 min), and an online form, and are scored on innovation, team, market, and traction & viability by a jury of AIM institutional and ecosystem partners.

Deadline extended: to allow additional time to prepare, **apply by 1 September 2026, 23:00 CET** via the online form by [clicking here](#). Applications already submitted remain valid and do not need to be resubmitted.

For more information, please contact: contact@aim-innovation.org