



FAQ's

What is the Business Factory?

The Business Factory (BF) is a business incubator in the municipality of Mafra, created to support entrepreneurs and business projects that contribute to the region's economic development. The Business Factory has two branches: the Ericeira Business Factory, focused on the development of businesses related to the Ocean, Tourism and Technology Economies, and the Mafra Business Factory, dedicated to projects in the Agri-food, Tourism and Technology areas.

1. Can I apply to the Business Factory?

Yes. The Business Factory application process is always open, so you can submit your application whenever you take the decision to move on.

2. How do I apply to the Business Factory?

To make your application, just click on the "I want to apply" option on the Business Factory website, which will redirect you to the application form.

3. Do I need to have a company to apply?

No. Anyone can apply to the Business Factory whether you have already a company (with a maximum of 3 years of activity) or just a business idea you are looking to develop.

4. I am interested in virtual incubation; do I have to apply?

Yes, you always have to submit an application.





5. How does the incubator selection and admission process work?

After submitting the application, you will be invited to join a meeting to present your business or project. An analysis and decision period will then follow, and the candidate will subsequently be informed of the decision made by the incubator management team, whatever that may be.

6. How long does it take for the Business Factory to decide?

After the interview, the candidate will be informed of the admission decision within five working days, via email, by the Municipality of Mafra.

7. What is the evaluation criteria for Business Factory applications?

The application evaluation criteria is:

- Projects with innovative products/services;
- Projects incorporated in the strategic sectors set for each incubator;
- Reasonable and feasible projects;
- Projects with implementation capacity for the promotion team;
- Projects that contribute to greater competitiveness and innovation within the municipality of Mafra;
- Financially sustainable projects with potential for growth.

8. What type of projects or companies are accepted by the Business Factory?

The candidate interested in applying to the Business Factory should have a project or an idea that is linked to the business areas of the incubator's two branches; either Ericeira Business Factory which focusses on businesses related to the Ocean, Tourism and Technology Economies, or Mafra Business Factory which is dedicated to technology-based projects, Agri-food and Tourism sectors.





Other project that does not match with these categories may also be accepted, due to their innovative character, different from any other previously-existing business in the market, and that may contribute to a more innovative and competitive Mafra.

9. If my project is accepted, how long can I stay at the Business Factory?

Projects accepted to join the Business Factory community may remain incubated for up to 3 years, a period that can not be renewed. After the incubation period, the project will remain part of the community, in the alumni network.

10. What type of services does the Business Factory provide?

Projects incubated at the Business Factory have access to different types of services: individual mentoring; legal advice and management support services; partnerships that offer various benefits and opportunities; training and workshops for business development; access to the community for knowledge sharing and mutual aid; brand projection and communication.

The virtual incubation membership is designed for companies and entrepreneurs who want to take advantage of all the incubation services indicated above but who need/have to work remotely, not requiring a physical working space within the incubator's facilities.

The Business Factory also offers the "Hot Desks" membership, available to any entrepreneur who needs a one-off space to work for a limited period of time (maximum 15 days) should they be away from their usual office.

Local companies that need a mail reception service can access the Business Factory as an affiliated company. In this case, they are entitled to receive mail and use the meeting rooms for a maximum of 10 hours per month.

11. How much is the membership at the Business Factory?

For the membership plans, please access the Standards document available on our website.





12. I don't have a project incubated at the Business Factory, can I book a space at the Business Factory for events or meetings?

For meetings or events, Business Factory has rooms available that can be booked for use by third parties. To do so, make the request via email to businessfactory@cm-mafra.pt.

13. If I am not accepted for incubation can I apply again?

Yes. There is no limit to the number of times that you can apply, so you can make improvements to your project, or start a new one, and apply again.

14. What can I expect from my time at the Business Factory?

At the Business Factory we say “if you want to go fast, go alone; If you want to go further, let's go together”. We have a network of mentors, partners, and activities available, all focused on one goal: adding value to projects, making the path to success easier. We therefore hope that among all projects incubated, we can create a spirit of community and mutual help. We ask our founders to participate, whenever possible, in all activities offered, and to be open about sharing knowledge and suggestions / ideas that can further boost the entrepreneurial community and the local innovation ecosystem.

15. Why will my startup benefit from joining the Business Factory?

Here, everyday is about learning and achieving milestones. To be part of the Business Factory is to have access to an environment that promotes the sharing and exchange of knowledge, with a regular schedule of internal events, exclusive for members, and open to the community as guests, in order to maintain connection with various players and representatives of the national entrepreneurial ecosystem.



Mafra
Business Factory



Ericeira
Business Factory