

## RULES FOR PARTICIPATION

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### TECSAM Network's Program – 5<sup>th</sup> edition

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## 1. About the TECSAM Network

The Innovation Network of New Technologies in Mental Health (TECSAM) brings together 57 Catalan research groups from 25 institutions in the field of technology and mental health.

The aim of the TECSAM Network is to generate internal and external synergies, as well as to implement valorization and transfer strategies in order to accelerate the arrival to the society of the results of the research groups.

The TECSAM Network counts on the participation of associations of people with mental health problems and their families, and the support of the Mental Health Cluster of Catalonia as an affiliated entity. This project has been co-financed by the European Union through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF-FEDER) and is now co-financed by the Departament de Recerca i Universitats of the Generalitat de Catalunya.

## 2. Scope and description of the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the TECSAM Network's Programs: *Valorization & tech transfer Program*

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The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the TECSAM Network's Programs aim to **promote valorization and transfer of the technologies and knowledge** that have been generated within each of the research groups that belongs to the network.

The *Valorization & Tech Transfer Program* is the mechanism through which the Network will provide personalized tools to those groups that apply for **one of the following**:

- TECSAM team support for a specific project or goal (action to be agreed with the team)
- Legal mentoring
- Intellectual property studies
- Patentability analysis
- Technology exploitation strategy
- Regulatory mentoring
- Regulatory studies (e.g. Roadmap)
- Technology feasibility (no development) and scalability studies
- Business Plan preparation
- Elevator Pitch preparation
- Business Model, exploitation and revenue strategy mentoring
- Market analysis and market entry strategies mentoring
- Market analysis and market entry strategies development
- Marketing and communication strategies
- Fundraising strategies (spin-off development)
- Fundraising strategies (no spin-off development)
- How to approach companies for advising
- Participation in technology transfer fairs for the dissemination of the project and participation in matchmaking events
- Other

Each group can **apply up to three** service vouchers, although **only one service will be selected** for each application; thus, we strongly advice to add a prioritization order in the application form. Nevertheless, **each group can apply for another service voucher if they successfully complete the previous one**. By doing this, we aim to reward these groups which actively participate in the Programs, helping them to advance their TRL and facilitate their success. Each group can receive **up to five (5) mentoring sessions** by the associate professionals per voucher; once completed, they can apply again for the same voucher to continue with these sessions.

TECSAM network reserves the right to offer another voucher, instead of the applied service, which the experts consider more suitable. With this, TECSAM aims to help

groups follow the proper path to increase the project TRL and assure a correct protection of its technologies and projects. In the case the group does not accept the offered voucher, the steering committee will review the original proposal in order to decide whether it is accepted or not.

In the case a proposal is not accepted, TECSAM encourage the group to participate again in the following cut-off. A brief explanation on why this has not been accepted and which aspects to improve to be admitted in the next cut-off will be provided by TECSAM to the group, thus increasing the chances to be successful in the next cut-off.

The “TECSAM team support for a specific project or goal” voucher scope and dedication will be agreed between the research and the TECSAM team, and will depend on the approval of the Steering Committee. Different actions can be proposed, such as: reviewing calls (transfer focused calls), support in the redaction of agreed parts from calls, business plan..., collaboration in communication actions, among others.

All of this will be done with the support of top tier advisory agencies in the market, which will be recruited according to the proposals and specific needs of the groups.

The *Valorization & Tech Transfer Program* will also provide:

- Personalized advice by the TECSAM network professionals.
- Personalized continuous follow-up
- Possibility that TECSAM Network becomes partner of the future spin-off in terms of equity participation, other benefits or incentives, in exchange of advisory services (only if the research group shows a willingness to do so, and previous agreement with it and its institution).

### 3. Eligibility criteria

The requirements to be able to access the *Valorization & Tech Transfer Program* of the TECSAM Network will be:

1. The idea/product/technology/result/knowledge/service presented must be applied in the field of mental health (the scope of the TECSAM Network).
2. To present an application form for each of the ideas/proposals/technologies that the group wants to bring closer to society and the market with the help of the TECSAM Network Program. **TRL $\geq$ 3 projects will be prioritized, however we encourage all the projects to apply.**
3. The person submitting the application form has to be part of one of the groups' members of the TECSAM Network.

4. It is a must to have the approval of the PI of the group to which this person belongs.
5. Personal commitment (either from the person submitting the application form or from another member of the group) to follow the Program during the weeks of the initiative. Moreover, this responsible person will be in charge of transmitting and communicating all the information to the PI of the group.
6. The proposal submitted has to be aligned to the nature of the call. If there are any doubts about the fit of the proposal, the Steering Committee and the coordination of the TECSAM Network may suggest the alternative service that it deems most appropriate.

## 4. Participation process

The call is structured as an **Open Call**, in which the members of the TECSAM Network can submit proposals at any time between **February 15<sup>th</sup> 2025 and November 30<sup>th</sup> 2025**.

There are 5 cut-off points pre-defined in which **each group can select up to three service vouchers**, although they will receive support in **only one of them** (see section 2) *per* application. Once a service voucher is completed, the group can apply for another service voucher.

- Cut-off point 1: 31/03/25
- Cut-off point 2: 31/05/25
- Cut-off point 3: 31/07/25
- Cut-off point 4: 30/09/25
- Cut-off point 5: 30/11/25

We will prioritize the projects presented during the first cut-off point. The total budget of the 2025 Program is estimated to be around 30.000€. The program will finance projects until the 5<sup>th</sup> cut-off point or until running out of budget. Projects selected in the last 2025 cut-off (30 November 2025) will have the opportunity to start and continue the adjudicated services in the present edition during early 2026.

The TECSAM Network will communicate the groups which service voucher they receive **after the cut-off point date**. If a group is not selected for a voucher during the present cut-off point, it will also be contacted and advised to how successfully apply for the next one, something we encourage to do.

In order to participate in the Program, the groups must:

1. Fill in the corresponding application form, selecting which service voucher they would like to receive. **We strongly recommend to add a prioritization order for the applied services.**

2. The **groups must designate one (or more) responsible individuals**, who will be the one/s to carry out the advisory activities, and commit to the follow-up of the proposed activities.
3. **Only one candidature for each project will be accepted *per* cut-off.**
4. If a selected project does not initiate the services before the end of the next TECSAM network programs cut-off (usually two (2) months) after being awarded, TECSAM Network holds the right to withdraw the awarded services. However, if the group is still willing to pursue the services, they can reapply for the them in the upcoming cut-off.
5. Send the file by e-mail to [judit.lopez@sjd.es](mailto:judit.lopez@sjd.es) or [emilio.tomas@sjd.es](mailto:emilio.tomas@sjd.es) including “TECSAM Program Application” as the subject of the e-mail.

## 5. Evaluation process and selection criteria

The evaluation and selection process of the proposals to access the Program will be as follows:

1. The coordination of the TECSAM Network will analyze if the proposal meets the eligibility criteria. Extra information could be requested if required.
2. The Steering Committee, the coordination of the TECSAM Network, together with external experts if needed, will evaluate each of the proposals of the participation forms that are eligible. The same Committee will select the service voucher based on the group necessities and the selected prioritization order. TECSAM Network reserve the right to offer another service voucher in case the selected by the group are considered not appropriate for the project current state.
3. Among the evaluation criteria, the following will be taken into account: 1) the idea, 2) the market opportunities and their potential, 3) the current state of development (TRL, BRL, SRL), 4) the motivation and commitment of the team, among others (participation of people affected by mental health problems, gender aspects, proposals in which various groups of the TECSAM Network collaborate), 5) the participation in previous cut-off, and 6) the voucher cost and the remaining money allocated in the edition / cut-off.
4. In the case of the proposal being not accepted, TECSAM network will provide a brief explanation to the group indicating its reasons and providing suggestions to increase the chances to being a successful proposal for the next cut-off.

In the case of “Participation in technology transfer fairs for the dissemination of the project and participation in matchmaking events”, a specific criteria will be followed:

- The congress must be focused on the technology transference and/or the group must demonstrate possibility of matchmaking meetings with potential partners interested in the technology attending to the conference.
- The visit must be oriented to the dissemination and transference of the Project.

- The TRL of the Project must be enough to benefit from participating in the congress.
- In case of being accepted, TECSAM will fund Congress entrance fees (accommodation, diets and transport to be determined).
- A maximum of 2 people per project will be eligible per cut-off

As an exceptional case, some projects might receive the requested services prior to the cut-off deadline and the Steering Committee final approval. These cases will be selected by TECSAM Network coordination team, based on the criteria:

1. The group fulfil the application and presents it before the cut-off deadline.
2. The group agrees that no other application for the same project can be made during the same cut-off.
3. The support service solicited by the group has a deadline or is urgent.
4. The support service solicited by the group does not imply hiring new services with superior cost over 2.000€ or can be addressed through the current pool of services hired.

All the services requested and approved **must be** eligible by the funding agency.

## 6. Visibility and follow-up

To improve the impact and visibility of TECSAM Network, the groups awarded with support may be asked to:

- Include the logo of TECSAM Network in public presentations featuring the supported project and the sentence “with the support of the TECSAM Network”.

Besides, although **not mandatory**, TECSAM Network would encourage mentions in the group's websites and in social networks (e.g., Twitter, LinkedIn or Instagram), quoting the TECSAM Network as a collaborator in the project.

By doing this, we aim to improve TECSAM Network visibility and impact, allowing more groups and enterprises to get in touch with the network, and thus improving the overall opportunities of the TECSAM associated groups.

## 7. Timeline (5th Edition)

March 31<sup>st</sup> 2025: cut-off point 1

May 31<sup>st</sup> 2025: cut-off point 2

July 31<sup>st</sup> 2025: cut-off point 3

September 30<sup>th</sup> 2025: cut-off point 4

November 30<sup>th</sup> 2025: cut-off point 5

December 2025: Program end

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## 8. Acceptance of the Rules

Participation in the Programs entails full and unconditional acceptance of these Rules. Recognition as a valid participant is subject to compliance with the requirements set forth in these Rules.

## 9. Assignment of the right to use the image

Applicants irrevocably and free of charge authorize the TECSAM Network and Parc Sanitari San Joan de Déu, as coordinator and within the framework of the "VALORIZATION AND TECH TRANSFER PROGRAM" activities, to make use, reproduce, edit, and exploit, in whole or in part, or broadcast their full or partial name as well as their image, in any publicity or advertisement made through any media or format, whether written, audiovisual or internet, for the maximum period permitted by law, worldwide, in relation to participation in the Program for the purpose of promotion, information and advertising of the Program and the TECSAM Network.

## 10. Confidentiality

All information shared by the research groups with the TECSAM Network coordination as well as with the experts in the framework of the Program call, will be treated as confidential information to what is stated at the Agreement signed by the entities pertaining to the TECSAM Network and protected under the Confidentiality Agreement. Specific Confidentiality Agreements required by the groups will be signed by all parties.

## 11. Processing of Personal Data

Under the provisions of the regulations on protection of personal data, it is reported that the data provided by participants under the Program will be incorporated into a file or files, owned by the TECSAM Programs. They will be processed for the purposes of:



(i) Maintenance, compliance, development, control and proper management of their participation in the Program and subsequent related activity (including any communication that is necessary),

(ii) as well as for any other purpose provided for in these Program Rules. In the event of providing data of third parties, now or in the future, the participant guarantees that each third party will have been previously informed and their consent obtained on all those aspects foreseen in the present clause, as well as in the Rules. Likewise, the participant guarantees that the data provided are accurate and truthful. Participants may exercise their rights of access, rectification, cancellation and opposition, under the terms provided in the data protection regulations.

The TECSAM Network undertakes to treat your personal data confidentially at all times and in accordance with the purposes set out in this clause and Rules; to adopt the necessary technical and organizational measures to ensure the security of your data and avoid its alteration, loss, unauthorized access or processing, given the state of technology, the nature of the data stored and the risks to which they are exposed, all in compliance with the provisions of the data protection regulations in force at all times. In case of providing your data, we will understand that you authorize us to process them according to the above.

## 12. Modification of the Rules

The TECSAM Network reserves the right to modify at any time the Rules, without assuming any responsibility for these modifications, provided that there is justified cause, due to force majeure or circumstances beyond the control in a way that does not prejudice the rights acquired by the participants, committing to communicate with sufficient notice the new conditions of participation.

## 13. Extension or suspension of the Programs

The TECSAM Network reserves the right to be able to extend the deadline, properly communicating this change to the representatives of the groups. In addition, the TECSAM Network reserves the right to suspend the Program for good cause or force majeure and in the event that it could not be developed due to lack of participation or problems of any other nature that are not under the control of the TECSAM Network and could affect their normal development. Should any of these situations arise, all participants will be duly notified.



## 14. Disclaimer of Liability

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The TECSAM Network is not responsible for any possible losses, deterioration, data theft, delays or any other circumstances attributable to third parties that may arise from the participation in the Program.

## 15. Industrial and Intellectual Property

The names, logos, icons and any element that identifies with the Program are property and trademarks of TECSAM Network and PSSJD, being reserved all their exploitation rights. Selected Program participants should use the brand and names of the Program (*Valorization & Tech Transfer Program*) and TECSAM Network for current and future communication and marketing activities related to the team's and project's participation in the Program and the potential results that could arise from it.

## 16. Contact

Should you have any questions about the call, please contact us at: [judit.lopez@sjd.es](mailto:judit.lopez@sjd.es) and [emilio.tomas@sjd.es](mailto:emilio.tomas@sjd.es).