

## Berkeley SkyDeck Europe, Milano opens applications for its next cohort class for startups that are interested the European market

*Berkeley SkyDeck Europe, Milano was launched by Berkeley SkyDeck (the accelerator of the University of California, Berkeley), the Italian innovation hub Cariplo Factory, and the international real estate group Lendlease. The project is financially supported by the Lombardy Region and the Cariplo Foundation.*

*Today opens the fifth round of applications: up to 10 startups will be selected to participate in a 6-month acceleration program (partly in Berkeley, USA, and partly in Milan), have access to financing and the opportunity to present their project to international investors during the concluding Demo Day at Milano Innovation District (MIND).*

Milan, January 17th, 2024 - **Berkeley SkyDeck Europe, Milano** has now opened the **application** for its upcoming acceleration program for **European startups**. The program was launched by [UC Berkeley SkyDeck](#) (the accelerator of the University of California, Berkeley), the Italian innovation hub [Cariplo Factory](#), and the international real estate, infrastructure, and urban regeneration group [Lendlease](#), and is financially supported by the **Cariplo Foundation** and the **Lombardy Region**. SkyDeck Europe, now **at its fifth edition**, will take place in Berkeley and in **SkyDeck's first European headquarters**, in Milan, Italy, at the Milano Innovation District (MIND).

In line with Berkeley SkyDeck's focus, SkyDeck Europe also centers its **search for innovative solutions** in aerospace, cybersecurity, B2B software as a service, enterprise software, fintech, generative AI, greentech, healthtech. Applications will be accepted through **February 14<sup>th</sup>** at this link: <https://www.f6s.com/skydeck-batch-18/apply>

Berkeley SkyDeck, Cariplo Factory, and Lendlease will select **up to 10 startups** that will have the opportunity to enter **one of the best accelerators globally** and have access to the **6-month** acceleration program that will **start in early May**.

The program's **first quarter will be curated by the Berkeley SkyDeck team**: startups will have the opportunity to participate both in-person – at Berkeley SkyDeck's USA headquarters – and virtually. Its **second quarter will be curated by the Cariplo**

**Factory team** and will take place both virtually and in-presence at MIND. Each startup will be **supported by 3 mentors** (two from Europe and one from the United States), will have access to an international network of **investors**, and will be trained on fundamental topics such as go to market, product development and fundraising activities.

The program's second quarter will offer the resources and networks of some of the best **Italian Universities**, selected through a tender by Cariplo Foundation. The Universities that will take part in the program are: **Milan Polytechnic University, University of Milan, IULM Free University of Languages and Communication, University of Eastern Piedmont "Amedeo Avogadro", University of Insubria, University Institute of Higher Studies of Pavia, and University of Bergamo.**

Among the benefits of the coming cohort, each startup will receive **an investment of €145,000** by the investment fund that is linked to the program and will have the opportunity to **present their project** to a network of **international investors** during a **Demo Day** in October.

This will be the **fifth batch** for SkyDeck Europe. In over two years, the program has received 2,578 application requests from all over the world and has supported the growth of **36 startups** from **Argentina, Armenia, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Mexico, Switzerland, Ukraine, UK, USA**. To date, these startups have received **5,2 million euros by the program** and over 4 million euros from other investors and grants.

The **goal** of SkyDeck Europe's acceleration program is to **accompany the growth of startups over the years 2022-2024** and to connect them with qualified financial operators that can support them with equity investments. Indeed, SkyDeck Europe, created with the contribution of **Lombardy Region and Cariplo Foundation**, aims at shaping a strong European ecosystem of innovative companies. On the one hand, this project's objective is to improve research through the integration of methodologies and best practices, thanks to the **collaboration of the University of California, Berkeley**. On the other, it aims at **strengthening the local ecosystem** by pooling the skills of universities and local incubators through a model of **widespread collaboration**.

*"When we established SkyDeck Europe, it was in the hopes of creating a program that would be the top European accelerator for world-changing startups, said **Caroline Winnett, Executive Director of Berkeley SkyDeck.**"We are proud to continue supporting startups from around the world and look forward to evaluating this latest*

*batch of applications to find the companies with the highest potential to change their industries or even the world.”*

*“We can only be very satisfied with the results of SkyDeck Europe, as after two years and five editions, its acceleration program has become an institution in the European and international innovation ecosystem, and is attracting ever higher quality companies – stated **Anders Nilsson, SkyDeck Europe Program Leader at Cariplo Factory**. – Our ambition is to keep growing: in the coming months we’ll keep widening our network in order to bring startups to market even more effectively.”*

*“We are thrilled with the results obtained by Berkeley SkyDeck Europe, which today reaches the fifth call for startups also thanks to the support of Lendlease. A unique acceleration path, which confirms the attractiveness of the MIND ecosystem for European and Italian innovation” commented **Andrea Ruckstuhl, CEO Lendlease Europe**.*

*“The SkyDeck project, which is innovative and projected into the future, is proving to be successful. Furthermore, the results that have been achieved so far prove the strength of the Lombardy ecosystem, which is capable of attracting, through this programme, both investments and young innovative ideas from all over the world. Ideas that become businesses, ideas that become assets for our supply chains. SkyDeck is a successful challenge that we reconfirm so that our territory will be fertile soil for the future” added **Guido Guidesi, Councilor for Economic Development of the Lombardy Region**.*

*SkyDeck Europe has proven to attract the attention of many talents who, thanks to their skills and ambitions, are contributing to the development of MIND and our territory in general – commented **Carlo Mango, Director of the Scientific and Technological Research Area of the Cariplo Foundation**. – This project demonstrates that the Italian research and innovation ecosystems can be attractive for European and international startups, also thanks to the fact that they can interact with local companies and universities.”*

#### **About Berkeley SkyDeck**

Berkeley SkyDeck is a leading accelerator and the global hub for entrepreneurship. As UC Berkeley’s largest and most prominent accelerator, SkyDeck combines hands-on mentorship with the vast resources of its research university. SkyDeck is the only accelerator of its kind that offers the value of a dedicated investment fund alongside the resources and network of a top university. To date, SkyDeck startups have raised more than \$1.8 billion in aggregate. Participating startups have access to SkyDeck’s 700 advisors

and mentors, 70 industry partners, and a network of more than 510,000 UC Berkeley alumni. For more information, see [skydeck.berkeley.edu](https://skydeck.berkeley.edu).

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#### About Cariplo Factory

Cariplo Factory is one of the most important innovation hubs in Italy. It is mainly focused on two transformative trends: digital transformation and circular economy. Cariplo Factory develops and implements open innovation programs, provides experiential training, entrepreneurial consulting programs, collaborative projects among talents, startups, and companies, venture capital investments, and support to internationalization. Cariplo Factory was founded in 2016 by Cariplo Foundation and works through an inclusive model that involves a national network of universities, technology transfer centers, incubators, accelerators, fab-labs, science and technology parks, startups, business angels, venture capital funds, SMEs and corporates. Cariplo Factory is a Benefit Company.

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#### About Lendlease

Lendlease is a leading international group in the real estate sector, particularly in the development of urban areas, listed on the Australian Securities Exchange, based in Sydney, with projects in Australia, Asia, Europe, and the Americas.

Lendlease's vision is to create the best places; places where communities can create value and thrive, inspiring and enriching the lives of people around the world. The activity is reflected in three business segments Development, Construction, and Investment. Their combination ensures a sustainable competitive advantage that allows us to provide integrated and innovative solutions for customers.

Lendlease has a worldwide development pipeline estimated to be worth US\$85 billion (as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021) and manages assets worth US\$28,7 billion (June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021).

In Italy, Lendlease is active in two of the major urban regeneration projects in Milan:

- MIND-Milano Innovation District, a public-private partnership with Arexpo - the company that has the task of enhancing and developing the entire Expo 2015 site - which will create an innovation district where the new frontiers of technology and biosciences will converge.
- Milano Santa Giulia, in partnership with Risanamento Spa, one of the largest urban redevelopment interventions in Milan, is a mixed-use project - tertiary and residential - that wants to combine wellbeing, sustainability, social development for a new European destination.

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