



Banc Ceannais na hÉireann
Central Bank of Ireland

Eurosystem

Guide to Completing Innovation Sandbox Programme Application Form

September 2025

This Guide to Completing Innovation Sandbox Programme Application Form provides information for applicants to consider when applying to the Innovation in Payments Sandbox Programme (“the Innovation Sandbox Programme” or “the Programme”).

Each applicant must fill in our online Application Form [insert hyperlink]. The Application Form is made up of:

- Applicant Information
- Description of Innovation
- Application Questions
- Relevance
- Need
- Readiness
- Capability

The table further below provides information on what is expected in each section and the positive and negative indicators that will be considered in assessing the information provided.

The Central Bank will make an overall assessment of the application in relation to all of the following selection criteria:

Relevance	The innovation should support consumers and/or the financial system and be clearly aligned with an Innovation Sandbox Programme Problem Statement.
Need	Compelling case showing the Sandbox Programme as essential to innovation development.
Readiness	Strong evidence of readiness across multiple areas (market, scale, revenue model) and readiness to engage with Innovation Sandbox Programme.
Capability	Strong, credible team with relevant expertise, resources, and identification of supports where needed to develop innovation beyond programme.

A list of helpful FAQs are available here [insert hyperlink]. For any additional questions regarding the Application Form, contact sandbox@centralbank.ie.

The closing date for applications to the Innovation in Payments Sandbox Programme is **10 November 2025**. A specific Selection

Panel comprising Central Bank Directors and an external academic will make the final selection decision.

Selected applicants will be required to sign the Terms and Conditions before commencing the Programme. Applicants that were not selected to participate will be informed of the Central Bank's decision and provided with relevant feedback including details of the Innovation Hub, which may be a more suitable channel to consider their innovation.

Once selected, each participant will work with a designated Sandbox Relationship Manager to agree on objectives and liaise on workshop modules, the Data Platform and any questions the participant has.

The Innovation in Payments Sandbox Programme will launch in January.

Section	What we want to know	Positive Indicators	Negative Indicators
Applicant Information	High-level information about the applicant including contact details, the people and parties involved in participating in the Programme and, where relevant, official information of the entities.	N/A	N/A
Description of Innovation	Short, high-level information about your innovation, its stage of development, target customers, and enabling technology.	N/A	N/A

Relevance	Which problem statement does your solution primarily address? Please detail how you are solving for this problem statement.	Your innovation is closely aligned one of the supporting Problem Statement(s). Your innovation could deliver positive outcomes for consumers and the financial system.	Your innovation is not clearly aligned with any of the supporting Problem Statement(s). Your innovation could result in negative outcomes for consumers and/or the financial system.
Need	Why is participation in the Innovation Sandbox Programme essential for progressing your innovation? What are the specific feature(s) of the Innovation Sandbox Programme that you require? (as detailed in the FAQs)	You have a compelling case for participating in the Innovation Sandbox Programme, demonstrating how you will benefit, based on an understanding of the features of the Programme. There are no obvious alternatives to participating in the Programme.	The case for participation is not made clear and the features of the Programme are not well understood.
Readiness	Describe the stage of development of your innovation, including potential market route, scalability, and / or revenue model.	You can describe a clear potential market route, scalability, and / or revenue model. You have a clear sense of how you would seek to develop your	Your description of route to market, scalability, and / or revenue model is not clear. The outcomes for participation in the Sandbox Programme are not identified.

	Please indicate how you would seek to develop your innovation over the course of the Innovation Sandbox Programme.	innovation over the course of the Sandbox Programme, including identifying outcomes from participation and how you would measure those.	
Capability	<p>Describe both the resources that are currently in place and, where needed, any additional supports (that will enable you to develop your innovation successfully?</p> <p>What is your plan beyond the Sandbox Programme to ensure your solution is sustainable, scalable, and compliant?</p>	<p>Strong, credible team with relevant expertise, resources, with detail on supports to deliver innovation (where needed).</p> <p>You have a clear sense of how to scale your innovation after completion of the Sandbox Programme.</p>	<p>Minimal or unproven capability / lack of identification of supports (where needed).</p> <p>A clear explanation of how you intend to scale your innovation after the Sandbox Programme is not provided.</p>



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