

OFFICIAL REGULATIONS

JunctionX Lisbon 2026

Artificial Intelligence Hackathon

10–11 October 2026

IST — Campus Taguspark

Organised by Gradient Descending – Associação

Version 1.1

Published and effective from 21 September 2026

Essential Information

All times are in **Lisbon summer time (UTC+01:00)**.

- **Applications:** opened 5 August 2026 at 09:00 and close 30 September 2026 at 23:59, unless extended.
- **Apply at:** <https://hackjunction.app/events/junctionx-lisbon-2026>
- **Confirmation cutoff:** 6 October 2026 at 10:00. Later applications or confirmations may be accepted case by case, subject to capacity.
- **Event:** 10 October 2026 at 10:00 to 11 October 2026 at 22:00.
- **Venue:** IST — Campus Taguspark, Av. Prof. Dr. Cavaco Silva, 2744-016 Porto Salvo, Portugal.
- **Participation:** free, with no deposit. Participants must be at least 16 years old on 10 October 2026. Participants under 18 require guardian consent and an accompanying responsible adult.
- **Teams:** one to five members; one Track and one team per participant.
- **Language:** English for challenge descriptions, submissions, pitches and official event activities.
- **Contact:** lisbon@hackjunction.com or the optional event Discord server.

1. Organisation and Scope

JunctionX Lisbon 2026 is an Artificial Intelligence hackathon organised by **Gradient Descending – Associação**, NIF 518783340, Rua João Infante 130, Lote 6, 8A, 2750-219 Cascais, Portugal (the *Organiser*). Junction Ltd licenses JunctionX and provides the Junction platform. IST provides the venue and supporting infrastructure and services.

These regulations govern applications, participation, project development, judging and prizes. Track descriptions published on the event website supplement these regulations.

2. Eligibility and Applications

2.1 Eligibility

Applicants must be at least **16 years old on 10 October 2026**. Age is verified using the date of birth entered in the application form.

Participants aged 16 or 17 may participate only if:

- a consent form provided by the Organiser is completed and signed by their legal guardian before participation; and
- they are accompanied at the event by a responsible adult.

The Organiser will provide the consent form and submission instructions to the participant and/or legal guardian. The accompanying adult does not become a competition participant solely by accompanying the minor.

Applicants are not excluded because of nationality, residency, race, ethnicity, student or professional status, gender, sexual orientation or similar personal characteristics. The Organiser does not screen whether an applicant works for a partner.

The Organiser does not provide visas. Applicants are responsible for their travel documents.

2.2 Application and selection

Each person must apply individually through the Junction platform. Applicants may identify a pre-formed

team by entering the same team name and the names of the other members.

An application may be declined if the applicant is under 16; if an applicant under 18 does not meet the guardian-consent and accompanying-adult requirements; if the applicant requests a visa from the Organiser; if the applicant does not provide links demonstrating experience; or if capacity has been reached. Near capacity, experience shown in the application may be used to prioritise applicants. The Organiser aims for approximately 150 participants, but this is not a fixed limit.

Admission decisions are sent by email through the Junction platform. There is no waiting list.

2.3 Confirmation, withdrawal and check-in

To guarantee a place, an admitted participant must confirm attendance through the Junction platform email by **10:00 on 6 October 2026**. Applications or confirmations after that time may be reviewed case by case, but review or admission is not guaranteed.

Participants may withdraw through the Junction platform at any time. At check-in, staff match the participant's name with an accepted and confirmed registration. A participant under 18 must also have completed the required guardian-consent process and attend with the responsible adult.

3. Communications

The event website is <https://lisbon.hackjunction.com/>. Applications, confirmations, withdrawals and submissions use the Junction platform.

Discord participation is optional. The server is available at <https://discord.gg/wBaUtGQwfn>; event channels require the **Hacker** role from the key-icon **#get-roles** channel. Discord may be used for schedules, challenge updates, resources, partner rewards and judging information. Relevant announcements will also be made in person or sent by email when necessary.

Questions and participant support requests may be made through Discord or lisbon@hackjunction.com.

4. Schedule and Logistics

The schedule may change. Updates will be announced through the communication channels above.

10 October 2026

- 10:00 — Doors open and check-in.
- 10:45 — Opening ceremony.
- 12:00 — Hacking begins.
- 19:00 — Submissions open.

11 October 2026

- 13:00 — Hacking ends and submissions close.
- 14:30 — Track pitching and judging.
- Around 17:00 — Track winners announced.
- 17:30 — Final pitch and judging.
- Around 19:00 — Winners and closing ceremony.
- 22:00 — Venue closes.

4.1 Attendance

Projects may be developed remotely during the hacking period. Every participant must nevertheless attend in person for check-in, team and challenge allocation, the Track pitching and judging phase, and the final phase if their team qualifies. There is otherwise no minimum on-site attendance time.

4.2 Food, overnight stays and transport

Food and drinks are provided. Dietary options are based on the application form.

Limited on-campus overnight space will be confirmed closer to the event. Mattresses are available first come, first served, without booking, assignment or guarantee. Participants should bring any other sleeping items they require. Participants may arrange their own off-campus accommodation; the Organiser does not provide it.

Participants arrange their own transport. The Organiser may provide a non-guaranteed shuttle between IST Alameda and IST Taguspark: Alameda to Taguspark on Saturday and Sunday mornings, and Taguspark to Alameda on Saturday and Sunday evenings or nights. Any timetable or booking process will be announced beforehand.

4.3 Equipment and resources

Participants are responsible for bringing a working electronic device suitable for developing and presenting their project, normally a laptop. The device must be capable of connecting to the venue's Wi-Fi and running a current web browser, the Junction platform, Git repository services and any software required by the team. Participants must also bring their chargers, adapters, accounts and any other equipment they require.

The Organiser provides Wi-Fi and power at the venue, with connection assistance available in person, but does not provide personal computers, chargers or guarantee compatibility with a participant's device or software.

Partner tools, credits and datasets may be offered free of charge through Discord. Their use is optional and

is not required to complete a challenge. Each partner defines and manages the terms of its own resources.

5. Teams and Tracks

5.1 Teams

Teams have one to five members. A participant may belong to only one team. A registered group outside this size range is not recognised as a team until corrected on the first day.

Applicants without a team who request matching will be placed in a team by the Organiser on the first day. Matching considers challenge preferences and diversity of expertise. No team representative is required. Team disputes are resolved internally.

Team changes may be agreed on the event day by every affected member. Withdrawal remains available through the Junction platform.

5.2 Challenge allocation

On the first day, every participant ranks all available challenges. The Organiser allocates teams while considering those preferences, aiming for approximately equal numbers of teams in each Main Track and approximately half that number in each Side Track. First choices and exact numbers are not guaranteed.

Current challenge partners are:

- NOS — Premium Partner, Main Track.
- Sensei — Main Partner, Main Track.
- Inspiring Solutions — Main Partner, Main Track.
- Albatroz Engenharia — Side Partner, Side Track.

Partners and challenges may be added or changed. Titles, briefs, criteria, required deliverables and resources will be published in English on the event website.

Current community partners are **n8n**, **Lovable**, **Jane Street**, **ElevenLabs**, **MongoDB** and **SSOJet**. This list may change.

5.3 Mentoring

Mentors choose their participation hours, circulate around the venue and may help with technical work, pitching or other areas. They provide advice only and may not work directly on a project. A clarification affecting a Track must be communicated to every team in that Track, in person or through another medium.

6. Project Development and Submission

6.1 Development rules

Projects may be developed only from **12:00 on 10 October to 13:00 on 11 October 2026**. Projects must not be started before this period.

Open-source libraries, frameworks, APIs, LLMs and code generators may be used. AI assistance does not need to be disclosed.

Pre-existing code or work may be reused where it is not the focus of the new product, or where it is clearly identified and it is reasonable to conclude that the challenge solution was not deliberately started beforehand. Pre-existing assets and templates must be identified when their external origin is not obvious.

6.2 Submission

Submissions open at 19:00 on 10 October and close at 13:00 on 11 October through the Junction platform. Any team member may submit. Platform instructions define the required fields and materials.

Teams must link a **public Git repository** through the Junction platform and identify the branch to be judged. Judges must be able to access the repository and submitted materials from 14:30 until the event closes at 22:00. The Organiser may review repository history to verify the development period.

Incomplete submissions are judged as submitted. Inaccessible or late submissions are not judged, although the Organiser may make a limited case-by-case exception where the deadline has only just passed.

The Organiser may reasonably extend the deadline because of platform problems or widespread submission difficulties. If the platform is unavailable, the Organiser will announce a fallback procedure designed not to unfairly affect any team. A submission extension does not itself extend development time.

7. Judging and Voting

7.1 Track assessment

Each challenge partner defines its Track's assessment criteria and method, subject to Organiser approval. Criteria may differ between Tracks and are included in the challenge description. Partner representatives assess the projects in their Track. Exactly one team per Track—the Track winner—advances to the final pitch.

The final pitch format, duration, voting criteria and voting window will be announced to finalists on the day or earlier.

7.2 Final voting

The final has three voting groups, each with 100 points:

- **Organisers:** each organiser votes anonymously on paper for one finalist.
- **Challenge partners:** each partner votes anonymously on paper for one finalist but may not vote for its own Track winner.
- **Participants:** every checked-in participant may vote through the Junction platform for any finalist, including their own team.

Within each group, a finalist receives its percentage of valid votes as points, rounded down to a whole number. Invalid or missing votes are ignored. Rounding leftovers are not redistributed. If a group has no valid votes, its

100 points are not distributed. The three group scores are added to determine the ranking.

Ties are broken by the higher percentage of valid participant votes before rounding. If still tied, the Organiser and challenge partners not represented among the tied teams decide the positions. The Organiser validates the final results. Buying votes or manipulating voting may result in removal from the event.

8. Prizes

8.1 Track prizes

A challenge partner may provide an externally sponsored prize to its Track winner. The partner decides, funds and delivers the prize and is responsible for its description, value, conditions and logistics. The Organiser only connects the partner with the winning team.

8.2 Overall prizes

The Organiser awards:

- **First place: EUR 1,500 and the Golden Ticket.**
- **Second place: EUR 750.**
- **Third place: EUR 250.**

Cash is divided equally among eligible team members. It may be paid to one member for equal redistribution only with every member's agreement. Track and overall prizes may be accumulated.

The Organiser may change the overall prize amounts and benefits until **10:00 on 6 October 2026**, four days before the event begins. Any change will be published in an updated version of these regulations and announced through the relevant event channels. After that deadline, the announced overall prizes will not be reduced or withdrawn except where required by law or because the winning team or participant is disqualified under these regulations.

8.3 Golden Ticket

The Golden Ticket grants access to Junction 2026 in Espoo, Finland, or another event coordinated and agreed by Junction. It reimburses proven relevant trip expenses up to **EUR 300 per eligible team member**. If expenses are lower, only the actual amount is paid.

Receipts for reasonably dated flights to and from Finland and accommodation in Finland count as attendance proof. Other accepted expenses and evidence are agreed case by case. The same conditions apply to a Junction-approved alternative event.

If the destination event is cancelled, postponed or changed, relevant purchases made beforehand remain eligible even if attendance becomes impossible. The expense must still be proven and the EUR 300 limit applies. Team composition and admission at the destination event are decided by Junction.

8.4 Payment and reassignment

Organiser-funded prizes and Golden Ticket grants are paid by 31 December 2026 unless otherwise agreed. Recipients must provide a usable payment method and, before payment, any appropriate tax document requested by the paying entity, such as an invoice or receipt where applicable.

If one member declines or is disqualified, their entitlement passes to the remaining eligible members. If an entire team is disqualified, lower-ranked eligible teams move up; an award is not made if no eligible team remains. Golden Ticket support is not redistributed beyond each person's proven expenses and EUR 300 cap.

9. Results and Certificates

Track winners are announced around 17:00, and final winners around 19:00 on 11 October 2026. Winners and exact team scores will also be published through relevant event channels.

Participation, finalist and winner certificates are sent by email. Mentor and volunteer certificates are not issued. Corrections may be requested through Discord or lisbon@hackjunction.com.

10. Conduct, Rights and Data

10.1 Conduct and reporting

Harassment, discrimination, plagiarism and sabotage may result in immediate disqualification. The JunctionX Code of Conduct applies at the venue, in event-related online spaces, social activities and any event transport.

Incidents may be reported through Discord, by email or in person to an organiser or volunteer, including anonymously. Organisers and/or volunteers handle reports. Sanctions may apply to individuals or teams case by case. Vote buying or manipulation may result in a ban.

10.2 Intellectual property

Participants retain ownership of their projects. The Organiser and partners do not acquire ownership. Public repository access is required for judging but does not transfer ownership or, by itself, impose an open-source licence.

Participants must comply with licences for third-party and partner materials. Challenge partners receive only the access reasonably needed to evaluate entries and select winners.

10.3 Personal data controllers and contact

The Organiser is the controller of personal data it collects or receives to organise JunctionX Lisbon 2026:

Gradient Descending – Associação

Rua João Infante 130, Lote 6, 8A

2750-219 Cascais, Portugal

NIF 518783340

lisbon@hackjunction.com

The Junction platform is operated by **Junction Ltd**, Business ID 2823785-1, Puumiehenkuja 5A, 02150 Espoo, Finland. Junction Ltd and the Organiser act as independent controllers for the data each processes. Questions concerning the Organiser's processing and all rights requests may be sent to the email above. Questions concerning processing performed independently by Junction Ltd may be sent to hello@hackjunction.com.

10.4 Data collected and whether it is required

The data processed may include:

- name, email, date of birth, country and other identification or contact information;
- education, professional experience, CV information, portfolio and profile links;
- application answers, team name and membership, challenge preferences and Track allocation;
- attendance, check-in, communications and Discord identifiers voluntarily used for event contact;
- dietary, accessibility and support information voluntarily provided by the participant;
- project submissions, public repository links, scores, rankings, votes and certificates;
- prize-payment, expense, attendance-proof and tax documentation;
- guardian and responsible-adult information for participants under 18;
- incident reports, safety records and sanctions; and
- photographs, video recordings and voice recordings where the applicable authorisation has been given.

Data identified as mandatory in the application or required by these regulations is necessary to assess eligibility, admit the participant and operate the competition. Failure to provide it may prevent application review, admission, judging, certification or prize payment. Dietary, accessibility, Talent Matchmaking and promotional-image information is optional, although the Organiser may be unable to provide the corresponding optional service without it.

10.5 Purposes and legal bases

The Organiser processes data for the following purposes and legal bases:

- **application, admission, attendance, team and Track management, communications, judging, results, certificates and prizes:** steps requested before participation and performance of the participation arrangement established by these regulations;
- **event security, competition integrity, incident handling, prevention of fraud or vote manipulation and defence of legal claims:** the Organiser's legitimate interests in running a safe and fair event;
- **accounting, tax, regulatory and other manda-**

tory records: compliance with legal obligations;

- **emergency assistance:** protection of the participant's or another person's vital interests where necessary;
- **dietary, accessibility or welfare information that reveals health, religious or other specially protected information:** the participant's explicit consent, unless another legal ground applies in an emergency;
- **Talent Matchmaking and optional sharing with partners:** the participant's consent; and
- **promotional use of image or voice:** the participant's specific consent or, for a participant under 18, the required guardian authorisation.

Consent may be refused or withdrawn without affecting the lawfulness of processing carried out before withdrawal. Refusing optional consent does not prevent participation, except where the information is necessary to provide the specific optional service requested. Admission and selection are reviewed by people and are not based solely on automated decision-making.

10.6 Recipients and international transfers

Data may be accessed, only as necessary for the relevant purpose, by the Organiser's authorised organisers and volunteers; Junction Ltd as platform operator and independent controller; IST personnel responsible for venue access or safety; challenge partners, mentors and judges involved in Track administration and evaluation; payment, accounting, insurance, legal and technical service providers; and public authorities where disclosure is legally required.

Project repositories are public under Section 6. Partner Talent Matchmaking data is disclosed only to the partner or partners identified when consent is requested. Those partners act under the purpose and conditions disclosed with that consent.

Junction Ltd is established in Finland and the Organiser in Portugal, both within the European Economic Area. Optional services such as Discord, public repository providers or partner tools may process data outside the EEA under their own terms. Where the Organiser itself transfers personal data outside the EEA, it will use an applicable adequacy decision or other lawful safeguard required by the GDPR.

10.7 Retention

Application and operational event data is retained only for the period needed to organise and close the event, issue certificates and prizes, answer requests and resolve disputes, after which it is deleted or anonymised. Unsuccessful-application data is removed when it is no longer needed for admission administration or related claims.

Financial, tax and prize records are retained for the period required by applicable law. Incident, sanction and legal-claim records are retained until the matter and any applicable limitation period have ended. Con-

sent records are retained for as long as necessary to demonstrate the consent and the related processing. Published results and project information may remain available as part of the event archive. Promotional photographs and recordings are retained for no longer than five years after the event unless a longer period is separately agreed or required for an existing publication or legal claim.

10.8 Participant rights

Participants may request access to their data, correction, deletion, restriction, portability where applicable, or object to processing based on legitimate interests. They may withdraw consent at any time. Requests must be sent to lisbon@hackjunction.com and may require reasonable identity verification.

Participants may lodge a complaint with the Portuguese supervisory authority, **Comissão Nacional de Proteção de Dados (CNPd)**, Av. D. Carlos I, 134, 1st floor, 1200-651 Lisbon, Portugal, geral@cnpd.pt, <https://www.cnpd.pt/>.

10.9 Photography, video and voice

Photography and video or audio recording may take place during the in-person event. Promotional use by the Organiser or a partner requires the applicable participant authorisation. A participant may refuse promotional image or voice use without losing their place in the event and may notify the Organiser through the contact channels so that reasonable practical measures can be taken.

For a participant under 18, the guardian consent documentation must address image and voice use separately. Withdrawal applies to future use and does not retroactively invalidate processing already lawfully carried out; the Organiser will take reasonable steps regarding material under its control.

11. Final Provisions

The Organiser may update these regulations or amend the schedule, challenges, partners or operational arrangements when necessary. Material updates will be published on the event website and announced through the relevant event channels.

Situations not covered by these regulations are decided by the Organiser, taking fairness and the event's objectives into account. Such decisions are final for the event's operational and competition purposes, without prejudice to any rights that cannot legally be excluded.

The official and most recent version is published at <https://lisbon.hackjunction.com/>. Questions, complaints, correction requests and participant-support requests may be made through Discord or lisbon@hackjunction.com.

This document is **Version 1.1, published and effective from 21 September 2026**.