

INNOVABLUE CHALLENGE

Open Call for Blue
Innovation Teams

FEBRUARY 2026

CHALLENGE FOCUS

The INNOVABLUE Challenge supports pilot-ready solutions, TRL 3-4 and above, addressing real market needs in the blue economy and helping innovative ideas move closer to practical implementation and commercialization.

TOPIC 1

Smart monitoring and digital tools for blue environments and SMEs

TOPIC 2

Blue biotechnology solutions for environmental health and sustainability

TIMELINE

Call opens: February 26th 2026

Application deadline: March 31st 2026

Selection results: May 2026

Hackathon 1: June 30th - July 2nd 2026
Skopje, North Macedonia

Hackathon 2: 15th - 17th 2026 (tbc)
Šibenik, Croatia

Blue Champions selected: October 2026

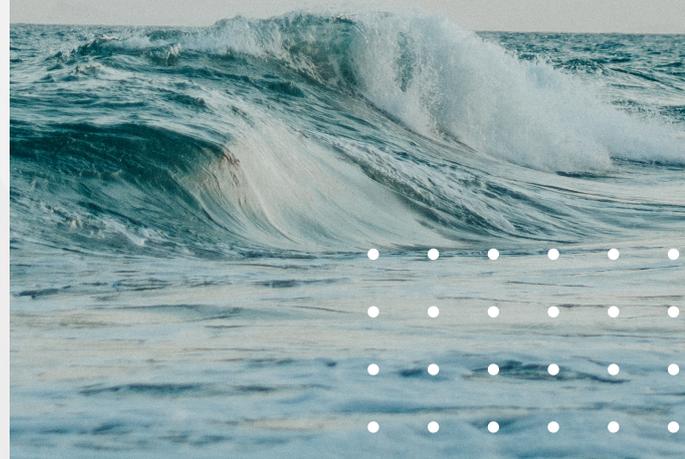
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INNOVABLUE



WHO SHOULD APPLY

Researchers, Innovators, Startup teams,
Technology developers & Multidisciplinary
teams

WHY PARTICIPATE

Gain access to real market needs, collaborate with SMEs and industry stakeholders, participate in international hackathons, increase your visibility among investors, and benefit from follow-up support and promotion opportunities.

BLUE CHAMPIONS

Five top-performing teams will be selected to receive a EUR 5,000 worth expert support package, mentoring sessions, promotion and matchmaking opportunities, and access to qualified mentors to support deployment and commercialization pathways.

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