

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: April 30th 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

Interreg



Co-funded by
the European Union

IPA ADRION

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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