Rules for participation

Art. 1 Description

The BlueMed Pilot action on Healthy Plastic-free Mediterranean Sea (http://www.bluemed-initiative.eu/pilot-action-on-a-healthy-plastic-free-mediterranean-sea/), launched in 2018, is set up to promote the circulation of good practices for the prevention, management, recovery and mitigation of the effects of plastic pollution in the marine environment of the Mediterranean region also throught its National Hubs as a system to strengthen local networks. The BlueMed stakeholders' network brings together Research Institutions and Universities, private companies and SMEs, innovators, associations, including environmental, policy makers, municipalities, and regional authorities from 11 Countries (Algeria, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey).

In the frame of the BlueMed Pilot Action on Healthy Plastic-free Mediterranean Sea (hereafter named BlueMed Pilot Action), the Working group of Senior Officials agreed on launching the BlueMed Hackathon "Ideas and solutions for a Heathy Plastic Free Mediterranean Sea", a team challenge to find solutions to plastic pollution and to promote sustainable blue growth in the Mediterranean.

Art 2. Objectives

The BlueMed Hackathon stimulates the participation of young people in shaping future solutions for our society in response to plastic pollution with a focus on plastic economy. The BlueMed Hackathon 2021 will encourage networking among actors from different background experience, will promote cross borders cooperation and will connect research and academia communities as well as young professionals at EU and non-EU level.

The multidisciplinarity of the approach undertaken will facilitate cross-sectoral solutions with a positive impact on multiple policy targets (Circular Economy, Pollution, Bioeconomy, Green Deal)

Art 3. Beneficiary

The Hackathon is dedicated to 18-30 years old Master and PhD candidates or graduates in STEM[1] disciplines as well as designer/creatives with no restriction on geographical origin nor working country.

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[1] STEM: science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Carriers that apply science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in contexts that make connections between school, community, work, and the global enterprise enabling the development of STEM literacy and with it the ability to compete in the new economy (www.invent.org)

Art 4. How to participate
Registration for the event is free of charge. Candidate has to fill out the online form at **https://semed.eu/search?q=bluemed**. Registration must be made between April 20th 2021 and May 10th 2021, deadline 11 PM. The online form indicates the criteria required for participation, each participant must accept the event regulations and consent for the handling of their personal information. Only the selected participants will receive confirmation of their acceptance to the hackathon sent to the e-mail address provided at the time of registration. This official notification will also provide details on the initiative and all information needed in order to come to the location in which the competition is to be held.

Art 5. Date and duration
Participants, in a guided and collaborative mode, will compete in teams to propose solutions to the problem of the assigned challenge. The selection of winners (one winner team for each challenge) will be made by a jury of experts.
Activity includes:
  ➢ Kickoff meeting Plenary 18/05/21 (morning):
    - challenges presentation by experts
    - team definition
  ➢ Technical session Plenary 18/05/21 (afternoon)
    - how to work on the project Canvas
  ➢ Review brainstorming, Review project deliverable Phase (for each team)
  ➢ Plenary training per pitch and one-one Review pitch
  ➢ Delivery video Pitch (31 May 2021)
Each team will work separately on project idea development and will participate to the final meeting with the pitch sessions and the selection of the winners, one for each challenge.
  ➢ The final event is hold virtual in a date that would established between 15th and 30th June 2021.

Art 6. Description
The event will take place in the following phases:
1. **Start of the competition and formation of the teams.** During the first meeting the BlueMed Pilot will revel the challenges (up to three according to the participants number). The participants will be divided in teams by the organizors and will be associated to a specific challenge with a scientific mentor and a technical mentor. The teams will remain unchanged for the duration of the event.
2. **Group work.** After forming the teams, the participants will dedicate themselves to the definition and development of the project with the aim of finding the solution to the challenge assigned Teams have three meetings with their mentors available to validate the scientific background, the methodology and the pitch preparation. Participants will work remotely with their devices and their work will follow a project canvas template.
4. **Pitch preparation.** Teams will prepare a video pitch of max 3 minutes to present their project following the instruction of the mentors. Projects must be presented in English as a Power Point. At the end of the work phase, the team will delivera three minutes video pitch that will be showed during the final event.
5. **Selection and winner announcement.** The video pitch will be presented during the final event. The Jury will select the winners project ideas, one winner for each challenge, and assign the prize.

Art 7 - Evaluation
Participants will be evaluated by a Jury of experts. The Jury will evaluate at its sole and unquestionable judgment the proposals presented according to the following criteria:
✓ validity of ideas and measurable impact
✓ feasibility of the service / product
✓ innovative strength of the solution
✓ quality of the presentation

Art 8 – Award
The winning teams will be trained by a group of experts to develop a business plan on their innovative ideas and to present it to investors in occasion of Ecomondo Exhibition 2021 (from October 26th to 29th), the most important event in Europe for technological and industrial innovation for circular economy.

Art 9 - Certificate of participation
All the participants will receive a certificate of participation in the BlueMed Hackathon 2021.

Art 10 - Acceptance and clauses
Participation in this competition presupposes full acceptance of all the clauses and indications contained in this announcement and full acceptance of the unquestionable judgment of the Commission.

Art. 11 Privacy and Data processing
The processing of personal data will be carried out in compliance with the provisions of EU Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR) and will be aimed exclusively for the purposes related to the Hackathon and BlueMed initiatives and / or activities related to it. Data controller is the National Research Council of Italy, operational contact of the BlueMed Pilot Action and former Coordinator of the H2020 BlueMed Coordination and Support Action (CSA) project, funded by the European Union under GA 727453. Data processor is FacilityLive OpCo S.r.l. that powers the digital platform SEMED. More details are given in the information on data processing provided to participants.

Art. 12 - Intellectual property
The ownership of the results as well as any right of use of the projects idea is property of the teams. For any use the BlueMed Pilot has to be cited as reference.