

Organization of Hackathon - multi-disciplinary working techniques in a real-world setting Durrës 24-25 May 2019

The main goal of hackathon event was to organize a local 48-hours activity developing multi-disciplinary working techniques in a real-world setting. Key targeted audience were at least 20 SME-s and the supporting local and transnational RD&I bodies and New Innovation Agent's representatives. This was a hands-on experience where existing or aspiring new Blue sectors entrepreneurs had the opportunity to work intensively with selected local and transnational 'RD & I' bodies and New Innovation Agents.

The BLUE-BOOST Hackathon was dedicated to the theme of Innovation in the Blue Economy. Through public Expression of Interest, local and transnational RD&I bodies and New Innovation Agents were selected and they were asked to participate to the 48 hours hackathon as mentors/tutors of the SMEs (previously involved in the coaching modules). The solution-oriented approach was focused in identification of innovation methods and practices that can:

1. Improve services quality and efficiency of resources management;
2. Development and improvement of touristic product, its promotion and quality of services;
3. Development of a mobile application for tourists and relevant stakeholders;
4. Creation of a local laboratory to analyse mussels and saltwater.
5. Monitoring of production capacities of fish enterprises;
6. Capacity building for domestic employees in fishery sector.

Some of the key implemented tasks and activities are: explore, diagnose specific individual innovation needs of marine/maritime SMEs involved; generate new embryonic business ideas & solutions to various problems to be developed –possibly- thanks to the funds allocated by forthcoming voucher schemes; provide with guidance & training for potential Blue young start uppers, matchmaking between S&D of Blue innovative niche/subsectors jobs, etc.

Two-day event was organized in Durres with the active participations of students from three different Albanian universities (European University of Tirana, Agriculture University of Tirana and 'Aleksander Moisiu' University of Durres) and experts in the field. Key Hackathon agenda topics: team formation and explanation of what was expected from all participants, working groups on 6 main issues of hackathon, SME representatives and experts coaching and mentoring each working group, ideas and key findings presentation, etc.

30 students divided in 5 groups, worked on finding of solutions for the identified challenges, issues

Different ideas and recommendations were presented. They varied from of increase of services quality to increase of touristic products, introduction of elements from anticity to me the region more attractive, introduction of ICT tools and solutions, etc. Three experts closely monitored the participants work in groups and actively mentored them in shaping their ideas and delivering competitive presentation. In the end of the event, one idea was selected as the most innovative one.

Pictures from the Event

