

i-Days - HACKATHON 2025

Milan, November 5th, 6th

Challenge Rules

1. Eligibility Requirements

- Participants from any academic background are welcome.
- Applications are open to students who are at least in their second year of university studies and to recent graduates (defined as candidates who obtained their degree no more than six months prior) (ages 20–27).
- There are no nationality restrictions, but the event will take place in both Italian and English. For this reason, proficiency in both languages is a necessary prerequisite for participation. Applicants are therefore encouraged to indicate any English language certifications in their CV; moreover, candidates who do not hold an Italian ID card must also specify their level of proficiency in Italian.
- Participants are required to propose new, innovative, creative, and practically feasible ideas, which will later be developed during the Hackathon. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in immediate disqualification.
- Applications will be selected based on the number of available spots; therefore, registration is not considered valid without an email confirmation from the organizers. Such confirmation will be sent within the time limits established by the application process. Specifically, the evaluation will be based on the answers provided in the application form, academic background, experiences and skills listed in the CV, and the submission of a project idea aligned with the Challenge.
- The application deadline is **Wednesday, October 22**.

2. Team Formation

- This event is an individually based hackathon. Nevertheless, when registering, students may indicate their willingness to join a group and specify its members. Such requests will be taken into consideration as much as possible when forming the teams that will compete during the two days.
- The formation of multidisciplinary teams is encouraged; in other words, each team should ideally include a diverse mix of skills, experiences, and academic backgrounds.
- Regardless of whether candidates register as a group, each applicant will be evaluated individually. Therefore, applying as a group does not guarantee that all members will be selected.
- No changes in team composition will be allowed once the event has started.

3. General Rules of the Event

- The hackathon will start on **November 5, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.** and end on **November 6, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.**
- The event will take place entirely in person, at **Fondazione Catella in Milan.**
- By participating in the hackathon, participants agree to the **EIT Health terms and conditions.**
- The **EIT Health final** will be held in **Paris** on **November 27–28**

4. Topics, Presentation, and Evaluation Process

- Each team must develop a solution aligned with the **Challenge 2025.**
- Once the hackathon has started, participants may submit their final project only once. The submission deadline is set for the end of the second day (**November 6, 2025, at 12:00 p.m.**).
- The project must be developed during the Hackathon.
- On the second day, each team will have the opportunity to present its idea before the Jury. However, only the winning team will take part in the international final event.
- Each project will be evaluated by the Jury based on the quality of the proposed solution and the level of innovation, creativity, and feasibility. Further details on how the ideas will be assessed against each criterion will be provided during the event.
- The Jury's decision is final and not subject to appeal.

5. Winning Team

- The Italian winning team will have the opportunity to participate in **the international final event**, together with the winners from other European cities. According to the rules of the European hackathon, only four members of the winning team will present the pitch of the idea. In case of broad participation in the Italian edition of the Milan hackathon (November 5–6), SYNLAB may offer the possibility of increasing the number of available spots, as has happened in previous editions, should there be high demand.
- Since EIT Health aims to ensure fairness in the presentation of projects among the various participating countries at the European final, only four members of the winning team will serve as the official speakers at the event. However, SYNLAB will allow additional team members to accompany their spokespersons. (Note: At the European final, only 4 official team speakers are allowed to attend the seminars and enter the rooms dedicated to presenting their idea. The other team members must wait outside, in accordance with European regulations).
- It is important to note that SYNLAB and EIT Health will provide a partial reimbursement of travel expenses for the European final event to all members of the winning team, regardless of their actual participation in the final.

6. Participant Code of Conduct

- Our event must ensure a harassment-free experience for everyone, regardless of gender, gender identity and expression, age, sexual orientation, disability, physical

appearance, body size, race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, prior hackathon participation, or computing experience (or lack thereof).

- Harassment includes, but is not limited to: offensive verbal or written comments related to gender, age, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, religion, social class, economic status; sexually explicit images; intimidation; stalking; following; harassing photography or recording; inappropriate physical contact; and unwelcome sexual attention. If what you are doing makes someone feel uncomfortable, that is sufficient reason to consider it harassment and to require that behavior to stop immediately.
- Participants who are asked to stop any harassing behavior are expected to comply immediately.
- If you are being harassed, notice that someone else is being harassed, or have any other concerns, you are encouraged to inform a member of the organizing staff immediately.
- Hackathon organizers may take any action they deem appropriate, including warning the offender, expulsion from the event, or reporting the behavior to local law enforcement.

FAQ

• WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE HACKATHON IN ITALY?

The hackathon is open to all European and non-European students currently studying in Italy, including those enrolled in study projects from foreign universities (e.g., Erasmus/Research projects). Eligible participants are students in the second or third year of a Bachelor's degree or enrolled in a Master's program, preferably aged between 20–27. Profiles will be selected based on academic background/field of specialization. Preference will be given to those who, at the time of application, submit a preliminary project idea aligned with the 2025 Challenge.

• HOW CAN I REGISTER?

To register for the Hackathon, you must first pre-register on the **SYNLAB website** ([click here](#)) and then complete registration on the **EIT Health website**.

• IS THERE A REGISTRATION FEE?

No, there is no registration fee to participate in the two working days. Breakfasts, lunches, and dinners will also be provided during the two days. Registration also grants access to a **preparatory Webinar** organized by SYNLAB and Cariplo Factory during the week prior to the event (**October 28**).

• HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE IN A TEAM?

On average, teams consist of **4–5 people** to facilitate teamwork.

• WHAT IS THE SELECTION PROCESS?

- Once all applications are collected, participant selection will be based on the quality of the proposed idea and the curriculum vitae.
- Selected candidates will receive a communication including:
 - i. the number and composition of the team, with relevant contacts;
 - ii. inspirational and educational material to prepare for the challenge.
- On **October 28**, an **informational webinar** will be held, aimed at providing scientific content useful for the challenge and addressing logistical questions.

• CAN I SLEEP AT THE VENUE?

On the night between **November 5 and 6**, participants may continue working at **Fondazione Catella**.

The venue will remain open overnight to allow participants to rest and lie down. Those who wish to stay overnight must bring their own essentials (e.g., mats and sleeping bags).

Please note that bathrooms do not have showers.

If participants prefer not to stay overnight at Fondazione Catella, they may return home or find accommodation in Milan.

• HOW TO REACH FONDAZIONE CATELLA

Google Maps link: [Fondazione Catella, in via Via Gaetano de Castillia, 28 a Milano](#)

- 15 minutes on foot from **Milano Centrale** train station
- 5 minutes from **Porta Garibaldi** station

- Nearest metro: **Gioia**
- Nearby parking:
 - <https://www.apcoa.it/parcheggi-in/milano/piazza-einaudi/>
 - <https://www.apcoa.it/parcheggi-in/milano/porta-nuova-garibaldi/>
- **HOW IS THE HACKATHON ORGANIZED?**

November 5

- 9:00 – Participant check-in and registration
- 9:30–10:30 – Welcome, Challenge Presentation & Design Thinking Workshop
- 10:30–13:00 – Hackathon working session
- 13:00–14:00 – Lunch
- 14:00–18:30 – Hackathon working session

November 6

- 9:00–12:00 – Finalization of decks and pitch practice
- 12:00 – Deadline for final project submission by teams
- 13:00–14:00 – Lunch
- 14:00–18:00 – Final Event (project presentations and award ceremony)

• WHAT IS THE WEBINAR ABOUT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

The webinar is a free online session providing inspiration and insights on healthcare, digital, and innovative health solutions, promoted by **SYNLAB** and **Cariplo Factory**. It is designed to promote a culture of innovation among students and to better prepare them for the two-day Hackathon.

All selected participants must attend the webinar (which will be recorded) and will receive the schedule and access details by email.

• WHO SUPPORTS THE STUDENTS DURING THE HACKATHON?

During the hackathon, participants will be supported by **Tutors** (Cariplo Factory experts in design thinking and innovative solution building) and **Mentors** (experts in various fields: healthcare, pharmaceuticals, innovation, communication, marketing, IT, economics, business, etc.). They will rotate among the teams to answer questions and provide support in developing the projects.

• HOW ARE THE PROJECTS EVALUATED?

Projects must be written and prepared in **English**.

Each team must designate a **speaker** to present the project.

The team pitch must not exceed **6 minutes + 3 minutes of Q&A**.

Projects will be evaluated by a jury of experts according to the following criteria:

- Understanding
- Innovation
- Analysis
- Pitch
- Challenge

- **WHAT INTERNSHIP AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR PARTICIPANTS?**

The hackathon provides a stage in front of leading companies, such as **SYNLAB**, which may recognize participants' talent and offer them opportunities for internships. For this reason, it is essential that participants upload their **CVs** during the registration process.

It is important to note that selected participants will meet **SYNLAB HR representatives**, who will assess their potential for possible future internships.