

UNIFE COLOURS Hackathon

From Thought to Action

COLOURS Hackathon Prize

Rules and Conditions for Participants

1. Purpose of the Prize

The COLOURS Hackathon Prize is intended to recognise the best project developed during the Hackathon and to support its further development beyond the event.

The Prize is awarded on a merit basis, in recognition of the **quality, creativity and implementation potential** of the projects developed during the Hackathon event.

The Prize is part of the COLOURS framework for supporting innovation, collaboration and student engagement and is implemented in accordance with the COLOURS *Guidelines for Seed Funding and Hackathon Prizes*, as well as the applicable rules and procedures of the University of Ferrara.

2. Who can participate

The Hackathon is open to eligible participants in accordance with the rules of the event.

Under the COLOURS Guidelines, eligible participants may **include students enrolled in Bachelor's, Master's or Doctoral programmes**, as well as **academic and administrative staff of COLOURS partner universities**.

Participants will work in teams on the challenge defined for the Hackathon.

3. Registration and Eligibility for the Prize

Registration for the Hackathon is **mandatory** and constitutes the sole prerequisite for entering the Prize procedure. No separate application or project proposal is required before the Hackathon.



By registering for the Hackathon, participants acknowledge that they have read and accepted these Rules and Conditions.

For the purposes of the Prize awarded by the University of Ferrara:

- the **team leader (team representative/capofila) must have a formal affiliation with the University of Ferrara (UNIFE)** at the time of the Hackathon;
- the team leader must be able to provide appropriate documentary evidence of such affiliation if the team is selected as the winning team;
- **proof of affiliation will be requested during the formalisation of the Prize** and will be verified by the University of Ferrara.

The Prize may be awarded only if the eligibility requirement concerning the UNIFE affiliation of the team leader is duly demonstrated.

Failure to provide the required evidence, or failure to meet the affiliation requirement, will result in the forfeiture of the Prize on grounds of ineligibility. In such a case, the project will not be entitled to receive the Prize, irrespective of its position in the ranking.

Participation in the Hackathon remains open to eligible participants from the COLOURS partner universities in accordance with the applicable COLOURS rules. The UNIFE affiliation requirement described above applies specifically to the eligibility of the winning team for the Prize awarded by the University of Ferrara.

4. Minimum Participation Threshold

The Prize will be awarded only if the following minimum participation conditions are met:

- **at least 20 participants must be registered at the opening of the Hackathon; and**
- **at least 4 distinct teams must be formed.**

If either of these conditions is not met, **no Prize will be awarded**, regardless of the quality or number of projects developed during the Hackathon.



This minimum participation threshold is established by the COLOURS Guidelines and is communicated to participants in advance.

5. Development and Presentation of Projects

During the Hackathon, participants will work in teams on the specific challenge identified for the event.

Projects will be developed through the Hackathon methodology and presented to the Judging Panel at the stage indicated by the organisers.

No project proposal needs to be submitted at the time of registration. The project to be evaluated is the project developed by the team during the Hackathon.

6. Evaluation and Judging Panel

Projects will be evaluated by a **Hackathon Judging Panel** appointed by the University of Ferrara.

The composition of the Judging Panel will be communicated to registered participants before the evaluation takes place.

The Judging Panel is an independent evaluation body and is responsible for assessing the projects and selecting the winning project in accordance with the evaluation criteria communicated to participants. The Panel's evaluation concerns the merit of the projects and is separate from the administrative formalisation of the Prize.

The evaluation outcome will be documented and a final ranking of the projects will be established and formally approved.

7. Evaluation Criteria

The projects will be assessed according to the following criteria, as established in the COLOURS *Guidelines for Seed Funding and Hackathon Prizes*:



Criterion	Description	Recommended weight
Strategic Alignment	Relevance to COLOURS core values and mission: inclusiveness, sustainability, innovation, student-centredness and transdisciplinary cooperation.	20%
Collaboration	Degree of inter-institutional, interdisciplinary, and/or stakeholder collaboration demonstrated or planned within the project.	20%
Impact	Potential to generate meaningful social and/or economic benefits; contribution to student learning and engagement.	25%
Feasibility	Realism of the work plan, resource allocation and timeframe, taking into account the early-stage nature of the project and the limited funding available.	20%
Sustainability	Evidence of potential for continuation, development or scaling beyond the funding period, commensurate with the early-stage maturity of the project.	15%

The above criteria and recommended weights are taken from the COLOURS Guidelines. The organising university may adapt the evaluation grid to the specific Hackathon, provided that any modifications are clearly communicated and consistently applied throughout the evaluation process. The specific evaluation grid applicable to the Hackathon will be communicated to participants before the evaluation.

8. Selection of the Winning Project

The Judging Panel will evaluate all eligible projects presented during the Hackathon and establish a ranking based on the applicable evaluation criteria.



For this Hackathon, **one Prize will be awarded to the project ranked first.**

The Judging Panel may refrain from recommending a project for the Prize if the applicable requirements are not met or if the projects do not reach the quality standards required under the applicable rules.

The Prize is not automatically awarded merely because a project has been developed or presented during the Hackathon.

9. Nature of the Prize

The Prize consists of **in-kind support in the form of services aimed at supporting the further development of the winning project.**

The support may include, depending on the specific needs and development stage of the winning project, activities such as:

- mentoring and coaching;
- entrepreneurial and business development support;
- support for the further development and validation of the project idea;
- support in the development of a business or implementation model;
- access to relevant expertise and professional advice;
- support in identifying stakeholders, partners or other relevant opportunities;
- guidance towards available incubation, pre-incubation, acceleration or innovation support programmes.

The precise services to be provided will be defined by the University of Ferrara in consultation with the winning team, taking into account the nature, maturity and development needs of the project and the services available through the University and its relevant support structures.

The Prize does **not** consist of a direct cash payment to the winning team.

The equivalent value of in-kind support will be documented by the University in accordance with the applicable procedures for the valuation of in-kind awards.



10. Formalisation and Verification of Eligibility

The selection of a project by the Judging Panel does not, by itself, constitute the final assignment of the Prize.

Following the evaluation, the University of Ferrara will carry out the administrative formalisation of the award and verify the eligibility of the selected team, including the required evidence of affiliation of the team leader with UNIFE.

The Prize will be formally assigned only following the completion of the applicable approval procedure.

If the selected team fails to provide the requested documentation within the deadline indicated by the University, or if the documentation demonstrates that the eligibility requirements are not met, the Prize will be forfeited on grounds of ineligibility.

11. Acceptance and Use of the Prize

The winning team will be required to formally accept the Prize and agree with the University on the modalities for the provision of the support.

The in-kind support must be used for activities connected with the further development of the winning project and in accordance with the applicable institutional and project rules.

The University of Ferrara will act as the manager of the provision of the in-kind support and will ensure that the support is provided in accordance with the applicable procedures.

12. Communication of the Outcome

Participants will be informed of the outcome of the evaluation following the conclusion of the selection and formalisation process.

The University may communicate the winning project and relevant information concerning the Prize through the official COLOURS and University communication channels, in accordance with applicable data protection and communication rules.



13. Final Provisions

These Rules and Conditions form an integral part of the Hackathon registration process and apply to the Prize awarded in connection with the Hackathon organised by the University of Ferrara.

Any matter not expressly covered by these Rules shall be governed by the applicable COLOURS *Guidelines for Seed Funding and Hackathon Prizes*, the Grant Agreement of the COLOURS project, applicable European and national legislation, and the internal rules and procedures of the University of Ferrara.

In the event of any conflict between these Rules and applicable legislation, EU financial rules or binding University regulations, the latter shall prevail. The COLOURS Guidelines expressly provide that such instruments take precedence over the Guidelines themselves. By completing the Hackathon registration, participants confirm that they have read and accepted these Rules and Conditions.

14: Personal Data, Intellectual Property and Final Provisions

Personal Data

Participants' personal data will be processed in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR) and the applicable data protection provisions of the University of Ferrara, for purposes related to the organisation of the Hackathon and the related Prize procedure.

The personal data collected through the registration form, including first name, surname, email address and institutional affiliation, are necessary to register participation and to manage the Hackathon and Prize procedure.

Participation in the Hackathon requires the participant to read and accept the Privacy Notice and to provide the consent requested through the registration form. Participants



who do not provide the required consent, or who withdraw such consent before or during the Hackathon, will not be eligible to participate in the Hackathon.

Further information on the processing of personal data and on participants' rights is provided in the Privacy Notice made available as part of the registration process.

Intellectual Property

All intellectual property rights relating to the projects and outputs developed during the Hackathon remain with their respective participants, unless otherwise agreed by the participants. Participants remain responsible for ensuring that their project complies with applicable intellectual property and confidentiality requirements.

Communication of Projects and Results

By participating in the Hackathon, participants acknowledge that the University of Ferrara may communicate information concerning the Hackathon, the participating projects and its results for institutional and project-related communication purposes, in compliance with applicable intellectual property, confidentiality and data protection provisions.

Cancellation and Changes

The University of Ferrara reserves the right to modify, suspend or cancel the Hackathon or the related Prize procedure where necessary, including for organisational or other justified reasons, in compliance with applicable regulations.

Acceptance of the Rules

Registration for the Hackathon constitutes acceptance of these Rules and Regulations and of the conditions governing the Hackathon Prize. Failure to comply with the applicable rules may result in exclusion from the Hackathon and/or forfeiture of the Prize, where applicable.

