150 VOCATIONAL EDUCATION STUDENTS TAKE ON SIX CIRCULARITY CHALLENGES IN THE III CIRCULAR INNOVATION HACKATHON

Competition starts in Playa de Muro with 30 multidisciplinary teams tackling the challenges proposed by six companies from the Balearic Islands

Playa de Muro, 3rd November 2026. The III Circular Innovation Hackathon began today at the Playa Garden Selection Hotel & Spa, bringing together 150 vocational education students from the Balearic Islands, divided into 30 teams of five members each. Over the next 24 hours, participants will work on six real-world challenges posed by companies from the islands, transforming ideas into creative, viable and practical solutions that support the archipelago's circular transition.

Jointly organized by Impulsa Balears and the Regional Ministry of Education and Universities, through the Centre for Vocational Education and Training, Innovation and Development (CFINFP), the event has been developed within reN · Balear Circular Hub. This third edition brings together the trajectories of the Circular Innovation Hackathon and the Hackató InnovaFP within a single initiative. Garden Hotel Group is collaborating as the event's Boost Partner.

The opening ceremony featured Jesús Martínez, Director of the Centre for Vocational Education and Training, Innovation and Development of the Balearic Islands, and Antoni Riera, Technical Director of Impulsa Balears, together with representatives from participating companies and the educational sector.

According to Antoni Riera, Technical Director of Impulsa Balears:

> The Circular Innovation Hackathon embodies one of reN's core functions: bringing together businesses, knowledge and talent to work on real challenges. The six challenges featured in this edition translate the priorities of the Circular Roadmap into issues that require practical solution for the Balearic Islands.

Six challenges to accelerate the circular transition of the Balearic Islands

The challenges are aligned with the six priority action areas identified in the Roadmap for the transition towards a circular tourism system in the Balearic Islands. Horizon 2025–2035: water, energy, materials, food, mobility and land-sea. Each company has proposed a challenge linked to its business activity:

- **Angel24:** adapting the vehicle fleet and delivery network to meet a new demand for frozen products distribution, improving operational efficiency and the sustainability of the service.
- **Bongrup:** finding viable and replicable solutions to repurpose unused installation materials, preventing their disposal and recovering their value.
- **Estel:** detecting water leaks and optimising incident management to reduce water losses and restore operations.
- **HBX Group:** enabling the adoption of circular solution by hotel suppliers located in Mallorca that generate business benefits and a measurable positive impact on the territory.
- **Melchor Mascaró:** identifying, tracking and repurposing surplus construction materials in other projects to prevent them from becoming waste and keep them in use.
- **Sampol:** optimising the company's security operations centre processes through a practical cybersecurity challenge.

Five teams will work on each challenge, supported by vocational education mentors and professionals. The proposals must demonstrate how the solutions could be implemented and what circular and territorial impact they could generate.

Vocational training talent driving new solutions

The call for applications attracted 264 registrations from 37 vocational training centres across the Balearic Islands. The 150 selected participants represent 16 different vocational fields, bringing together a diverse range of technical expertise and knowledge that enables the challenges to be addressed from complementary perspectives.

According to Jesús Martínez, Director of the Centre for Vocational Education and Training, Innovation and Development of the Balearic Islands:

> The educational value lies in the fact that students must make decisions, test them with professionals and defend a proposal in response to a real challenge. Teachers guide the process, but the initiative and responsibility for finding a solution rest with the students.

Tomorrow, 4th November, the 30 teams will present their proposals to a jury. The closing ceremony and awards presentation are scheduled for 1 pm, with the expected participation of Antoni Vera, Regional Minister of Education and Universities. The best team in each of the six challenges will receive a winner's diploma, a €1,000 prize and support in promoting their solution. All participants will receive a certificate of participation.

About re^{N} · Balear Circular Hub

re^{N} · Balear Circular Hub connects stakeholders, knowledge and capabilities around the Balearic Islands' circular transition, using the circular Roadmap as its main framework for direction and implementation. Its offer is structured around action spaces, resources, participation, monitoring, training, events and community.

Balear Circular Hub

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