



Adria Future
Foundation



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Adria Future Hackathon 2026

AI x Sustainability

April 23-24, 2026 // Tivat, Porto Montenegro

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Montenegro
2026

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

ADRIA FUTURE HACKATHON 2026

Issue Date: 18 March 2026
Application Deadline: 4 April 2026
Event Dates: 23–24 April 2026

Location: Tivat, Porto Montenegro
Issued by: AI Nation in partnership with Adria Future Summit

Application Form: <https://adriafuturesummit.org/hackathon/>

Background

AI Nation, in partnership with the Adria Future Summit, is launching the Adria Future Hackathon 2026 as a regional initiative aimed at mobilising young innovators across the Western Balkans and strengthening cross-border collaboration in emerging technologies. The hackathon is organized by AI Nation and the Adria Future Foundation, with support from the World Bank, Reputeo, and MTEL Montenegro, the platinum partner of the Adria Future Summit.

Across the region, economies are navigating structural transformation shaped by digitalisation, artificial intelligence and increasing regulatory and market demands for sustainability. Businesses are moving beyond service-based models towards innovation-led growth, while public and private actors alike face growing pressure to integrate ESG standards, green transition targets and data-driven decision-making into their operations.

In this context, the hackathon is designed as a practical platform where technical talent, entrepreneurial thinking and sustainability priorities converge. It seeks to demonstrate how AI can move beyond theory and experimentation into applied solutions that address concrete environmental and social challenges, while also creating scalable business opportunities.

The initiative contributes to the broader objectives of the Adria Future Summit innovation programme by fostering regional cooperation, strengthening early-stage innovation capacity and supporting the development of solutions with long-term economic and societal relevance.

Purpose of the Call

The purpose of this Call for Applications is to identify and select up to ten (10) teams from the Western Balkans to participate in a 24-hour AI x Sustainability Hackathon. Selected teams will develop prototype-level solutions integrating artificial intelligence to address defined sustainability challenges.



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Thematic Scope

All proposed solutions must align with the overarching theme: “AI for Sustainability”

Eligible focus areas include, but are not limited to:

- Energy efficiency
- Smart cities and mobility
- Circular economy and waste reduction
- Agriculture and water management
- Carbon tracking and ESG automation
- Sustainable fashion, food and consumption patterns

Each proposal must include a clearly defined AI component (e.g. machine learning model, LLM-based tool, predictive analytics, data automation, optimisation systems).

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must meet the following conditions:

- Teams must consist of 2–4 members.
- All team members must be under 35 years of age.
- Advantage: At least two members nationals or residents of Western Balkans economies (Albania, Kosovo, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia).
- All team members must be available to participate in the full 24-hour hackathon in Montenegro.

At least one team per Western Balkans economy will be guaranteed selection, subject to minimum quality standards.

Participant Responsibilities

Selected teams will be required to:

- Attend the hackathon in person for the full duration (23–24 April 2026).
- Develop a demonstrable solution.
- Participate in mentoring sessions.
- Deliver a final pitch presentation during the Demo Day at the Adria Future Summit.
- Comply with event rules and code of conduct.



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Support Provided

Organisers will provide:

- Access to AI, product and sustainability mentors.
- API and cloud credits where applicable.
- Workspace, meals and refreshments during the 24-hour event.
- Pitch training and presentation coaching.

Transport and accommodation costs are not covered.

Selection and Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be reviewed by a Selection Committee composed of representatives of AI Nation, Adria Future Summit and relevant partners.

Evaluation will be based on:

- Relevance to theme and sustainability alignment
- Clarity and feasibility of the proposed solution
- Quality and technical capacity of the team
- Innovation and originality
- Potential impact and scalability
- Presentation quality and clarity of concept

The Selection Committee reserves the right to request additional clarification if needed.

Awards

Grand Prize (1st Place):

- 3,000 EUR
- AI Nation Residency Programme
- Main stage visibility at the Adria Future Summit
- Mentorship and investor introductions
- Participation in a Corporate Sustainability Management Programme
- Presentation of their concept via social media and communications channels of AFS
- Partner ecosystem benefits
- Certificate of participation



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2nd Place:

- 1,500 EUR
- Mentorship and investor introductions
- Participation in a Corporate Sustainability Management Programme
- Presentation of their concept via social media and communications channels of AFS
- Partner ecosystem benefits
- Certificate of participation

3rd Place:

- 500 EUR
- Participation in a Corporate Sustainability Management Programme
- Presentation of their concept via social media and communications channels of AFS
- Partner ecosystem benefits
- Certificate of participation

All Other Finalist Teams:

- Participation in a Corporate Sustainability Management Programme
- Certificate of participation

Timeline

Call for Applications

Opens 18 March 2026

Application Deadline: 4 April 2026

Notification of Selected Teams 8 April 2026

Hackathon 23–24 April 2026

Application Form: <https://adriafuturesummit.org/hackathon/>

Application Procedure

- Applications must be submitted via the official online application form.
- Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.
- Applicants may be contacted for clarification during the review process.
- For questions regarding this Call, please contact: nedim@sustineri-partners.com