



NEWSLETTER



PUTTING LEARNING INTO PRACTICE

During the third project phase, SeedFund moved from educational preparation to practical experience. Students and young entrepreneurs took part in hackathons, bootcamps and business challenges in Greece, France, Bulgaria, Poland, Cyprus and Spain. The activities were different in each country, but they shared one goal: helping participants develop an idea, test it and explain it clearly. The project planned national hackathons as a way to assess business ideas and test the SeedFund fundraising and evaluation methods.

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GREECE: IDEAS FOR AGRI-FOOD SMES

On 27 November 2025, students at the University of Piraeus took part in the Business Ideas for Agri-Food SMEs Hackathon, working on challenges faced by small food producers, cooperatives and rural businesses. The teams developed three ideas: a platform for simpler ESG reporting, an AI tool to reduce energy and operating costs, and a circular marketplace for reusing by-products. Each team also prepared a prototype, business model, ESG value statement and route-to-market plan.



FRANCE: ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE CLASSROOM

On 10 and 13 February 2026, Master's students at the University of Strasbourg joined a two-day SeedFund bootcamp. Up to 21 students worked with practical methods while also discussing the wider economic and social conditions that affect business development. The sessions gave students time to question their assumptions, improve their ideas and connect financial education with the realities faced by startups and SMEs.



BULGARIA: STUDENTS TAKE ON AN AI CHALLENGE

On 20 and 23 March 2026, the University of National and World Economy hosted The AI Architect Business and AI Hackathon. Sixty-two students formed 21 teams and responded to a challenge set by DSK Bank. They were asked to design an AI system capable of processing incoming documentation. The teams had only four hours of live work and did not need previous technical or AI experience. By the final presentation day, 19 teams had completed and presented their solutions. The event showed that students from different academic backgrounds could respond to a real business problem and develop practical AI ideas under time pressure.



POLAND: NINE TEAMS TEST THEIR IDEAS

On 9 April 2026, 32 participants joined the SeedFund hackathon at the University of Economics in Katowice. Working in nine teams, students analysed project challenges and prepared solutions using knowledge from their studies. The final ideas were presented to a jury with experience in business development, AI training and enterprise finance. The participants received direct feedback from both academic and professional perspectives. The hackathon was promoted through university websites, Facebook pages and electronic bulletins sent to students, staff and external stakeholders.



CYPRUS: FROM AN IDEA TO A BUSINESS PITCH

On 9 May 2026, the SeedFund Innovation and Entrepreneurship Hackathon took place at Neapolis University Pafos. Students, graduates and aspiring entrepreneurs used the Lean Canvas to turn social, business and environmental challenges into structured business ideas, then presented short pitches and answered questions from the jury. The proposals were assessed on originality, feasibility, market relevance, team potential and pitch quality, following SeedFund presentations held during the university's Career Days on 6 and 7 May.



SPAIN: RURAL IDEAS IN PRADOLUENGO

On 9 June 2026, 29 participants joined the first Rural Innovation Hackathon in Pradoluengo, Burgos. Working across a school, a local factory and a rural coworking space, the teams explored challenges related to textile waste, sustainability, rural businesses, employment and the local economy. They developed practical proposals, presented their ideas at the end of the day and competed for a €2,000 prize pool supporting the strongest concepts.

WHAT DID THE HACKATHONS SHOW?

The national activities showed that entrepreneurial learning becomes more effective when students work on real challenges rather than theory alone. Participants collaborated with people from different backgrounds, made quick decisions, considered costs and risks, explained the value of their ideas and improved their proposals after receiving feedback. The next newsletter will look at the multiplier events, the final conference and the main results SeedFund will leave behind, showing how the project's work moved from research and training into practical action.

FOLLOW SEEDFUND



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