



GroundUp Hackathons

Fostering CBRNE Innovation Across Central and South-Eastern Europe

About GroundUp

The GroundUp project is an EU-funded initiative supporting the civil applications of CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives) technologies to strengthen public safety, environmental protection, and crisis management.

Our mission is to connect academia, research, and industry and accelerate the market uptake of new technologies across Central and South-Eastern Europe.

Apply for the GroundUp Hackathon

GroundUp invites students, researchers, and young innovators from across Southern and Central-Eastern Europe to apply for the upcoming Hackathons in Serbia and Hungary. Join us in developing creative, practical concepts that address real-world civil challenges in the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE) domains.

Over two intensive days, participants will work in teams, guided by expert mentors from academia, industry, and government, to design and pitch innovative ideas that improve public safety, environmental protection, and emergency preparedness.

Key Dates



13. March 2026

Joint Online Opening & Idea Day (for all participants)



21. March 2026

Hungarian Hackathon hosted by Design Terminal, Budapest



28. March 2026

Serbian Hackathon hosted by VINS Institute, Belgrade

Both events welcome international participants from the Central and South-Eastern European region.

Who Should Join

- Companies and organisations looking for fresh ideas and collaboration
- Students, researchers, and entrepreneurs ready to make an impact in CBRNE innovation. Interdisciplinary teams are encouraged to apply.
- Team and Individual applications are welcome (Note: individual applications will be formed into teams)

Awards and prizes

- Research visit to Ireland & Aquila Exposure Programme
- Access to HUN-REN Energy Research Centre facilities
- Specialised “General Awareness CBRN Training” delivered by Vinča Institute of Nuclear Sciences (VINS)
- Visit to the Nuclear Plant of Hungary

Travel cost reimbursement will be available for all on-site hackathons participants:

- **Serbian Hackathon:** €130 (Serbia), €180 (Bosnia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Bulgaria)
- **Hungarian Hackathon:** up to €200 (eligibility rules apply)

Mentoring Programme

The hackathons serve as a direct entry point to the GroundUp Mentoring Programme.

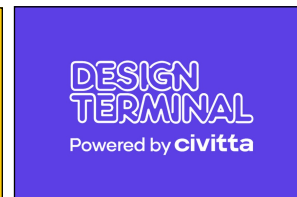
Outstanding teams and individuals are invited to continue developing their concepts under expert guidance. Through personalised mentoring, they will receive business, technical, research and strategic support and connections to prepare for market readiness, EU funding opportunities, or future partnerships. This ensures the hackathons act as launchpads for long-term innovation within the GroundUp ecosystem.

Eligibility Criteria

- Open to individuals and teams residing in the EU, in accordance with the project's geographical scope.
- Teams of 3-4 are encouraged to apply.
- Applicants must be 18+ (All children travelling may need an extra (official) document signed by their parents, second parent or legal guardian(s) authorising them to travel)
- Ideas must be CBRNE-related and aligned with the mission and objectives of the hackathon.

Participation is subject to the organiser review and acceptance, our evaluation team will select the most suitable candidate of the hackathon.

Consortium partners



[Register Your Team Here](#)