

CAPSELLA Acceleration Programme: Apply to participate in a holistic programme for the development of innovative solutions for the agri-food sector

The Capsella Innovation programme, bringing Open Innovation in the agri-food sector, has land in Athens. Invitations are open to anyone to create original solutions for big challenges in the agri-food sector, at its Innovation Contest on the 6th-7th of October. Winners will win a unique chance to incubate their business idea. Agriculture is ideally placed not just to cash in on digital innovations, but, as highlighted by this year's Global Innovation Index report, its innovations are needed to 'Feed the world'.

With an emphasis on agricultural biodiversity, the CAPSELLA team invites anyone in the EU over the age of 18 to participate in the Innovation Contest. With the deadline to register on **29 September 2017**, it's not too late create the future and make sure you play a leading role in it. The contest is addressed to students, young scientists, developers, engineers, economists, agronomists, farmers, foresters, geographers, executives Communication, marketing, and general entrepreneurs-to-be. Whoever sings up will be contributing to the sustainable development of the future agri-food industry. The CAPSELLA co-creation process is also open to all related European Innovation partnerships, NGOs, other CAPS projects, Citizen Observatories and maker projects, that are invited to become part of the CAPSELLA community.

The CAPSELLA Acceleration Programme is designed to facilitate Open Innovation in the agri-food sector, to create new technologies, applications, platforms, and processes that will allow the upgrade of tools and methods that are implemented nowadays in the ecological, biodiversity based, organic agriculture sector.

Participants who register must propose a business idea to solve one of the challenges put forward by the contest. An expert group of judges will then select the best business ideas submitted, to ensure a balance between 'long shots' with high impact, as well more incremental but still vital innovations.

Those with the best business ideas will be called to form a team with **2 to 5 others** and asked to address one of the challenges proposed by the contest. With the guidance of distinguished mentors, participants will be able to ideate their own solutions and use design thinking techniques to develop minimum viable product ideas. Once the competition has been completed, the teams will present their idea to the evaluation panel. panel experts will select the best, based on innovativeness of the idea, the readiness for commercial exploitation, team completeness and complementarity.

The ultimate goal of the CAPSELLA Accelerator Programme is to "Create innovative solutions for boosting the transition to ecological, diversity based, organic agriculture". With this in mind, there is a warm up event for the Contest on 23.09.2017, to contribute to building stronger teams and a deep understanding of CAPSELLA Challenges. Once the Contest itself on the 6 and 7 October has yielded its winners, they will be supported by a growth program that includes training, mentoring and incubation to achieve the transformation of ideas into mature solutions. The CAPSELLA Accelerator Programme is an end-to end innovation journey that will excite and reward those who will participate in it – and ultimately, 'feed the world'.

For further information and to submit your participation request visit the website: <http://www.capsella.eu/acceleration-programme/>

The Capsella Acceleration Programme is organised by [Corallia](#) - [Athena Research Center](#) in collaboration with [We Deliver Taste](#), [AgroKnow](#), [Zephyr](#), [Aston University](#), [Semi Rurali](#), [ZLTO](#) and [Sant' Anna – School of Advanced Studies](#) with the support of the [European Union](#), [TP Organics](#), the [Copernicus Relays](#) and [Copernicus Academy](#) networks.

About the CAPSELLA Acceleration Programme

The CAPSELLA Acceleration Programme facilitates the co-creation of disruptive and breakthrough solutions, business ideas and opportunities for supporting innovative, diversity-based, quality and health-centred food systems in Europe. We strengthen the ongoing transitions to agroecological, biodiversity based and organic practices and systems by opening up the innovation cycle and bringing together people from diverse backgrounds to co-create tomorrow's products and services, in the sustainable agriculture sector that is continuously growing despite the harsh economic environment. We propose a bottom up approach for the development of data driven solutions that will contribute to a greener and fair future with efficiency and transparency in the ecological, biodiversity based, organic agriculture sector. The CAPSELLA Acceleration Programme facilitates the co-creation of disruptive and breakthrough solutions, business ideas and opportunities for supporting innovative, diversity-based, quality and health-centred food systems in Europe. We strengthen the ongoing transitions to agroecological, biodiversity based and organic practices and systems by opening up the innovation cycle and bringing together people from diverse backgrounds to co-create tomorrow's products and services, in the sustainable agriculture sector that is continuously growing despite the harsh economic environment. We propose a bottom up approach for the development of data driven solutions that will contribute to a greener and fair future with efficiency and transparency in the ecological, biodiversity based, organic agriculture sector.

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