



REGIONE DEL VENETO

AD 2025
AGENDA
DIGITALE
DEL VENETO

Veneto
innovazione



BLUE & SPACE ECONOMY

PARTECIPANT GUIDE 2025

VeneTo Stars Challenge

Veneto Region

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1. VeneTo Stars Challenge: "Supporting the Blue & Space Economy"

VeneTo Stars is a Space Data-driven challenge promoted by the Veneto Region in Italy and open to young European residents. **The initiative aims to foster innovative ideas that leverage Space Data and Technology to support the growth of the Blue and Space Economies**, while also facilitating connections between young European innovators and local enterprises in these sectors.

The combined opportunities offered by the Blue and Space Economies, along with Italy's extensive expertise and capabilities in these fields, have the potential to significantly impact the national economy. The Veneto Region stands out in Italy for its leadership in sectors such as the fishing supply chain, maritime transport of goods and passengers, and shipbuilding.

The Space Economy has long been recognized as a sector of entrepreneurial excellence in the Veneto Region, recently securing major public contracts from the Italian Space Agency (ASI) and the European Space Agency (ESA). Most regional companies operating in the Space Economy focus on the "upstream" segment. However, initiatives like the ESA BIC, participation in the IRIDE project, and the Veneto Digital Agenda's emphasis on space data are increasingly driving the development of the "downstream" sector.

The interplay between the Blue and Space Economies offers the potential to create new applications and services for the population, businesses, and the environment, as well as unlock global market opportunities.

Ideas submitted to the challenge must utilize Space Data or Technology and demonstrate applicability within the Veneto Region, highlighting a clear intersection between the Blue and Space Economies. **Potential areas of interest include (but are not limited to):**

- **Marine environment**
- **Land and seaways logistics**

- Art, culture, and unique landscapes (e.g., Venice and its lagoon)
- Renewable energy and sustainability
- Engineering, materials, and propulsion systems
- Safety and security
- Tourism
- Seafood management
- Climate change and environmental safety
- Marin

VeneTo Stars twofold objectives are to boost **the interest of the European young generation towards Space Data/Tech sources and promote the use of Space Data/Tech to support the Blue and Space Economy.**

1.1 Eligibility

The Challenge is open to teams consisting of **recent graduates, students, and young professionals** residing in the EEA¹ and Switzerland.

Teams must have a **minimum of 2 and a maximum of 7 members.**

The majority of team members must be aged 18-25 at the time of submission.

1.2 Timeline

1.APPLICATION

FEBRUARY 13TH TO APRIL 10TH 2025
HRS 23:59 CET



3.AWARD

PITCH SPACE MEETINGS VENETO
MAY 2025



2.SELECTION

TEN IDEAS WILL BE SELECTED
AND NOTIFIED **BY THE 19TH**
OF APRIL 2025 HRS 23:59 CET



4.EXPLOITATION

COME TO VENETO REGION
JUNE 2025

¹ European Economic Area

The VeneTo Stars Challenge covers a five months period and is composed of:

- **APPLICATION**

Teams can register and submit their ideas/concepts from 13th February to 10th April 2025 hrs 23:59 CET.

- **SELECTION**

Ten (**10**) ideas/concepts will be selected and the correspondent teams notified by the 19th of April 2025 hrs 23:59 CET.

- **AWARD - SPACE MEETINGS VENETO (20-22 May, 2025)**

The 10 selected teams will be hosted in Venice during the “Space Meetings Veneto 2025” (SMV) where they will have the opportunity to connect with companies and professionals from the Blue and Space Economy.

An international jury will select and award the top three proposals.

- **EXPLOITATION (June 2025)**

The three winning teams will have the opportunity to spend one week in the Veneto Region in June 2025, participating in a tailor-made program. This program will include coaching, entrepreneurial and technical sessions, as well as advisory activities designed to further develop their prototypes and maybe run a pilot test in a real environment and interacting with interested stakeholders. The week will be held in a state-of-the-art campus and include entrepreneurial and technical sessions as well as outdoor activities.

At the end of the week there will be a final event to present the results of the activities.

2. Four Phases of the Challenge

2.1 Application

1. Ideas can only be submitted through the form available on the official Challenge website (www.venetostars.com) by the designated team contact person.
2. The contact person will be required to provide details for all other team members.
3. Applications must be submitted between 13th February and 10th April, no later than 23:59 CET. Any deadline extensions will be appropriately announced through communication channels, social media, and official web pages.
4. Submission material will include:
 - a. **A deck of up to 10 slides**, structured as follows:
 - i. Problem
 - ii. Solution
 - iii. How your idea can be applied to the Veneto Region
 - iv. Comparison with other existing solutions or similar ideas (if any)
 - v. Team presentation
 - vi. Development Timeline
 - vii. Final concept to pitch if selected for the Award phase in May
 - viii. Type of support the Veneto Region could provide to further develop idea (if selected as overall winner)
 - b. **Acceptance of the Privacy Statement on the submission page.**
5. Please notice that an incomplete submission can lead to an exclusion from the Challenge.
6. Intellectual property will remain with the idea owners and the submitting team members.

2.2 Selection

A designated committee will evaluate and select the ten best proposals submitted.

The selected teams will be notified via email by 19th April 2025 at 23:59 CET.

The selection committee for the first phase (SELECTION) will include experts from the Veneto Region, supported by representatives from regional research centres and Space Data/Tech specialists.

The selection criteria are as follows:

- **Relevance:** The alignment of the idea with the goals of the VeneTo Stars Challenge, particularly its applicability to the Veneto Region and adherence to the specified topics (see Section 1).
- **Impact:** The scale and timeframe at which the idea delivers tangible socio-economic benefits to the region, as well as the measurable outcomes of its application.
- **Feasibility:** The extent to which the idea can be implemented using existing technologies, its Technology Readiness Level (TRL), and the time required to transform it into a prototype.
- **Scalability:** The clarity of the steps outlined for progressing from concept to a mock-up, prototype, or demo, to be presented during the Space Meetings Veneto if selected.
- **Presentation:** The quality, organization, and overall clarity of the submission.
- **Team:** Gender balance and multidisciplinary composition.

Each criterion will be scored on a scale from 0 to 5, as outlined in the table below:

Criteria	Weight
Relevance	0 - 5
Impact	0 - 5
Feasibility	0 - 5
Scalability	0 - 5
Presentation	0 - 5
Team	0 - 5

To qualify, proposals must achieve a minimum score of 2 for each criterion. Only 10 teams will be selected, and the jury's decisions are final and cannot be challenged.

The selected teams will pitch their ideas during the Space Meetings Veneto, held in Venice from May 20–22, 2025. Participants will have the chance to present their mock-ups or prototypes and connect with investors, end-users, and stakeholders.

After notification, each team must inform the organizers of the names of up to three members by 24th April 2025. These members will be sponsored by the Veneto Region to attend the Space Meetings Veneto event/exhibition and deliver their pitch.

2.3 Award - Space Meetings Veneto 2025

The (10) ten selected teams will be invited to visit Veneto and participate in the unique three-day event “Space Meetings Veneto” (SMV) in Venice (<https://spacemeetingsveneto.com/>). During the event, they will have the opportunity to meet professionals and firms, gaining valuable insights to enhance their proposals and further develop them from concepts to mock-ups or prototypes.

The best advancement from ideas/concepts to mock-up/prototype during the finalists' pitch session at the Space Meetings Veneto SMV (May 20-22, 2025) will be awarded. Moreover, some local enterprises active in Blue and/or Space Economy will meet the finalist teams through 1-2-1 sessions and will submit a need or a challenges.

The teams will be asked to include in their final pitch **two specific slides** related to one of the 1-2-1 meeting they ran with a possible idea to tackle the need/challenge. This element might be part of the final evaluation by the award jury.

A purely indicative schedule for the teams attending the Space Meetings Veneto 2025 could be:

19th May	• arrival and welcoming
20th May	• dedicated workshop (including 1-2-1 session with enterprises TBD) and lecture • meeting and visit to relevant site • social dinner
21st May	• exhibition access • dedicated workshop (including 1-2- session with enterprises TBD) • pitching session (finals)
22nd May	• dedicated workshop • winners announcement and award ceremony

Updated info about Space Meetings Veneto and overall program details will be available on the official website spacemeetingsveneto.com and www.venetostars.com

The award jury will consist of experts representing the sponsors, the Veneto Region, national and international stakeholders active in the challenge topics, the Italian Space Agency, the National Copernicus User Forum, investors, end-users, and other specialists. The jury will select the three best proposals, and the finalist teams will be invited to spend time in the Veneto Region (tentatively in June).

The award jury will also evaluate the development of the ideas/concepts submitted during the first phase (19th of April), assessing their progress to the final pitch presented at the SMV 2025, including any integration resulting from the 1-2-1 meetings. The evaluation will not only focus on the most original idea but also on how effectively it addresses a need or challenge proposed by one of the enterprises met during the 1-2-1 sessions.

For example, if you submitted a sea-life monitoring tool using GNSS, Copernicus data, and sensors by 10th April and were selected to present in Venice, during the “Space Meetings Veneto” live pitch, you would be expected to showcase a working demo, prototype screenshot, or beta version of the tool. Furthermore, following the 1-2-1 meetings with

enterprises during the dedicated session, you will be required to integrate your presentation with two additional slides addressing the specific needs or challenges discussed. These slides will be a crucial part of the jury's evaluation.

Important notes:

- A maximum of 3 members per team will be covered for travel and lodging expenses
- The decision of the jury is unquestionable.
- According to the sponsors decision some runner-up teams could be awarded a special mention/prize.
- The jury could also consider in the evaluation the enterprises challenge solution proposed (see AWARD section).

2.4 Exploitation

- **coaching/mentoring**
- **presentation of the reviewed project (considering all the inputs gathered during the mentoring phase)**

The THREE winning teams members will be invited to spend one week in Veneto Region in June 2025 and a maximum of 3 members per team will be covered expenses. A tailor-made program will be designed to favour meetings, mentoring, coaching and also advisory activities to further advance the prototype and maybe run a pilot test (i.e. real case application): *learn, develop, enhance and potentially apply the prototype to a real context*. An additional opportunity will be given to deepen relationship with enterprises (the ones met at SMV) who might be interested in exploiting winning ideas together. The week will be held in a state-of-the-art campus and include entrepreneurial and technical sessions as well as outdoor activities.

At the end of the week a final event is envisaged to present the results of the activities.

3. Resources

The main Space Data sources related to the EU Space Programme can be divided into five main packages:

- Copernicus
- Galileo
- EGNOS
- Govsatcom
- EUSST

The VeneTo Stars Challenge: "Supporting the Blu & Space Economy" is interested in ideas using the first **three** plus ECMWF (see below).

[Copernicus](#) is the European Union's Earth observation programme, looking at our planet and its environment to benefit all European citizens. It offers information services that draw from satellite Earth Observation and in-situ (non-space) data.

EUSPA has created a simple guide on how to access Copernicus data for people who hear about it for the first time.

[Galileo](#) is Europe's Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), providing improved positioning and timing information with significant positive implications for many European services and users.

[EGNOS](#) The European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service (EGNOS) is Europe's regional satellite-based augmentation system (SBAS) that is used to improve the performance of global navigation satellite systems (GNSSs).

[ECMWF](#) is the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts whose objective is to produce and disseminate weather forecast data for the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NHMSs) of ECMWF Member and Co-operating States and their authorised users.

ECMWF is both a research institute and a 24/7 operational service; the Centre has one of the largest supercomputer facilities and meteorological data archives in the world.

ECMWF is a key player in Copernicus, the Earth Observation component of the European Union's Space programme, offering quality-assured information on climate change (**Copernicus Climate Change Service**), atmospheric composition (Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service), flooding and fire danger (**Copernicus Emergency Management Service**), and through the EU's Destination Earth initiative, ECMWF is developing prototype digital twins of the Earth.

Data are accessible following the links:

- [C3S and the Climate Data Store](#) [CAMS and the Atmosphere Data Store](#)

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