



AURORA

Nomination deadline
September 14, 2026

6th seismic hackathon

Re-thinking Food Systems in the Anthropocene

Pilot domain: Social Entrepreneurship & Innovation

Format: Lectures, seminars, workshops

Max 5 positions per each university open to Aurora students

Study cycle: B.A, M.A, PhD or equivalent course at any Aurora university.

Faculty: Arts and Humanities; Architecture and Design; Social Sciences; Business, Administration and Law; Natural Sciences; Information and Communication Technologies; Agriculture; Health and Welfare.

SDGs: SDG1. No poverty | SDG2. Zero hunger | SDG3. Good health and well-being | SDG8. Decent work and economic growth | SDG10. Reduced inequalities | SDG11. Sustainable cities and communities | SDG12. Responsible consumption and production | SDG13. Climate action | SDG15. Life on land | SDG16. Peace, justice, and strong institutions

Application procedure:

Each university takes care of the application, selection and nomination of max 5 students. Interested students should reach their Mobility Office to apply for this opportunity.

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Virtual component
1 October 2026



Presential component: 5 days Workshop at UNINA



19-23 October 2026



English language
3 ECTS credits

6th seismic hackathon

“Re-thinking Food Systems in the Anthropocene”

Anthropogenic climate change, species extinction, and other environmental factors associated with the Anthropocene are already transforming the conditions under which food is produced, distributed, and consumed on a global scale.

At the same time, different processes are also underway. The food economy is witnessing the rise of innovative business models that are increasingly attentive to social and environmental concerns. Digital technologies — ranging from drones and precision agriculture to e-commerce platforms and delivery applications — are significantly reshaping food production and distribution, while in the field of food consumption there is a renewed interest in traditional foods and artisanal production methods, valued for their distinct tastes, aesthetics, and cultural values. Cooking — and food manipulation in general — has always been imbued with issues of cultural identity, but there is much more to it: the kitchen is an outright political space in which different kinds of struggles are still being fought, from those traditionally related to class to those concerned with women's empowerment or with colonial legacies.

From this perspective, participants will be invited to work in **transdisciplinary groups** and **develop systemic design proposals that reframe one or more of the stages of the food system** (production, processing, cooking, distribution, and/or consumption) in ways that guarantee **social equity, ecological sustainability, and economic and financial feasibility**, while also taking into proper account the aforementioned **political issues**.

Now in its 6th edition, the workshop is one of the most established educational initiatives within **Work Package 3**, "Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation", of the Aurora University Alliance.

Objectives and expected results of the initiative

The aim of the hackathon is to offer participants a **design-based learning experience** that addresses some of the most pressing challenges of our time—climate change, the exploitation of labour and territories by global agribusiness, and growing socio-economic inequalities. Participants will be invited to tackle these issues from a radically transdisciplinary perspective, integrating diverse fields of knowledge from the outset, including **social entrepreneurship, design for social innovation, agroecology, and circular economy**.

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Adam Arvidsson is full professor of Sociology at the University of Naples Federico II. He works on digital and social innovation in the context of the Anthropocene. In the past he has written on brands and consumer culture, culture and creative industries, start-ups and the platform economy, peer production and digital alternatives.



Ramon Rispoli is associate professor of design at the University of Naples Federico II. His research interests focus on theory of contemporary architecture and design, with particular interest in their aesthetic and political dimensions. He authored two monographies, as well as articles and essays published in academic journals and edited books. He took part in several international conferences and seminars and was awarded with research fellowships in institutions such as the Canadian Centre for Architecture (Montréal) and the Getty Research Institute (Los Angeles).



Martina Bosone is Researcher in Evaluation at the University of Naples Federico II. Her research focuses on multidimensional impact evaluation of the circular economy model implementation in the fields of cultural heritage and urban regeneration, sustainable cultural tourism and climate change management in multi-risk urban and metropolitan contexts, with particular attention to participatory evaluation models and tools for innovative governance, business and financing models.



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Benedetta Toledo is a Ph.D. candidate in Design and Architecture Philosophy at the Department of Humanities (DSU) of the University of Naples Federico II, where she graduated in Digital Design in the M.Sc. “Design for the Built Environment”. Communication Officer and Representative for Federico II in the Aurora Student Council, within the Aurora European University Alliance. Since 2024, she has served as *Culture della materia* (Subject Expert) in Design at the Department of Architecture. Alumna of the Apple Developer Academy Federico II.



Valentina Alcalde Gómez is a PhD student at the Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II, within the European **seismic MSCA network**. Her research explores design practices that foster healing and regeneration in contexts of socio-ecological transition, focusing on the intersections between Transition Design and community-based social entrepreneurship. With a decolonial approach grounded in the Global South, she bridges research and community practice through participatory, embodied, and senti-pensante (feeling-thinking) methodologies. Valentina holds a background in design and communication for social change, and critical epistemologies, envisioning design as a practice of care, autonomy, and interdependence.



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