esa Φ-lab

in collaboration with Save the Children

GRAND MARATHON

Monitoring the impact of climate change on spreading of infectious diseases

APPLY NOW

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ESA Φ-lab explores innovative technologies to revolutionise and accelerate the future of Earth Observation

ESA Φ-lab **provides an open and dynamic innovation ecosystem** designed to transform visionary ideas into market-ready solutions, enhancing Europe's global competitiveness.

Φ-lab uniquely **manages the full innovation cycle**, from nurturing blue-sky concepts to delivering tangible impact across commercial, scientific, and NGO communities.

By offering financial, technical, and business support, Φ-lab **helps to bridge the gap between innovative ideas and the market** by helping to scale up the commercialisation potential of projects.

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What is the Grand Marathon?

The ESA Φ-lab Grand Marathon is a challenge for innovators dedicated to leveraging Earth Observation data to tackle the impact of climate change on the spread of infectious diseases, with a focus on solutions that benefit children and adolescents.

Running from November 28th 2024 to the end of June 2025, the Grand Marathon follows a progressive timeline:

Km 0- 5

Participants submit a concise 5-page idea outline proposal with a Lean Business Plan

Km 10-20

The teams of the 3 finalists develop a detailed 25-page proposal with a comprehensive business plan.

Participants deliver the algorithm simulation or PoC and expected results and show them at the Hello Tomorrow Global Summit on March 13th-14th 2025.



Km 20-30

3 selected finalists create a first prototype using Earth Observation test data

Km 30-42

Finalists deliver a high-fidelity prototype or Minimum Viable Product demonstrating real-case scenarios

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You are the perfect fit for this opportunity, if

You want to :

- **Predict future climate change events** using Earth Observation data and forecasting,
- **Map emerging geographical risk areas**,
- **Anticipate the spread of climate events and infectious diseases**, with a focus on their disproportionate impact on younger populations.

You want to **win up to €215K while developing novel approaches** to pressing environmental and public health issues while developing novel approaches to pressing environmental and public health issues.

You are **working on a project with a clear market viability**, scalability, and real-world application

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Are you developing solutions for the following topics?

Sea Level Rise and Coastal Erosion

Addressing waterborne diseases due to saltwater intrusion, focusing on preventing outbreaks that disproportionately affect the health and development of the most vulnerable.

Heatwaves and Urban Heat Islands

Real-time monitoring of temperature variations in urban areas, to identify specific areas at higher risk of extreme heat exposure.

Flooding and Extreme Rainfall

Addressing waterborne diseases following flooding events, with a focus on preventing outbreaks by improving sanitation and access to clean water.

Drought and Desertification

- Monitoring soil moisture levels and vegetation health, ensuring access availability, access, utilization and stability of sustainable agriculture.
- Predicting drought conditions and managing water resources sustainably to ensure equitable water distribution.

Other climate-related topics

Any other climate-related topics with applications in public health considering the challenges faced by the most vulnerable populations, such as their increased susceptibility to malnutrition, respiratory illnesses, and the psychological impacts of displacement due to climate events.

TO GET MORE INFORMATION:

VISIT OUR WEBSITE HERE

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Why should you apply to the program?

Societal Impact:

- Develop scalable, market-ready solutions to monitor and predict the impact of climate change on infectious diseases, with a focus on protecting vulnerable children and adolescents from emerging health risks.

- The Project's winning solutions will collaborate with Save the Children to explore opportunities for implementing these solutions in future initiatives.



Showcase Globally:

Pitch on the stage during Hello Tomorrow Global Summit in Paris (March 13th-14th 2025)

Gain International Recognition:

Showcase your innovative solution at the Living Planet Symposium 2025 in Vienna

Refine Your Pitch:

Receive exclusive coaching from Hello Tomorrow's experts

Connect with Leading Experts:

Connect with ESA and Φ-lab's Earth Observation experts

Win Substantial Funding:

1st Runner	2nd Runner	3rd Runner
€215K	€65K	€15K

Travel & accommodation for the Hello Tomorrow Global Summit will be covered for the top 3 runners, with additional coverage for the Living Planet Symposium for the 1st Runner.

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What's next?

The Grand Marathon is structured as a progressive competition
beginning on November 28th 2024 (Km 0) and lasting until the end of June 2025 (Km 42).

Km 0	Km 5	Km 10	Km 20	Km 30	Km 42
November 28th Applications open	**January 31st** Applications close	**February 13th** 3 runners selected	**March 13th-14th** 3 runners presentation at Hello Tomorrow Global Summit	**May 1st** Medal to runners	**July 1st** Winner announcement
December 11th 1st Ask Me Anything Webinar	**January 28th** 2nd Ask Me Anything Webinar				

3 runners deliver first protype → **€15k** to each team

2 runners deliver second protype → **€50k** to each team

1 runner final delivery → **€150k**

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Join the Grand Marathon: Innovate for a Sustainable and Healthy Future!

APPLY BY **JANUARY 31ST 2025**

For more information or for any questions you might have, do not hesitate to contact:

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