

Acceleration program Taranto CirTech

CHALLENGE

Born within the “MUSA” Innovation Ecosystem as part of the PNRR (National Recovery and Resilience Plan), Taranto CirTech aims to bridge the technological gap in Southern Italy by transforming innovative **startups** and **SMEs** into **scalable businesses**. The challenge lies in connecting universities, companies, and investors to apply Deep Tech solutions—such as AI, Blockchain, and Biotechnology—to critical sectors including the Blue Economy, energy, waste recycling, and agrifood, thereby strengthening regional competitiveness through **sustainable innovation**.

KEY ACTIVITIES/ACHIEVEMENTS

Tondo’s strategic initiative took the form of an intensive 9-week acceleration program, resulting in the selection of **11 high-potential startups** with an estimated investment value of approximately €20,000 per entity. During the program, participants benefited from comprehensive **strategic support**, including **specialized masterclasses**, personalized **one-to-one mentoring**, and **B2B meetings** designed to accelerate market entry. As direct incentives, in addition to free access to program resources, cash prizes of up to €12,500 were awarded to the most high-impact solutions. This intervention successfully validated and enhanced the application of advanced materials and digital technologies, concretely boosting the technological competitiveness of the region.

