

3# NEWSLETTER

IGNITE:

4th Transnational Project Meeting – Barcelona, Spain (May 2026)

Building the Final Phase of IGNITE

Project partners gathered at the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC) in Barcelona for the 4th Transnational Project Meeting, where they reviewed the progress of all work packages and coordinated the final phase of the project. The meeting focused on finalising project results, monitoring key performance indicators, planning national multiplier events, preparing the final conference in Slovenia, and discussing the long-term sustainability of IGNITE outputs. The consortium also reviewed the implementation of the Virtual Learning Garden, Innovation Marathon, practical workshops, e-guidelines and dissemination activities, ensuring that all project objectives will be successfully achieved before project completion.



IGNITE Innovation Marathon final event in Barcelona (May 2026)

Students Turning Knowledge into Sustainable Innovation

One of the highlights of the Barcelona meeting was the international Innovation Marathon, where students from partner universities presented innovative solutions inspired by the IGNITE nano-learning modules. During the event, participants pitched their projects before an international evaluation committee composed of seven experts representing all project partners. Following presentations, mentoring sessions and final pitches, the committee selected the winning project:

Winner: "Cold Atmospheric Plasma-treated Hydrogels for Bladder Cancer Therapy" by Vittoria Rogge (UPC).

The Innovation Marathon demonstrated how interdisciplinary teamwork, sustainability and entrepreneurship can be successfully integrated into higher education through real-world challenges.

STUDENT PROJECTS

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR A BETTER FUTURE



AgriNova - smart nano-fertilizers enabling more efficient nutrient use while reducing fertilizer consumption, greenhouse gas emissions and water pollution.



MagNetZero - energy-efficient magnetic carbon capture technology supporting net-zero emissions through advanced metal-organic frameworks.



TerraTrace - biodegradable nanomaterial-based soil pH sensors enabling continuous soil monitoring without electronic waste.



Transforming Food Waste into Home Compostable Cups - biodegradable coffee cups produced from spent coffee grounds, supporting circular economy principles.



ChromoHeal - an intelligent biodegradable wound dressing capable of monitoring wound healing through pH-responsive biomaterials.



ReRoute - a data-driven solution for improving the availability and sustainability of shared e-scooters in urban environments.



Plasma Diffusion in Hydrogels - Advancing safer plasma-based therapies through hydrogel diffusion research.

WINNER



Cold Atmospheric Plasma-treated Hydrogels for Bladder Cancer Therapy
Innovative plasma-treated hydrogels advancing minimally invasive bladder cancer therapy.



Short overview of student projects

International Virtual Workshops

Learning Beyond Borders

Between February and June 2026, the IGNITE consortium organised a series of interdisciplinary international virtual/hybride workshops hosted by partner universities. Students explored environmental challenges through nano-learning modules, completed interactive activities within the Virtual Learning Garden, assessed their competences using the IGNITE application, and exchanged ideas in the IgniteSphere e-room. The workshops combined self-paced learning with discussions involving researchers and external stakeholders, providing participants with an engaging international learning experience focused on sustainability, innovation and entrepreneurship.



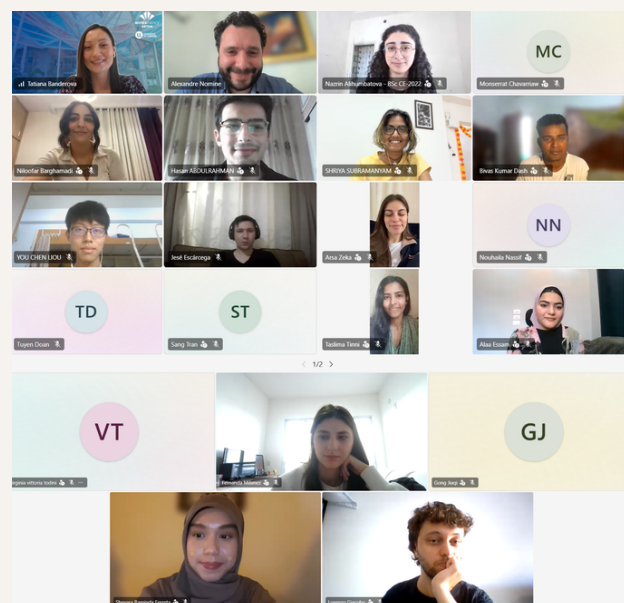
Slovenian workshop



Spanish UPC workshop



Norwegian workshop



French workshop

IGNITE Research Published in JSDEWES

IGNITE has reached another important milestone with the publication of a scientific article in the Journal of Sustainable Development of Energy, Water and Environment Systems (JSDEWES). The paper presents the project's empathy-based approach to designing student-tailored nano-learning modules for sustainability education and demonstrates how learner preferences can support the development of more engaging and effective educational practices.

👉 **Read the article: [JSDEWES article](#)**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join Our National Multiplier Events

The IGNITE National Multiplier Events will bring together students, educators, researchers and external stakeholders to present the project's innovative learning methods and digital tools. Participants will have the opportunity to explore the nano-learning modules, Virtual Learning Garden, IGNITE competence monitoring application and IgniteSphere community while discussing sustainable innovation challenges relevant to their local environments.

Save the Date – IGNITE Final Conference

Join us on **27 August 2026 in Ljubljana, Slovenia**, for the IGNITE Final Conference, where the consortium will present the project's final achievements, educational innovations and practical recommendations for higher education. The programme will showcase nano-learning modules, the Virtual Learning Garden, Innovation Marathon, digital competence tools and recommendations for integrating innovative learning methods into STEAM education.

Scan the QR code to explore the programme and register today!


SCAN HERE

Explore, Learn and Grow: Test Our Learning Resources

Have you already explored the IGNITE learning tools? The IGNITE learning platform is now available to everyone interested in sustainable innovation. Explore 10 nano-learning modules, complete interactive exercises in the Virtual Learning Garden, monitor your competences and earn certificates while learning at your own pace. Whether you are a student, educator or lifelong learner, the platform provides practical knowledge for addressing today's sustainability challenges. Your feedback will help us further improve the learning experience while inspiring future generations of innovators.



SCAN HERE


IgniteSphere e-room: Share Your Ideas with the IGNITE Community

Innovation grows through collaboration. Join the IgniteSphere e-room, where students, researchers and educators exchange ideas, discuss sustainability challenges and build new collaborations across Europe. We invite you to contribute your own ideas and become part of the growing IGNITE innovation community.



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