
SDG Innovation Challenge 2026

SDG Innov

UNIVERSITY OF
COPENHAGEN



4eu+

EUROPEAN
UNIVERSITY
ALLIANCE

100%
FOR THE CHILDREN

SDG Innovation Challenge



Are you ready to test your creativity and problem-solving skills?

From **20–24 August 2026**, the University of Copenhagen invites students from all disciplines and universities to make a difference at the **SDG Innovation Challenge** at **UCPH Lighthouse**. For five immersive days, students work in multidisciplinary teams to design solutions to real-world sustainability challenges linked to the **UN Sustainable Development Goals**.

No matter your field of study, your perspective matters.

Charles University can support 5 students to participate in the SDG Innovation Challenge.

Submit your expression of interest **by the end of May 2026**: [LINK](#)

The selection of candidates will take place at the beginning of June 2026. All applicants will be informed of the results. The selection will be based on students' motivation and the overall composition of the selected group.

Selected participants will receive a scholarship as a contribution towards travel costs and a living allowance (in accordance with the [4EU+ funding rules at Charles University](#)).

This year's challenge

In 2026, we turn our attention to **Kibera**, Africa's largest informal settlement. Life in Kibera is shaped by complex challenges – and by remarkable strength, creativity, and community resilience.

Our case provider, **100% for the Children**, is a Danish NGO working to improve the lives of children and young people in Kibera. Among other things, they work on access to menstrual products for girls and women, community adoption of biogas, access to clean water and sanitation, as well as sexual education for children living with disability. The specific case will be revealed on day one – but expect a task that's real, relevant, and deeply meaningful.

Program

Over five days, teams are guided by an experienced innovation consultant through a full **design sprint**. The programme includes hands-on training in **ideation, prototyping, social innovation, and pitching**.

20 August	Welcome, introduction to the SDG Innovation Challenge and case provider, inspiration talks, team formation, and kickoff of the design sprint.
21 August	Deep dive into the case with expert inputs, ideation sessions, and continued work on problem framing and solution concepts.
22 August	Weekend workday – teams develop and refine their solutions independently, with optional guidance and materials available.
23 August	Optional continuation of teamwork or free time to explore Copenhagen for participants visiting from abroad.
24 August	Final preparations and pitch training in the morning, followed by final pitches to an expert jury in the afternoon .