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A Greek team among the winners of the international competition “HSBC Future Skills Innovation Challenge”

The Greek non-Profit-Organisation **Social Hackers Academy**, was among the 12 winners of the **HSBC Future Skills Innovation Challenge**, where more than 200 social enterprises from all over the world participated. Social Hackers Academy was awarded the prize for their 7 months-long web development boot-camp, which aims to enhance the digital and social skills of refugees, immigrants and unemployed Greeks to help them enter the tech industry as developers.

The global competition by HSBC Group and **Ashoka** - a global network for social entrepreneurs - was open to social enterprises that are helping people develop the skills needed to get a job, manage their money and build a successful future

Social Hackers Academy was founded in 2017 in Athens and its mission is to train and help vulnerable individuals such as refugees, immigrants, unemployed Greeks and disabled people to integrate to the job market. Participants in the programs of Social Hackers Academy learn how to develop websites and internet applications, allowing them to work as developers in the tech industry or other organisations with relevant needs.

In total more than 200 social enterprises participated in the HSBC Future Skills Innovation Challenge. The 12 chosen initiatives will receive prizes of up to USD25,000 each to help grow their projects, as well as support and mentoring from leaders at the bank and Ashoka.

Peter Yeates, CEO HSBC Greece stated: “Supporting initiatives that equip people with the necessary skills to thrive in the future is a crucial pillar of the HSBC’s sustainability strategy. Especially during this period that both the global and the Greek economy are emerging from the coronavirus pandemic it is even more important to support employability of vulnerable social groups. Therefore, I am delighted that a Greek social enterprise was recognised among hundreds of candidates in the Future Skills Innovation Challenge”.

Aggelina Milla, Managing Director of the Social Hackers Academy explained: “We believe that equal access to education for everyone plays a crucial role in the personal

development and it enhances dignity of human beings. Especially when training creates employment opportunities, it can become a holistic approach to social inclusion of socially vulnerable groups. "

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