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SOCIETÀ ITALIANA PER L'ORGANIZZAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE  
SIOI - UNA ITALY

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**ROMUN2016: FROM SIMULATION TO REALITY**

# ZERO

Hackathon

THE FIRST YOUTH COMPETITION OF IDEAS  
FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

**ROME - FAO HQ**

NOVEMBER 30TH – DECEMBER 2ND, 2016

In partnership with



With the technical support of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)



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## ZERO HACKATHON 2016

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The **Italian Society for International Organization** (SIOI – UNA Italy) together with the Students' Movement for International Organization (MSOI/UNYA-Italy), in partnership with the **United States Diplomatic Missions in Italy**, and with the technical support of **Food and Agriculture Organization** (FAO), will launch **ZERO Hackathon**.

160 highly **motivated young students**, representing universities from around the world, will convene in Rome, at **FAO**, from 30th November to 2nd December, 2016, to attend the first youth hackathon on the most pressing international issues related, but not limited, to SDGs, climate change, sustainability, zero hunger generation, food and agriculture.

**ZERO** is an international **competition** for interdisciplinary young students aimed at generating solutions with a significant impact on global challenges.

Participants will be invited to **develop innovative high-impact ideas**, projects, services and/or tools capable of meeting international requirements and presenting sustainable responses.

The young minds will be asked to work in team and submit their final proposal presenting a video and/or a ppt presentation during the pitch session that will take place on Friday, December 2nd. Proposals will be assessed by a multidisciplinary jury according to their creativity, practicality, social impact, innovation.

The best proposal of each challenge will be awarded!

The event will also include the participation of prestigious institutional representatives, professionals and teachers who will make their knowledge and methods available to support teams in the development of their solutions.

**ZERO** will serve as a youth hub creating a connection between learning and doing, enabling young people to share information, promote the use of creativity and the importance of cooperation and team work, tackle the most important global challenges.

Last but not least, participating in **ZERO** is considered a **preferential requisite** to be selected as the next **Italian Youth Delegate**!

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## HACKATHON AND UNYDP

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### HACK WHAT?!

The word "**Hackathon**" is a portmanteau of the words "hack" and "marathon" where "hack" is used in the sense of exploratory programming, referring to an event that brings together programmers and developers, designers and innovators, experts and problem solvers, as well as end-users to develop web and/or mobile app solutions in real-time, building innovative solutions to an identified challenge.

Hackathons embrace Design Thinking, a human-centered approach to innovation that first defines the problem and then implements the solutions, always with the needs of the user at the core of concept development. This process focuses on the need for: finding understanding, creating, thinking, and doing. At the core of this process there is a hidden goal embracing action and creation: by creating and testing something, you can continue to learn and improve upon your initial ideas.

Moreover, there is an increasing number of civic Hackathons devoted to a specific cause or purpose, where “hacking” is a creative problem solving. Civic Hackathons encourage participants to think “outside-the-box” and design unconventional solutions, actively engaging people in the development of answers that are based on their real needs and experiences.

### UNYDP

The participation in decision-making is one of the key priority areas of the United Nations plan on youth that is promoted first of all through the **UN Youth Delegate Programmes**. It stresses the importance of youth participation at the United Nations with Youth Delegates that work with the country’s official delegation to the United Nations such as the General Assembly and other functional Commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

The selected **UN Youth Delegates (YDs)** are young aged 18 to 30 who officially represent the interests of the youth of their country at the United Nations in New York; their role includes providing input to their delegation on issues related to youth and participate in their delegation’s general work attending meetings and informal negotiations.

SIOI has launched the UNYDP in Italy, and it will select, in cooperation with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, two Italian young students that will attend the General Assembly in September 2017.

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## PROMOTERS AND PARTNERS

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### SIOI/UNA-ITALY

The **Italian Society for International Organization (SIOI)** is an international non-profit organization that has been operating since 1944 subject to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation' supervision. It is the Italian Association for the United Nations (UNA Italy), a founding member of the World Federation of the United Nations Associations (WFUNA). SIOI's main headquarters are located in the center of Rome, in Palazzetto Venezia, and its regional branches are based in Milan, Turin and Naples, together with its office it supports the United Nations in Assisi. Its mission is to spread knowledge of international policy issues, to foster European unification and to enhance the protection of human rights. SIOI's institutional aims are: diplomatic and international training, gathering of research, information on topics in international organization, international relations, international cooperation, and international protection of human rights.

### U.S. DIPLOMATIC MISSION TO ITALY

The **United States Mission to Italy** conducts diplomatic relations with the Republic of Italy and coordinates the activities of all U.S. Government personnel serving in Italy. Bilateral cooperation includes: political, economic, commercial, defense and security, educational, and exchange activities. The United States Mission in Italy is comprised of the United States Embassy in Rome and the Consulates General in Milan, Florence, and Naples. They shape and carry out U.S. relations with Italy, through an active public diplomacy program, consular services to American citizens and visa services to citizens of Italy and other countries who wish to visit or who qualify to immigrate to the United States, and they promote trade and investment between the two countries.

### U.S. DIPLOMATIC MISSION TO THE UN AGENCIES IN ROME

The **United States Mission to the UN Agencies in Rome** serves as a link between the Rome-based international organizations and the U.S. government. With staff representing the Departments of State, Agriculture, and the Agency for International Development, the U.S. Mission works to advance UN efforts in the areas of emergency food aid, food safety standards, agriculture, fisheries, forests, and financing for rural development.

The Mission also promotes the efficient functioning of the UN organizations. As the largest contributor to the UN system worldwide, the United States has a large stake in ensuring that the organizations are well run and that their activities complement and enhance U.S. national and foreign policy objectives.

### MSOI/UNYA-ITALY

The **Students' Movement for International Organization (MSOI)** is the youth branch of SIOI. MSOI is also the Italian United Nations Youth Association (UNYA Italy). It has a number of local groups based in Milan, Turin, Gorizia, Rome, Naples. MSOI organizes conferences, workshops, information desks, study trips and simulation games.

## **FAO – FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (Providing technical support)**

The **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)** will host the entire three-day event.

**FAO** is an agency of the United Nations that leads in international efforts to defeat hunger. Serving both developed and developing countries, FAO acts as a neutral forum where all nations meet as equals to negotiate an agreement and debate policies.

FAO is also a source of knowledge and information, its vision is “a world free of hunger and malnutrition where food and agriculture contributes to improving the living standards of all, especially the poorest, in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner”.

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## **CONFERENCE THEME**

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The slogan, “Climate is changing. Food and agriculture must too”, highlights how food and agriculture need to adapt to climate change in order to feed a growing global population in a sustainable way.

Climate change is also an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the set of 17 global goals that countries have adopted to end poverty and hunger, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all.

How can young people contribute to define scalable solutions to achieve these goals?

- **Connecting:** Interdisciplinary students from national and international universities, as well as their knowledge and skills.
- **Sharing:** Data, experiences, challenges, methods. All this occurs alongside the FAO’s technical experts, professionals, institutional representatives and teachers that collaborate on solutions that might transform the way in which the United Nations delivers on its mandates.
- **Impacting:** Anticipate innovative solutions that will greatly impact the FAO’s daily operations and help it better serve the individuals and communities that are in greater need.

## **ZERO IN NUMBERS**

- 160 university students
- 20 interdisciplinary teams
- 5 challenges
- 4 teams per challenge (8 people each)
- 5 Mentors + 5 Facilitators
- 1 multidisciplinary Jury

## **TOPIC AREAS**

- Climate is changing. Food and Agriculture must too
- Act now for the Zero Hunger Generation
- Urban and Rural Food System and Policy
- Awareness on environmental crimes and their threat to food safety
- SeaLife: preserve the marine and ocean world

## OUTPUT AND AWARDS

Participants are invited to present innovative high-impact projects, services and/or tools capable of meeting global requirements that are in line with the themes of Zero.

Each team will submit its proposal presenting a video and/or a ppt presentation during the pitch session that will take place on Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Proposals will be assessed by a multidisciplinary jury according to their social impact, innovation, originality and feasibility.

The best proposals will be awarded!

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## AGENDA

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WEDNESDAY, 30 NOVEMBER	THURSDAY, 1 DECEMBER	FRIDAY, 2 DECEMBER
<b>MORNING SESSION</b> 8.30 – 9.30 Registration 10.00 – 11.00 Opening Ceremony 11.30 – 13.00 Mentors speeches and Teams formation 13.00 – 14.00 Lunch	<b>MORNING SESSION</b> 9.00 – 10.00 Motivational speech 10.00 – 13.00 Team work 13.00 – 14.00 Lunch	<b>MORNING SESSION</b> 9.00 – 11.00 Pitch session 11.00 – 12.00 Judgments 12.00 – 13.00 Announcement of winner and closing remarks
<b>AFTERNOON SESSION</b> 14.00 – 17.00 Hacking begins!	<b>AFTERNOON SESSION</b> 14.00 – 16.00 Motivational speech 16.00 – 17.00 Team work	<b>FREE TIME</b>
<b>WELCOME DINNER</b>	<b>FREE TIME</b>	<b>FAREWELL DINNER</b>

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## HOW TO PARTICIPATE

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### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Interdisciplinary undergraduate students, graduate students, and professionals, aged from 18 to 30
- Good command of spoken and written English

### PARTICIPATION FEES

#### CONFERENCE FEE

- MSOI member/SIOI Alumni/ROMUN2015 participant: € 100
- Delegation (a group of at least five students): € 100
- Regular registration: € 150

The Conference fee includes:

- Access to conference venues
- All conference materials
- Social events
- Certificate of participation

### REGISTRATION

**Registration form will be available online at [www.romunsioi.org](http://www.romunsioi.org)**

### CONTACTS

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