Anđela Maleš from the University of Split wins the KodiraONA competition and showcases outstanding analytical skills at the .debug conference

The competition organized by Studenac called for a multidimensional approach, and the winner demonstrated maturity and confidence in her solution before the expert jury

Zagreb, 16 June – Anđela Maleš, a student at the Faculty of Science (PMF) at the University of Split, has been named the winner of this year's **KodiraONA** competition. KodiraONA is an educational and mentoring programme run by Studenac with the aim of empowering women in technology and digital sciences.

The competition task focused on developing a sustainable model to support Studenac in deciding which stores should operate on Sundays, based on the analysis of simulated data related to sales performance, business operations, customer behaviour and location-specific factors. Anđela's solution stood out for its precision, in-depth analysis and clear presentation, impressing the expert jury. As the winner, she was awarded a six-week mentoring programme with the Studenac Digital team and the opportunity to present her solution at .debug, the largest regional developers' conference, in front of an audience of IT professionals.

Second place was awarded to Marta Dasović, a student at FERIT in Osijek, whose solution also impressed the jury with its high quality and strong analytical standard. In recognition of her effort and excellent approach, the jury decided to offer Marta a professional internship with the Studenac Digital team, along with two tickets to the .debug conference.

Expert jury evaluation

The solutions were evaluated by an expert jury composed of members of the Studenac Digital team: Ivan Glavinić, Senior Data Scientist and KodiraONA mentor; Lana Dolenec, Head of Innovation; Iva Tereza Čagalj, last year's competition winner and now a Junior Data Scientist at Studenac; and Nina Mimica, former Management Board member responsible for innovation and digitalisation. The finalists were additionally assessed by Sandro Vrbanus, Executive Editor of .debug conference content, and Dragan Petric, Director of the .debug conference.

"The task was demanding, which made it both challenging and extremely valuable. I had the freedom to design the solution in my own way, which meant a lot to me. Presenting at .debug allowed me to step outside the everyday student environment and test my knowledge in a real professional context," said Anđela Maleš, PMF Split student and winner of this year's KodiraONA competition.

PRESS RELEASE

It was precisely Anđela's ability to connect analytical results with business context that was one of the key reasons the jury selected her work as the best. By presenting on the .debug stage, she demonstrated strong readiness to enter the professional world of data science.

"The task we designed offered countless possible combinations and required a multidimensional approach. Anđela demonstrated a high level of independence, an excellent understanding of the problem and the ability to present her work clearly. This level of analytical maturity is something we rarely see even among experienced professionals," said **Ivan Glavinić**, Senior Data Scientist at Studenac.

The competition was closely followed by last year's winner**, Iva Tereza Čagalj**, who is now part of the Studenac Digital team.

"Anđela demonstrated structure, composure and a deep understanding of the problem — exactly what KodiraONA aims to encourage. The competition marked the beginning of my professional career, and I truly believe it will open many doors for Anđela as well," added Iva Tereza Čagalj, Junior Data Scientist at Studenac Digital.

Strategic support from the .debug community

This year, the project also received strong support from the .debug conference team, which recognised the importance of such initiatives in shaping the future technology community.

"What excites us most at .debug is when a project like KodiraONA delivers not only a strong idea, but also a person ready to take responsibility and present with confidence and professionalism. Anđela's presentation was clear, focused and assured. It showed that programmes like this truly create opportunities for young talents to step onto the professional stage," said Dragan Petric, Director of the .debug conference.

About the project

KodiraONA is a strong example of how educational and strategic initiatives can simultaneously promote gender balance, digital literacy and the practical application of knowledge. Projects such as KodiraONA highlight talented young women like Anđela Maleš and give them the visibility and recognition they deserve.

The project is implemented in collaboration with a number of academic partners, including Algebra Bernays University, the Faculty of Informatics and Digital Technologies at the University of Rijeka, the Faculty of Organization and Informatics Varaždin (FOI), RIT Croatia, FERIT Osijek, and the Faculty of Science at the University of Split. Through the collaboration between the education and business sectors, female students are given the opportunity to connect theoretical knowledge with real-world business challenges.

PRESS RELEASE

Contacts

<u>Media contacts</u>

ABECEDA Komunikacije (Croatia)

Marina Bolanča Radunović | +385 91 7912 570

e-mail: marina@abeceda-komunikacije.hr

NBS Communications (Poland)

Krzysztof Woch | + 48 516 173 691

Joanna Brewińska | +48 502 255 415

e-mail: studenac@nbs.com.pl

Studenac

Tatjana Spajić - Director of Corporate Communications

+385 91 489 0462 **|** tatjana.spajic@studenac.hr

Adam Kucza - Head of Investor Relations

+385 91 489 0485 | adam.kucza@studenac.hr