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UM6P Explorer Innovation Program Advances Student Entrepreneurship in Collaboration with MIT Sandbox

Benguerir, April 11, 2025 – The UM6P Explorer Innovation Program held its third annual Showcase at the UM6P Campus of Benguerir on April 10, 2025. Developed through a collaboration between UM6P and the MIT Sandbox Innovation Fund, the program marks its fifth year of operation. This year's edition included 44 student teams from UM6P and partner institutions across Morocco, including Cadi Ayyad University, Al Akhawayn University, Hassan II University, Mohammed V University, Technopark, and PASET.

The Showcase provided an opportunity for participating teams to present their projects and engage with academic, research, and entrepreneurial stakeholders. The event is part of UM6P's broader approach to integrating innovation and entrepreneurship into its educational and research environments, in partnership with national and international institutions.

Dr. Jinane Abounadi, Executive Director of the MIT Sandbox Innovation Fund, remarked, "*The Explorer Program reflects a structured collaboration between UM6P and MIT Sandbox. Over the past five years, the program has supported student-led initiatives across multiple institutions. This Showcase offered a moment to reflect on the program's development and to engage with the participating teams.*"

Fifteen teams were selected to publicly present their ventures, which span sectors such as digital technologies, energy, and sustainable development. The event was designed to promote dialogue among students, researchers, mentors, and potential investors, contributing to the development of applied entrepreneurial practice.

"President Hicham El Habti's presence at the Showcase reflects the importance UM6P places on entrepreneurship as part of its development model. His engagement supports a broader effort to connect education, research, and entrepreneurship," said Dr. Marwan Hassoun, Director of Partnerships at MIT Sandbox

The 2025 Showcase marks a point of continuity in the implementation of UM6P's innovation-oriented programs. It provided space for discussions between startups, researchers, and external partners. Attendees also visited 44 project booths to explore a range of ideas and prototypes developed by student teams from across the network of partner institutions.

Mr. Yassine Laghzaoui, CEO of UM6P Ventures and the Director of Entrepreneurship and Venturing at UM6P, who leads the program, noted, "Explorer introduces students to the fundamentals of entrepreneurship in a structured and accessible format. The program is one

of several initiatives within the UM6P ecosystem that supports innovation and encourages applied learning."