



May 2024

DigiEduHack Webinar #2: AskMeAnything session: Navigating the Preparatory Phases of DigiEduHack: Blueprint for Success



AMA Session Report: DigiEduHack 2024 Webinar #2

Date: 21st May 2024

Time: 17:00-18:00 CET

Platform: YouTube Live + SLIDO

Event: DigiEduHack Learning Opportunities Webinar – Navigating the Preparatory Phases of DigiEduHack: Blueprint for Success

Speakers:

- **Onsite:** Szilvia Szilágyi (Drone Design Lab, Hungary), Elchin Jafarov (Datorium, Latvia)
- **Online:** Davide Coppaloni (JA Europe, Italy), Katerina Chantzi (Greece)
- **Host:** Mart Soonik (Tallinn University, Estonia)
- **AMA Host:** Kristof Fenyvesi

Audience Interaction:

During the AMA (Ask-Me-Anything) session of the webinar, participants posed a variety of questions aimed at understanding the specifics of hosting a successful DigiEduHack event. Below is a summary of the key topics discussed and the responses provided by the speakers.

The session began with participants inquiring about the essential resources needed for a successful hackathon. Katerina Chantzi emphasized the importance of having a clear definition of success, highlighting that people are the most crucial resource. Davide Coppaloni added that funding, a strong team, volunteers, great communication, and digital solutions are fundamental components.

Next, the conversation shifted to effective ways to keep sponsors engaged and supportive throughout the hackathon process. Katerina advised that maintaining clear and consistent communication with sponsors at all stages—preparation, execution, and post-event—ensures their continued involvement and support.

Questions about building a diverse and skilled team for a hackathon were also discussed. Katerina suggested finding people with the necessary skills for the event and having a clear plan of action. Szilvia Szilágyi added that engaging participants from different countries or cultures can significantly contribute to team diversity.

In response to queries on ensuring challenges are inclusive and accessible, Katerina recommended starting with a workshop to envision the future and asking stakeholders about the problems they face. This approach helps in crafting challenges that are both relevant and inclusive.

When it came to finding hackathon sponsors, Katerina emphasized the need to understand what potential sponsors are interested in, what they can offer, and what the event needs from them. This mutual understanding forms the basis for a successful sponsorship relationship.

The use of social media to attract more participants was touched upon briefly, with an emphasis on leveraging various platforms to build excitement and engagement around the event.

For those interested in hosting a hackathon in a small town, Katerina advised identifying the problems faced by the stakeholders and starting with a workshop to envision future solutions. This ensures the hackathon addresses local needs effectively.

Addressing the technical aspect of hackathon solutions, Davide explained that the complexity of solutions should align with the hackathon challenge. Both technical and social solutions have their place, depending on the goals of the event.

Elchin Jafarov shared examples of innovative infrastructure setups, mentioning the development of a Datorium Bot that operates in the Discord environment. This bot has been successful in enhancing engagement and can be integrated into any server.

Katerina also shared her tactics for creating inclusive hackathon challenges, which include incorporating energizers, scheduling breaks, and creating spaces for interaction and recaps. These elements help maintain a high level of engagement and inclusivity.

Creative Themes for Educational Hackathons were discussed too. Creative themes can include several fashionable making interactive learning platforms, adaptive learning systems, virtual reality (VR) classroom experiences, AI-powered personalized tutoring, and gamified educational apps.

Measuring the Impact of a Hackathon can happen on several ways as participants explained that too. Engagement Metrics can evaluate participant engagement levels by tracking the number of registered participants, active participants, and duration of participation. High engagement indicates a successful hackathon. Success Metrics: assess achievements and outcomes, including the number of completed projects, solution quality, and implementation of winning ideas. Success metrics provide insights for future improvements.

NPS (Net Promoter Score) Survey: Conduct an NPS survey to gauge satisfaction and measure the event's impact on participants and the community⁴.

Common Mistakes to Avoid When Organizing a Hackathon:

Lack of Focus: Define a clear problem or theme for your hackathon. Lack of focus can hinder success⁵.

Expecting a Finished Product: Remember that hackathons are relatively short events. Participants may not deliver a fully polished product, but their innovative ideas matter⁵.

Unbalanced Vision: Understand that a hackathon is just one step in a larger project's development. Don't expect it to solve all problems at once⁵.

Not Using a Suitable Hackathon Platform: Choose a suitable platform to host your hackathon, ensuring smooth communication and collaboration⁵.

The AMA session provided practical advice from the speakers, helping participants understand various aspects of planning and executing a successful DigiEduHack event. The interaction was dynamic, with participants actively engaging and seeking guidance on diverse topics related to hackathon organization.

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- **Expecting a Finished Product:** Remember that hackathons are relatively short events. Participants may not deliver a fully polished product, but their innovative ideas matter.
- **Unbalanced Vision:** Understand that a hackathon is just one step in a larger project's development. Don't expect it to solve all problems at once.
- **Not Using a Suitable Hackathon Platform:** Choose a suitable platform to host your hackathon, ensuring smooth communication and collaboration.