June 2024

DigiEduHack Webinar #3: A Comprehensive Guide to DigiEduHack Implementation

AMA Session Report: DigiEduHack 2024 Webinar #3

Date: 4th June 2024
Time: 18:00-19:00 CET
Platform: YouTube Live / Slido
Event: DigiEduHack Learning Opportunities Webinar – A Comprehensive Guide to DigiEduHack Implementation
Speakers:

- **Onsite:** Jelena Nakić (University of Split, Croatia), Alessandro Tomasi (Kimitisk, Italy)

- **Online:** Eamon Costello (Dumblin City University, Ireland), Camila Fernanda Comas Ocampo (iCubo UDD, Chile)

- **Host:** Janika Leoste (Tallinn University, Estonia)

- **AMA Host:** Kristof Fenyvesi (Tallinn University, Estonia)

Audience Interaction:

The AMA session of the DigiEduHack 2024 Webinar #3 featured an informative discussion between the invited participants and the online audience. The conversation focused on organizing a successful DigiEduHack event, with an emphasis on registration, mentorship, jury dynamics, and operational excellence.

The first set of questions concentrated on the strategies for an engaging and efficient registration process. Jelena Nakić highlighted the importance of simplicity in the registration form to avoid deterring potential participants. She shared her experience of keeping the registration form concise, asking only essential questions initially and collecting more detailed information later.

Camila Fernanda Comas Ocampo discussed how effective communication with mentors is crucial in a virtual setting. She emphasized the need for a well-coordinated agenda and the importance of keeping cameras on and microphones open to facilitate real-time interaction and quick resolution of queries. Camila also shared that a good schedule and a standard evaluation rubric help maintain smooth coordination and organization during the event.

Navigating Jury Dynamics:

The conversation then moved to jury dynamics. Eamon Costello addressed the strategies for ensuring fair evaluation and feedback from jury members. He stressed the importance of transparency in the evaluation process and the need for a diverse jury that brings various perspectives and expertise.

Alessandro Tomasi underscored the necessity of coaching the jury to understand the participants' journey and the evaluation criteria. He recommended having a high-level judging rubric at hand and ensuring the jury is well-prepared to provide constructive feedback.

Behind-the-Scenes:

The final part of the AMA session focused on the operational aspects of hackathon implementation. Alessandro shared practical tips on managing event logistics, including the importance of frequent team briefings and effective communication. He highlighted that practice and preparation are key to ensuring smooth coordination and advised having designated roles for team members to avoid confusion.

Camila added that attracting participants can be effectively achieved by highlighting the impact of DigiEduHack and showcasing the event's key features. To retain participants, she suggested incorporating checkpoints and motivational activities throughout the hackathon.

Audience Engagement:

The audience actively participated by posing various questions that spanned the spectrum of hackathon organization. Some notable questions included inquiries about the qualities to look for in mentors, strategies for engaging sponsors, and tips for hosting hackathons in smaller settings. The speakers provided detailed responses, sharing their experiences and practical advice.

The interaction was dynamic, with the speakers offering practical tips and sharing their experiences to address the audience's concerns. The discussion covered a wide range of topics, from registration and mentorship to jury management and operational logistics, equipping participants with the knowledge to enhance their hackathon planning and execution.