a first in Picardie!

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The TED lecture organizers decided to create a TEDX option, offering a possibility to those who want to organise an event along the same lines with the same specifications. "This enables us to benefit from their network and notoriety", explains Jonathan Dekhtiar, a UTC student who organized, January 20, 2015, a first TEDX in Picardie: TEDXUTCompiègne at the UTC Research Centre.

Everybody has heard about the TED events (an acronym for Technology, Entertainment and Design). The concept was launched in 1984 in the USA as a non-profit making organization that co-ordinate high level venues with the aim to freely, massively and globally circulate non-political and non-religious ideas. Some examples: lectures on happiness in management, and other scientific topics ... In the new TEDx framework, 3 lectures a day are given round the world and the on-line videos count 18 million viewers/month. So when Jonathan Dekhtiar came back from an Erasmus internship in Hamburg (where he attended one such TEDx lecture), he wanted to set up something similar at UTC. By chance, there was a student group who had already looked at the feasibility of organizing a TEDx lecture for one of their credit-course projects at UTC.

"Let's observe, imagine, and implement Big Data processing"

Based on this preliminary feasibility assessment, Jonathan Dekhtiar set up a committee with a dozen or so students who would be in charge of organizing the event. Together they prepared the file to obtain the TEDx operation license. "There are a few rules to abide by, such as not paying the lecturer, but we have a total liberty to choose our guest-speaker. A TED lecture must not exceed 18 minutes, so as to guarantee the dynamic nature of the event and to keep the audience alert and on their toes", explains Jonathan Dekhiar. The theme chosen by the UTC TED team was "Let's observe, imagine, and implement Big Data processing" fitted their wish to address a wide-ranging subject, and potentially long-standing and in line with the University's identity policy. "Observing, imagining and implementing are three key stapes in innovation: we want to conciliate the UTC spirit with that of the TED concept", underlines Jonathan Dekhtiar. For this edition, the lectures were focused on the wider, more specific nature of data, in the context of applications

that relate to Big Data processing: how are data collected, handled, processed and used? "We wanted to demonstrate that Big Data could not simply be reduced to modern espionage by Facebook, Google or NSA ... But they can also be the source of benefits in a large number of domains", underlines the student Dekhtiar.

Seven lecturers and a full house

The choice of the 7 lecturers fitted this credo. Jean-Marc Lazard, Chairman and CEO, Founder of Open Data Soft, developed a platform to enhance and facilitate the opening, the re-use and added value for mass data. "He has been strongly committed to numerous Open Data, Open Innovation and Smart Cities, to benefit both public sector actors and major industrial enterprises", as is said on the Internet site for this event (in French http://www.tedxutcompiegne.com/). Jacques Pateau, founder and manager of Pateau Consultants, who teaches Intercultural Management at UTC: he defends the thesis of "virtual closeness", whereby the social networks bring people closer together, to the extent that occasionally we forget the cultural differences that arise in many concrete situations. Alexandre Durupt, who is also a senior lecturer at UTC, uses data to reverse-design objects, while Cécile Monteil, Director of the m-health project at Ad-Scientiam, uses health related data to facilitate prevention in health using connected objects ... Again, in the health domain, Antoine Herlin, co-founder of CardioLogs is developing AI (artificial intelligence) tools to aid in medical diagnosis for cardiology. Jean-Pascal Foucault, founder and scientific advisor at tbmaestro SA, demonstrated the use of data to design sustainable buildings. And last speaker, Samuel Goëta, doing his PhD in Sociology at Telecom ParisTech, Co-founder and Administrator at Open Knowledge France, is studying the impact of Open Data policies in organization and production of data. He took part in the launching of the project called Ecole de Données (Data School), cf. (http://ecoledesdonnees.org) which will allow anyone to access and use open source data

without needing to acquire any special or specific skills beforehand.

Opening up the TEDx event in Picardie

As Jonathan Dekhtiar sees it, the TEDx operation he launched was instrumental to his future plans: he wants to register for a thesis on the theme explored by Alexandre Durupt related to reverse-designing objects by integration of heterogeneous data. "We wanted to cover as wide a range as possible of activities so that we could have a valid overview of the revolution that Big Data represent", recalls Jonathan Dekhtiar. The audience who flocked to the TEDx event was comprised mainly by UTC students, but also included outside non-academic visitors. "Today the Compiegne City Town hall have expressed their interest. We hope that the next TEDx Compiegne will be opened up further for the inhabitants of Compiegne and its conurbation. But this target will be laid on the table of the next President of our association!" ■

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