



REPORT ON THE FIRST PARIS PEACE FORUM HACKATHON

Paris, Nov 11-13 2018

A report produced by
DATACTIVIST

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An intense hackathon to develop new solutions for transparency



From Nov 11 to 13, 80 participants from all over the world gathered to join the first Paris Peace Forum hackathon. A hackathon is a marathon for hackers, an event designed to develop innovative digital solutions in a very short timeframe with freely reusable data and tools.



Located in the global platform for peace, the hackathon was conceived as a key part of the Paris Peace Forum as it allows members of the global civil society in all its diversity of origins and profiles to develop innovative solutions which could lead the way in the future for addressing the issue of global governance. Hosting a hackathon is unique for a global event of this scale.

This year's focus: the transparency of financial data

For its first edition, the Paris Peace Forum hackathon focused on the theme of the transparency of financial data. We believe that corruption, lack of public integrity and mismanagement of public fund can undermine trust of citizens and lead to extreme behaviors. It is therefore critical to harness open data to address this issue and prototype new solutions. So many financial datasets are available online and freely usable.

The Paris Peace Forum hackathon was a unique occasion to gather diverse teams to imagine new ways of analyzing, visualizing and developing services based on data released by governmental institutions, international organisations, companies or civil society organisations.

To address this issue of financial data transparency, we've asked four expert organisations in the field to shape challenges, concrete and specific issues for which hackathon participants can develop solutions.

Four challenges, four concrete issues to tackle



Transparency of public procurement procedures

Etalab, the French open data taskforce, asked how the essential data of public procurement can allow economic operators easier access to public market. Public procurement is the procedure through which public authorities are using public money, purchase works, services or supplies from the private sector. In the EU, it accounts for around 14% of GDP of the EU is spent. In October 2018 in France, public procurement data from national and local governments were published. Participants were asked: who is buying what and where? What are they buying? Who responds and participates? Who is awarded the contract in the end? Which procedure is used, which award criteria? What is the value of the contract?



Transparency of major international events budgets

Sports is a multi-billion dollar industry worldwide. However, the scale of the fraud, corruption, doping, match-fixing, financial mismanagement and various other cases of abuse is mind-boggling. The Paris Olympics and Paralympics in 2024 are estimated to cost nearly US\$8 billion, and companies are already eyeing contracts. High risk, mega-investments are exactly where open contracting can help Paris 2024 Olympics and Paralympics. The Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS) which enables users and partners around the world to publish shareable, reusable, machine-readable data, can set a new global standard about how to do business and deliver complex projects through an approach called open contracting, so any official, business or citizen will be able follow sports infrastructure expenditure and delivery.



Communication of financial data to the public

The case for climate action has never been stronger. Current weather extremes, such as storms, floods and drought, are becoming more frequent and intense, affecting millions of people across the world. The 2015 Paris Accord set a target of \$100 billion to address the climate mitigation and adaptation needs of developing countries. Although much of this financing comes from governments and international organizations, efforts to track commitments and spending are poorly understood and not communicated well. Authoritative updates are sporadic at best, so how do we ensure that the phrase "on track" actually describes real efforts by countries to meet obligations?



Transparency of International Organisations Budgets

Open Multilaterals makes the procurement of multilateral organizations more transparent. The Open Multilaterals dataset contains nearly 400,000 contracts for services and goods from the United Nations, NATO and the World Bank 10. The website currently visualizes this data by focusing on how much companies of all countries benefit from these contracts. But the data can be used to do much more. We challenge the participants of this hackathon to create new analyses and visualizations using this data, or to combine it with other datasets to open up even more possibilities and to make the data more accessible. The end goal is to increase the financial transparency of multilateral organizations.

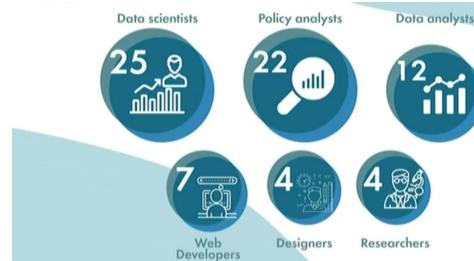
A wide diversity of participants

The 65 participants were selected in October 2018 after a call for applications. In less than a month, we received more than 400 applications to the hackathon.

In selecting applications, we ensured the participants of the hackathon represented a global audience. About 30 countries were represented in the hackathon. Another key to the success of the hackathon was to mix together a wide variety of skills in order to harness the full potential of the open datasets provided by the challenger. Not only do we need data scientists to get a grasp of the datasets but also analysts to know the big picture, designers to present the results of the data explorations and developers to create the interfaces.



Countries represented in the hackathon



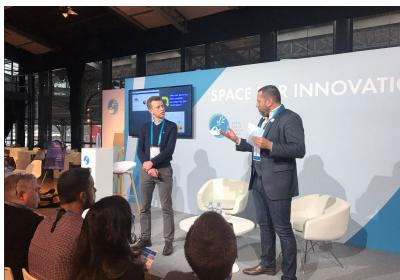
Profiles of participants

To assist the participants in their projects, they were assisted by 15 mentors working in the four challenges. These mentors are international experts of financial transparency, creative thinking and data design. Besides helping the participants, they also selected the teams which could present their project on stage.



Mentors of the Paris Peace Forum hackathon
(see parispeaceforum.org/hackathon for details)

Day 1: ideate



On day 1, the participants joined the space for Innovation dedicated to the hackathon and met during lunch. Then, the challenge owners introduced them the four concrete issues and datasets they will work on during the next three days. Each participant had to select one challenge.

The participants broke into four groups, one for each challenge. They brainstormed to imagine concrete projects linked to the challenge. At the end of this sequence, several teams were already working on their ideas.



As Heads of States and Governments took the floor of the Paris Peace Forum, the Space for Innovation welcomed a masterclass. Thomas Gomart, director of IFRI, moderated a session on the digital world with Kersti Kaljulaid, president of Estonia and Rumen Radev, President of Bulgaria.

At the end of the day, participants were asked to present their projects. This was not a formal pitch session as each team only had to present the concept of their projects, the datasets they are using or searching and the difficulties they encountered.

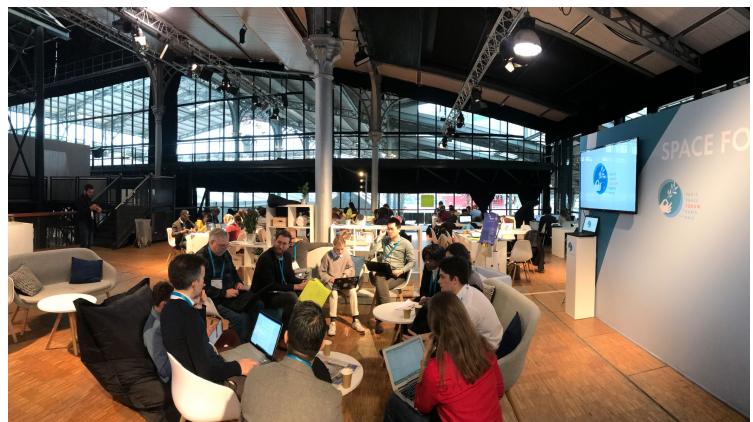


The first day ended with a family picture

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Day 2: prototype

On day 2, the participants dedicated to prototyping their projects. Concretely, each team wrangled with the datasets, designed their prototype and developed their solutions during the entire day.



The highlight of the day was the pitch session. A pitch is a short presentation (4 min) of the projects designed to attract the audience and encourage them to embrace the solution.

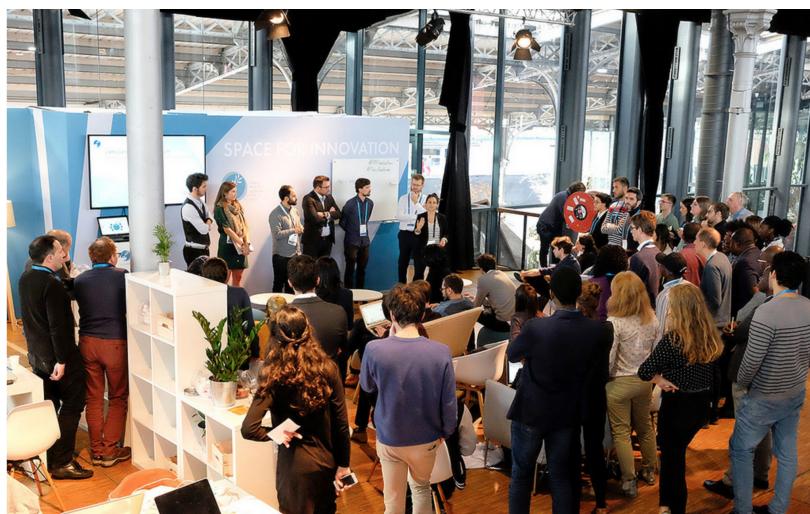


Day 3: present

The third day started with a last rush to finally develop the projects and finish the presentations. At 11.30AM, the teams had to stop working and present their results to the jury composed of the facilitators and the mentors.

The jury selected the outstanding projects on two high priority criteria: quality of the presentation and work progress. They also selected based on the innovation of the solution, creativity of the team, feasibility of the project, fit to the challenge, potential impact, and documentation.

At 12.15PM, participants and mentors gathered for the announcement of the selected projects which will be presented in the Paris Peace Forum main agora.



Announcement of the selected projects to be presented in the agora

Each team selected one spokesperson in charge of pitching in the Paris Peace Forum main stage. The spokesperson was trained by a public speaking expert and had two hours to rehearse his or her presentation. We ended with a last briefing in the meeting room with all the presenters.



Rehearsal and last briefing before going on stage

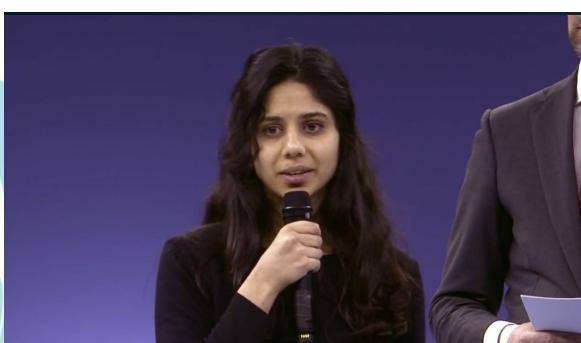
The wrap-up session in the prestigious agora

Marc Reverdin, general secretary of the Paris Peace Forum, introduced the wrap-up session of the hackathon in the agora. Each challenge was briefly presented by a mentor: Carey Klutz for Open Contracting Partnership, Romain Talès for Etalab, Sicco van Sas for Open State Foundation and Samuel Fraiberger for the World Bank.



Introduction of the wrap-up session by Marc Réverdin

Four projects were presented on stage. Each team identified a spokesperson who had four minutes to convince the audience of the pertinence of their projects.

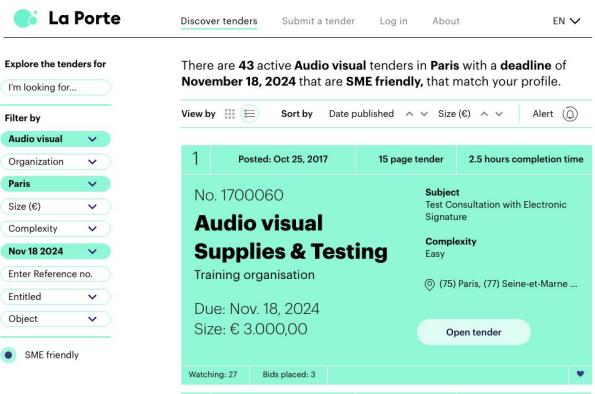


The wrap-up session was broadcasted live on Facebook
(video available at frama.link/ppfhackathon)

Four ambitious projects showcased

Transparency of major international event budgets **La Porte**

La Porte is an open space to help facilitate and provide SME with the best opportunities to win contracts for the Paris 2024 olympics. Through a single, accessible, and frictionless space both suppliers and buyers can share, analyse both public and private procurement opportunities. It will also help to foster and shift the dynamic between suppliers and buyers through social solidarity and feedback loops. It will also provide SMEs with the necessary insights, information and tools to be better prepared for the tender process.



The screenshot shows a search results page for "Audio visual" tenders. The search filters include "Paris" and "Nov 18 2024". There is one result listed:

- No. 1700060** **Subject:** Test Consultation with Electronic Signature
- Complexity:** Easy
- Supplies & Testing** Training organisation
- Due:** Nov. 18, 2024 **Size:** € 3.000,00
- Open tender**

At the bottom, it says "Watching: 27" and "Bids placed: 3".

This will not in any means replace existing procurement systems or replace current procedures but rather aggregate, improve and complete a data landscape that lacks consistency in data collection and identification.

Complete documentation: frama.link/ppfhackathon_laporte

Transparency of public procurement procedures **Know your chances**

Know your chances is a solution to foster French SME's access to public procurement. The solution aims at finding the contracts that suits the SME's most, help them compare contracting opportunities and knowing the market. The general emphasis of the project is to bring visibility in the jungle of about 600 000 tenders published on BOAMP. Know your chances offers a dashboard with a detailed view of your sector helping SME's to discover the location, the amount and the number of awarded tenders in a specific sector.



The project aims at improving efficiency of public contracting, lowering public spending and increase its quality. It can also foster fraud detection by easily spotting unusual values.

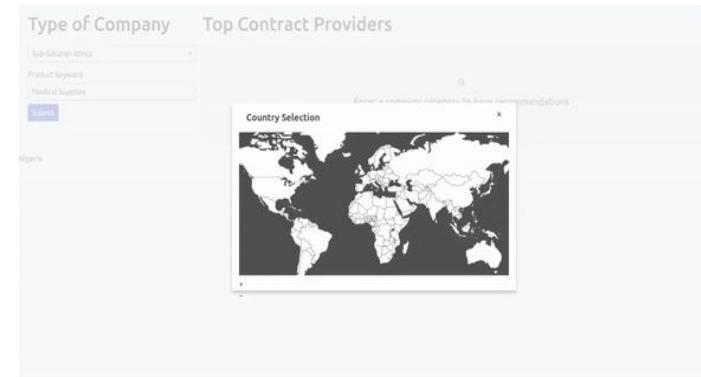
Complete documentation: frama.link/ppfhackathon_knowyourchances

Four ambitious projects showcased

Transparency of international organisations budgets Contract

A lot of companies lack information about where and how much procurement opportunities are available following questions we want to answer for suppliers:

- to which multilateral organization should I apply?
 - how many funds will I probably get?
 - what where the procurement opportunities in the past for companies like mine?
- The project used all available procurement data available but, because of time and resource constrains, focuses on the UN.

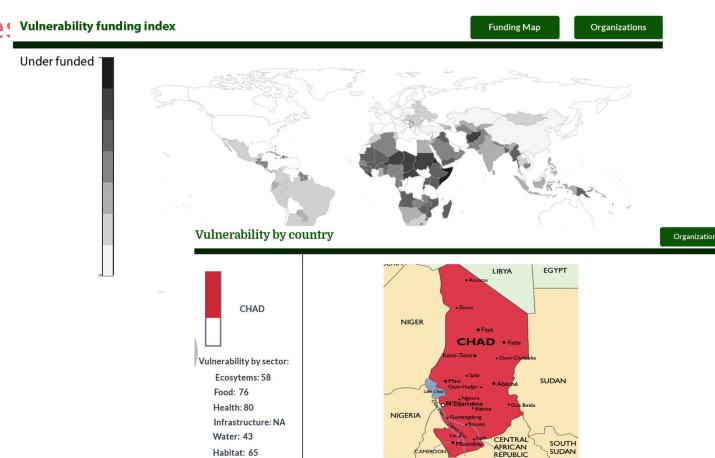


Eventually, the project should allow companies to prioritize applications, make procurement more fair and transparent and grow relevant sectors of emerging economies.

Code repository: <https://github.com/Xalava/ContractFit> 3
Live demo: <https://xalava.github.io/ContractFit/>

Transparency of public procurement procedure: Know your chances

The aim of the project is to explore, based on open datasets, areas where climate finance is injected most and whether these areas are vulnerable and most deserving of these resources. The tool allows to zoom in on vulnerability at the country level and further dig deeper to find most vulnerable sectors and juxtapose to areas where finance has flowed to in the past. These findings will spark a conversation among all stakeholders on the direction and manner of communication for climate finance.



Overall, this project aims at informing how governments, organizations and individuals can channel resources in making data-driven decisions on financing climate mitigation and adaptation measures to where the planet needs it the most.

Complete documentation: https://frama.link/ppfhackathon_tackling

An alive community



A forum to document all the projects
 The Paris Peace Forum hackathon community has an online forum (hackathon.parispeaceforum.org) to discuss before, during and after the event.

This online community hosts a complete documentation of all challenges and projects, including those which were not selected for presentation in the agora. The forum will keep the link between hackathon participants before the next edition. It will also allow civil society to discover in depth the projects.

Category	Topics	Latest
General information and questions	12 / month	A Video of the wrap-up session 2 days ago
Who's who?	1 / month	A How to foster SME's access to public procurement? 4 days ago
Datasets and resources	9 / month	A La Porte (Fairplay) COJO 2024 Problem Definition 2 days ago
Projects	31 / month	A Tackling Climate Change 6 days ago
Challenges	4 / month	A Contract Fit Project 13 days ago
Staff	6	A La Porte (Fairplay) COJO 2024 SD Mock-ups 0 days ago
		A La Porte (Fairplay) COJO 2024 Mock-up Gifs 0 days ago

The Paris Peace Forum hackathon online platform