# about:dribdat

v.1.5-09.2020 _ **dribdat.cc** _ CC BY 4.0

dribdat is an online accelerator of Hackathons with Impact. It helps organizers and participants to connect events, challenges, teams and projects across multiple documentation, development and community platforms. Our goal is to provide transparent analytics on the progress of teams and individuals, document verifiable results with open standards, in real time, across any channel.

## Goals

Using dribdat, you can collect and showcase projects from time-bound “hackathon” type events. Hackathons are more than just a trendy way to get recruited into an IT job: they are a venue for open collaboration, civic engagement, and technical experimentation in a social setting. With the experience of organising many hackathons under our belt, we started this platform to streamline efforts and share best practices with the wider community.

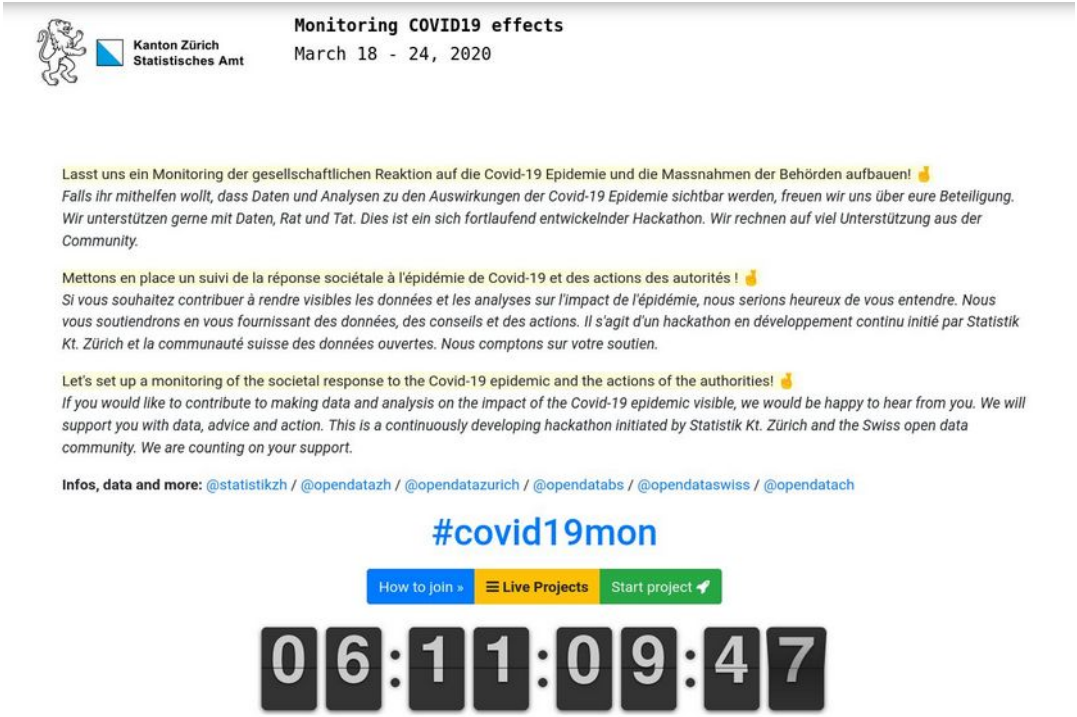
Emerging from the world of open data and civil society initiatives, dribdat represents the idea that participants are not only using data sources to create projects with a real-world impact, but that they themselves participate in intense data sharing experiences. Hackathons are focus groups of data collection and data-driven development. The name is a tip of the hat to Dribbble, a famous online community for graphic designers, and the Dat project, a peer-to-peer protocol and one of the most revolutionary Internet publication and data exchange initiatives of recent years.

## dribdat is an open source project board for splendid collaboration.

Originally developed and maintained with contributions from the Swiss open source community, the code is accessible free of charge from GitHub with instructions for self-hosting the platform. Designed with the goal of helping organizers take better care of their teams, it features timekeeping and progress tracking, streamlined information channels to teams, making it easier to sustain the energy in the room or online event, and let everyone focus on driving ideas forward. dribdat could also be used in a variety of similar formats, such as *Design Thinking* and *Rapid Prototyping* workshops, where time is of the essence.

On the front page you can see the upcoming event, as well as any previous events. A short description is followed by a link to the event home page, as well as a reliable countdown of time remaining until the start or finish (if already started) of the hackathon. The Projects, Challenges and Resources are shown in the event screen. Here you can learn about topics, datasets, schedules, get directions and any other vital information that the organizers have provided.

Before the event begins it is possible to *Share a challenge*. People who are interested in your challenge can join it to express their support, approach you in person or via virtual channels that we integrate into the tool. Once the event has started, and you have formed a team, you can take over a challenge and boost it, or *Share a project* to begin with a blank slate.




Canton of Zürich / #covid19mon 2020 / db.schoolofdata.ch

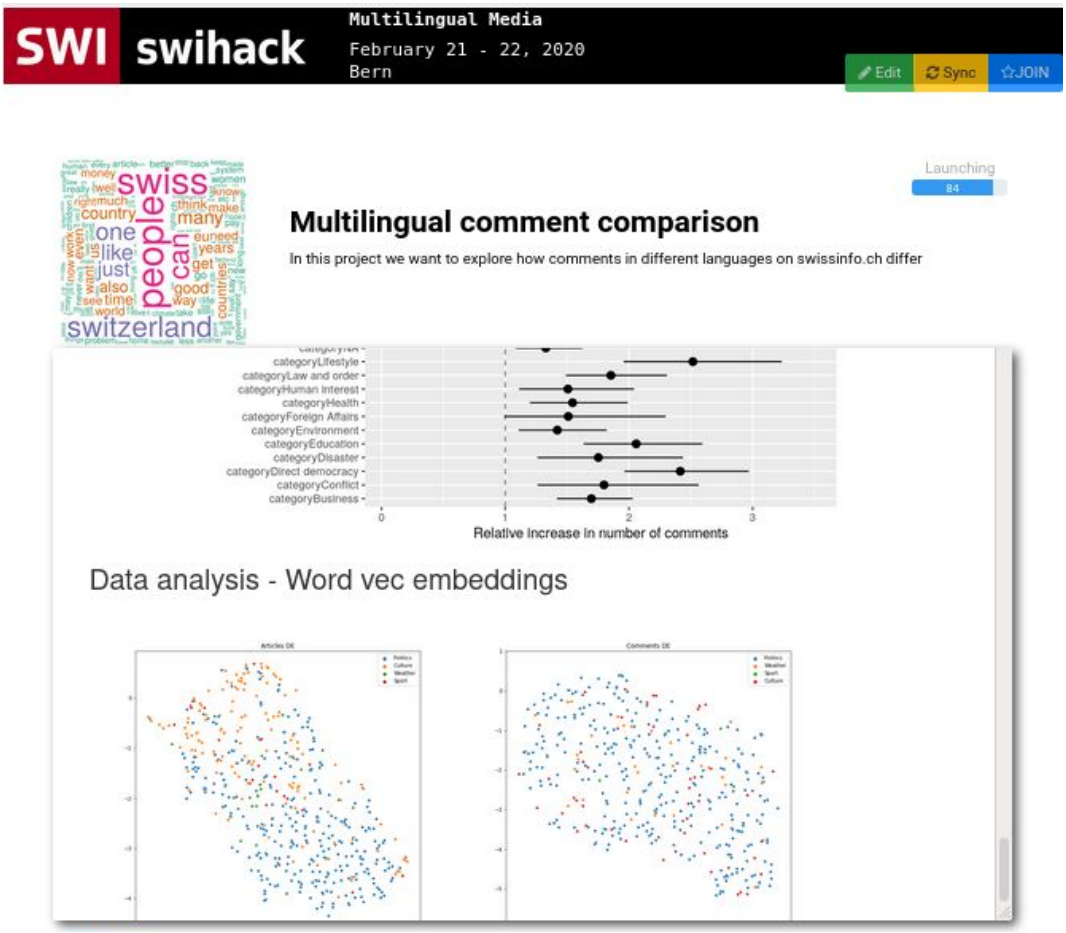
## dribdat is the best connection to your hackathon results.

Typically, hackathons are run on some kind of publishing workflow that collects data from the team in a series of forms. We consider this to be a laborious process that steals valuable time from teams and organizers while introducing bias and latency. It is more rare that project information is facilitated with the ability to start a project on the basis of existing data from GitHub or another site.

We believe in the power of the open Web, and in dribdat-powered events, the teams are truly free to work where they please. Keeping up with every twist and turn in the online collaboration landscape, dribdat connects a support community sharing the best brainstorming, prototyping and code sharing tools, helping to ensure we can plug in to the most preferred platforms.

No more forms! Projects which are published in a compatible source repository - such as GitHub, GitLab, Bitbucket - or supported wikis, such as Etherpad, DokuWiki and Google Docs - can be synchronized so that documentation can take place, and *continue to happen in a distributed way*, using standard formats such as the *README's* favored by the open source community.

Users may also use short Twitter-like posts with Markdown formatting to document their project, and we are working on simpler, more direct ways to capture insight into participant activity – such as dridbot, a Slack integration that allows updating projects directly within a team channel.



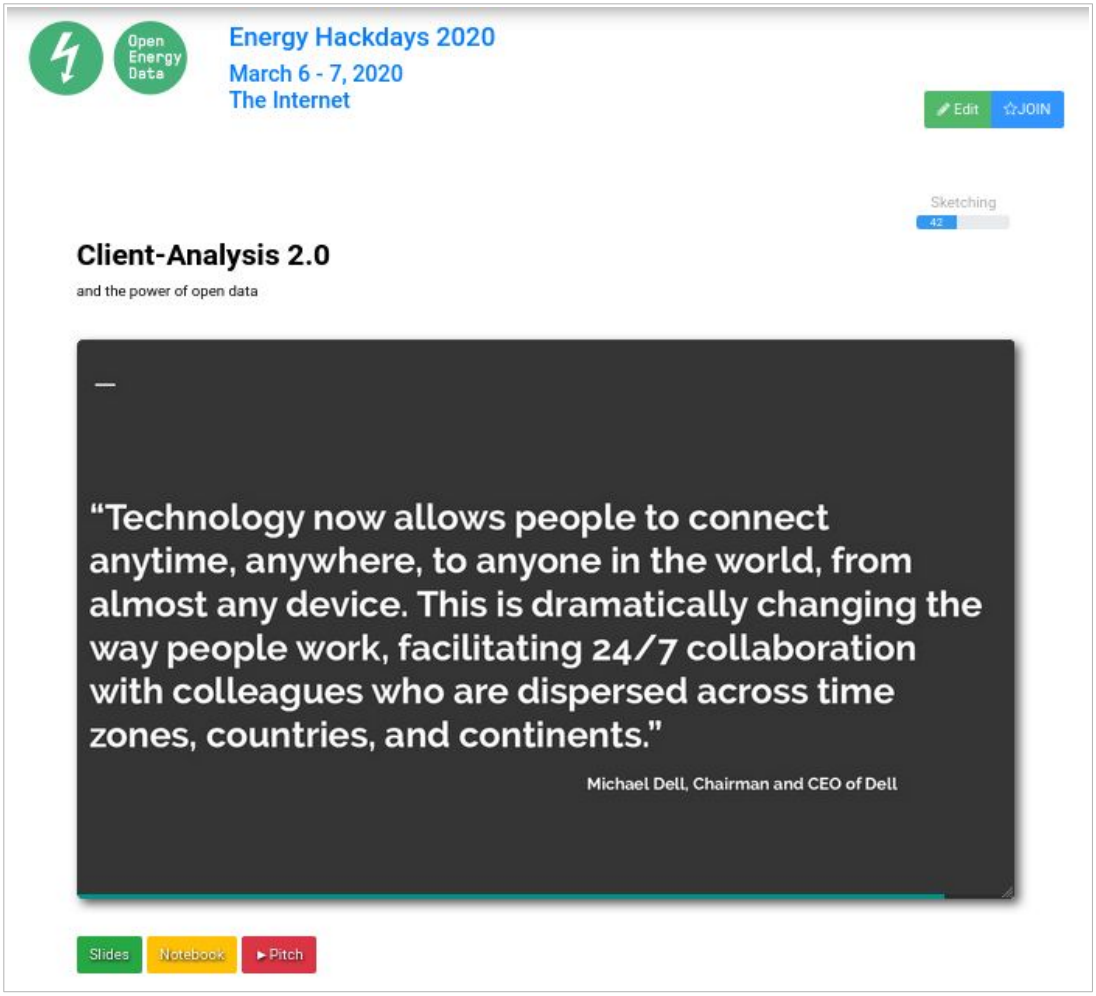

Swiss Broadcasting Corporation / #swihack 2020 / swihack.ch

## dribdat reduces friction for more effective collaboration.

Project presentations and demos are made easily and efficiently available for evaluation. We support embedding real-time collaborative text editing such as CodiMD and Jupyter notebooks, directly into the project to minimize the friction of on-boarding participants.

Each team can update their own progress level, in addition to an automatic metric for profile completeness and activity levels, to give each project a progress score. Team members can subscribe to the project once you have started it, and immediately gain access to improving the content. Their public profile will then be linked to it, and platform activities (messages, progress reports, code commits) can be tracked along side their team-members. We are working to build this into a powerful tool for tracking performance and recognizing contribution.

Our data exports, API and event dashboard allows organizers to at a glance see how all their teams rank over the course of the event, and extract statistics for insight on the pulse of the hackathon, pointing to improvements and providing compelling content for sponsors. Fundamental to all of this is the experience of the hackathon participant, their ability to represent their team, be aware of what's happening in the wider event, document their efforts, and present the results.




Opendata.ch / Open Energy Data Hackdays 2020 / hack.opendata.ch

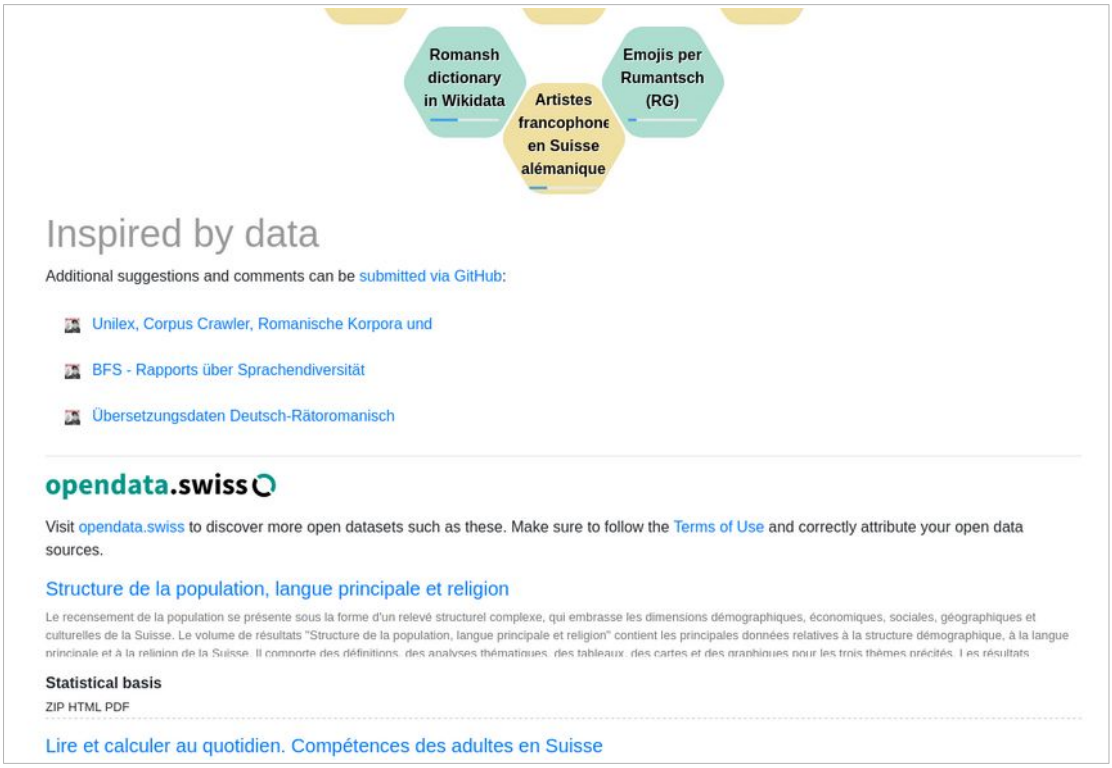
## dribdat is about interoperability.

Not a metaphor: this platform is a digital glue between a plethora of tools and processes that are being deployed in the civic tech community, enabling quick and painless deployment and support of hackathons, which have become an important instrument in facilitating concentrated social change-making that is digitally sustainable.

Several innovations are baked into the core of the project, such as support for Frictionless Data, the “open-source toolkit that brings simplicity and gracefulness to the data experience” (frictionlessdata.io) which we use to embed Data Packages which accelerate the process of unpacking and exploring open information sources in the crucial early research & experimentation phases of a hackathon.

We have created and promoted an open schema for documenting hackathon results, *hackathon.json*, which is a simple, readable text file at the root of any dribdat instance. Along with compliance for Schema.org and OpenGraph standards, we strive to ensure that hackathon publications are picked up by search engines and easily federated. Did we already mention there is an API? Search is a feature that we so far have not bothered to implement into the user interface.

For event organizers, our backend allows quick browsing and export of project data: in document form for evaluation by jury, or in CSV or JSON formats for external workflow. Spammy or invalid entries can be easily hidden or cleaned up. With OAuth 2 support, user profile administration can go through an external, enterprise-scale provider such as GitHub or Slack. We can generally support integration with any kind of data platform or collaboration tool through IFRAMEs or APIs. We can work with event management software, even other hackathon platforms, if you need to mix and match features: dribdat’s is intended to be part of an ecosystem of composable Internet tools.




Forum Helveticum / Plurilingualism Hackathon

## dribdat is collaboration, diversity, and community building.

This project was built in the tradition of "scratching your own itch". We inherited best practices in hackathon deployment from wikis, issue tracking, and content management systems, and created the basic framework of the application at a hackathon in 2015. A grant from Swisscom made it possible to continue developing our hack and release it into the wild.

dribdat is a Web application written using the Flask framework for Python and Bootstrap. It runs on all major operating systems and databases. In these first years of service, it has supported dozens of events around Switzerland, and has become the official hackathon platform of Opendata.ch, Swiss chapter of Open Knowledge, the Open Network Infrastructure Association, and DINAcon - the largest annual Swiss conference for digital sustainability. We have seen international usage and interest in the platform from Spain to the U.S.A.

The project is rooted in open data and emerging connected IoT technologies on open networks: dribdat can run as a cloud service, and as an on-premises hardware product. The maintainers are dedicated to the hackathon scene, involved in standardization and data integration efforts. Alternative versions and designs are being promoted available through an open code organization.

Independently developed at the grassroots, behind the scenes of this project are compacted qualities of what we believe entails good collaboration: a supportive atmosphere that proliferates diversity and tolerance, clearly stated goals, community support and progressive guidelines.

# hackathons FTW!

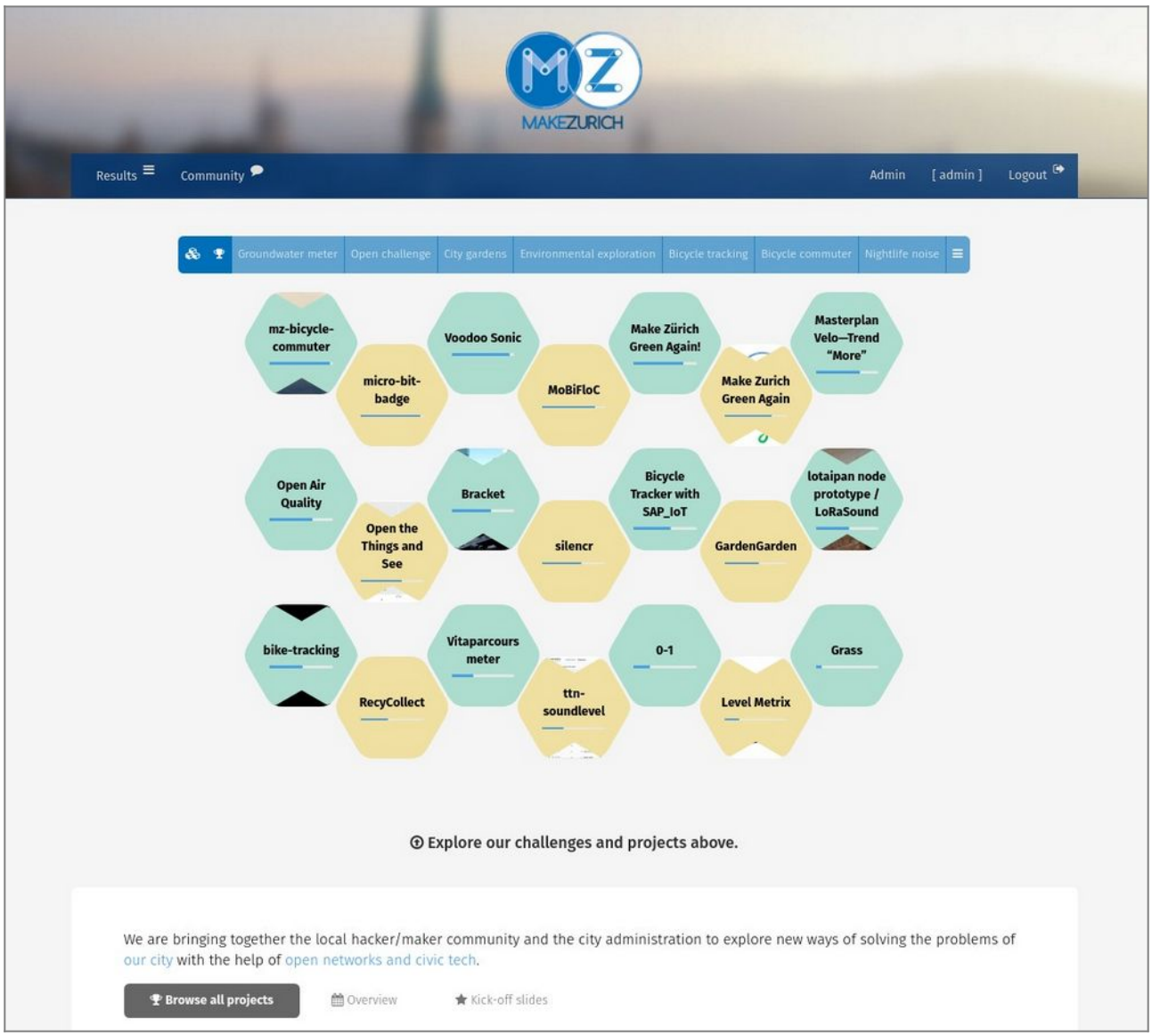
The easiest way to try out dribdat is to sign up for an upcoming event (e.g. at hack.opendata.ch), and to use dribdat as a participant. You can also visit the project's home page at dribdat.cc to get instructions on how to quickly deploy it on your own server and set up your own events. If you need help or advice in setting up your event, or would like to contribute to the project in some way, please get in touch via dribdat@datalets.ch or any of these links:

Website: **dribdat.cc**
Funding: opencollective.com/**dribdat**

Twitter: @**dribdat**
Source: github.com/**hackathons-ftw**

**2015 – 2020**

On the following pages are several reference deployments with background details.




*The community of interest around the Internet of Things is at the core of dribdat.*

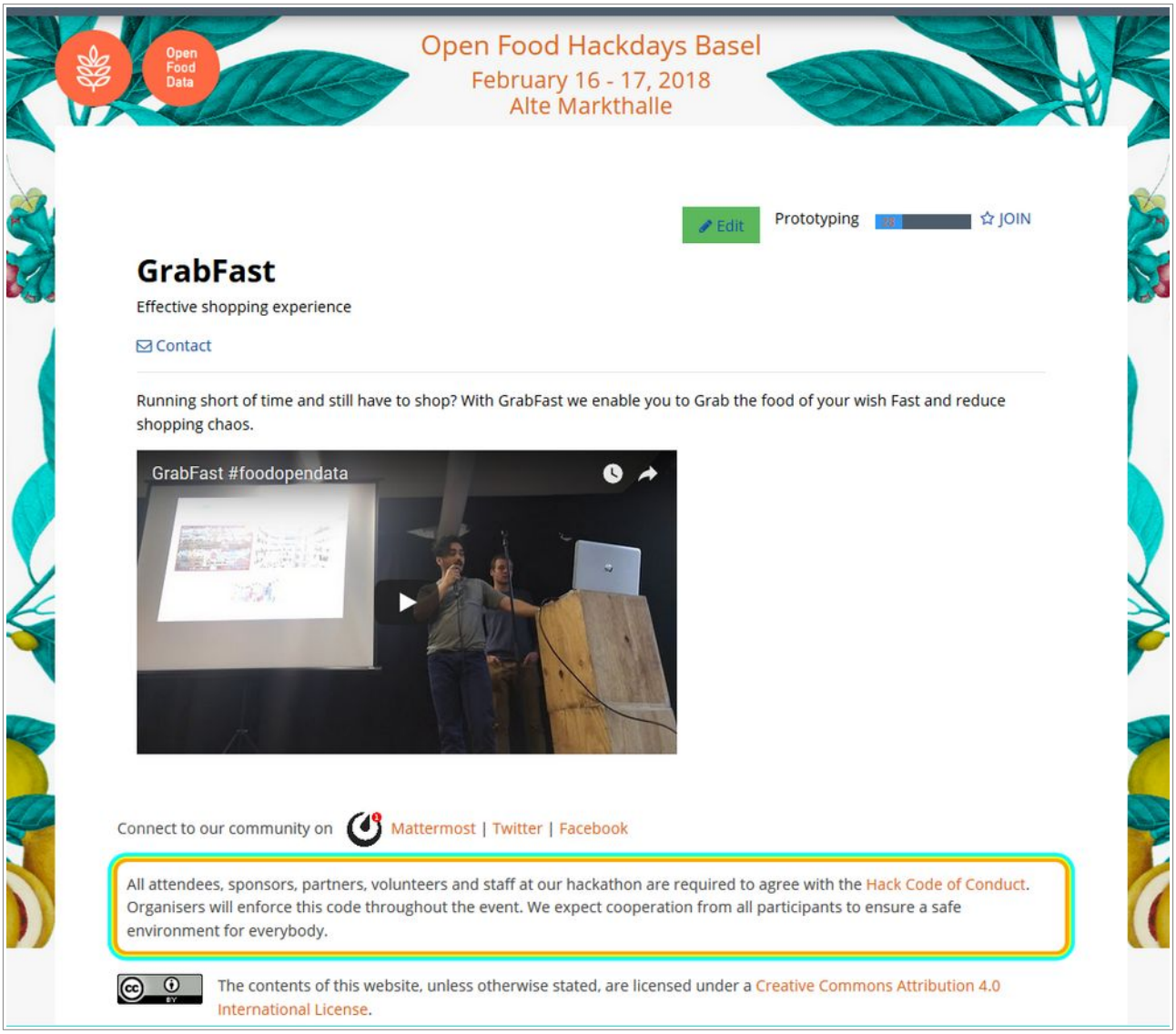
## MakeZurich

**User**: Open Network Infrastructure Association

**Application:** http://now.makezurich.ch/

**Discussion:** https://forum.schoolofdata.ch/t/22-30-6-makezurich-2018

**Integrations:** Slack, GitHub, The Things Network




*From 2016, dribdat became the official platform of Opendata.ch hackathons around Switzerland.*

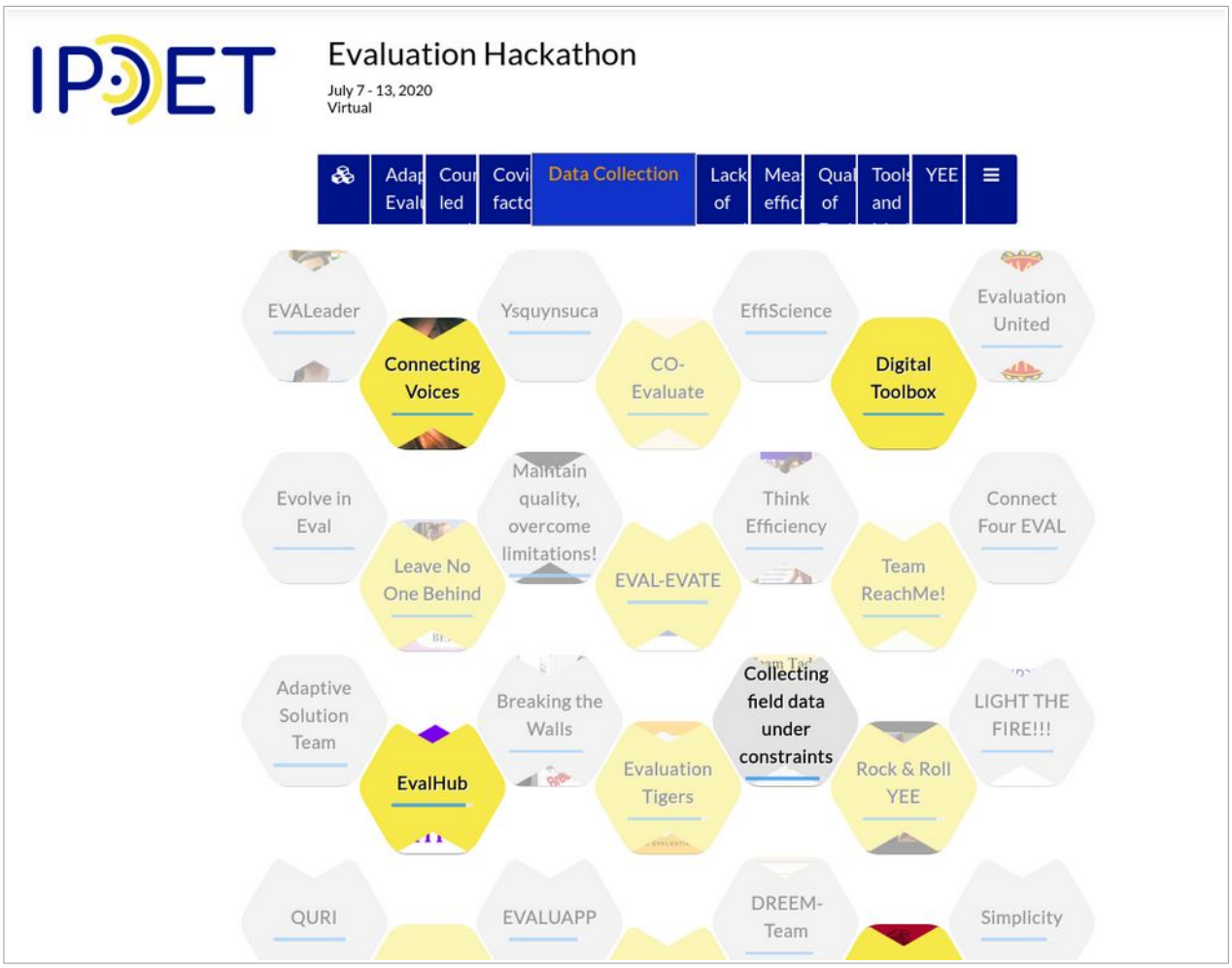
## Open Data Hackdays

**User:** Opendata.ch, Swiss Chapter of Open Knowledge

**Application:** http://hack.opendata.ch/

**Discussion:** https://blog.datalets.ch/039/

**Integrations:** Datacentral, CKAN, Discourse, GitHub, Slack



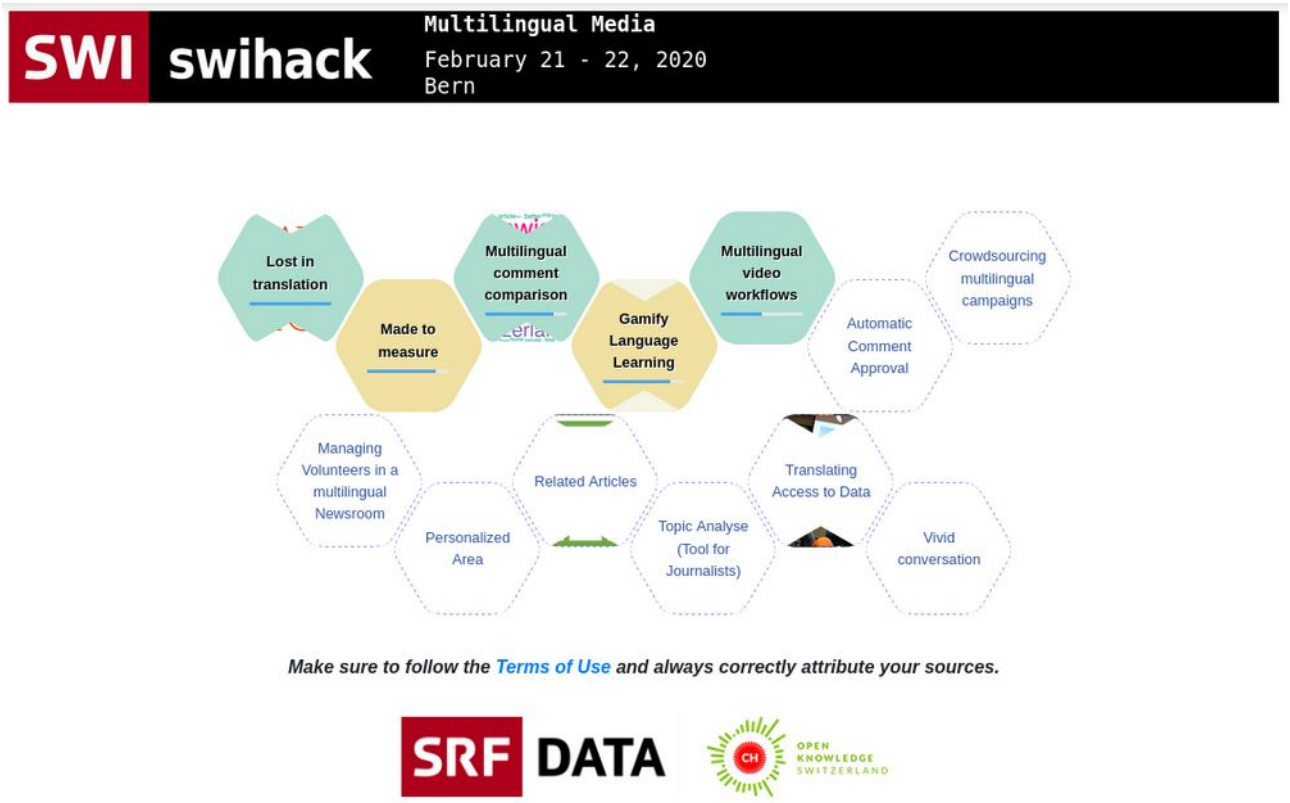

## Evaluation Hackathon

**User:** International Program for Development Evaluation Training

**Application:** https://evalhack.org/

**Discussion:** https://opencollective.com/dribdat/updates/a-season-of-hackathons

**Integrations:** Slack, Disqus, YouTube



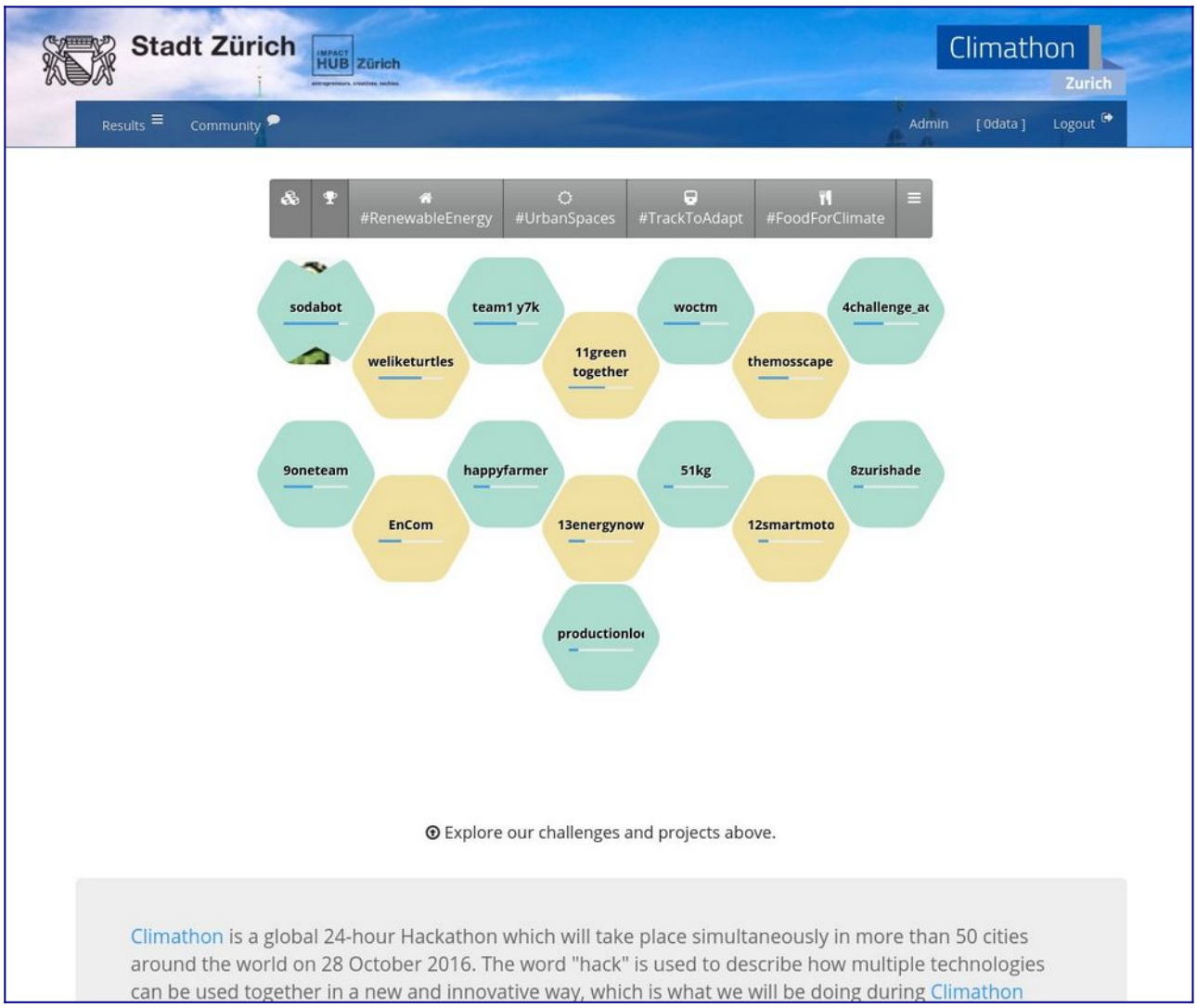

# Multilingual Media Hackathon

**User:** Swissinfo

**Application:** https://db.schoolofdata.ch/project/58

**Discussion:** https://blog.datalets.ch/065/

**Integrations:** CodiMD, GitHub, YouTube




## Climathon Zurich

**User:** City of Zürich

**Application:** http://hack.opendata.ch/event/4

**Discussion:** https://blog.datalets.ch/023/

**Integrations:** Slack, Hubot (sodabot), GitHub


*Image courtesy of [Impact Hub Zürich]*

*Dribdat's first release, designed in cooperation with the Swisscom Pirate Hub.*

## Internet of Things Hackathon

**User:** Swisscom

**Application:** https://datalets.ch/dribdat/iot-2015/

**Discussion:** http://blog.utou.ch/2015/an-internet-of-open-things-to-tell-stories/

**Integrations:** Slack, GitHub, Twitter, Instagram, Heroku, custom hardware