

Week 1

Defining Assumptions

2020-02-18 → 2020-02-24

WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE TEAM?

SolidarityCard

DESCRIBE YOUR PROJECT

An inclusive finance debit card for homeless and undocumented people that enables them to directly receive cashless donations and then use this money in all present-day stores without the need for a smartphone.

CHALLENGE

Sustainable Cities

WHY IS BLOCKCHAIN NEEDED TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM?

- Alternative KYC process based on the web-of-trust model.
- Incentivisation of participants through a bounties mechanism.
- Decentralised and transparent governance of the system.
- Transparent accounting of all transactions.

WHAT DEMOGRAPHICS DO YOU SERVE? WHAT IS THE SIZE OF THE MARKET?

We serve homeless and undocumented people. Around 200K in France. Up to 150M worldwide.

WHAT OTHER SOLUTIONS ARE CURRENTLY BEING USED TO ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM? (OTHER COMPANIES, WORKAROUNDS, SYSTEMS OR PROCESSES THAT CAN COMPETE WITH OR SUBSTITUTE YOUR PRODUCT)

Traditional bank accounts

- Requires a government-issued id.
- Requires a proof of address.

App-based Debit Cards With Integrated Crypto Exchange (Coinbase, Monolith)

- Requires a government-issued id.
- Requires a proof of address.
- Requires a smartphone.
- Requires understanding how to use cryptocurrency.

Pure-crypto Cards (Keycard)

- Limited to partner merchants.
- Requires a smartphone.
- Requires an upgrade of payment terminals.
- Requires understanding how to use cryptocurrency.

Mobile Payment Apps (Lydia, Lyf Pay, Venmo, WeChat)

- Requires a bank account.
- Requires a smartphone.
- Requires an upgrade of payment terminals.

Unsold Food Apps (Karma, Phenix, TooGoodToGo)

- Can't choose whatever you want.
- Limited to food.
- Limited to partner merchants.
- Requires a smartphone.

Free Meal Distribution (Freegan Pony, Les Restos du Coeur, Refettorio)

- Can't choose whatever you want.
- Limited to food.
- Limited to some days of the week.
- Limited to some locations.
- Requires lots of volunteers.

Binners' <binnersproject.org> //

- Requires partner organization exchanging redeemable containers for money.

GiveDirectly <givedirectly.org> // Basic Income for extreme poverty.

- Limited to developing countries.
- Requires a mobile phone.

GiveTogether <givetoegether.app> // Donate your interest to random charities.

- Funds go to charities, not directly to beneficiaries.
- Donors don't choose where their money goes.
- Requires knowing how to use cryptocurrency.

GoFundMe <gofundme.com> // Campaign-based crowdfunding for community causes.

- Requires for someone to create a campaign.
- Requires spending time communicating about the campaign.
- Beneficiaries can't get and use the money directly.

Greater Change <greaterchange.co.uk>

- Beneficiaries can't get and use the money directly, they depend on a counselor to approve their expenses.

Patreon <patreon.com> // Subscription-based donations for the precariat.

- Requires a bank account.
- Requires a smartphone or computer.
- Requires the constant creation of content.

PoolTogether <pooltogether.com> // No-loss lottery.

- Requires knowing how to use cryptocurrency.
- Requires a smartphone or computer.

rTrees <rtrees.dappy.dev> // Donate your interest to plant trees.

- Requires knowing how to use cryptocurrency.
- Requires a smartphone or computer.

Samaritan <samaritan.city> //

- Limited to partner merchants.
- Requires an upgrade of payment terminals.

Watsi <watsi.org> // Procedure-based crowdfunding for healthcare in developing countries.

- Limited to developing countries.
- Limited to medical procedures.

WHAT ARE THE GEOPOLITICAL, CULTURAL-SOCIAL-ECONOMIC FACTORS THAT MUST BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION? WHAT ARE SOME NUANCES AND COMPLEXITIES THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED?

The challenge is that KYC (Know Your Customer) and AML (Anti Money Laundering) regulations require people to have national identity documents and a stable home. Without these, you're excluded from the mainstream financial system. Our ancestors have unfortunately created a world that arbitrarily separates people according to their place of birth and then makes it really hard for them to roam the planet like every other creature on earth is free to do. You're expected to stay in one place and define yourself by a random event in which you had no choice.

Deliverables

TEAM FORMATION FORM

Please notice that our team has changed since the start of the challenge.
It is now composed of @xuanmir & @popeline5.

GITHUB REPO

<https://github.com/mvteclat/SolidarityCard>

SCOPING OF THE PROBLEM TO SOLVE

- **Cashlessness**

- People around the world are quickly going cashless, but the most vulnerable and marginalized population groups are often excluded from participating in this new economy.
- In developed countries, where the majority is reasonably well served by the traditional system, there's no rush to upgrade all current infrastructure.
- Even if cryptocurrency point-of-sale payment terminals are available today, they probably won't reach massive adoption before at least 5 years.

- **Dehumanization**

- Homeless and undocumented people are mostly a statistic we hear in the news and quickly forget. We walk past them in the street without even seeing them.

- Most social programs today are bureaucratic processes that infantilize people by not giving them any choice in the use of funds nor expecting them to be responsible with their freedom.
- Our world is increasingly polarized. We see those that don't belong to our group as unknown enemies to outcompete instead of potential friends with whom to build.