

2019 Strategic Technology & Innovation Management Programme

Make-It! The development of hackathons to face grand challenges (year 1)

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Industrial / managerial need addressed

Society and technologies are evolving very rapidly, making an increasingly connected world both the source of new complex problems and the opportunity to find their solution. Global hunger, climate change, urban poverty, digitalization, represent ‘Grand Challenges’ which require new approaches and techniques to develop potential solutions. Within this context, this three-year project aims to develop and test a protocol for hackathons to address ‘Grand Challenges’ faced by the food and beverage industry.

The work will progress in collaboration with partners in 6 EU countries and Fab-spaces. This research might be an opportunity for managers in large organisations to explore hackathons as a way to address systemic problems and access other best practice across Europe. The Grand Challenges will focus mostly on problems related to food and its supply chains. However, these could be relevant also to other industries with similar challenges.

Expected deliverables

- Develop a method for the identification and selection of ‘Grand Challenges’ which can be addressed with hackathons
- Review of current knowledge regarding hackathons and ‘Grand Challenges’ practice to identify best practice and tips.
- Data analysis for participation in the development of some of the pilot hackathons developed via the EIT project.

Engagement opportunities

- Involvement of STIM participant in Hackathons across EU
- Interviews about hackathon practices and possible evaluation methods