

Frequently asked questions (FAQ)

Frequently given answers

Q: When will the registration forms come online?

A: We expect that to happen by the end of February, the wind needs to be just right before we do that.

Q: What happens if too many people want to participate in my city?

A: First of all, good on you, second, all cities can decide to end registration for themselves at any given time.

Q: How do I know when I have enough participants?

A: Well, it all depends on your capacities, but you can decide that for yourself.

Q: When should I close registration?

A: You can stop whenever you like, some cities leave it open till the last second, others stop at other times...

Q: How do I know if my hackathon is too small?

A: Well, if there's less than four to five teams, it's quite frankly going to be a lot of hassle for very little result.

Q: How do I get to know more about the candidates that registered in my city?

A: Well, our website gives every organizer the possibility to download a file with all the necessary information about each participant.

Q: Can I register alone?

A: You can, but you won't be able to participate alone. You'll need a trusty team. Now you can choose them on D-Day, but you also just register as a team.

Q: How big can this trusty team be?

A: Your band of brothers or sisters can include two to five people, not more, not less either (because that would be just you).

Q: When will we know about these challenges we hear so much about?

A: They'll be published in February, depending on whether or not they're ready to be published.

Q: I'm from x-country and I'm not sure if the CNES or ESA will give me access to their patents or data during this competition...

A: If a team needs access to any data or patent of the CNES or ESA for their challenge, they will obtain it, no matter what country they come from.

Q: If I have a technical question during the weekend of ActInSpace 2020, and my local coaches are not able to answer them, whom do I call?

A: We'll be trying to put a form of « Hotline » in place so you could ask your question to a number of technical experts. The hotline will have three centers, one in the America's, one in Europe and one in Asia, so time zones won't be a problem.

Q: What kind of coaches should I be looking for?

A: You're going to need business coaches and technical coaches. These last one can be generalist technicians (not necessarily specialized in a certain field). Ensure you don't have too many coaches however, as you need to give the teams time to work between all the good advice.

Q: What should I be looking for in a given coach?

A: It's good to have coaches who can deal with trouble before it gets out of hand. Coaches who can calm the teams down, and deal with conflict resolution are always a plus.

Q: So, you say not too many coaches... How many coaches do I need?

A: Well, that depends on the number of teams you have. As a general rule, count at least one coach per five teams.

Q: So, what else am I going to need?

A: You're going to need a jury. The jurors shouldn't also be coaches. However the organizer can invite anyone they like to be part of the jury. We advise that you keep a representative jury (members of business, technical, engineering, finance, etc.).

Q: What criteria should the participants be judged on?

A: We will put them out as soon as we can, we're still tweaking them.

Q: Is the hackathon open to everybody?

A: Yes. Why shouldn't it be?

Q: I already have an idea, can I participate anyway?

A: Yes, you can, but (!) your idea has to fit into one of the challenges presented.

Q: When will there be manuals?

A: Before the hackathon we'll provide everyone with candidate, coach and jury handbooks, as well as the contest.

Q: Can I charge people to be a candidate?

A: The contest is supposed to be free, as mentioned in the general conditions of participation.

Q: Can I attract a local, national or international sponsor and advertise them?

A: You can do that for local and national sponsors, if you want to make them an international sponsor that will have to go through us.

Q: Multiple cities in my country are participating, how do we choose the team that goes to Toulouse?

A: Well, you don't choose, if there's only one participant city in a country, the winner of that hackathon goes to the finals. If there's more than one city in the country you're going to organise a final round for your home country, the team that wins gets the privilege of going to la ville rose.

Q: So, about the money...

A: Ah yes, we knew this question would come. A city has to pay the ticket for the winning team to go to Toulouse. You can choose whether you send the entire team or just one or two representatives. Once the team gets to Toulouse, we pay for their lodgings and food for two nights.

Q: Do you also pay for the lodgings of anyone who might travel with the team?

A: No. But what we will do is invite them to the gala evening.

Q: What language does my website have to be in?

A: English please! That way, everyone can understand everything.

Q: What language will the finals in Toulouse be in?

A: Well, we had a choice between French, Occitan or English. Considering there are more people that speak English than the two other ones we decided to go with the language of Shakespeare.

Q: What language should my local hackathon be in?

A: You can use your own language, or English, just speak whatever language you're most comfortable in.

Q: Can I train the national team between my local hackathon and the international finals?

A: You can! They don't have the right to change subjects though.

Q: In what kind of place should I organise my hackathon?

A: Well, there are two ways of doing this, either you organise it in a very large hall, or you find multiple rooms that can hold 2-3 teams each. The latter option being our preferred one.

Q: Are the participants obliged to stay through the night?

A: No, they can go home, but you should give them the possibility to stay (most of them will).

Q: Can multiple teams go after the same challenge?

A: Yes, they can. The challenges are large enough to take the same base idea and use it in different ways.

Q: Should I do something else to plan?

A: You should probably organise a « warm-up », around a week or ten days before the hackathon. It can be a small event, it just helps teams to form beforehand, which saves time on D-Day.

Q: Can I create local challenges?

A: If you really want to you can, but a team that won on a local challenge cannot participate in the international finals. Any team that goes to Toulouse has to do so with an international challenge.

Q: What kind of prizes should I have?

A: Every city needs a prize for the winners. It can be a fun prize, like tickets to some local attraction, or help for a startup for example or both, we don't encourage money prizes. We don't think it's in the spirit of the contest.

Q: Can people who do not live or work in the country participate in the hackathon?

A: Yes, they can. However they do need to be able to be there physically and speak the language of the other participants.

Q: Can people start preparing for the challenges in advance with their team?

A: Yes, they can. Once the team is formed they can start to think about how to best respond to a challenge.