Hack4SocialGood 2023
Promoting Digital Inclusion

A joint event hosted by the Bern University of Applied Sciences, University of Applied Sciences of Western Switzerland, University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland, and Zurich University of Applied Sciences for and with ...

... social organizations who have unmet technical or data needs
... organizations in the data and software sectors who want to make a social contribution

Bern University of Applied Sciences

Zurich University of Applied Sciences
zhaw School of Social Work

nw University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland

Hes·so

Otto Wirz-Stiftung

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When?
Start: Friday March 31, 2023, Afternoon
End: Saturday April 1, 2023, Evening

Where?
Berner Generationenhaus
Bahnhofplatz 2
3001 Bern

What is it?
The social sector has important needs with respect to digitalization including software, online tools, and data analytics. Sometimes these needs go unrecognized or there are insufficient resources to address them. At the same time, there are those with technical knowhow and resources who could also benefit from working with the social sector – from resume boosters to networking and recruitment, to developing future long-term projects. Or it can simply be about social engagement and giving back to society.

At this 2-day Hackathon event we will build a bridge between the technical and social sectors to work in small interdisciplinary teams on tasks that social sector organizations bring to the table. The event has diverse potential benefits.

What will the event produce?
A Hackathon is about the process as much as the product. The interdisciplinary teams work towards solving real problems faced by social organizations. The website Hack4SocialGood shows some of the prototypes developed at the first Hack4SocialGood. One example is a digital case management tool for migrants that create resource and helps support integration goals.

The event is also a way for participants to expand their networks and make new contacts. In this way the Hack4SocialGood promotes interdisciplinary exchange, which is key to digitalization in the social sector.

Who are we looking for?
For the Hack4SocialGood to be a success, it needs the participation of diverse individuals and organizations that want to contribute to an inclusive digitalization in the social sector.

We are looking for social organizations with digitalization needs, who are ready to formulate these tasks as so-called «challenges», providing participants the relevant resources (e.g., information or data) to help them work on the challenge.

We also need partner organizations that have networks with technical and data specialists or who work in the social sector, to help with participant recruitment.

Finally, we are looking for individuals or organizations that have expertise in handling data, the development of software, and data protection, who can support the event.

Event Ethos
Everyone is welcome to attend irrespective of disciplinary background or institutional affiliation. Diverse participation is critical for a successfully event.

All innovations developed at the event prioritize inclusive social change with a focus on the needs of the disadvantaged.

We are convinced that open data means better public services. For that reason, we would like to make the developed prototypes openly accessible if possible. We strive to offer advice to participating organizations about the form and conditions under which their data can be shared.

While people and organizations contribute to the event with diverse goals in mind, all share one overarching aim: Have fun!

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