Rules of Participation

Preamble

The Copernicus Hackathon Programme is part of the European Union Copernicus Start-up Programme, originated to stimulate the generation of new business ideas based on Copernicus data and services.

The Copernicus Hackathon Programme is implemented by Anwendungszentrum GmbH Oberpfaffenhofen (hereinafter "Coordinator") on behalf of the European Commission (hereinafter "EC").

The **Sofia Copernicus Hackathon** is organised by Risk Space Transfer –Technology Transfer Office, (RST-TTO), (hereinafter "Organiser").

1. Objectives

The Copernicus Hackathon Programme pursues the following objectives:

- Increase the number of users of Copernicus data and services
- Stimulate the generation of new business ideas based on Copernicus data and services
- Raising awareness of the opportunities offered by Copernicus data and services
- Train potential users on how to access and use Copernicus data and services
- Support the development of a thriving Copernicus downstream eco-system, by favouring cooperation between multiple stakeholders and maximise the socio-economic benefits of Copernicus

The Sofia Copernicus Hackathon furthermore aims at **Smart Sustainable Cities, Danube and Black Sea and EO & AI for E-Government**.

2. Date and location

The **Sofia Copernicus Hackathon** will take place from April 24th to May 8th 2020 in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Participants are expected to participate also in any pre-event trainings proposed by the Organiser.

The latest version of the detailed event agenda can always be found at hackathon.rst-tto.com

3. Who can join?

All Participants to a Copernicus hackathon shall be of legal age and resident of one of the Copernicus participating countries (EU Member States + Norway and Iceland). Participants shall have skills relevant to software development, including computer programmers, graphic and interface designers, GIS and EO experts, project managers and thematic experts (agriculture, energy, forestry, oil & gas…).

4. Registration

Participants are requested to register for the Copernicus Hackathon before 30.04.2020 17:00 CET at http://hackathon.rst-tto.com/.

Participation is limited to 100 participants. The Organiser may decide to close the registration before the deadline in case the maximum number of participants is reached.

The Organiser reserves the right to close the registration in case the maximum number of Participants is reached.

Participants can register alone or in teams up to 5 persons. Single applicants will be able to meet others and form a team online. To participate are welcomed specialists in: Computer Sciences - Image processing, Artificial intelligence (AI), Big data mining, Web applications developers as well as GIS/EO analysists and also scientists, students, PhDs, entrepreneurs and everyone interested from EO products as services.

Each team is advised to be composed by people with expertise in: GIS/EO, computer development, graph and interface design, marketing, business and thematic expert (agriculture, energy, forestry, etc.) and many more. However GIS/EO expert and IT developer and business person is a must for each team.

If not already registered as teams, the Organiser will match the Participants before or during the Hackathon to ensure that each team is composed of participants with a mix of relevant skills as mention above.

5. Challenges

The specific topics of the Copernicus Hackathon are: Smart Sustainable Cities, Danube and Black Sea and EO & AI for E-Government.

The participants will be provided with dataset with satellite data (ESA's Sentinel-1, 2, 3 and/or from 3rd parties satellite missions). There are going to be 3 themes and 3 COVID-19 challenges for the participants to challenge themselves:

1. Smart Sustainable Cities: more than 50% of the world's population lives in urban areas. The trend shows that by 2050, it will be nearly 70%. The city authorities need to be prepared for all of the issues the overurbanization could cause and this topic is on the list of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals as SDG11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable in order to Information and communication technologies propose the solutions and to be made informed decisions.
   COVID-19 Challenge: Monitoring of the dynamics of air pollution during the Covid-19 pandemic using SENTINEL-5.

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2. Danube and Black Sea: solving the issues on regional level always gives the better results. EO technologies applications could enhance for better river basin management, management of the Black Sea coastal zone, environmental and biodiversity protection, risk management, sustainable development of their resources, etc.
COVID-19 Challenge: Assessment of water quality (basic biological parameters) of the Danube and Black Sea during the COVID 19 epidemic, using SENTINEL 2&3.

3. EO & AI for E-Government: Application of EO data from Copernicus programme with other spatial datasets could be used for improvement of the accessibility, transparency and efficiency of public services and provide better e-services for the citizens in the areas as Situation Awareness, Regional Planning and Resource Monitoring. Earth Observation data and Artificial Intelligence algorithms can be used to develop a special module that supports automatic and semi-automatic interpretation of the areas, affected of natural disasters and accidents.

   COVID-19 Challenge: Assessment of the geographical distribution of COVID19 pandemic at local and global scales, through satellite data (SENTINEL) and artificial intelligence algorithms.

4. Participants could propose their topic for hacking.

The full list of challenges is available on the website: http://hackathon.rst-tto.com/

6. Technical support and training

The Copernicus Hackathon will offer business and technical training before and during the event. The Organiser will provide the Participants with access to relevant coaching and IT infrastructure (hardware, software, API…) throughout the Hackathon, to facilitate access and use of Copernicus data.

Separate conditions may apply for usage of such coaching and IT infrastructure.

7. Expected output

The Copernicus Hackathon shall constitute a coding experience during which Copernicus data is actually accessed and used. The expected output shall thus go beyond mere concept presentations.

8. Evaluation
The Organiser will appoint a selection board, to select the best team at the end of the Hackathon.

The solutions presented to the selection board will be evaluated based on the following evaluation criteria:

- Relevance to the hackathon topic. Weight: 25%
- Interest of the project (Is the project innovative? Does it create value for the users? Is it feasible technically?). Weight: 50%

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- Quality of the team (technical and business expertise, understanding of the thematic area, commitment to the project). Weight: 25%

All experts appointed for the evaluation will sign a declaration of secrecy and non-interest with the Organiser.

9. Awarding of Prizes

A prize will be given to the best team at the end of the Hackathon.

One seat in the Copernicus Accelerator (a one-year coaching scheme organised by the EC) will be provided for the winning team.

In addition, the Organiser and local partners will award additional prizes available at http://hackathon.rst-tto.com/

Each winner is responsible for all federal, state, local, provisional and other taxes.

10. Confidentiality & Ownership of the Results

Participants will own the intellectual property rights to all their developments made during the Copernicus Hackathon. Ownership of the teams' output shall be with the teams' Participants, who will jointly own the app concepts / draft developments.

It is up to the respective teams to protect the developments in the relevant legislations, as far as the apps are in a development status allowing such protection.

The Participants need to ensure that the output of their group work will be an app which will be clearly "free-standing", i.e. based on a software programme which is developed "from scratch" by the Participants and does not contain already existing software from third parties. That will ensure that the later commercial use of the app(s) will not encounter any problems in terms of intellectual property rights belonging to a third party.

The Organiser confirms to not disclose any confidential information acquired through the organisation of a Copernicus Hackathon to any third party. The Organiser furthermore ensures that all experts and mentors involved in the Copernicus Hackathon commit to a non-disclosure agreement.

11. Data Protection

The Organiser will handle and protect personal data of all Participants within the frame of the Data Protection Law in the EU - General Data Protection Regulation - GDPR. The personal data of all Participants are handled exclusively in a Member State of the European Union or in a Contracting State of the Agreement on the European Economic Area. Any transfer of personal data to a third country is excluded.

The Participant allows the Organiser to transmit their contact details to the EC and the Coordinator to inform them of all matters related to the Copernicus Hackathon Programme and of any other issues the Coordinator and the EC deem relevant and appropriate.

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By participating in the Copernicus Hackathon, all participants acknowledge that the EC, the Coordinator and the Organiser may use their names, country of origin, comments, likenesses, photos and videos (incl. photos/videos taken of the participants during the Copernicus Hackathon), and non-confidential descriptions of their apps developed during the Copernicus Hackathon in publicity or advertising concerning the Copernicus Hackathon or otherwise in any medium now known or hereafter devised (including the Internet or other interactive networks) at any place and time without further compensation or right of review and agree to waive their rights with respect to any such publicity and advertising.

The obligations related to personal data protection shall continue to be in effect for an unlimited period or as long as prescribed by applicable law.

12. User satisfaction

Participants agree to complete a short user satisfaction questionnaire after the Hackathon.

13. Miscellaneous

The award decisions shall not be subject to legal challenge. The decisions rendered by the expert appointed by the Organiser shall be final and binding for all Participants of the Copernicus Hackathon. Participants shall have no right to a justification of such decisions.

The European Commission, the Coordinator and the Organiser reserve the right to modify these terms, including any of the deadlines set forth herein, at any time.

Participation in the Copernicus Hackathon shall be governed by the Bulgarian Law. Place of jurisdiction shall be Sofia city court. This agreement is subject to the laws of Bulgaria. In case of any dispute related to this agreement, the court of jurisdiction is Sofia city court.

14. Contact

For more information please visit: http://hackathon.rst-tto.com/

If you have any further questions, please send them to copernicus_hack@rst-tto.com

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