



UNIwersytet
Warszawski



Centrum Współpracy i Dialogu
Inkubator UW

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All together in amazing hackathon

Innovation is the key to on-line learning

On-line learning has been a fact for several months - also at the university level. According to the students, there is much to be done in the area of learning effectiveness. The priority is technological solutions that will support the involvement of participants in the classes. Innovation is the key. In mid-January, teams of students from European universities will compete in an unusual hackathon - EduHack 2021. The list of participants is still open.

March changed the realities of the economy, medical care and science. Within a dozen or so days, it became necessary to develop ways to transfer all life to the digital zone. The word "on-line" has become one of the most frequently spoken - as well as "mask", "disinfection" and "lock-down". One of the most demanding areas turned out to be education - including teaching university students. It worked, but there are still areas that are far from perfection.

A report prepared by scientists from the University of Economics in Katowice indicated in October that students still perceive technical problems or greater stress related to on-line examinations. On the other hand, the report of the Office for Persons with Disabilities of the University of Warsaw, published in July, indicated that on-line teaching enables adaptation of the scope of work and knowledge to the needs of recipients. So there are pros and cons. But one thing is certain - the new situation creates challenges. Experts point to the involvement of participants in remote classes as the key ones. Students will work on solutions for building this commitment during an international hackathon organized in January by the of UW Incubator in cooperation with six European universities. This time, however, it will not be a typical marathon for developers.

- After a year in the new reality, we are able to characterize the challenges. We ask the enthusiasts of innovation ... and we are looking forward to the results - said Aleksandra Zimnoch, CEO of the UW Incubator. - Together with students from all over the European Union, we want to work out a solution for building commitment at university classes conducted online. Importantly, the event is not only aimed at IT specialists and programmers, as is the standard hackathon, or programming marathon. Here we will think interdisciplinary. The event will be attended by teams combining competences from various fields - she added.



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As the organizers emphasize, you can still join the list of participants, although it fills up quickly - with students from all over Europe. People interested in the subject of broadly understood education from universities accredited by the member state of the European Union are welcome. What does it mean? That the event is open and that the premise of success is based on this openness. – *When asked about expectations, I will answer: we are very positive about innovative ways and solutions. Students of many fields working together - with high motivation to achieve the effect, are a guarantee of interesting results. What kind? Those that will later allow to maximize the involvement of students in the world of online learning using technology in a practical way – said Aleksandra Zimnoch.*

The idea of hackathons is competition. The organizer asks the problem and the rival groups usually have a certain amount of time to provide a solution. Most often - in the area of programming. This time - in the field of technical solutions that meet the needs of remote education. This is the main guideline and motivator - say the originators. Besides - "sky is the limit". The organizers planned a prize pool of 5,000. Euro and in-kind prizes. In order to get them, participants in groups (three to six people) will go through the process of creating ideas, validating them and prototyping them. EduHack 2021 will be held with the support of experts and facilitators and will last 3 days.

EduHack 2021: international hackathon for the future of education: January 14-17, 2021

Recruitment lasts until December 31, 2020.

More information and registration: <https://eduhack2021.eu/>

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