How to be a Kick-ass Hackathon Host

Creating learning environments at tech events

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Belgrade, 12. Oktober 2019
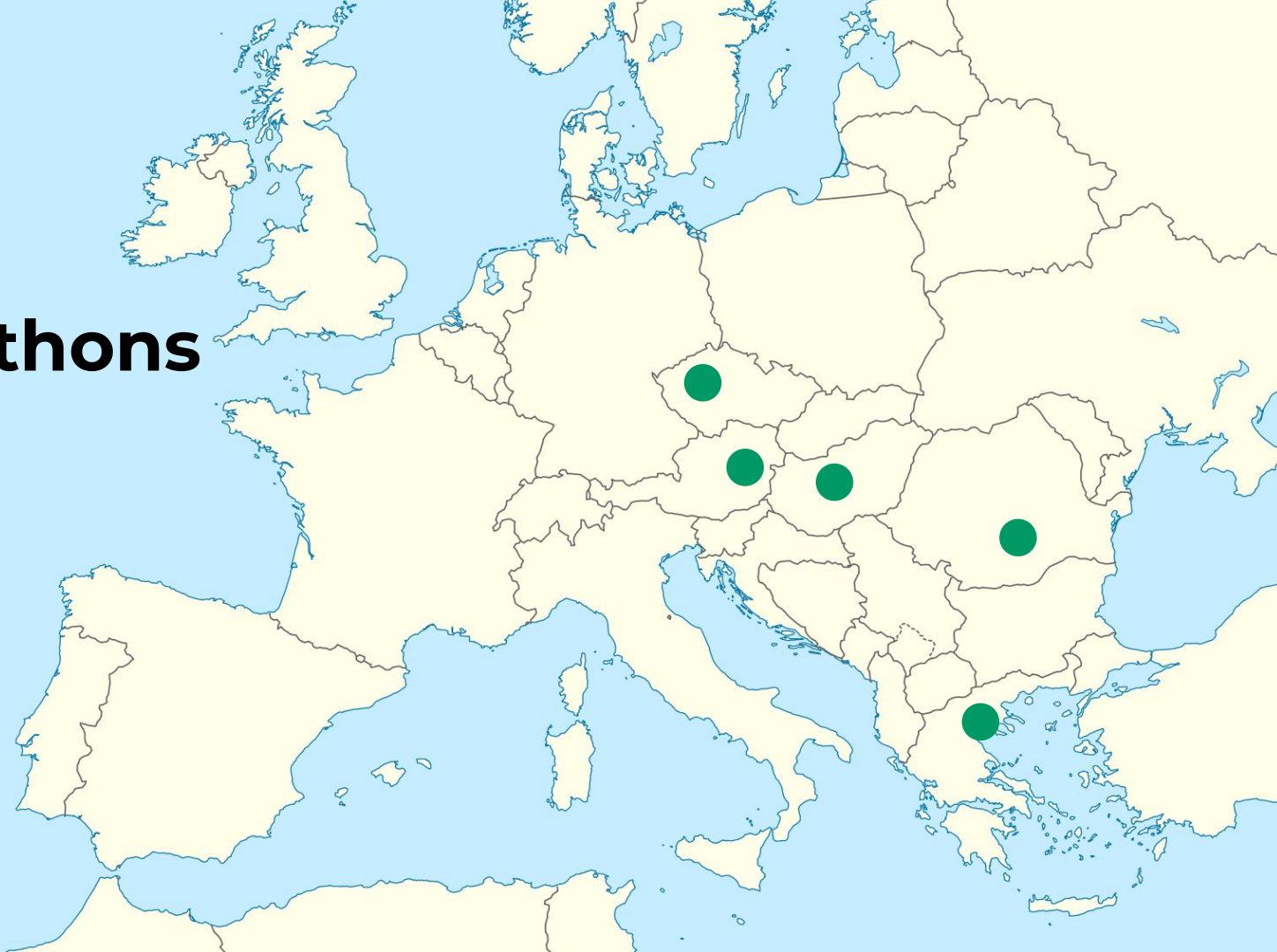

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Wikimedia Hackathon 17

Pre-hackathons

How to refine and develop a rotating event?

How to achieve our goal to grow our local tech community?

How to accomodate for the needs of your various stakeholders

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Seeing beyond our own noses
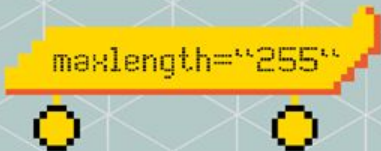
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<h2>Open Data bewegt</h2>

JUGEND HACKT
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OPEN
COMMONS
LINZ

OPEN
KNOWLEDGE
FOUNDATION
DEUTSCHLAND

mediale pfade
Medien · Pädagogik · Outdoor

Mentoring Program

- **Mentors only job is to mentor**
- **Managing expectations**
- **Mentoring handbook**
- **Mentoring program coordinator**
- **Bringing in female mentors**
- **Daily check-ins**
- **Communications channles**
- **Mentors suggest projects/tasks**
- **Creating sense of achievement for all newcomers**

"

Absolutely amazing experience.

The mentoring project with dedicated mentors and projects for newbies was excellent, I hope it is kept for next hackathons.

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"**I also really, really, really enjoyed the welcoming atmosphere, the humour, the warm and fuzzy feeling that was everywhere.**
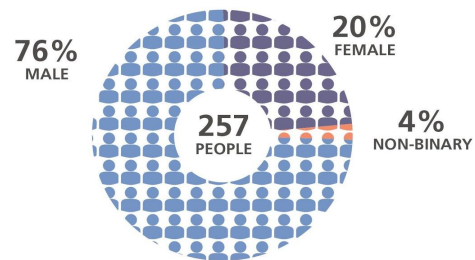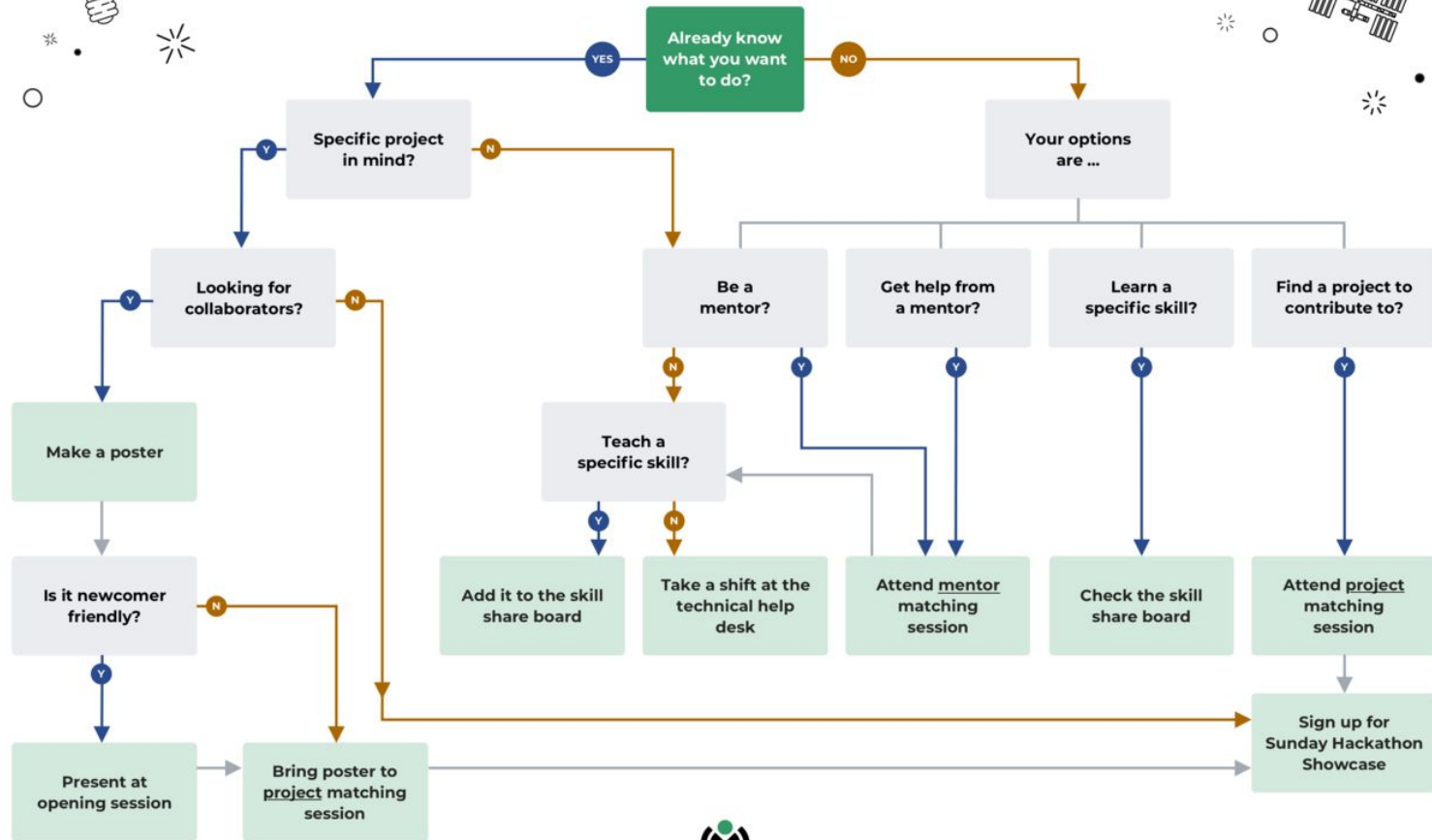
Results:
More productivity

SESSIONS AND PROJECTS

46
PROJECTS
SHOWCASED

45
SESSIONS

Results: More diversity

76% MALE

20% FEMALE

4% NON-BINARY

257 PEOPLE

56 NEWCOMERS

30 MENTORS

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Navigating a Wikimedia Hackathon #wmhack

Already know what you want to do?

— YES → **Specific project in mind?**
— NO → **Your options are ...**

Specific project in mind?
- Y → **Looking for collaborators?**
- N → **Be a mentor?**

Looking for collaborators?
- Y → Make a poster
- N → Bring poster to project matching session

Make a poster → **Is it newcomer friendly?**
- N → Bring poster to project matching session
- Y → Present at opening session

Present at opening session → Bring poster to project matching session

Your options are ...
- Be a mentor?
- Get help from a mentor?
- Learn a specific skill?
- Find a project to contribute to?

Be a mentor?
- N → **Teach a specific skill?**
- Y → Attend mentor matching session

Get help from a mentor?
- Y → Attend mentor matching session

Learn a specific skill?
- Y → Check the skill share board

Find a project to contribute to?
- Y → Attend project matching session

Teach a specific skill?
- Y → Add it to the skill share board
- N → Take a shift at the technical help desk

Attend project matching session → Sign up for Sunday Hackathon Showcase

Bring poster to project matching session → Sign up for Sunday Hackathon Showcase
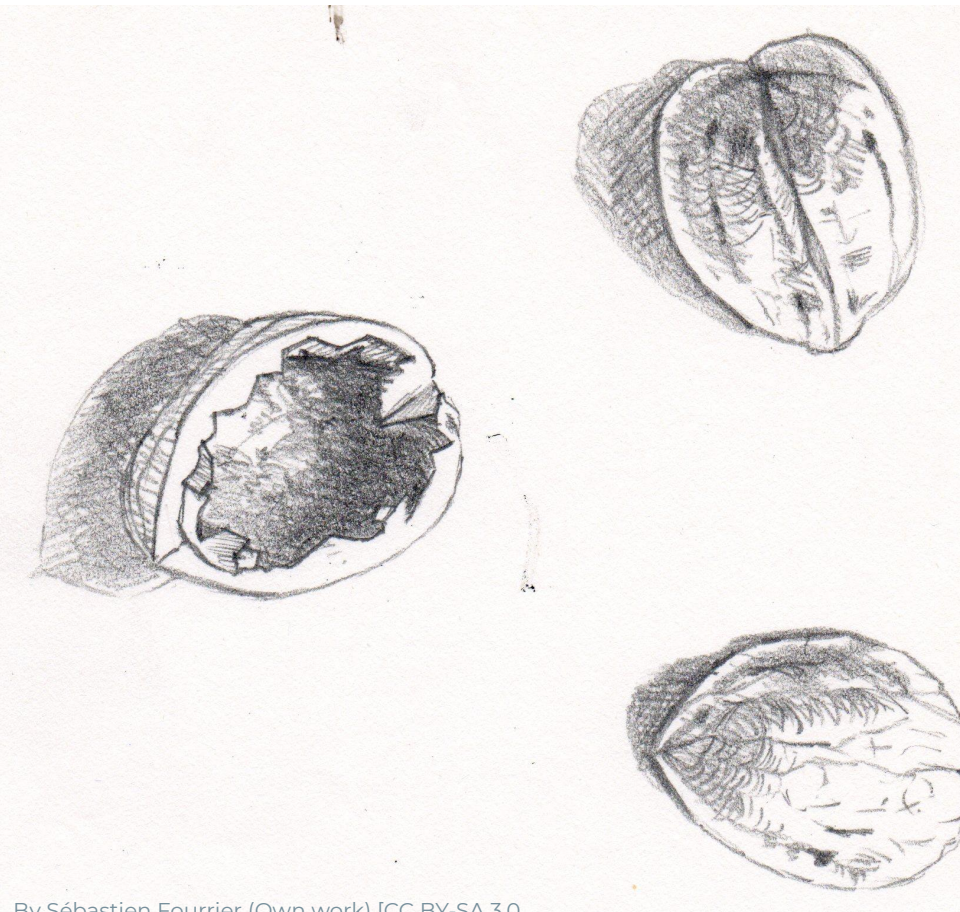
WIKIMEDIA HACKATHON

In a Nutshell

- **Be bold! Try new things and fight for your ideas**

- **Seek for inspiration outside the Wikiverse**

- **Productivity vs. inclusiveness - it's not a zero-sum game**

- **Teaching newcomers takes commitment, time, and resources**

- **Cherish mentors and their work for our movement**

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Resources:

https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Hackathons
https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Hackathons/Handbook/Newcomers
https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Wikimedia_Hackathon_2017/Mentoring_Program
https://jugendhackt.org/
http://opentechschool.github.io/slides/presentations/coaching/
https://jugendhackt.org/jugend-hackathons-fuer-alle-unser-handbuch-ist-da/

WMF Support

WMF Technical Event Ecosystem

What do we do?

- Support for volunteer developers
- Onboarding new developers
- Technical events: Wikimedia and Wikimania Hackathons, Wikimedia Technical Conference, smaller regional newcomer focused events.

How can we help?

- Help support your event:
  - WMF developers
  - event organization advice / documentation
- Phabricator trainings
- Connect your local developers with:
  - Programs (Google summer of code, outreachy, etc.)
  - International community of developers
- Organize the spring Wikimedia hackathon together.
- Funds for newcomer events around Hackathons