On February 5, 2019 at Open Science Days in Berlin, Philip Durbin and Oliver Bertuch hacked on Dataverse for twenty minutes before going to the conference dinner. They approached Giacomo Peru from the Software Sustainability Institute (SSI) about funding who said on February 28 that he's optimistic about getting some form of support.

On March 1, 2019, Philip Durbin and Merce Crosas met to discuss the idea of the hackathon and decided the following:

- 2019 is already so busy that 2020 would be the earliest.
- Funding from additional organizations in Europe should be pursued.
- The hackathon could be coordinated with a conference.
- The hackathon venue could be at an institution that uses Dataverse.
- IQSS cannot organize the hackathon alone. 5 people from other organizations must be willing to help.

The following spreadsheets have been created to help track interest in the hackathon and coordinate the points above:

- Organizations:
  https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1MX7PD6MPjNvkuFt2zqpjxxW3KVubgXCQOtFy6c5J4i8/edit?usp=sharing
- People:
  https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1JOYCnUBTonDHvJjPJBoufTX6o2hl73kRF75Fo3-UK-c/edit?usp=sharing
- Projects:
  https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1a5jeXXZ7zFzeCLhVpl3gq9_833adKAg6zUVQ9FsAXos/edit?usp=sharing
- ...