



BEYOND THE SINGLE ACT OF CREATION: SUSTAINABILITY OF HACKATHONS

- <http://2016.openbelgium.be/session/beyond-single-act-creation-sustainability-hackathons>
- **Time:** 17h00-17h30
- **Location:** Frederik de Tassis room
- **Level:** Intermediate
- **Type:** Keynote

Start notes here:

Bas Baccarne /Researcher iMinds - Ghent University - MICT/

Hackathons as a new way of interaction between users, developers, activists
Common critique: lack of sustainability

Technology is made by humans. But humans also try to change it.
Basically any technology (and more, IKEA and life in general) can be hacked
Reaction is often aggressive and defensive
But some people noticed that this is where innovation can be found

Movement 'Toolkits for user innovation'
Goal: to improve civic engagement
How to manage this?
A lot of hackathons end at the nice demo.

Research of Hackathons.
Main motivation: solving challenges collaboratively
It's hard to promote civic entrepreneurship with it.

2 types of hackathons:

civic hackathons	product innovation hackathons
public actors	entrepreneurs/venture capital
data/issues	technology
societal challenge	incubation
process driven	outcome driven
low product maturity	high product maturity





Before you start a hackathon, think about the motivations of organizers and participants

Hackathons have a hidden added-value:

In general, a new way of communication and interaction, new form of civic engagement

This can trigger change inside and outside the organization

There should be a supporting infrastructure to capture social capital.

Look beyond the single event

Nils Walravens /Business Model Researcher, iMinds - SMIT - VUB/

'Open and they will build' is not working

From the perspective of government:

expectations need to be managed /for open data in general/

Series of in-depth interviews was conducted

Conclusions:

'This isn't Mission Difficult, Mr Hunt' - things are difficult but not impossible.

'This isn't the public procurement you are looking for' - get rid of this classic public procurement thinking.

'Let it go' - too big concern /sometimes legitimate/ but doesn't have to be too big

- Be open to different solutions
- What do they want? and all the million questions that are out there. it is important to organize this dialogue between different requests.
- Don't organize the hackathon just for the sake of hackathon.

Questions:

- how did you come to your conclusions?
- 5 case studies. then the conclusions were extrapolated to the other hackathons.
- was the scope of the analysis on hackathons on open data?
- it was hackathons as a whole.

