

CALL FOR MENTORS

SOLVE THE GAP - 48H EU Youth Digital Hackathon

The Portuguese National Youth Council, as Youth partner of the Portuguese Ministry of Education, is looking for bright minds to guide and mentor young Europeans to *SOLVE THE GAP* between youth and democracy.

The context

Portugal is holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union from January to June 2021, as part of the Trio Presidency of Germany, Portugal and Slovenia.

Within this framework, the Portuguese Ministry of Education and the Portuguese National Youth Council are engaged in the implementation of the EU Youth Dialogue and in organizing the EU Youth Conference in Portugal (12th-15th March). The EU Youth Dialogue is a European process that aims at consulting young people on policy topics that affect their lives and put them in a direct dialogue with policy and decision-makers. The topic of the 8th Cycle is Youth Goal #9 “Space and Participation for All” under the title “Europe for YOUTH - YOUTH for Europe: Space for Democracy and Participation”.

Taking stock of this topic, a 48 hours digital hackathon will be organised as a side event of the EU Youth Conference in Portugal, from **12th March, at 00:00, to 13th March, at 23:59 (WET)**.

The challenge

Young developers, social innovators and youth participation enthusiasts, organised in teams, are challenged to propose in 48 hours a digital tool aiming at boosting young people’s participation by tackling 5 challenges:

1. Fight Youth Vote Abstention in Elections
2. Youth Outreach and Access to Youth-Friendly Information
3. Building Transparency and Trust in Government
4. Youth Engagement in Policy-Making
5. Youth in Positions of Power

A prize of 10.000€ (ten thousand euros) will be awarded to the winner.



The mentors' role

Help the participating teams think about a specific problem under the scope of the 5 challenges, guide them through potential digital tools to tackle the selected problem and give inputs on the conceptualization of a viable product. During 48h - non-stop or in scheduled time frames – it is expected that the participants can benefit from the mentor's skills on problem-solving, as well as on technology and product development, from a youth related perspective. With the mentor's support, participants will go from zero to a, hopefully, winning digital tool, contributing to solve the gap between young people and democracy. The stakes are high, and the teams really need the best guidance!

How to apply

If you consider having the necessary experience and competences that match the required profile – mentoring, product development, problem solving, design, communications - , you are kindly requested to submit your application here: <https://cnj.typeform.com/to/AM2eaU3S>

Mentors are chosen for their specific expertise (i.e youth participation, product development, communications, design, problem-solving) and are expected to meet the teams in 30 minutes slots during the hackathon. The organizing team will support the mentors and provide them with mentorship guidelines before the hackathon.

Deadline of application: 2nd March 2021