P r e s s   r e l e a s e

#WirVsVirus hackathon: Vodafone Institute supports Solution Enabler programme

The Vodafone Institute is providing startup funding and sharing its social startup know-how and digital expertise in the German government's Solution Enabler programme, which is part of the COVID-19 response effort.

Berlin, 8 April 2020. The #WirVsVirus hackathon, the biggest-ever event of its kind, was organised in record time by the German government and civil society partners this March. Now the most promising projects and digital prototypes developed by more than ten thousand people during the hackathon's 48-hour timeframe are being put into practice. The **130** projects were selected by an **expert** jury from around 1,500 submitted ideas for solutions to the social, societal and economic challenges associated with the Coronavirus crisis.

The German government has announced a large-scale support programme, under the patronage of the Federal Chancellery, with the Vodafone Institute as one of its implementation partners. A jointly organised online event launching the programme was opened today by **Dorothee Bär** from the Federal Chancellery. "Through the support programme the hackathon will become a marathon. We are confident that the selected projects can make an important contribution to helping us manage this crisis," said Dorothee Bär, Minister of State for Digitalisation. The organisers also emphasised, "Many of the solutions are prototypes. Reflecting the fact that the Coronavirus situation is changing from week to week, the teams and solutions have to be flexible, which is why rapid testing and adaptation are intrinsic aspects of the programme.

Inger Paus, Managing Director of the Vodafone Institute, congratulated the teams behind the many excellent hackathon projects. "The German government's #WirVsVirus hackathon is an excellent example of the creativity and ingenuity that a state-civil society collaboration can unleash in the face of major societal and economic challenges such as the Coronavirus crisis. The Vodafone Institute has been addressing the issue of how technology can be used for the common good for some time already, so we didn't hesitate to say yes when we were asked to support the Solutions Enabler programme. This is a unique opportunity to facilitate the fast-track development of a multitude of sustainable solutions for healthcare and nursing, based on a collaboration between business and government, that will improve social cohesion and continue to have positive impacts beyond the Coronavirus crisis."

The Vodafone Institute will be providing targeted support and funding to the #WirVsVirus hackathon follow-up, the Solution Enabler programme. Solution Enabler is being implemented by a social enterprise called ProjectTogether and it is designed as an implementation programme for promising solutions during the

Media contact
Danyal Alaybeyoglu
Head of Marketing, Media Relations & Campaigning

Mobile: +49 172 2403359
danyal.alaybeyoglu@vodafone.com
_____

Vodafone Institut für Gesellschaft und Kommunikation GmbH
Berlin office
Behrenstraße 18
10117 Berlin

www.vodafone-institut.de
_____

Social Media:

LinkedIn
twitter.com/vf_institute
facebook.com/VodafoneInstitute
youtube.com/VodafoneInstitute

COVID-19 outbreak. It will initially run for a six-month period. The aim is to facilitate the fastest-possible testing and wide-scale implementation of solutions that will mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. The Vodafone Institute has provided startup funding for the Solution Enabler and it will be sharing its expertise and digital know-how to support the programme. Other supporters are the BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt and Google.

The Solution Enabler programme includes the following elements:

1. Weekly sprints in the 12 action fields: Teams with solutions in the same action field work together as peer groups. Priorities are jointly set on a weekly basis and progress is shared to allow teams to learn with and from each other. Each peer group receives weekly feedback from experts and practitioners.
2. Needs-based support with resources and expertise: Teams can request a variety of resources at any time via a digital platform - including infrastructure, pro-bono services or reach - and they have access to a curated pool of 300 experts.
3. Piloting and scaling of solutions with implementation partners: Teams with promising prototypes are put into contact with public and private-sector institutions. This allows us to make sure they are taking advantage of synergies and can dock onto existing solutions.

About the Vodafone Institute for Society and Communications

The Vodafone Institute is Vodafone's European think tank. We analyse the potential and responsible use of digital technologies for innovation, growth and sustainable social impact. Through research and events, we provide thought leadership and offer a platform for dialogue between business academia and politics. We are committed to improving access to technology for all parts of society. To achieve this aim we develop and support projects to empower women in the digital economy, such as the social tech accelerator 'F LANE'. The Vodafone Institute sees itself as an interdisciplinary platform and benefits from the expertise of its international advisory board.

Media contact
Danyal Alaybeyoglu
Head of Marketing, Media Relations & Campaigning

Mobile: +49 172 2403359
danyal.alaybeyoglu@vodafone.com
_____

Vodafone Institut für Gesellschaft und Kommunikation GmbH
Berlin office
Behrenstraße 18
10117 Berlin

www.vodafone-institut.de
_____
Social Media:

LinkedIn
twitter.com/vf_institute
facebook.com/VodafoneInstitute
youtube.com/VodafoneInstitute

C2 General