



SOCIAL HACKATHON SANDBOX

From a real sustainability challenge to a next action

Use the seven moves as a team workspace. Community partners validate the challenge and feedback; mentors ask questions; teams prototype, test, pitch and activate.

1

CHALLENGE

Start with a real community need.

What is happening now? What would meaningful change look like?

2

UNDERSTAND

Gather evidence and perspectives.

Who is affected? What do we know?
What are we assuming?

3

REFRAME

Move from symptom to system.

Why does the challenge persist? Where is a leverage point?

4

CREATE

Generate, select and prototype.

What alternatives are possible? What can we make visible today?

5

TEST

Invite feedback and iterate.

Who reviewed the prototype? What will we change?

6

PITCH

Tell the essential story.

Challenge. Solution. Why this is a good solution.

7

ACTIVATE

Define ownership and follow-through.

What happens in the next 2–4 weeks, by whom, with what evidence?



HOW TO USE THE SANDBOX

Facilitator notes for a course, workshop or full social hackathon

BEFORE THE EVENT

Set the theme and learning goals; recruit challenge owners; form interdisciplinary teams; brief mentors and judges; share the Code of Conduct; communicate judging criteria in advance.

DURING THE EVENT

Use the seven stages as checkpoints. Build in at least two moments for community-partner contact and mentor feedback. The mentor's role is to ask questions, help teams focus and support team functioning without taking over the solution.

TEAM OUTPUTS

1) A maximum 4-minute pitch answering: What is the challenge? What is the solution? Why is this a good solution? 2) A concise solution brief / annex. 3) A prototype or demonstration appropriate to the idea.

EVALUATION

Score Creativity, Feasibility, Adaptability, Impact and Pitch quality on a 1–5 scale. Consider involving community partners in the jury or in a separate relevance / usefulness check.

AFTER THE EVENT

Do not stop at awards. Agree one feasible action for the following 2–4 weeks, a named owner, the support required and one indicator of progress. Reconnect with the community partner and document what moved forward.

REFLECTION

Ask participants what changed in their understanding of the challenge, the community, the system and their own capacity to act. Use this reflection as evidence of sustainability competence development.



VISIT THE GREENUS CATALOGUE

<https://greenus.upb.ro/>

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