



## **EFSA Hackathon | #MakeithAPPen**

**EFSA, Parma, 24 September 2016**

### **Roundtable debate**

**“ICT-enabled innovation within the public administration”**

#### **ABSTRACTS**



## **Ernesto Belisario, Studio Legale E-Lex**

### **Smart public administrations and open innovation: achievements, strategies and challenges**

"Government should be collaborative." President Obama said on his first day in office.

Collaboration actively engages citizens and entrepreneurs in the work of their government. Departments and agencies should use innovative tools, methods, and systems to cooperate among themselves, across all levels of government, and with non-profit organisations, businesses, and individuals in the private sector. During last years, significant progress has been made also in Italy to incorporate collaborative approaches, like open innovation, into the work of the government.

By increasing public participation through open innovation, we can create jobs, increase our international competitiveness, advance scientific research, and help improve the lives of millions of citizens. Open innovation—which includes approaches such as incentive prizes, crowdsourcing, and citizen science—harnesses the expertise, ingenuity, and creativity of people, engaging them as strategic partners in addressing some of the country's most pressing challenges.

During the roundtable, after an introduction to smart government and open innovation, best practices of Italian and international success will be examined.

## **Isabelle Krauss, European Commission-DG DIGIT**

### **The challenge of giving space for innovation in the Commission's IT Department**

During the roundtable, Isabelle will explain how the IT department of the Commission has recently gone through a reflexion on how to enable more innovation. Initiatives that came out of this reflexion will be provided, including an internal hackathon and some IT and non-IT related project. She will also elaborate on the preparation of an inter-institutional hackathon, which her team is currently working on. On the basis of these illustrations, she will attempt to explore avenues for reflexion regarding innovation in public administration.

## **Stefano Selleri, Università degli Studi di Parma**

### **ICT, from lab activity to university administration tool**

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) have been widely used for years as research tools in order to improve modern communication systems. Recently, thanks to its efficiency and reliability, ICT started to be applied in different fields ranging from medicine to sensing, from energy and environment to micro and macro machining, and more and more.

Its usage as an administration tool has been a natural step to face and solve administrative processes, to allow remote service and to introduce dematerialization. Examples and activity carried on at the University of Parma will be presented highlighting actual and future programs which exploit ICT.



## **Claudia Trivilino, Digital policy and civic-tech consultant**

### **Civic-tech and info-apps: Bridging the gap between citizens and the EU**

As recently as ten years ago, governments were seen as the black plague of the tech world. Bureaucracies move slowly, have limited resources and are reluctant to engage with citizens by using innovative digital tools.

However, a multitude of different and newer models are slowly arising within the engagement tools landscape at both the National and EU level. We are able to assist to a fundamental and relevant shift in the citizen-authority relations: newsfeed apps, infoapps, open platforms are now made widely available by policy makers and institutions. Transparency, democracy and political awareness all benefit from this.

This speech will focus on how the EU can better connect to citizens through apps and digital tools, what are the specific challenges facing entrepreneurs when developing and deploying civic engagement apps/civic tech and what are the difficulties scaling from a national/local model to a EU business model.

## **Anastasia Valeeva, Data journalist**

### **#Diplohack: creating transparency applications on top of the EU open data**

First #diplohack was organized in London in 2013 by Swedish and Dutch embassies, bringing together diplomats, developers, social entrepreneurs, academics and civil society to 'hack' problems and come up with innovative solutions. In 2016, it turned into a wave of 8 diplomacy hackathons over Europe, under the guidance of the Netherlands Presidency of the Council of the EU. They were held in cooperation with other actors: embassies, institutes, NGOs. In Brussels, it was co-organized by the Council of the EU and Open Knowledge Belgium.

With a general idea of transparency, Diplohacks had different topics: 'Using Open Data to Strengthen Civil Society Advocacy' or 'Human rights'. In Brussels, we focused on making European decision-making more transparent. The winning project, Consiliumvote.eu, made it to Amsterdam for the final – Transparency Camp EU and won it, too.

If you want to have a hackathon on top of your data:

1. Select the right time for your event. We had event on Friday and Saturday, meaning that we lost part of the crowd on Friday because they could not miss their work; and part of the crowd on Saturday because people, especially diplomats, often travel on weekends and are reluctant to sacrifice it.
2. Get the right people. You have to have tech people on board, but not only. So you have to imagine who could be a great value to a team, and understand how to reach her bubble. Choose the right social media channel. And don't hesitate to reach out to your friends because they have the highest show-up rate.
3. Explain your data. But do not tell exactly what you want to see as result. It is good to have pre-events that will make more clear which data is available; and let people brainstorm about it. In our case, we had a datadrive webinar with specialists from the EU open data portal, European Data Portal, and several DGs; and a Diplohack café organized independently from us where the winners-to-be first met.



4. Make it fun for people to participate and to work through the night. We organized a slack channel where people could get in touch with data providers and organizers in real-time. It is also important to enable nice food, networking opportunities and prizes.
5. Radical sharing of the participants' projects. Include potential users and customers of open data products. Follow-up through blogposts, internal communication and media outreach.