Open Geneva : The faces of innovation meet up in Geneva
April 9th to April 15th 2018

Geneva Switzerland is hosting "Open Geneva, the Open Innovation Festival for Science Technology and Society " from April 9th to April 15th 2018. This festival is organized by Open Geneva, a Swiss non profit association. Aligned on the United Nations SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) the objective of this festival is to promote innovation by gathering everyone willing to share their ideas, skills, competencies and resources to invent our future world through a series of events. Thirty Hackathons, Open Doors, Conferences and incubation Workshops are taking place over the festival week. The Final Hack Show, Sunday April 15th closes the event. there the broader public will meet the festival participants and see their projects developed during the week.

In 2015, for it's first edition Open Geneva gathered teams around a common objective : improve Geneva's quality of life with Energy, Healthcare and Mobility focused projects. After two successful years, Open Geneva grew up to become a true Open City festival in 2017. That year, more than twenty hackathons gathered 400 participants with a common objective: Share their ideals, competencies and experience, imagining solutions to improve our society life. These consecutive successes confirm that Geneva hosts a true Open Innovation spirit and engagement.

Innovation and creative potential can be felt everywhere in Geneva during the Open Geneva festival: In schools and research institutes of course - the University of Geneva and the HES-SO Genève are historical event partners - but also in private enterprises, public structures, foundations as well as representatives of the International Geneva landscape. The strong engagement from local citizens wanting to engage in their local society helping improve their day-to-day life is to be noted. The Open Geneva association, created in October 2017, has set itself a mission to grow the value of this innovation potential by fostering and gathering all innovators, helping give life to their ideas and helping communicate their projects to support their development.

Quote:
Thomas Verduyn, winner of the 2017 the *Smart City Hack* of Open Geneva and a student of HEC Lausanne University with his team's project « Légumes perchés » testifies: *« The most decisive element for us has been the support we enjoyed right after the hackathon. We were able to establish many contacts, meetup many people that listened to us and helped us grow when challenges arose. The Open Geneva festival web site mapped all hackathon projects and shared our project information broadly. As a result many students contacted us to offer their help ».* Early 2018, « Légumes perchés » has become an association with 12 members developing many new projects.

Each project does not automatically require big funding but often a "kick-start support". During the 2018 Open Geneva festival, « Légumes perchés » will be one of the 5 associations teams benefiting from BNP Paribas' support with professional coaches support and a hosting in the banks incubator "Colibri". To fulfill it's mission, Open Geneva has engaged with partners who all share the desire to transform Geneva's creativity into opportunities, in fields as varied as social innovation, smart cities, digital humanities, healthcare, humanitarian engagement and earth observation and in alignment with the UN sustainable development goals (SDG).

For this 2018 edition, this week long festival will gather thirty hackathons, conferences, Open Doors and Workshops all over Geneva. The watchwords? Collaborate, Share, Challenge, Innovate and have some fun together !

The highlight: Sunday April 15th, the Hack Show at the "Espace Hippomène" of the HEAD Campus in Geneva. Hackathons participants will present their solutions to the broad public as well as festival partners that will help them develop their projects forward : ie medias representatives, accelerators, public and private enterprises, associations, etc. (free entrance on registration: opengeneva.org/hackshow).

What our partners say about Open Geneva:

« At Oracle innovation is at the heart of all our development and we thrive to provide platforms and tools to impulse creativity. Actively partnering with Open Geneva is an opportunity to connect and share our knowledge with developers, tech-enthusiasts and start-ups. It is essential for us to invest more in this community and provide an environment of co-creation, motivation and innovation through the conferences and hackathons about blockchain that we are hosting ». Sandhya Prabhu, Country lead Alliances & Channel Director Switzerland

« To be the bank of a changing world is to always partner better with our clients and our teams while contribution to a sustainable growth better shared. For us in Geneva, this means to embed in our local eco-system a contribution to the local urban, social and cultural environment. To actively participate to Open Geneva is to embody this engaged enterprise strategy » Isabelle Jacob Nebout Head of Development & Innovation, Member of BNP Paribas Suisse Executive Committee, BNP Paribas (Suisse) SA

« Hewlett Packard Enterprise is happy to promote Open Innovation in Geneva through it's renewed support to the Open Geneva festival. Aligned on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and within the festival, Hewlett Packard Enterprise organizes an open door and conference event on Open Innovation, Artificial intelligence and Internet of Things with the participation from local entrepreneurs and innovators Sixsq.com and Immersion4.com ». Pierre Mirlesse, Vice Président public sector, Hewlett Packard Entreprise EMEA.

« Innovation is powering new economic models. Today, innovating requires to mix and share knowledge, in particular when considering the social dimension of technological advances. The 21st Century is the age of connectivity. No individual actor can solve big problems alone anymore. The State of Geneva supports Open Geneva. This Open Innovation Festival anchors collective innovation at the heart of our Canton. As such, it offers significant opportunities for ground-breaking innovations to emerge. From 9th until 15th April 2018, Open Geneva is a response to one of the high priority objectives of the Department of Economic Development, Research and Innovation of the State of Geneva (DG DERI). Indeed, DG DERI aims at de-clustering the ecosystem and promoting the establishment of powerful synergies between economic circles, academia, public service agencies, local actors, and the International Geneva». Nicholas Niggli, Director General, Economic Development, Research & Innovation at Republic and State of Geneva

"The City of Geneva, through its G'innove programme, supports projects presenting a societal innovation. The City aims to have a positive impact on the quality of life in urban areas and include our City in a sustainable future. These projects are fed by the pooling of disciplines and co-construction. In a spirit of openness and creativity, the City of Geneva is pleased to support the Open Geneva festival". Sandrine Salerno, Vice-Mayor, City of Geneva, Programme G'innove.

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