Diplohack
Albania 2018

3-4 December, 2018

Diego Osorio

Diplohack Albania 2018

3 – 4 December 2018

Concept

Diplohack Tirana 2018 will take place in Tirana (Albania) the 3rd and 4th of December 2018, organised around the theme of civic and public accountability. Bringing together the expertise of diplomats, social entrepreneurs, tech developers and designers, journalists, academics, NGOs, businesses and citizens, we will focus on hacking the problem of endemic corruption and state capture in Albania, focusing on the approach of enhancing accountability as an empowering tool for common citizens. The objective of the **Diplohack** is engagement, creative thinking and learning. It is expected that some great ideas will come out of this event, but the greatest benefit is for participants and citizenry in general. When participants walk away with a fresh perspective, innovative ideas and motivated to make a difference, the event will be a success!

A Diplohack (https://www.facebook.com/DiploHack/ and Diplohack Medellin 2016) is an event of co-creation and innovation. It is a hackathon focused on creating synergies between the skill sets of people from a wide variety of backgrounds, such as diplomats, developers, designers, and NGOs. Through collaborative and creative methods participants will explore social, institutional and/or grass-roots approaches and initiatives that can contribute to addressing a local issue with a methodology that empowers and strengthens civic governance. In Tirana, for two days, a number of teams will work on an answer to the question: *"How to enhance public and civic accountability in Albania?"*

The event will start with two teleconference webinars where the key topics will be discussed with the participants and a set of selected experts. This will prepare the ground for the co-creation process.

Organizers
The Albanian Institute of Sciences (http://ais.al/new/en/) and **OTTOnomy** (http://ottonomy.org/), two Albanian organizations, will organize DiploHack Tirana 2018 from the 3rd to the 4th of December 2018 with the support of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Tirana (https://www.nederlandwereldwijd.nl/landen/albanie/over-ons/ambassade-in-tirana). These institutions wil work with a set of national and international partners to make this a great success.

Partners for this event include

Kingdom of the Netherlands

ALBANIAN INSTITUTE of SCIENCE

NOMY

Nansen Fredssenter
Nansen Center for Peace and Dialogue

Government of Canada
Embassy of Canada

Gouvernement du Canada
Ambassade du Canada

Diego Osorio

nūreva

accountabilitylab

BRIGADA KAFKA

1. .

Facilitated by

Diego Osorio, (https://www.linkedin.com/in/diegoosoriocanada) Concept consultant and designer, facilitator and implementer (see recent Netherlands Diplohack Medellin 2016).

Mission Objective

Develop a set of proposals that leverage social, technical and institutional technologies to empower citizen action in public civic accountability answering the question: *"How to enhance public and civic accountability in Albania?"*. Teams will have less than 48 hours to design and build an innovative solution. This can be a policy intervention, communication campaign, a technology, or all of the above.

Who can participate?

The event will establish multi-skilled teams based on the different profiles of those who are present. These can include diplomats, journalists, developers, designers, students, citizens, civil society actors, social entrepreneurs, academics and basically anyone who wants to hack a very current public and civic issue.

Supporting Resources

Throughout the Diplohack participants will have access to background resources, social media and external expertise. Experts and mentors will circulate among the teams or be available through teleconferencing (Skype, Appear, Zoom, Slack, Twitter and Google hangout), providing insight and professional advice on a wide range of issues related to the topic.

Evaluation Criteria

To succeed, the idea must have **CREDD**[i]:

- **C**larity -- The goal, objectives, intended beneficiaries and outcome must be clear and compelling.
- **R**isk Assessment -- Your idea's innovation, and potential to disrupt conflict needs to be balanced against potential risks to your beneficiaries, and your end goal.
- **E**vidence -- Demonstrate that your idea is sound by providing facts and supporting evidence. If hard data is lacking - enumerate the challenges and areas for further research.
- **D**o-ability -- Show how your idea could be put into action and sustained; Will intended beneficiaries welcome the idea? How will you assess impact?
- **D**isruption -- How innovative is the idea and proposed outcome?

Background to the project and supporting platform

Diplohack Tirana 2018 focuses on novel ways to address corruption and create accountability, coupled with a Dialogue Workshop between civilian actors of all streams about how to operationalize the ideas that emerge from the diplohack. Two webinars in advance of the diplohack will prepare the participants for the intensive immersion weekend in Tirana, Albania. The sequence of events will function as a co-creation laboratory that can evolve novel, innovative, and sustainable accountability practices, with an emphasis on: integrating all sectors of society into an ecosystem of accountability; empowering individuals to become positive agents of change within existing structures; helping people to imagine and design tools to help change corrupt structures; and developing a resource database and support networks for accountability.

Diplohack Tirana 2018 will draw as well on AIS's previous experience organizing **Diplohack Tirana 2016**, supported by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Diplohack Tirana 2016 brought together diplomats, programmers, and civil society representatives to create ways to use open data and technology to strengthen civil society advocacy. For more about Diplohack Tirana 2016, see: http://ais.al/new/ceremonia-e-ndarjes-se-cmimit-ne-diplohack-tirana/

Diplohack 2018: Structure and implementation

Webinars

The two webinars will function as interactive venues between experts who provide an introduction to specific elements of the diplohack, including details of the event, the dynamic we want to facilitate, logistics, and sequencing of events. The interactive expert discussion will include questions from the participants. The main objective of the webinars is to build a unified conceptual baseline that provides all participants a common introductory level knowledge about conducting a diplohack on accountability and transparency. This common understanding enhances the capacity to introduce innovation and to contribute to solving problems of endemic corruption and state capture. The format of two webinars is ideal as these will also provide a dynamic background content that can be used from the moment of the delivery of the webinar onwards and can also be accessed by participants at any moment. From this perspective, the two webinars will be the main introductory briefings that will facilitate the co-creation process since they can inform the thinking that will be initiated by the participants from the moment in which they are being selected and the teams are being put together. The combination of the two webinars will be therefore key for the preparation of the participants. It is strongly encouraged that all participants listen to the webinar during the real-time delivery as the first option, since it would allow them to respond with questions and comments.

Webinar 1

The first webinar is to serve as an introductory discussion about how an accountability framework can empower civil society actors to address issues of corruption and lack of transparency. All these concepts are interrelated, but it is important to define exactly what accountability is, to have some exposure to options and solutions that have been created in other parts of the world, to think through how these different kinds of learning experiences facilitate or link with the normative solutions that might be emerge in the Albanian context. For this particular webinar, we will count on the expertise of people who work on accountability, public administration procedures, and experts who understand the context in the Albanian case. These three experts will be given the opportunity to present specific seminal concepts and then they will be able to engage in an interactive dialogue via the questions put forward by the webinar attendance. Using the Zoom (www.zoom.us) format, it will be possible to have an interactive engagement in the way it would happen at any other conference. The webinar is to last from 45 min to 1 hour. It will be recorded, and afterwards the entire video will be made available through the website of the diplohack event. For this particular webinar, the recommended experts are to be Blair Glencorse, founder of the Accountability Lab (http://www.accountabilitylab.org/), Dr. Rick Peters (http://www.kafkabrigade.org) and Ms. Lorena Pullumbi, who is a well-recognized expert on issues of transparency and accountability in Albania. The webinar will be moderated by Mr. Diego Osorio and will be conducted on real-

time but also ensuring that the recording will be made available for all the participants at later dates.

Webinar 2

The second webinar will allow us to delve further into some of the ideas that were put forward during the first webinar. It will focus on more specific issues related to Albania, the historical background in terms of previous initiatives, early wins and failures, lessons learned, and looking at aspects that are specific to the local context such as the specificity in terms of how certain solutions could be implemented within the context of the country. It will serve as a quality check in terms of the initial thinking and help to merge ideas and jumpstart the co-creation process. It is also an opportunity for early testing of some of the ideas the people at an individual level might have considered as potential proposals for the diplohack event. It also will serve as a way of consolidating the body of knowledge that will be used as the reference briefing for the diplohack. For this webinar, it will also be important to consider the input of international actors that are supporting the webinar and the diplohack and to draw on the support of experts in anti-corruption, transparency, and accountability (such as EU level, Accountability Lab, Bosch Foundation, Kafka Brigade, etc.). The second webinar will be delivered in the same format, (that is, 45 min to 1 hour plus a question period, same software), and will be recorded as well.
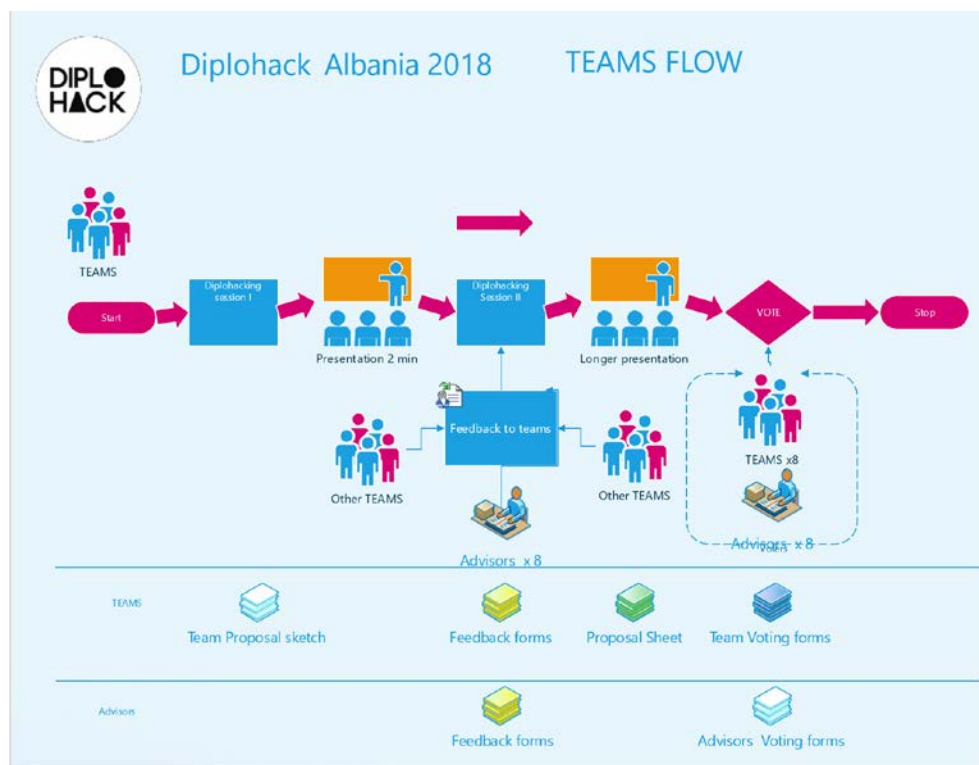
Diplohack Event.

The diplohack will be conducted as a co-creation, high intensity, against-the-clock human design event. It will be focused on extracting the creative input of a diverse and multi-disciplinary group of participants that will be encouraged to use that context as a way of testing, innovating, and collectively creating solutions that might be in some cases representative of a new approach or that would not have emerged in an otherwise more structured policymaking environment. Key elements of this methodology are the intensity, timing, testing and prototyping, as well as a multi-layered approach of co-creation, information flow and two-way permanent feedback. For this reason, the entire delivery needs to create and maintain the intensity, and adrenaline-fuelled interactions between participants, experts, and the moderating team. The documents and the information channelling (forms, feedback processes, etc.) need to be handled with accuracy, and participants need to respond to the process in the way the process has been created.
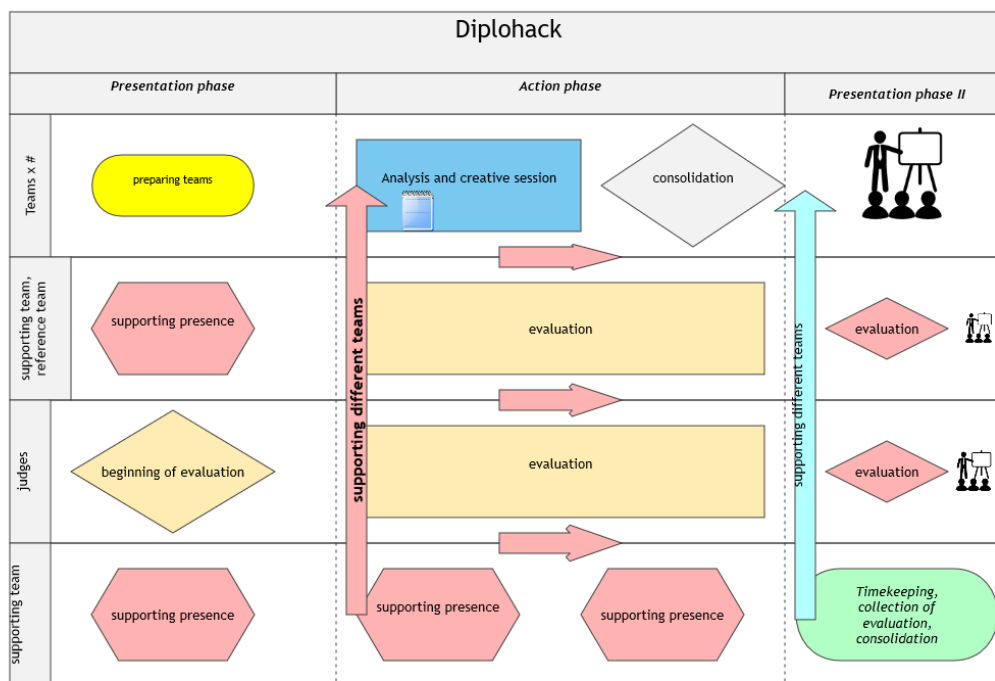
Logic flow:

The graphic shows the logic flow process about how the diplohack is to take place. As indicated in the graphic, teams are focused on the specificities of conceiving, co-creating, prototyping, testing and working with all the participants to ensure a dynamic flow of information that includes sharing of information, and other co-creation processes.

Roles and implementation timeline:

On the second graphic one can observe how different groups of people supporting the implementation of the diplohack will be able to collaborate with each other. The graphic represents how the different roles connect and coordinate with each other, in accordance with the entire timeline of the event.

---

[i] SecDev Diplohack 2016, Ottawa, Canada