

DATA4GOOD FESTIVAL

23 – 25 JANUARY 2026

CONNECT AND SOLVE DATA CHALLENGES
FOR THE COMMON GOOD



THE VISION

The Data4Good Festival empowers Europe's brightest young minds to use data science and AI to tackle pressing global issues: from migration to climate change, from social equity to democratic innovation.

Together, we're building a future where data serves the common good.



ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

The Data4Good Festival is an annual 3-day event at the Hertie School aimed at empowering the next generation of young scientists and innovators to tackle pressing societal challenges using data-driven solutions.

Bringing together bachelor's students from across Europe, the festival fosters creativity, collaboration, and impactful innovations that benefit the common good.

In 2024 and 2025, we successfully launched our first two editions Data4Good Festival with incredible results. We brought together over **220 students** from **15 countries** representing **50 universities**, with teams developing projects that addressed social challenges such as urban mobility, missing migrants, and municipal innovations. The event was a testament to the power of young minds collaborating for the greater good.

To date, it is the only hackathon and data event in Europe exclusively for bachelor's students, with generous scholarship support.

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS



Talks and workshops led by data experts

We enrich the learning experience of the festival with expert workshops and talks on data science skills and research. Previous years saw tutorials on coding with AI (Copilot), network science, data in the public sector, Tableau visualisation and creating GPT models.



Hackathon for the social good

The core of the Data4Good Festival is a hackathon where students tackle real-world challenges using data-driven approaches.



Social games and networking

Students also get to enjoy social games night and other networking opportunities with fellow participants and workshop experts to learn and establish new friendships and mentorship.

OUR REACH SO FAR

(2024 & 2025 EDITIONS)

220

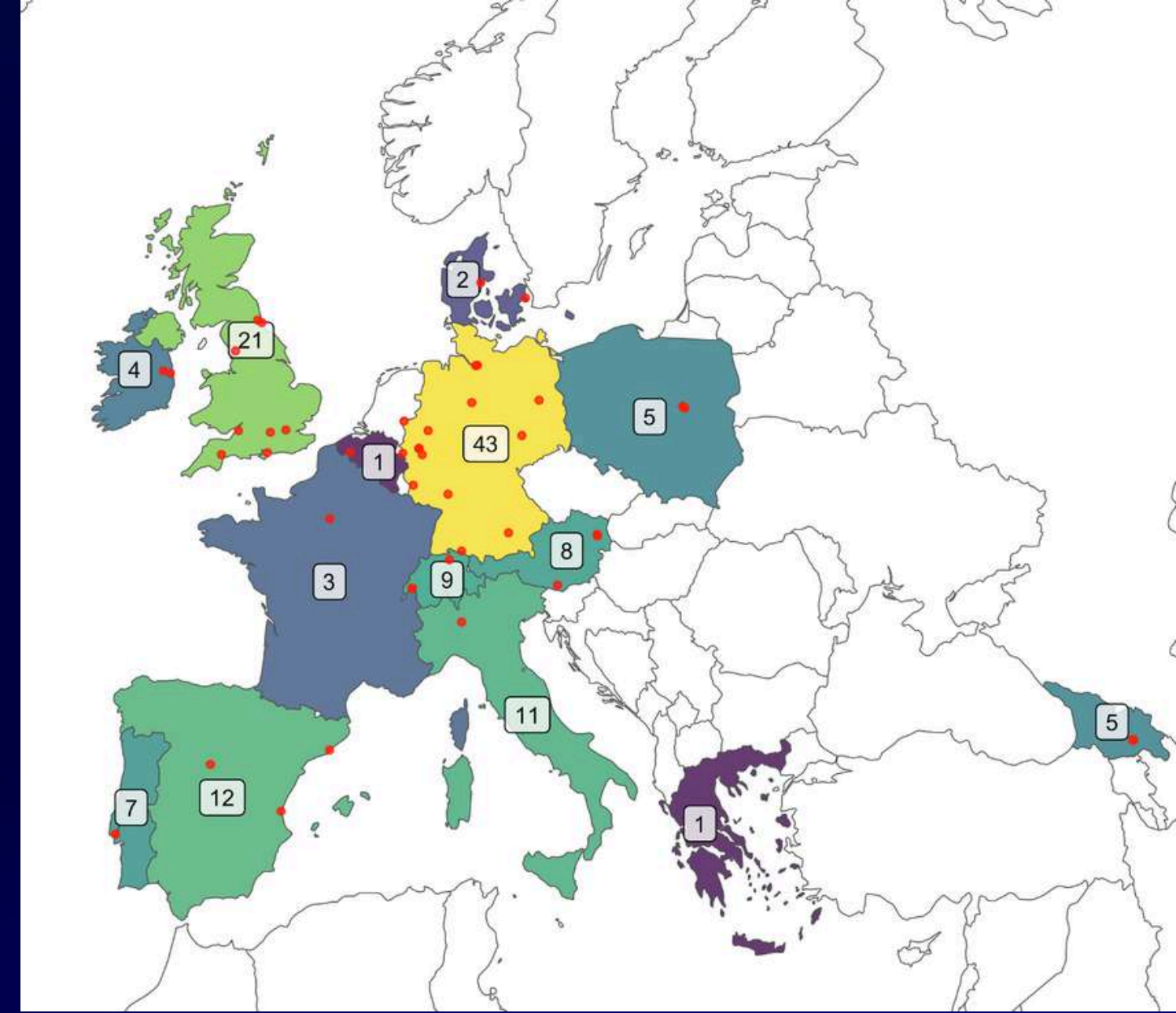
bachelor's
students

15

countries

50

universities
represented



TRUSTED BY OUR PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS





FESTIVAL 2024 EDITION



Challenge 1: Urban Innovation with Open Data

In collaboration with the Technologiestiftung / CityLab Berlin, we presented a challenge that dives into the diverse and rich datasets capturing the essence of urban life in Berlin. We encouraged students to use data science methods to uncover insights and develop solutions that address the multifaceted challenges of urban living.



Challenge 2: The Missing Migrant Project

In collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), we introduced a hackathon challenge centered on the pressing issue of international migration. Participants used a dataset that provided vital statistics on missing migrants worldwide, capturing the urgency and human aspects of migration issues.

FESTIVAL 2025 EDITION



Challenge 1: Harnessing Open Data for Municipal Innovation

Presented by the Bertelsmann Stiftung, this challenge invited participants to dive into the Wegweiser Kommune Portal dataset - a comprehensive resource featuring over 400 indicators covering key dimensions of municipal life in Germany. The dataset has been a cornerstone for municipal analysis since 2006, regularly updated with the latest insights.



Challenge 2: Uncovering Stories and Insights from Holocaust Documentation

Presented by Accenture in collaboration with the Arolsen Archives, for this challenge participants worked with historical data that documents the crimes of the Holocaust, aiming to honour the memory of its victims and safeguard the integrity of the archives. Participants helped to advance the digital transformation of this vital historical record, building tools and insights that contribute to education, remembrance and historical justice.

- PRESENTATIONS (in alphabetical order):
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Bocconi Pelikans | 19. IU Bombicka |
| 2. Bonn Voyage | 20. Lancaster University - Data Duckies. |
| 3. Combined Forces | 21. LSE Data Beavers |
| 4. Bristol Bees | 22. LVH RSkittle Brewer |
| 5. CEU Data Dynamos | 23. Mannheim R Squared |
| 6. Cologne Data Squad | 24. The University of Klagenfurt |
| 7. Coquette Coded | Roko's Basilisk Supporters. |
| 8. DataKlave Bodensee | 25. VCD Coding Bears |
| 9. EPFL PrinXuca | 26. UCopenhagen |
| 10. ETHical | 27. Uni Leipzig Data Flow Trainees. |
| 11. Exeter Pentad-- | 28. Uni Wien Code Coalas. |
| 12. Forward College Haxtrordinaries | 29. Unimore Bingus |
| 13. FUDatanauts | 30. University Politecnica delle |
| 14. HAWerflocken | Marche HackforPizza. |
| 15. HSRWmangopi | 31. University of Portsmouth. |
| 16. IE 404: Team Not Found | 32. UPF Cookie Monsters. |
| 17. ISCTE Derrubar | 33. UV Montebytes |
| 18. ISET Data Junkies | 34. Warsaw Student Hacking Team |
| | 35. WeGouldntAgreeOnATeamname. |



Turning data into action

Across 48 teams in 2 editions of the Festival, students transformed complex datasets into meaningful data narratives, tools, and working prototypes addressing real societal challenges.

The judging panel, including experts from Technologiestiftung Berlin, Accenture, Bertelsmann Stiftung and the Hertie School, all commended the exceptional quality of the projects, with multiple teams invited to continue developing their projects beyond the Festival.





TESTIMONIALS



Everyone had really good ideas. Like we were grateful we did good, but seeing everyone else perform as well was amazing. There were so many good ideas.

Andre Mariucci,
Lancaster University
Computer Science



In just 3 intense, inspiring days, we worked with data from Accenture and the Arolsen Archives, uncovering patterns in Holocaust prisoners' movements. Our project aimed to bring history to life through:

Interactive maps (Streamlit) to visualize prisoner journeys

AI models predicting unknown camp locations

A chatbot turning data into human-centered stories

Pol Bonet Malgà,
Universitat Pompeu Fabra
Mathematical Engineering in Data Science



Together with my teammates, we took on a deeply meaningful challenge: humanizing Holocaust victims through data. Working with a dataset of 50,000 records from the Arolsen Archives, provided by Accenture, we aimed to restore lost identities and stories. Our approach combined data science, historical research, and storytelling to bring these individuals' experiences to light: the people behind the data.

Berta Noguera Badal,
Universitat Pompeu Fabra
Mathematical Engineering in Data Science

FESTIVAL RECAP



DATA4GOOD FESTIVAL 2026
WILL TAKE PLACE ON JANUARY
23-25, 2026

Get in touch



On strategic partnership

Prof. Dr. Simon Munzert
Director of the Data Science Lab
Professor of Data Science and Public Policy
munzert@hertie-school.org



On communications & media inquiries

Aliya Boranbayeva
Communications and Event Associate
a.boranbayeva@hertie-school.org



On sponsorship and general inquiries

Dang Ngoc Huy
Data Science Lab Manager
h.dang@hertie-school.org

Hertie School
Data Science Lab

**DIETER SCHWARZ
STIFTUNG**

data
4+1
FESTIVAL
2024

**Thank you and we look forward to
seeing you in Berlin!**

- 21 April, Berlin