PRESS RELEASE

Integration through playful Apps:
Creative Ideas at the first EYA Social Hackathon in Vienna

In less than 48 hours 12 young people from 10 different countries developed together with experts from IBM impressive digital solutions for some of today's most pressing challenges: the refugee movement, migration and integration. They stood out due to their creativity and problem awareness.

Missing contact to the local population and boredom are often the biggest challenges faced by people who come to another country.

"We wanted to develop something that supports integration between locals and immigrants in a playful way. It should be beneficial for everyone." stated Robert A. Arrucha from Mexico. Together with his colleagues Mehdi Bizolm from Iran and Robert Živković from Croatia he developed the project *"Make my Home"*. This digital platform motivates all users to assimilate through a system rewarding common activities.

Under the theme "Think twice, code once" the participants at the Social Hackathon created mobile applications and game ideas in a very short time and were responsible for developing a prototype. Many of the participants originate from other countries but are working in Vienna for a short period of time. This allowed them to bring alternate perspectives and experiences to the conference. They know first-hand how difficult it is to integrate.

Also the applications *"find THE doctor"* and *"SHELP"* which were created at this Social Hackathon prove: digital technologies used in a creative way, have a positive impact on society. They all have the chance to win the European Youth Award in the Special category 2016: "Refugee Movement | Integration | Inclusion".

The creative individuals at the Social Hackathon were supported by IBM experts who gave design- and coding- workshops. For many of the participants it was their first opportunity to use the cloud-platform "Bluemix". This platform was provided by IBM for free during the Social Hackathon.

"The EYA Social Hackathon was different than all other Hackathons that I have been a part of. There were not only coders and programmers but there were also people who had knowledge in other subject areas. The different backgrounds of all the participants made this a very unique and enriching experience." stated at Kevin Singer, a student at the Technical University of Vienna.

Innovation arises from creativity and technology. Using these skills to help improve social issues is one of the key values of the young participants and the overall idea of the EYA Social Hackathon.

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The EYA Social Hackathon has been organized by the European Youth Award together with IBM Austria as well as *"Lost in the garden."* The efforts at this conference were also supported by the Chamber of Commerce Vienna FG UBIT and "Denklaufwerk".

About the European Youth Award (EYA)

Called into life by Professor Peter A. Bruck, honorary chairman of the International Center for New Media, in 2012, the European Youth Award (EYA) is a leading pan-European competition honouring excellence in the use of Internet and mobile applications for social empowerment. Conducted under the patronage of the Council of Europe, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and Unido the EYA serves as an annual contest that seeks to motivate young people under the age of thirty-three to produce socially valuable digital projects which address the goals of the Council of Europe and Europe 2020.