Indicators and Data Effectiveness Assessment to Foster Impactful Innovation Hackathon

Governments support **business innovation and growth** through a range of activities, including, consulting services to enterprises, industry-facing research and development, support provided directly or in partnership, as well as support of technology development (commercialization) and exports. These supports are offered in a complex environment with a myriad of factors that together determine the success of a business and complicate the measurement of the effectiveness of any particular support. Ultimately, the success of a business venture can depend on its ability to mobilize a set of **diverse** resources in its **ecosystem** and to access the range of government supports available to it. Furthermore, the effectiveness of government supports can be measured not only by their direct impacts on the innovative activities and growth of the businesses receiving those supports, but also on the **inclusiveness and sustainability** of those outcomes and the businesses' broader impact on innovation ecosystem and economy.

To this effect, the Policies, Processes and Practices for Performance of Innovation Ecosystems (P4-IE) conference is partnering with Statistics Canada (StatCan) to run a hackathon May 4th to 6th on data indicators and assessment, and would like to invite you to participate! **The objective of this hackathon is to explore how data and indicators could be better leveraged to help government foster impactful innovation.** Data and indicators are important considerations in the design, delivery and assessment phases of programs to support business throughout the innovation ecosystem.

Participants of the hackathon are invited to examine how data and indicators could be used or captured at any phase to better inform government initiatives. For example,

i)   Design – How could the design of programs be modified to include data capture to facilitate delivery and assessment?
ii) Delivery – How might we use available data to improve the effectiveness of government supports available?
iii) Assessment – How might we use available methods or indicators that address the challenges of evaluating a program, such as the existence of multiple or successive supports used, or multiple targeted outcomes?

Solutions can encompass viewpoints from evaluators, policymakers, data providers, program administrators, industry, and experts in innovation. The solutions that could be proposed by teams include: data collection strategies; program delivery design; novel use of existing data; use of novel data; new outcome or input indicators; policy changes; and statistical methods.

Participants are invited to consider some of the existing data sources that could potentially be exploited, which include:

- The Government of Canada's Business and Innovation and Growth Support (BIGS) program, under which federal departments and agencies have provided annually data on recipients of funding, grants and awards from their growth and innovation programs. The objectives of BIGS is: to build **a common and comparable assessment of program performance** to conduct statistical analysis on the impact of innovation programs; and to employ **a horizontal approach** to better inform resource allocation to, and across, innovation programs to meet economic objectives. (https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=5304).

- The Linkable File Environment, a complete up-to-date and unduplicated list of all businesses in Canada based on Statistics Canada's Business Register through which other Statistics Canada business survey and administrative business data holdings are linkable. (https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=6000).

- The Canadian Employer Employee Dynamics Database, a set of linkable files that provide matched data between employees and employers in the Canadian labour market. https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=5228

Upon request, participants can be provided with a description of the types of data normally available to individuals working on the program assessment. A mock-up database can also be provided for teams wishing to work hands on to implement a solution.

Event Details

Hackathons mobilize data and bring together a diverse group of stakeholders and public servants from varied backgrounds who have a passion for solving problems. Participants have the choice to register as a team of up to 5 people, or register as an individual to be placed on a team by the organizers. Multidisciplinary participation yields the best results – participants from all domains, backgrounds, tenure and skillsets are welcome. **You do not need subject matter expertise or an ability to code!**

The hackathon will be held virtually from May 4 to 6. Participants are expected to work on this topic for full days. Participants are welcome, of course, to take breaks from the hackathon to deal with pressing matters. The rest of the team will continue working on the challenge during these periods.

Video recorded presentations of the teams' solutions will be made available to participants of and played during the second Policies, Processes and Practices for Performance of Innovation Ecosystems (P4-IE) conference on May 9 to 11 in Ottawa.

Registration for the hackathon opens on March 30th and closes on April 27th. To register for the hackathon, go to Hackathon Campus, StatCan's home for hackathons on demand, and complete the following steps:

1. Create a Hackathon Campus account.
2. Once your account has been validated, complete your registration for the hackathon on the home page.

If you have any questions or comments about the hackathon, please contact the Innovation Coordinator (statcan.innovationcoordinator-coorddelinnovation.statcan@canada.ca).

We are committed to a hackathon experience that is inclusive and barrier-free for everyone. Please contact us beforehand, at the email address above, if you have any accommodation requirements.