

~ **What is a Hackathon?**

A hackathon is an event, lasting 48 hours, where individuals from various backgrounds come together to collaborate intensively on solving a problem. The participants work in teams on specific challenges or ideas, often aiming to develop creative and functional solutions rapidly. Hackathons foster innovation, teamwork, and problem-solving and can result in the development of new product or service concepts.

The term “hackathon” is a portmanteau of “hack” and “marathon”.

~ **What is an Innovation Sprint?**

An innovation sprint is a rapid innovation method designed to quickly develop and evaluate prototypes, new features, or potential products within a compact time frame (5 days). It involves cross-functional teams working collaboratively through structured phases to identify problems, ideate solutions, create prototypes, and test them.

~ **How can I participate?**

To participate in the ESA Acceleration Days, follow these steps:

1. Apply via EUSurvey: Visit the specific event webpage and click on the application link provided.
2. Complete the application form: Fill in your personal details, professional background, and explain your motivation for joining the event.
3. Application Specifics:
 - **Space Weather Resilience Acceleration Days:** Applications must be submitted individually.
 - **Crisis Preparedness Acceleration Days:** Applications must be submitted by teams of 6-8 members from the same company. Ensure you include detailed information for each team member.
4. Application Review: After submitting your application form, it will undergo a review process. Submission does not guarantee participation. We will evaluate your application and notify you of your application status. If your application is approved, you will receive an email with the final confirmation of participation.

✓ Can I join as a team?

For the ESA Acceleration Days, team participation varies depending on the event:

1. Space Weather Resilience Acceleration Days:

- You can only apply individually.
- However, you have the option to indicate up to two other candidates you know and wish to team up with by entering their email addresses in the application form.

2. Crisis Preparedness Acceleration Days:

- Team applications are required. Your team should consist of 6-8 members. You can apply as a consortium not all from the same company. You must provide detailed information for each team member during application.

✓ Do I need to be a space or tech expert to participate?

No, you do not need to be a space or tech expert to participate in the ESA Acceleration Days. We welcome individuals from various backgrounds and expertise, as everyone can contribute with their unique strengths. Diverse and multi-skilled teams are highly valued, as they bring a range of perspectives and creative solutions to the challenges we aim to address. Your unique skills and knowledge can make a meaningful impact, and we encourage all interested participants to join us.

✓ What is the expected output?

For the ESA Acceleration Days, the expected output varies depending on the event:

1. Space Weather Resilience Acceleration Days:

- At the end of the hackathon, each team will pitch their marketable and user-driven solution to a jury composed of experts and end-users. Solutions will be assessed on three key criteria: innovation and creativity, relevance and potential impact for the end-user challenge, quality of teamwork and how effectively teams used the tools, data, and mentoring available during the hackathon. It's not just what you build, it's how you work together and solve real problems.

2. Crisis Preparedness Acceleration Days:

- The goal is to develop a working prototype. This prototype should demonstrate the practical application of the ideas and solutions conceived during the sprint, showcasing tangible progress towards addressing the challenge.

✓ Will I get access to real space data?

Yes, participants in the ESA Acceleration Days will have access to real space data. This data can be utilised during the events to develop innovative solutions and concepts. Access to authentic space data ensures that your projects and prototypes are based on real-world scenarios, enhancing the relevance and impact of your contributions.

✓ Can I use other tools or external data?

Yes, you are welcome to use other tools and external data during ESA Acceleration Days. We encourage participants to leverage various resources, including additional software tools and data sources, to enhance the quality and innovation of their solutions. External data can provide valuable insights and help you develop more robust concepts and prototypes.

✓ Is accommodation provided?

For the ESA Acceleration Days, accommodation provisions vary depending on the event:

1. Space Weather Resilience Acceleration Days:

- Accommodation is not provided for this event.
- However, ESA Academy is offering scholarships to 5 students, covering travel and accommodation costs. Students can apply for these scholarships through the EUSurvey application form.

2. Crisis Preparedness Acceleration Days:

Participants are kindly requested to arrange their own travel. Accommodation will be provided free of charge at the [Euro Space Center](#) for the selected teams. You may indicate your interest in using this accommodation in the application form. Once selected, participants will receive further information and guidance regarding the event.

✓ **How can I access the site?**

The **Space Weather Resilience Acceleration Days** will take place at the European Space Operations Centre (ESOC). The site is located in Germany at 5 Robert-Bosch Strasse in Darmstadt, Hessen. A detailed description on how to get there can be found [here](#).

The **Crisis Preparedness Acceleration Days** will take place at the European Space Security and Education Centre (ESEC). The site is located in Belgium at 1 Place de l'ESA in Redu. A detailed description on how to get there can be found [here](#).
