

NEXT GENERATION DIGITAL ACTION 2024

Enabling youth-led ideas, perspectives and action on digital technologies transforming societies - Leaving No One Behind

#NEXTGENERATION #DTS2024CPH #LEAVENOONEBEHIND #DTUDK



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Dear participants, partners, collaborators and new friends

Next Generation Digital Action (NGDA) program empowered 143 students, young researchers, and early-stage entrepreneurs from diverse backgrounds—including Korea, India, South Africa, Kenya, Ghana, Tanzania, Denmark, Colombia, and Mexico. It provided them with knowledge, skills, tools, and networks to inspire digital action and create solutions for societal impact, ensuring no one is left behind.

This initiative included a 3-week hybrid innovation journey in August 2024 and an 8-day program in Copenhagen in late October, as part of the Digital Tech Summit. We extend our heartfelt thanks for your relentless engagement and invaluable support throughout this journey, which has led to remarkable outcomes. You can read more about these achievements in this booklet and on the official website.

We look forward to embarking on similar journeys with you in the future.



Marie L. Pollmann-Larsen
Team Lead
DTU Skylab



Viggo Aaberg Kærn
Head of Innovation
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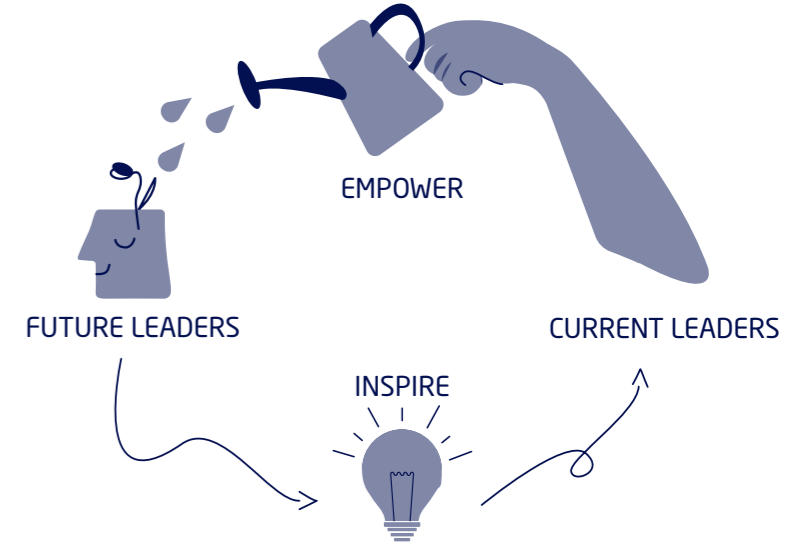


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All photos, except profile portraits, are from the Next Generation Digital Action initiative and taken by Mikael Schlosser, Jessica de Oliveira Benedito, Björgvin Hjartarson, and participants.

INTRODUCTION



Next Generation [] Action is a flagship initiative of DTU Skylab, the innovation hub at the Technical University of Denmark, which, at its' core, revolves around youth involvement in the sustainability agenda. Each year, Next Generation formulates a different theme, a field of action, where Denmark takes part as a venue for global decision-makers.

By engaging young academics and entrepreneurs with global decision-makers, through intergenerational dialogues, collaborating and co-creating solutions to sustainability challenges, we provide a platform to inspire current leaders and empower future leaders.



At DTU, we greatly value the 'Next Generation [] Action' program for its ability to connect students and startups globally with industry, civil society, and our university partners. This program accelerates learning, fosters community building, and drives innovations aimed at creating a sustainable and inclusive society.

Carsten Orth Gaarn-Larsen
Senior Vice President, DTU



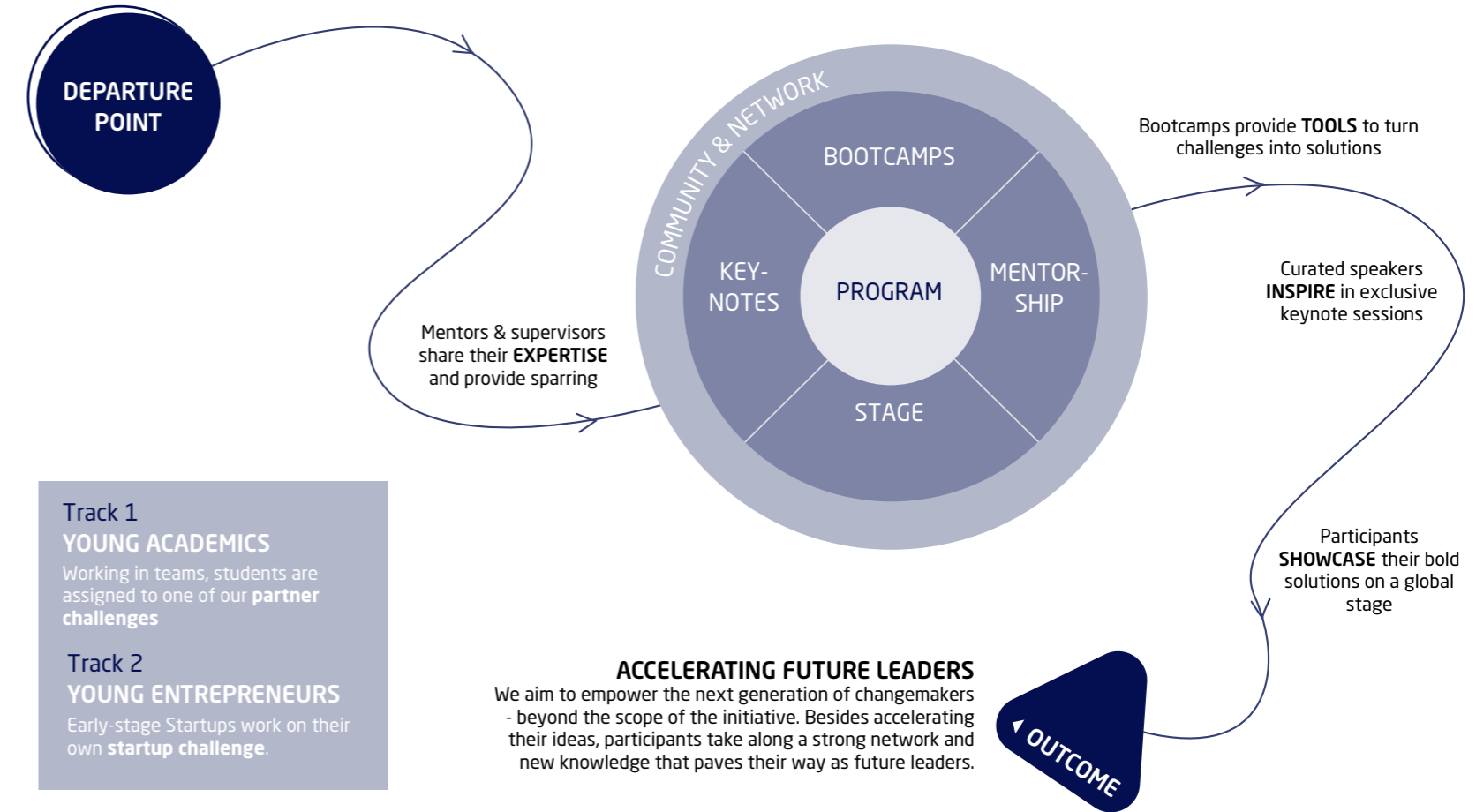
PRINCIPLES OF NEXT GENERATION

- Youth-led change** | Empowering the Next Generation
- Partnering for impact** | Collaboration for a better future
- Action** | Creating Ideas that work for the real world
- Sustainability** | Innovating for a better tomorrow
- Inclusion** | Developing solutions that leave no one behind
- Beyond congress** | Empowering youth for lasting impact



TWO TRACKS - ONE JOURNEY

Next Generation was developed to provide a journey for students in the **YOUNG ACADEMICS** track and early-stage startups in the **YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS** track



“ The program offered exceptional networking opportunities, where I connected with global leaders, innovators, and peers with similar goals. The exposure was invaluable, and it brought in perspectives and insights that were truly eye-opening and unlike anything I'd experienced before.

Young Academic Participant from Indian

EMPOWERING YOUTH THROUGH GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

DTU Skylab has led the global youth initiative as part of international events hosted in Copenhagen since 2018. Partnerships, sustainability topics and activities are adapted to bring the best value as an integrated part of the global event.



AN INITIATIVE RELEVANT FOR EVENTS THAT WISH TO...

..enable representation of young professionals from diverse backgrounds and nationalities.

..develop new ideas and support entrepreneurship by offering students and startups a hybrid innovation course and acceleration with event partners to work on new ideas and perspectives month before the congress.

..create branding, media attention and insight on the role and value of young professionals and sustainable technology-based innovations.

..involve academia in new ways by enabling young professionals to bridge between knowledge, ideas and solutions from academia, and the sustainability challenges, opportunities and stakeholders of the event.

..foster partnerships between international young talents and the industry - connecting talented students and entrepreneurs to potential future career opportunities and involve partners in new facilitated formats for collaboration.

..provide unique learning environment for young professionals & partners to work innovative and entrepreneurial in new settings and offer opportunities beyond what is offered through classical course collaborations, congress activities and industry partnerships.

Next Generation Digital Action was a great example of a cross educational and scientific project working within the scope and the purpose of the Digital Tech Summit to bring forward digital solutions for more sustainable futures by bridging academia and industry. The Next Generation Digital Action delegation was a key part of bringing a diverse and international perspective into the summit, making sure there was a strong representation of upcoming and newly emerged talent amidst the 5.000 visitors.

Mark August Riis
Head of Innovation, DTU Compute



NEXT GENERATION DIGITAL ACTION 2024

Emerging digital technologies as thematic focus directed students and startups to share new perspectives, ideas and solutions on digital action for societal impact across different domains. The Next Generation Action program opened for a valued international focus on what global and local challenges to address with digital action and the opportunity to involve young innovators from around the world to take part in the transition.

In 2025 we look forward to continuing the collaboration with the Digital Tech Summit based on great feedback from participants, partners and the summit.

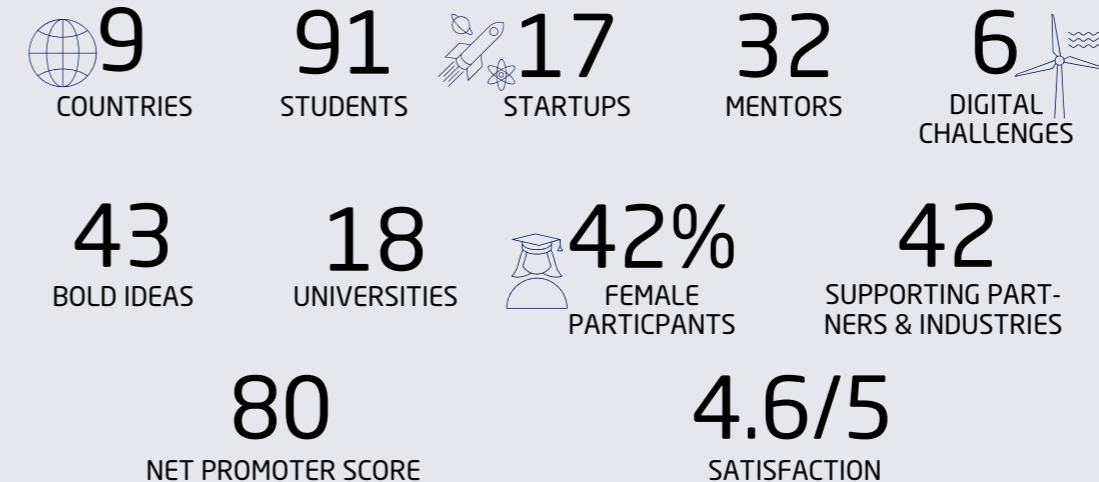
THE PROGRAM



Digital Tech Summit is the largest academic based technology & business event in the Nordic countries



2024 IN NUMBERS



The overall NPS was excellent, rated at 80*. The high NPS shows that participants are highly likely to recommend the initiative to friends.

In our evaluation*, the overall satisfaction with the initiative was rated at 4.6/5 indicating a high value creation for participating students and startups.

* Net Promoter Score (NPS) indicates customer satisfaction and loyalty on a range from -100 to +100. 30+ considered great and 70+ excellent.

** The Total number of times at least 50% of the update was visible for > than 300 milisec.

* Evaluation survey 2024. Answered by 94% of participants from all 9 countries involved.

"The program brought me incredible experiences and insights that I can apply for the future of my company and personal life. I met people with incredible ideas and value to offer to the world, and inspired me to create in order to save lives."

Young Entrepreneur Participant from Colombia

OVER 15.300
Followers on our DTU Skylab & Next Generation Digital Action LinkedIn channels

OVER 23.799
Impressions² reached with Next Generation Digital Action posts on our two LinkedIn channels during the 2024 initiative

WATCH NGDA VIDEO



YOUNG ACADEMICS TRACK

91 university students in 26 teams selected from leading universities in Denmark, Korea, India, Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, Ghana, Colombia and Mexico collaborated with international partners to turn one of 6 sustainability challenge briefs into new opportunities during a 3-week hybrid innovation course.

“ The program motivated me to find innovative ideas to solve problems in my community.

Young Academic Participant
from Tanzania

6 SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGES



Challenge 1: Leveraging emerging digital technology to strengthen water security with Managed Aquifer Recharge



Challenge 2: Empower global sustainability practices through the transparency of publicly available online data



Challenge 3: Leveraging Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning for Water and Sanitation Infrastructure Project Pricing



Challenge 4: Statistical data to promote Quality Education



Challenge 5: Data driven water security and safety



Challenge 6: Enhancing Climate Resilience in Remote Communities Using Data and Technology

26 STUDENT TEAMS



Example of ideas developed by 6 student teams

Student teams representing strong university partners turned challenges into inclusive product, service and systemic solution concepts with prototypes, business models, slides and online blog posts that can be accessed through below links.

ACCESS ALL 26 IDEAS



Empowering Water Security: AquaNet's Cutting-Edge Solution for Sustainable Aquifer Recharge

Empowering Global Sustainability Practices Using Publicly Available Online Data

Smart Infratrack: Tracking every drop of progress using AI and ML solution

EduPath: Personalized Education Journey in Ghana

Data-Driven Water Management: Unlocking Insights with Emerging Technologies

Enhancing Climate Resilience in Remote Communities Using Data and Technology

Young Academics SEMI-FACILITATED JOURNEY

The 26 student teams joined a semi-facilitated journey, taking them through the four phases of the double diamond innovation process during 3 weeks of August. Teams worked from their own universities with online sparring and facilitation from international teams, mentors and facilitators.

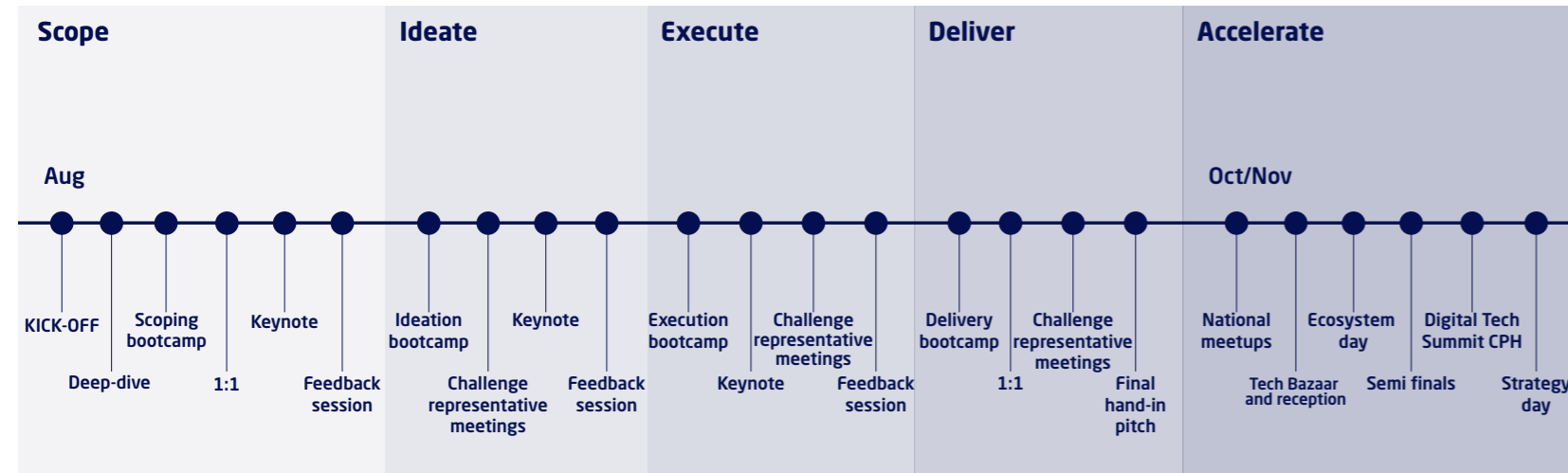
“ It offered an inclusive, interactive environment with valuable global exposure, fostering meaningful connections and expanding professional networks.

Young Academic
Participant from India

FACTS

91 Students
48% Bachelor's
28% Master's
5% Phd

Representing
9 Countries
18 Universities
19 Nationalities



“ I learned how to use a variety of innovation process tools and had the exciting opportunity to work on a real-life problem with a “client”, where we knew little about the topic and cultural context. This was particularly cool because it pushed me to sharpen my skills in problem-solving and tackling challenges from a fresh perspective. Personally, the drive and energy of the other teams, along with all their ideas, made me believe that we can drive change in the world.

Young Academic
Participant from Denmark

TOOLS AND RESOURCES USED IN THE PROGRAM

Challenge Brief & Mentors from external challenge partners



Online Handbook & E-learning website (Access-only)



DTU Skylab Design Tool UniversalDesignGuide.com



Miro Canvas for process facilitation, deliverables & peer-feedback



Culture and bias for understanding, respect and diversity to drive innovation



YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS TRACK

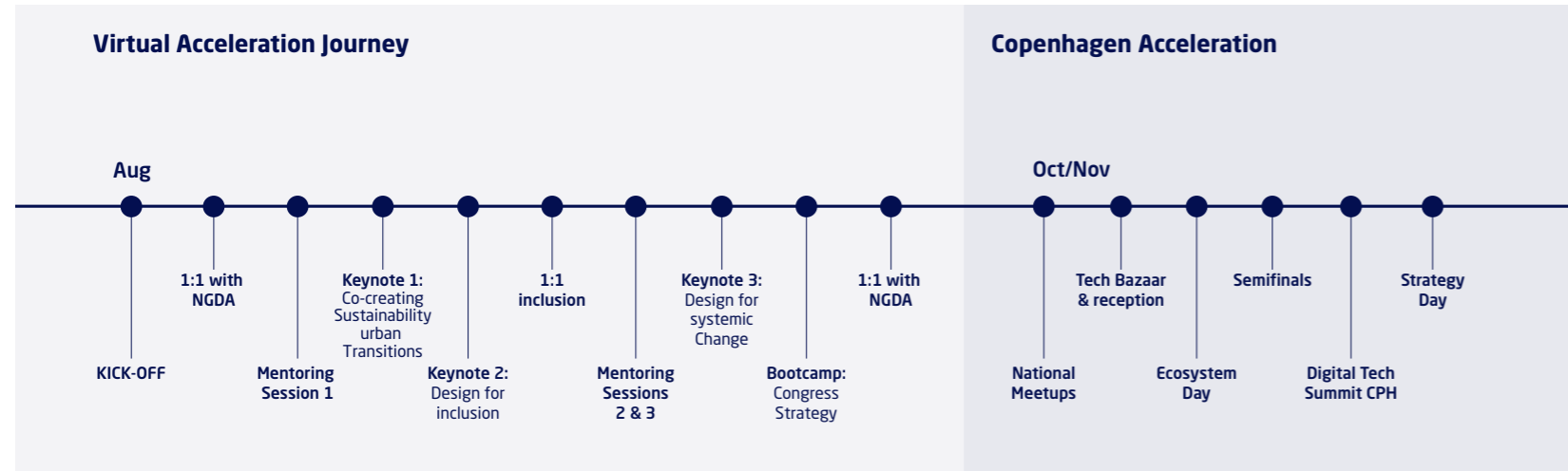
17 startups went through an acceleration journey equipping them with a strategy for the congress and provided mentorship on inclusion, partnership and technology acceleration

“ I have had the exposure to see how things are done on the other side of the world which is different from my context, meet new people and got to experience a new culture.

Young Entrepreneur Participant from Tanzania

“ The Program helped me believe in my ability to share my ideas openly. It also gave me the tools to connect with diverse people, pitch my ideas effectively, and consider the long-term impact of my actions.

Young Entrepreneur Participant from Ghana



17 PARTICIPATING STARTUPS

Delivering solutions leveraging emerging digital technologies for health, climate, community, services and insights



Save lives and money by reducing medication errors and improving operational efficiency.
Colombia



Discharging solution that turns electric vehicles into home battery systems.
Denmark



Creating access to last mile healthcare through technology.
Kenya



Provide Yield Enhancement AI Model through Satellite-Based Agricultural Analysis.
Korea



Revolutionizing cervical cancer screening by making it fast, accurate and affordable.
Tanzania



Accelerating digital transformation to improve users' lives and business decision-making.
Colombia



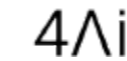
Revolutionizing aquaculture through innovative technology for sustainable & profitable fish farming.
Ghana



Drone technology to enhance precision and sustainable farming practices.
Kenya



Provides precision farming innovations to boost agricultural efficiency and productivity.
Ghana



Develops robust embedded integrated machine learning robotic arms; also website, coding, IoT & robotics courses.
South Africa



Autonomous water drone and digital tools to reduce waste in waterbodies and landfills, fostering a circular economy.
India



Digitizes the pharmaceutical supply chain, covering inventory management, procurement, and payment processes.
Tanzania



Provides multilingual AI solutions to bridge language barriers and enhance communication across diverse sectors.
South Africa



Revolutionize the interface between inventors & patent lawyer across search, comparison, novelty, landscape & at a fraction of market cost.
Denmark



Pioneering water management solutions. Revolutionizing the world, one innovation at a time.
India



A digital platform that guides nutrition for athletes to enhance performance and provides a tool for the physical staff to manage their athletes.
Denmark



An online platform that connects young Asian footballers with European club-hosted camps, blending sports development & cultural tourism.
Korea

READ MORE ABOUT ALL THE STARTUPS



DIGITAL TECH SUMMIT COPENHAGEN 2024

The Next Generation Digital Action reached its peak as our delegation of 124 young academics, entrepreneurs and university representatives participated in the Digital Tech Summit (DTS) Copenhagen 2024. Beyond having full access to the DTS equal to other delegates, the following Next Generation Digital Action activities took part within the summit:



EXHIBITION

The summit provided two designated areas where all student and startups teams alternated to showcase their solutions during two full days - inviting for inspiration, network, feedback and collaboration.



SESSION - BRIDGING CONTINENTS SUPPORTING YOUNG INNOVATORS IN AFRICA

DTU Skylab facilitated a conversation between the Danish Undersecretary for Development Policy, a South African entrepreneur and a Kenyan student on how we can ensure that young founders and students are equipped to lead technology and innovation that is driving sustainable development in Africa.



PITCH AND AWARD SESSION

Following 2 semi-finals at DTU Skylab, the summit was venue for 4 pitch-sessions where 12 finalist student teams and 17 startups presented their solutions, invited for partnership and was given feedback from international jury panels. Partners concluded the sessions by awarding mentoring time, grants and acceleration scholarships.

WATCH
PITCHES



TECH BAZAAR & RECEPTION

200 invited guests joined the Tech Bazar & Reception hosted at DTU Skylab where all teams had a first opportunity to present their ideas and solutions. 8 Embassies and 5 Ambassadors joined to welcome and connect with their national youth delegations. The evening of inspirational talks, live music, drinks and tapas concluded a day with bootcamps, pitch coaching and social activities to support teams in developing a congress strategy, pitch, and be ready for their attendance at Digital Teck Summit 2024.



ECOSYSTEM VISITS AND CITY EXPLORATION

Our delegation of students, entrepreneurs and partners had 1.5 days of presentations, city walks and partner tours that provided examples on how Copenhagen, Denmark and partners are making efforts towards

a more sustainable future with great questions and conversations among our delegates on how learnings and approaches can give inspiration to communities in very different contexts.

“ It gave me the opportunity to experience new things, such as exploring a beautiful city like Copenhagen and immersing myself in the local culture and way of life.

Young Academic Participant from Colombia



STRENGTHENING THE JOURNEY

Danish Embassies and national partners initiated national meet-up sessions for the young delegates to provide sparring and information prior to their travel to Denmark. The introduction to Danish culture, business environment and getting feedback from professionals prior to their travel did not only ignite the motivation and exposure of the teams but also gave a professional test-ground to sharpen their presentations.



|| ... we had a practice pitch at the Embassy of Denmark in front of a panel of the Ambassador Tom Nørring and Head of Trade Trine Løber simulating the international panel the student teams will pitch for in Denmark.

Embassy of Denmark in Ghana



STRATEGY DAY

What happens after the program? A question we sought to address by adding a strategy day at the end of our Copenhagen program, hosted at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A day to reflect on learnings and experiences and to think about the next steps.

Individual learning and experience
By using the LEGO Serious Play method, the participants could make their abstract experiences tangible through the process of building and storytelling, and we could end our program on a fun and playful note.

From reflection to action
A final workshop guiding the participants to turn their reflections into future actions. Here we focused on three dimensions, actions as individual change-makers, as a team/startup and as a national delegation.



JOIN AS A PARTNER

CONGRESS PARTNER

The initiative is co-created in partnership with a world congress to bring innovation and youth-led action to their sustainability theme.

MAIN SPONSOR

The initiative is funded and enabled by strong partnerships with industry-leading foundations and public partners

CHALLENGE PARTNER

The initiative is anchored in industry challenges that are proposed by our challenge partners.

COLLABORATOR

The initiative is powered by various collaborators who support as mentors, supervisors, speakers, judges or program contributors.

“ Being challenge partner in NGDA was a highlight in 2024 and getting to see our challenge from different and cross-national perspectives has been a big inspiration. The teams managed to bring the context of their daily life into the challenge - leading to very diverse solutions. Furthermore, it has been an amazing opportunity for us to connect with external partners and universities, potentially leading to fruitful collaboration going forward.

Challenge partner representative

“ One of the most eye-opening & rapid learning experiences I've had. I was amazed at how many of my corporate learnings could be directly applied to the startup world to help grow my mentees' businesses. What was equally fascinating was working together to solve challenges that, in larger corporations, would typically be handled by senior executives. It was an incredibly enriching experience, and I will definitely continue as a mentor.

Challenge mentor



6 REASONS TO GET INVOLVED

Next Generation is a strong partner on your side, ready to deliver value that goes beyond youth involvement.

1. ACCESS TO TALENTS

Through the initiative, you gain direct access to talented international students & researchers from leading technical universities as well as young professionals who are skilled and eager to make an impact.

2. ACCESS TO GLOBAL INNOVATION SYSTEM

DTU Skylab not only operates at the core of the Danish innovation system - but through Next Generation grants you access to promising early-stage startups around the globe hungry to disrupt the industry.

3. STAY AT THE BEAT OF THE INDUSTRY

Ideas and solutions proposed by our participants provide you with inspiration and the latest insights - and help you stay at the beat of the industry!

4. PART OF A STRONG INDUSTRY NETWORK

We connect public and private partners in the industry across borders, enabling opportunities for new partnerships on a corporate level.



5. A GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR YOUR ENGAGEMENT

We provide the branding and communication platform to make your engagement visible at a global scale.

6. A JOINT PLATFORM AT A GLOBAL CONGRESS

We create strong platforms to showcase ideas by the next generation at global summits or congresses. Five editions have been brought to life since 2018.

THE PROJECT TEAM



Marie L. Pollmann-Larsen

*Team Lead,
DTU Skylab*



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THANK YOU TO PROGRAM MENTORS, SPEAKERS AND PARTNERS

- Alexander Boakye Marful, KNUST
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- Emily Adair, Hempel
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- Fatuma Kweka, Tanzania Startup Association
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- Kwamena Arkafra, Ghana Statistical Service
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- Lise Abildgaard, Embassy of Denmark in Tanzania
- Louise Nolle, DTU
- Lubabalo Luyaba, SALGA
- Luntu Ndalasi, Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent
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- Marta Fuster Losa, Nova Talent
- Mikkel Sørensen, DTU Skylab
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- Morten Nielsen Hasselbalch, Det frie Gymnasium
- Morten Schacht Høgenesen, Danish Refugee Council
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- Ole Thonke, MFA Denmark
- Omar Seidu, Ghana Statistical Service
- Oscar Raphael Mkude, Embassy of Denmark in Tanzania
- Pau Huguet, Hempel
- Paul Thorn, Rambøll
- Peter Arbs, INSCALE A/S
- Peter Freiesleben, Petmic ApS
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- Sara Toustrup Kristensen, Rambøll
- Sarah Zouina El Idrissi Nielsen, DTU Skylab
- Shanna Nienaber, Water Ressource Comission
- Sibongile Linda Ngcobo, Ilambu Global
- Simon Skårhøj, Danida Fellowship Centre
- Thomas Ochuku Mbuya, University of Nairobi
- Tove Degnbol, MFA Denmark
- Ulla Høeberg Jørgensen, DTU
- Ulla Næsby Tawiah, Danida Fellowship Centre
- Ulla Tørnæs, Danida Fellowship Centre
- Victor Boateng Owusu, Ghana Statistical Service
- and many more . .

Thanks to volunteers for helping out



GET IN TOUCH

Would you like to hear more about collaboration opportunities?

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ENABLED THROUGH STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

2024.nextgenerationaction.com

Main partners



RAMBØLL
FONDEN



LEBARA



Challenge partners



University partners

