

Press release
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52 developers from 3 different countries assembling for first international Gambit Hackathon

Last weekend, Gambit Financial Solutions, together with Hello Bank, organized its first international Hackathon. For 3 days, 13 teams of young developers came up with solutions on the subject of 'the digital bank of the future'



52 students from 3 different countries (Belgium, France and Switzerland) were actively engaged for three days, in the Brussels Event Brewery facility, a former bottling site in Brussels. For its first international hackathon, Gambit teamed up with Hello Bank and was able to attract bachelor and master students, as well as students from coding schools in Belgium, Paris, Marseille, Lyon and Yverdon-les-Bains (Switzerland)

They were called on a mission to reflect on which services could be most meaningful for customers of the bank of the future ('Step into a new life with a digital bank'). Assisted by Gambit Coaches, the students were evenly matched in the way they suggested innovative solutions : a savings program to teach children how to save up, a budget management tool for students, automatic profiling,...

At the end of the very intense weekend, all projects were sold to a jury, consisting of Gambit, Microsoft and Hello Bank associates, as well as members of the B-Hive platform, MadKings and Frimgle start-up. Thomas Soumage, development manager at Gambit Financial Solutions, elaborates on the specific criteria applied to make a selection: “we mainly looked at the innovative and the technical aspect and took into consideration the participants’ commitment during these three days.” Winners were in for truly fabulous prizes like iPhones X or Apple Watches, but also and above all, they were offered real opportunities to be picked up by Gambit, who is currently recruiting new talent after strong international growth.

First prize went to **Wild Code School** from Brussels, for ‘Piggy’, a responsible saving program for children between six and twelve. The innovation award was handed over to **Technifutur** who developed a smart connected bracelet. Third place went to **Helmo**, highly favored by the jury, with their personalized budget management tool. Fourth prize winner was **Epitech**, based in Lille, for an advisory tool for investment products based on artificial intelligence.

Hana, a 22-year-old from Brussels was among the award winners from Wild Code School. She started her education in October and she is entitled to follow free courses for five months, through a specific Wild Code School program stimulating female presence in college. A great way to challenge yourself and to grow, as Hanna comments on the hackathon

‘It is a great honour for Gambit to meet so many participants all wanting to stand out, to learn and not to go down without a fight’ says Geoffroy de Schrevel, Gambit Financial Solutions CEO and winner of the first BNP International Hackathon in 2016.

According to Bart Soers, Head of Value Proposition and Strategy at Hello Bank and member of the jury, ‘our role as digital bank is to take the lead in innovative solutions. This hackathon offers a fantastic opportunity to discover tomorrow’s developers.’

The award ceremony was attended by Jean-Claude Marcourt, Secretary of Education, Research and Media, who emphasized the importance of a hackathon: ‘it is a life experience, supporting us to reach a common goal and to work together’. To this, the secretary added that ‘80% of innovation is based on the ability to see things differently’

About Gambit Financial Solutions

In 2007, in one of HEC Liège meeting rooms, a couple of scientists founded the fintech Gambit Financial Solutions. They focused on providing investment advisory services and risk-management tools for financial institutions. Next to that they developed Birdee Money Experts, a robot advisor for private individuals. In December 2017, BNP Paribas Asset Management acquired a majority share in Gambit Financial Solutions, who is employing more than 100 people today and is always looking for new talent in Liège, Brussels, Paris and Luxembourg. www.gambit-finance.com

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