The Hack for Good challenges

In the past two months we have been experiencing an unprecedented crisis in the most recent history of mankind. The role of technology has been fundamental in combating this crisis, revolutionizing the way we study, work and relate to everyone.

It is our belief that technology can also play a decisive role in solving different social and environmental problems, and that at this moment they are gaining new and worrying dimensions, such as unemployment or mental health issues. We also believe that this moment may be an opportunity to accelerate the transition to a low carbon economy and promote more sustainable and inclusive development.

Hackathons show us this path, allowing, in a short time, to access the potential of new technologies in achieving the goals of sustainable development.

City Hack would always be innovative in 2020 as the plan was to hold a hackathon simultaneously in 4 different cities – Tomar, Portalegre, Castelo Branco and Guarda – from the respective Polytechnic Institutes. Now it would be even more innovative, taking place in a completely online format and that will certainly be an example for everyone.

In 2020, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation intends to anchor the challenges it poses to different hackathons in the Sustainable Development Goals, namely:

Goal 3. Quality health:

- Chatbots that facilitate screening processes and can contribute to the improvement of the quality of services provided to patients
- Apps that can reduce costs associated with providing healthcare
- Games that promote healthier lifestyles

Goal 4. Quality education:

- Data-based solutions that can improve learning processes or that improve communication and connection between students and teachers / educators.

Goal 8. Dignified work and economic growth:

- Technological responses that contribute to the generation of new forms of work, and consequently help the sustained transformation of work
- Technological proposals that facilitate the conversion of workers whose professions are at risk of extinction

Goal 10. Reduce inequalities:

- Algorithms that mitigate risks of discrimination of artificial intelligence
- Solutions that promote the integration of migrants in the host society (arts, sport, learning)

Goal 11. Sustainable cities and communities:

- Data-based responses that facilitate urban mobility and tools to empower different communities in planning and policy-making processes

Goal 12. Sustainable production and consumption:

- Tools that encourage more sustainable consumption habits
- Monitoring solutions that improve production and distribution models and encourage circular economy models

Goal 13. Climate action:

- Simple answers to transmit reliable scientific knowledge
- Apps / algorithms designed to encourage consumers transition to more sustainable behaviors