Touched by the hackathon
A study on the connection between hackathon participants and start-up founders
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... **time-bounded** events, typically of 2-5 days, during which people gather together and form **teams**, each of which attempts to complete a **project** of interest to them. The teams are usually **collocated**, and often composed of people with diverse backgrounds, experience, and expertise.
Coding competitions (mid to late 2000s)

- Corporate events
- Garag48
- Start-ups
- One week Hackathon
- Civic and open data
- Google Summer of Code
- MLH
- Civic League Hacking
- National Day of Civic Hacking
Existence  Survival  Success  Take-off

**RQ1:** What is the temporal connection between founding a start-up and hackathon participation founders of Estonian start-ups?

**RQ2:** What are differences between identified start-ups?

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### Start-up
- 241 start-ups
- 01/2001 to 12/2018
- m = 12 employees
- m = 287,740.71 EUR taxable income

### Hackathon
- 44 hackathons
- 02/2016 to 03/2019
- 3535 unique participants (max = 103, m = 96)

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**RQ1:** Temporal connection between founding start-ups and hackathon participation

- 28 start-ups were connected to hackathons (out of 241, 11.62%)
- 24 start-ups were created before founders participate in their first hackathon, 3 after, one in between
- Large disparity between different events ($m = 42.96$ months, $SD = 36.82$)
Existence  Survival  Success  Take-off
RQ2: Differences between identified start-ups

- If start-ups are formed after a hackathon it happens quickly (m = 4 months, SD = 1.73)
- Start-ups that are formed after a hackathon have more employees on average (9.79 vs. 4.33)
- Start-ups that are formed after a hackathon have more taxable income on average (310 829 vs. 136 008)

But... Findings may be skewed due to the imbalanced groups
Laying the foundation before hackathon participation

Feedback from other participants, mentors, organizers and judges
Growing interest and expanding connections
Finding future partners or employees
- Hackathons can be more than the start of an entrepreneurial path
- We need to reconsider how we design them to support other scenarios than just creating a start-up
- We need to design them to serve different contexts
- Extension study in the planning