ReDI

SCHOOL

ReDI First Class 2016

REDI: CELEBRATING THE START

ReDI is a journey of co-creation and collaboration. Passionate techies and newcomers, building and learning together. Coding and building with refugees and not just talking about them. Long after the hype cycle moved on, more than 30 volunteers and committed individuals sat together for nearly 700 hours to make sure that 35 newcomers had a better start in Germany.

ReDI School of Digital Integration is a mission that was started more than a year ago. A journey where the team have consulted, co-created and designed every aspect of the program together with newcomers. The tech community of Berlin have been incredibly generous not only with their time, but also with the laptops, co-working spaces and insight. Together we have delivered this first cohort of digital pioneers.

Focusing on real world practical challenges the first class honed their programming skills by building solutions to the challenges they face. Beyond the technical skills developed during the past six months, the students also reached out and connected with some of Berlin, Europe and the world's most inspirational tech leaders.

This booklet provides an insight into the journey that our students have taken over the last six months. The moments, the connections and the content. Share the highs, reflecting on the hours of sweat and study that built and co-created not only web pages but friendships and new beginnings.

Connecting through a mutual passion for technology and how it brings people together, volunteers and newcomers shaped opportunity. This first class has set the tone and created a foundation for sustained impact. Using tech to break down barriers and connect the leaders of tomorrow.

CONGRATULATIONS
HIGHLIGHTS

Words of encouragement, reflecting on the achievement of the volunteer teachers, mentors and students. Highlights take a look at the moments inside and outside the class that have contributed to the overall experience. Mark Zuckerberg and Priscilla Chan, TEDx and 500 Startups. Moments from the tapestry of Digital Integration that provided opportunities to learn, connect and apply new skills.

Getting started

THANK YOU!

This is a very long list because this was a massive undertaking. An eco-system of support has blossomed around the ReDI mission over the last year. Our heart felt thanks cannot truly be captured in a list. Each and every person and organization named has shifted the dial in the experience of a newcomer. Thank you.

THE | PROGRAM
STUDENTS
RESULTS

The heart of ReDI. Get an overview of what was taught, how the program was structured and the results. Student profiles provide small snapshots of the people behind the names. More importantly we showcase the tangible skills and capabilities honed during the six months. The results section provides an overview of the projects featured at our demo day.

WORDS FROM ANNE RIECHERT AND FERDI VAN HEERDEN

Congratulations. What you have built over the last 6 months is much more than code or websites. You have built a community. A group of ambitious young people who take on the odds and create their own opportunities.

For us, few things can be as rewarding as seeing the individual potential unfold, to take you further than you were thinking of challenging yourself. To succeed where you did not even know you had potential. The past six months have provided many such moments. Akram on stage with business leaders, group six in diaouge with the director of LaGeSo,

Rami presenting at JavaScript, Luna chatting with Google Chairman Eric Schmidt - the list goes on and on. Every one of you has to some degree succeeded in stretching what you see as your potential just a little further. These new horizons become the foundation of re-invention.

This is just the beginning. As your projects, ideas and commitment begin to write the story of your future we hope to see this community become a beacon of leadership and inspiration to all newcomers. You are First Class.

WORDS FROM LANA ZAIM

"If it doesn't challenge you it won't change you." Overjoyed is the word to describe how I felt watching our students shine on the stage of the Start-up Europe Summit 2016.

It was a metamorphosis of uncertain and puzzled young students, who weren't sure of the path they want to go, into sophisticated self-confident first ReDI Batch graduates.

Congratulations to you our pathbreakers! Congratulations for taking on the challenges, for going out of your comfort zones, and for sticking out till the end, and delivering such an outstanding batch and Demoday. I am now certain more than ever that regardless which path these motivated young people pick they will always succeed. Therefore don't wait until you have reached your goal to be proud of yourself. Be proud every step you take toward reaching that goal.

The past six months have been about building opportunities inside and outside the classroom. Building the coding skills needed to get on the job ladder was matched with events, hackathons, workshops and lectures that brought students closer to the day-to-day reality IT careers. Here are some of the highlights where coding skills and passion were connected with Berlin's bustling tech scene. Where fun and socializing created new conversations and moved everyone a step forward.

HIGHLIGHTS

MARK ZUCKERBURG AND PRESCILLA CHAN

During their Berlin visit, Mark Zuckerberg and Priscilla Chan visited ReDI's co-creation space, met some of our students and talked about their dreams and visions. „…I met Akram who was learning to code in Damascus before the war began. Even while traveling to Europe he continued to study, and now he attends the school while volunteering to help other refugees. I met Rami from Aleppo who dreams of one day creating a startup. I met Louna who had never tried coding before but is now learning quickly and wants to become an architect.

Dealing with the refugee crisis is a huge challenge, and it is inspiring to see people creating opportunities through technology." Said Mark Zuckerberg. For the students it was a once in a lifetime opportunity to meet their icon and reconnect with the dream of just how far coding skills and a dream can take you.

JS SUMMIT

In April two ReDI students Rami Rihawi and Nkentšo Ledimo were sponsored to attend the JS Unconference in Hamburg. Rami also gave a 30min speech sharing his personal story coming from a destroyed city and becoming a java script developer in his new home Berlin. "I think it was a great opportunity to explain that locals don't have to feel sorry for refugees like me" continued Rami "Start seeing us as an asset for Germany and its economy".

500 STARTUPS

On April 22 Akram Al Fawakhiri took part as a speaker on the "Techfugee" Panel at Diversity & Entrepreneurship Summit, Berlin. The event, sponsored by DigitalOcean and 500 Startups reached a broad spectrum of start-ups in Germany and included investors from Berlin, San Francisco, and New York.

The panel was moderated by Jeannette Gusko from change.org with Paula Schwarz (StartupAid and MigrationHub) and Ruth Zerezghi (Young Peoples Front for Democracy & Justice - North America) as fellow panelists. "My key learning was that diversity is important in all industries, not just in Tech" said Akram about the experience.

DLD

Can digitalization can help refugees? On January 19th we were invited to participate in the prestigious DLD conference in Munich. TechCrunch editor at large Mike Butcher together with Paula Schwarz (StartupAid) and Anke Domscheit-Berg (activist and publicist) urged people to reconsider their thinking about refugees as victims and rather see them as survivors. Crucially it was stressed that solutions should not simply be provided for refugees but rather co-created with them.

AMMAR AT VW

Besides the good Pizza and Cappuccino, Ammar Joukhaji discovered that Volkswagen have a strong developer team building apps and interfaces. Expecting to see cars and a traditional production line, Ammar was surprised when he met the software team at their headquarters. They were able to talk about how new ideas are developed and launched. Specifically how these can influence car sales. A quick insight into the digital side of one of Germany's most iconic companies to inspire Ammar in his dream of joining a German car company.

BETTER PLACE LAB TOGETHER

„Do we need more tech or more humanity?" That was a key questions at Betterplace Lab's annual „Lab Together" conference on Nov 20th, 2015. Along with Nishant Shah, Africa Director of Refunite, Tarig Beshir (ReDI student) and Björn Lampe, board member and Chief of Project and Organizations at betterplace.org, we discussed how digital technologies can help but also hinder efforts to support refugees. With a 2-hour design session we brought together 40 newcomers and locals to develop solutions to fuel integration.

ASIA-PACIFIC WEEKS

Organized by the Berlin Senat, the 11th Asia-Pacific Weeks was held May 23 - June 3. The central subject this year was "Startups and their pro-innovation ecosystems." ReDI students took part in the dialogue, together with universities, research institutes, founders, incubators, accelerators, co-working spaces, VC funds, angel investors as well as established companies. We're particularly proud of Rami Rihawi's contribution as a speaker on the central stage on the 26th of May. His topic: "Refugees and Migration - The tech industry is not only watching but discovers potentials and uses them globally."
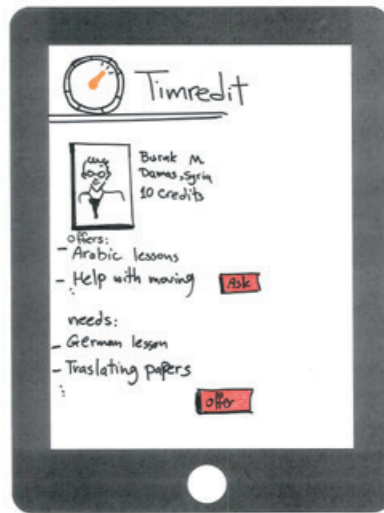
GETTING STARTED

Getting 140 laptops up and running requires a lot of effort and preparation. The best way to get it done? Organise a dinner and invite everyone to help. Students and teachers gathered together to conduct data wipes and install open source Ubuntu software.

Sebastian Probst Eide – The most memorable moments for me were those where the students and teachers all came together. There was always so much excitement and positive energy.

TWILIO WORKSHOP

The US based cloud communications company Twilio welcomed our advanced student group for a hands-on workshop on the 10th of April. By the end of the 3-hours session the students were able to create a fun mobile app making use of the Twilio API.

Title: Timredit

Sketch

Timredit

Burak M.
Damas, Syria
10 credits

offers:
- Arabic lessons
- Help with moving Ask

needs:
- German lesson
- Traslating papers
- Offer

What it does
Platform where time is the curr-ncy, time can be used to exchange services and skills

How it works
Users can "buy" and "sell" services and favors with their own credits.
Credits can be gain-ed by giving service through the platform and can be used to get other thing in return.
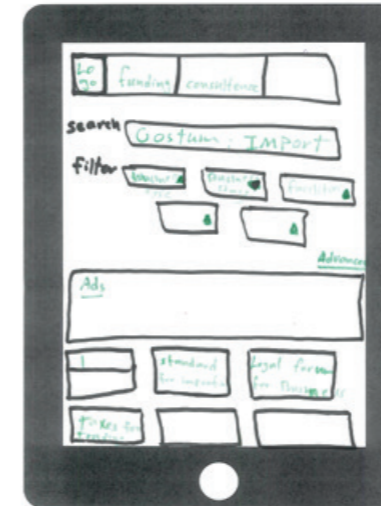
Our Team:
Bourak Maghrebi Akram Alfawakheeri
Bassem Rishi

The first class kicked off on Valentine's day. A design thinking workshop aimed at creating digital solutions to everyday refu-gee challenges. Students identified the chal-lenges and hurdles they face in trying to in-tegrate in German society. Volunteers and coders from Berlin ran co-creation sessions to develop rapid prototypes and guide and focus the energy of our students.

The session delivered 6 ideas that were deepened, developed and evolved over the next 4 months. Beaurucrazy went on to win the top prize at the SpacHack hackathon in June. Let's Integrate turned into a start-up almost over night.
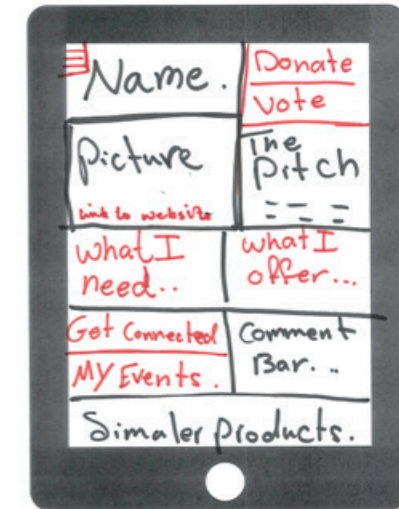
Title: Entreprenur Guide

Sketch

funding consultions

search Costum . IMPORT
filter

Ads

standard legal form
for import for foreigner

Tokes &

What it does
Provid Teser Infor about Legal Form of bus - standared costum

How it Works
The future Entreprenur access
The web site will have many option for search and Filters. incase user skip the search section out the bottom of page will find Heudling
MOST Frequent F.A.Q search

Our Team: Ali ALbasha
Nour AL Nashed
fadk zee zaim

Title: Pitching profile

The Idea is starting a Business.

Sketch

Name. Donate vote

Picture The Pitch

link to website

What I need.. What I offer...

Get Connected Comment Bar..

MY Events.

Similer Products.

What it does
Profile page for a new business or product to connect + get support

How it works
Collection of pop-ups with lots of information about my business / product.
- Donate button
- Vote, see popular pitches
- Connect, message or comment, send CV
- See events I've been/going to - invite also
- See similar products or business

Our Team:
Inad - Luna - Adnan - Genevieve

Title: ReDI Community

Sketch

ReDI 14-2-2016

Services Events Events
Translation event 1 Party
Clothes Music
Teaching lang event 2 Sports
Flats event 3 meetings
Furnetures More
Helper
more

Search
active 6167

Lang
Ar
EN-DW

What it does
Small community to find people who wanna help

How it works
You just press the name which you intrest in then you want to another page which include all person who wanna help in This field

Our Team:
Ammar Merie Emran Ahmadi

Title: Cixelingo

Sketch

WATCHLIST RECOMMENDATION
Movie
Movie subtitles
subtitles
Large Subtitles

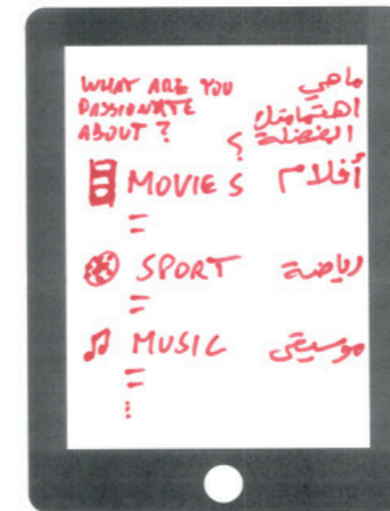What has been said recently Conversation about the movie

What it does
- Watch Movie
- See subtitles
- talk about the movie

How it works
- You watch a movie from curated collection of movies with subtitles
- subtitles are larger
- Longer history of recent subtitles
- talk about it w/o switching apps

Our Team: Jonas, Jason, Mohamed, Ibrahim, Peter
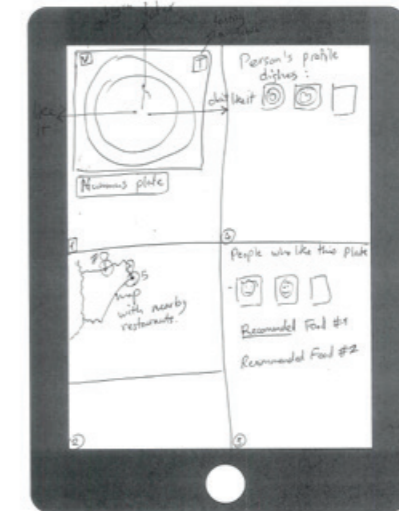
Title: LET'S INTEGRATE.com

Sketch

WHAT ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT? ما هي الاشياء التي تهتم بها ؟

MOVIES افلام

SPORT رياضة

MUSIC موسيقى

What it does
CONNECT REFUGEES AND GERMANS.

How it works
CHOOSE YOUR FAVOURITE ACTIVITIES AND FIND SOMEONE TO SHARE IT WITH, TO LEARN GERMAN TO-GETHER.

Our Team: TARIG, KHALED,
RAMI, TL

Title: Eat & Meet

Sketch

Person's profile dishes :

Humas plate

People who like this Plate
Recommended Food #1
Recommended Food #2

What it does
- Recommend New places dishes
- Connect with others having similar taste
- See which restaurants serve certain dishes

How it works
- On screen 1:
  - Swipe left to like a dish
  - Swipe Right to dislike
  - Swipe up for "Not..."
  - Click to go to dish screen
- On Dish Screen:
  - See a map, places serving dish with rating
  - Swipe left to see people who like this dish
  - click on people to view their profile
- One person's Screen:
  - See liked dishes
  - Contact person message
  - Suggest a dish

Our Team: Sediqi, Kais
Ghaith, Khaled
Diaa ,

ESMT WORKSHOP

What happens when you team up 15 ReDI students with 50 global business leaders from the European School of Management and Technology's (ESMT) Executive Transition & Executive Salon Programs? Inspired creativity, fun and breakthrough ideas with a sustainable impact! On 10 and 11 June, ReDI School and ESMT joined forces to deliver a design thinking workshop and co-create solutions for „Gamified Mobile Learning for Newcomers". The teams excelled at all challenges thrown at them. With a focus on building solutions and new friendships - this experience was powerful for everyone involved.

TEDX FIELDTRIP

Anne presenting at TEDx created the opportunity for us to invite students to the event. In the spirit of "talking with refugees, not about them" we quickly asked the students to upload videos, explaining why it was important for them to learn coding and what ReDI means to them.

The students who uploaded their videos and photos received tickets and the event turned into a field trip with more than 10 students attending. A great opportunity to meet and mingle with the leading minds of the technology, education and design industries.

SCRUM WORKSHOP

Managing software development projects can be complex and complicated. We therefore invited Dr. Raban Daniel Fuhrmann (lecturer, consultant and facilitator) to give a half-day workshop on agile project development using "Scrum" as a framework for managing the process.

WELT N24 PROJECT

Helping students understand the real life challenges of building a website in a real editorial environment. WeltN24 briefed and supported our students in building a website which features small profiles and skills. Taking full ownership, from collecting the data, shooting videos and coding the website (damn you hexagons), the team delivered the site from start to finish. Great work by Ammar Joukhaji, Nkentso Ledimo, Louna Albondakji, Rami Rihawi, Khaled Faour, Mouhammad Sakka, Imad Soukie, Ghaith Zamrik, Bourak Mograbi, Munzer Khatab, Mohammad Khattab, Imad Soukieh.

INTERNSHIP PRESENTATION

Throughout the program we kept the focus on finding opportunities for students. During Sunday class assembly companies had the opportunity to present relevant internships to the students. We thank Babbel, Rocket Internet, HiMate and Kloeckner for raising awareness and presenting such great entry opportunities.

BAA PRESENTATION

Being prepared for the German job market is an essential part of the ReDI program, which is why we teamed up with the Bundesagentur für Arbeit to get straight to the facts. Thank you to Constance Pawelke for coming by on a Sunday to explode some myths and open avenues towards success for our students.

CISCO PRESENTATION HOW CLOUD & INTERNET OF THINGS IS CHANGING THE WORLD

Teaming up with our supporters from CISCO, we hosted an afternoon full of diverse inputs on Internet of Things and how the changing landscape in a digital world is creating new opportunities for the tech industry.

SPACEHACK

On the 4th-5th June, Factory, Silicon Allee, ReDI School and Techfugees organized the Spacehack at Holzmarkt in Berlin. The event was presented as part of the Startup Europe Summit. More than 200 programmers, designers, social workers, city planners, architects and others with and without refugee status, came together to develop technology-based solutions to the challenges faced by refugees on their journey. 24 teams worked through the night to build practical solutions with real insight and technical skill. The winning team of the 24hr-hacking included students from ReDI School and a development team from Madrid. Together, they worked on „Bureaucrazy", an app that simplifies filling bureaucratic forms in order to spare the time applicants and the authorities spent on work hours. Sponsored by the European commission and Facebook, participants were flown in from all over Europe in the run-up to work on creative and sustainable solutions that they can return to their home countries.

ÖzlemBuran – "There was this raw kind of energy in the air. This was one of those exceptional events where you could pick any person in the room and strike up a rich and meaningful conversation. So much more than just a hackathon: It was a cultural immersion into different heritages, into art and technology, into design and entrepreneurship. At Spacehack, we created an ecosystem that nourished beautiful serendipity a thousand fold and took co-creation to a whole new level. Teams formed spontaneously and continued to work on ideas they developed with their fellow hackers. Friendships emerged.
The event took away the barriers of meeting people. You were able to listen to participants not only from all over the city, but from all over Europe and even all parts of the world. Technology once again showed itself as a force for integration, breaking down barriers, connecting people and ideas and helping coders and creators to build passionately, together."

SPACEHACK
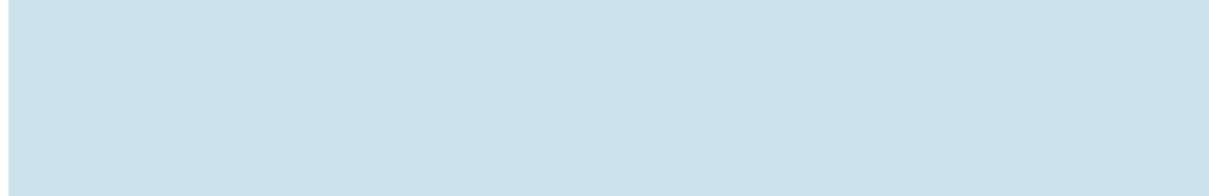
BOURAK MEETS USA AMBASSADOR TO UN

On Wednesday the 8th of June a group of 15 new-comers and local change makers we were invited to meet with Samantha Power, the Ambassador of the USA to the United Nations. As seen in the photo Bourak Maghrebi, together with others discussed ideas and provided specific solutions based on their experiences and insights form the current refugee situation in Germany. We were honored that our inputs on how education can provide empowerment, were used by the Ambassador in her presentation on World Refugee Day, June 20th.

PLUG AND PLAY

Embedding ReDI in one of the most successful and dynamic start-up accelerators in Berlin was one of the most important factors in supporting and guiding the students through the first months. Axel Springer Plug & Play not only provided spaces for workshops and mentorship sessions, they opened the door to influential members of the tech-industry throughout Germany. The AS Plug & Play program guides start-ups through the essential steps of creating a business plan and understanding their market. This knowledge helped shape our approach to building the program.

COCA COLA

Learning is thirsty work, which is why our students appreciated the bottled water donation from Coca Cola. This meant we had water avalaible in the class rooms (after Ahmadullah and Ghaith carried the bottles up to the 5th Floor).

PICNIC

The class picnic not only provided a chance for students and mentors to get to know each other informally, it also provided the opportunity for everyone to share in the rich food culture of Syria. With the help of Jasmin (a refugee start-up helping illiterate woman to earn money), we were able to provide a delicious experience for everyone.

NETWORKING WORKSHOP

In an era where "who" you know is as important as "what" you know it is essential that our students master the art of professional networking and not just the digital kind. In a relaxed atmosphere, Aydo Ali Schosswald offered handy tips and tricks for building a support network that helps you make your dream come true. As a 25 year old college drop-out who went on to launch Hy!, Aydo not only delivered with authenticity but could address the very real challenges faced by someone trying to break through in a tough industry.

LAGESO

"Talking with Refugees, not about them" is a key theme for us. When the opportunity arose for our „Bureaucrazy" team to share their insights with experts from Clarat, Betterplace and other thought leading NGOs it was a perfect opportunity to contribute to co-creation of human-centered solutions.
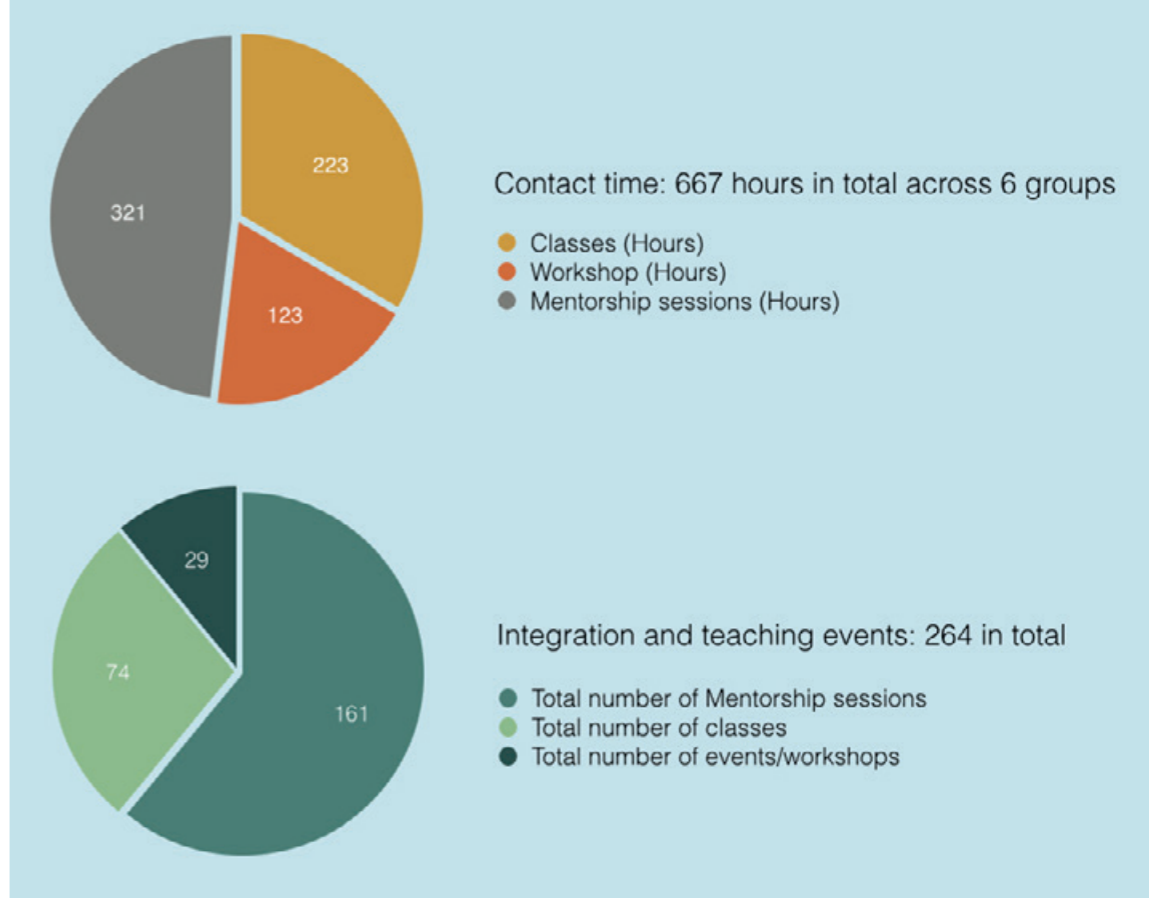
THE PROGRAM

ReDI's First Class started with 42 students and over 30 volunteer teachers and mentors on Valentine's day. 38 coding beginners were introduced to the basics of Ruby on Rails. The 14 students who had a background in IT, quickly moved to more advanced exercises and started incorporating JavaScript in their work. After 667 total contact hours, 74 Sunday classes and 161 mentorship sessions and 29 networking and integration events, 36 students shared the stage at our Demo Day on 9 June.

The emphasis was on real world solutions. Student learning was driven by projects they had co-designed with Berlin based techies and designers.

Over the course of four months they learnt the skills to build their online shops, admin apps and basic websites. In-class teaching was complemented with networking events and a hackathon, involving over 200 participants from all over Europe.

Each of the 6 classes studied and progressed at their own pace, focusing on the specific ideas they developed in the kick-off design session. The calendar below includes the class notes and highlights some of the topics covered by individual classes throughout the last six months. It also provides an overview of the TechTalks and events that were provided during that period.

Contact time: 667 hours in total across 6 groups

- ● Classes (Hours) — 223
- ● Workshop (Hours) — 123
- ● Mentorship sessions (Hours) — 321

Integration and teaching events: 264 in total

- ● Total number of Mentorship sessions — 161
- ● Total number of classes — 74
- ● Total number of events/workshops — 29

Date	Description
9/2/16	TechTalk: The advantages of starting with nothing
14/2/16	Design Thinking Kick-off workshop Developed 6 core concepts for app ideas
15/2/16	„TechTalk: How Cloud & Internet of Things is changing the world"
21/2/16	Basic introduction to programming. Basic elements of Ruby language. Basic components of a Rails application.
23/2/16	TechTalk: Solving business problems with big data
24/2/16	GitHub/Hello world assignments
25/2/16	Database schema explanation, Modeling practice
28/2/16	„Basic Github/Heroku commands, account setup. Rails migrations Explanation of scaffold types, and what they create."
2/3/16	Discussed classes; instances; instance, global and local variables; Created .rb files.
3/3/16	Basic static website based on initial ideas, stored in the github.com
6/3/16	„Class models, methods and inheritance. Controller logic, conventions and routes. SCRUM"
8/3/16	TechTalk: Reinventing my life
9/3/16	Learned how to use RoR scaffolding, explained MVC concepts.
10/3/16	Review the MVC concept and syntax for writing classes & controllers. Placeholder views created to demonstrate view logic.

Date	Description
13/3/16	Dynamic views and how they relate to HTML. How views and controllers integrate.
16/3/16	Setup of sample project and deployed to Heroku with related repositories. Switch db from the default (sqlite3) to postgres
17/3/16	MVC and routing. Debugging and fixing the routing, controller and views.
20/3/16	Introduced course book: Agile Development with Rails
22/3/16	TechTalk: Lessons learned as a serial entrepreneur
23/3/16	ORM, Databases, ActiveRecord, migrations and validations. Validations and associations.
24/3/16	Hands-on training in ruby. Arrays, indices, methods of arrays and strings, slices, conversions from one variable type to another.
30/3/16	Trained up to-loops and GET/POST routes. Reviewed the concepts of ActiveRecords and ORM
31/3/16	Revised basic w/r/t defining/calling methods and ruby syntax.
3/4/16	„Logic in Controller and View. Variables Store Controller generation with index method Modification of the CSS code."
5/4/16	TechTalk: Co-Creation for Impact
6/4/16	Sessions, cookies, password hashing and security. Demonstrated the model api: querying, ordering, validations.
7/4/16	„git introduction: versioning, collaboration, history repository, what's on disk, github, syncing"
10/4/16	„Twilio workshop. Incremental development SCRUM Review and usage of some SASS"

Date	Description
13/4/16	„Review of layout and CSS changes Using a colour wheel to generate colour schemes. Using the web inspector with CSS"
14/4/16	„ Binary search/bisectioning. Merged branches back to master. Global- and page-specific code split-up."
17/4/16	The why and principles of Bootstrap, responsive design, Focus on CSS.
19/4/16	TechTalk: Building a VC-backed education technology start-up in Germany
20/4/16	More features including search, sorting, adding other fields to data model.
21/4/16	Array indices vs. elements. Bootstrap
24/4/16	Progressed lay-out variables and views
27/4/16	Installing the merge tool meld. Introduction to linux commands.
28/4/16	„Revisited version control tools: git, github, SmartGit Tips on how to interact with github from Cloud9 IDE"
3/5/16	TechTalk: Kulturshock - Surviving Life Abroad Through Code
4/5/16	Semantic-UI compiling in advanced class
5/5/16	Revision Ruby concepts
8/5/16	Revision and refinement of projects
11/5/16	Build layout for depot app with a header and a side bar menu and main. Floating divs. Revisited padding vs margins.

Date	Description
12/5/16	Build a rails app that stores a decimal-field using a select box with added validations.
15/5/16	Focus on final demo day
17/5/16	TechTalk: The secret sauce to civic tech
18/5/16 – 29/5/16	Focus on final demo day, Pitch training, Professional Networking workshop, Focus on building for demo day
31/5/16	TechTalk: Digital transformation
1/6/16	Revision
2/6/16	Revision Ruby concepts
4/6/16	Spacehack Hackathon
5/6/16	Spacehack Hackathon
6/6/16	Demo Day Pitch training
7/6/16	Demo Day Pitch training
9/6/16	Demo Day
10/6/16	Startup Europe Summit
11/6/16	ESMT Workshop

AHMAD ALARASHI

I will not despair because god is always with me!

Age: 30
Language: Arabic, English
Computer Language: Ruby on Rails
Why I code: Coding will be the language of the world and I have ambitions to learn it.
In 5 years: In big company in a position with responsibility, or I having my own business.
Biggest wish: Make something for my kids and my family
Special request: Internship
Archievements: Programmer in advance degree

AMMAR JOUKHAJI

I won't give in, no I won't back down it's my choice to try to swim or to drown.

Age: 26
Language: Arabic, English, Turkish
Computer Language: Ruby on Rails, HTML, CSS
Why I code: It is interesting and I can do a lot of things with it.
My goal: Everything
In 5 years: In a high working position.
Biggest wish: to accomplish all my dreams.
Archievements: Traveling from Turkey to Germany

AHMADULLAH SEDIQI

Every one should know how to program a computer, because it teaches you how to think ...

Age: 22
Language: Pashto, Dari/Farsi, English, Urdo
Computer Language: Ruby on Rails
Why I code: I want to improve my IT knowledge.
My goal: Developing a Website
In 5 years: Working as a developer in a big company.
Biggest wish: Being a German citizen and completing of my education.
Special request: Internship

Archievements: Work on IT Specialist position. Volunteering help to refugees. With 12 year school hard working for finance of self. Been student of ReDi Digital School.

AMMAR MERIE

Age: 29
Language: Arabic, English, German
Computer Language: Ruby on Rails
Why I code: It's like music – everywhere you can find people who like and understand it, also the devices to understand it.
My goal: My eagerness to learn and help
In 5 years: I hope I will be good enough to be able to work with a smart technology company.
Biggest wish: That ReDi School will stay forever to help a lot of young people.
Special request: Job
Archievements: Telecommunications engineer, worked with Syriatell (the biggest mobile company in Syria) doing things like Radio and optimisation eng; Two trainings with Huawei.

THE STUDENTS
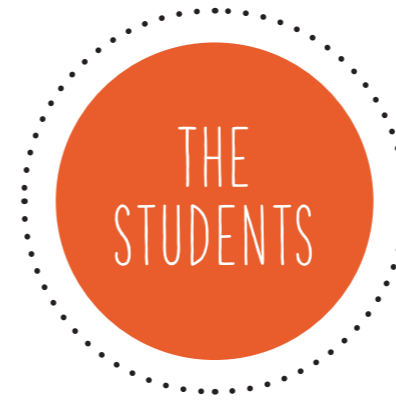
ANAS SANKAR

Everything is okay in the end, if it's not ok, then it's not the end.

Language: Arabic, English, German
Computer Language: HTML
Why I code: It's a new challenge for me.
In 5 years: Looking for a bigger challenge.
Biggest wish: Put my ideas to work, so the future can be better than the present. And me having the power to make it happen.
Archievements: High School. City champion in Romania wrestling, brown belt in Tae Kwon Do, Salsa Dancer
Special request: Internship
Archievements: Honors & Awards: 5th Winner in „Start" competition Issuer at Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation and Syrian Computer Society

BOURAK MAGHREBI

Humanity knows no borders.

Age: 24
Language: Arabic, English, Turkish, learning German
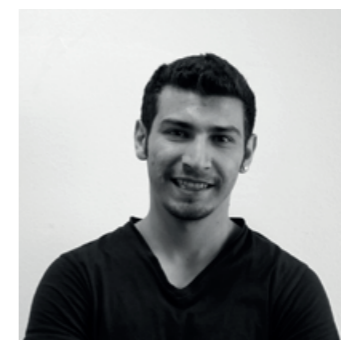Computer Language: Ruby on Rails, CSS, HTML, Java, C++
Why I code: I feel it is pure intelligence
In 5 years: Being a talented programmer with good knowledge.
Biggest wish: Go back to my country and reconstruct it using my knowledge of course
Special request: Internship
Archievements: Finshed 2 years in IT, had my own shop

EHAB ZAIN

Only fools and dead people do not change their minds.

Age: 25
Language: Arabic, English
Computer Language: HTML, CSS, Ruby on Rails
Why I code: I like it.
My goal: I can be a programmer.
In 5 years: Berlin
Biggest wish: Independence
Special request: Job
Archievements: The most important thing: I reached Germany alive

FADI ZAIM

The hardest decision is whether to walk away or try harder.

Age: 29
Language: Arabic, English, German
Computer Language: Ruby on Rails
Why I code: Problem solving.
In 5 years: Working with Siemens or Mercedes-Benz
Special request: Job
Archievements: Bachelor of Business Administration, work experience in Dubai, C1 German Language

ISA ABO-MOHANA

Logic is the road to wisdom but not the end of it.

Age: 36
Language: Arabic, English, German
Computer Language: Ruby on Rails, HTML, CSS
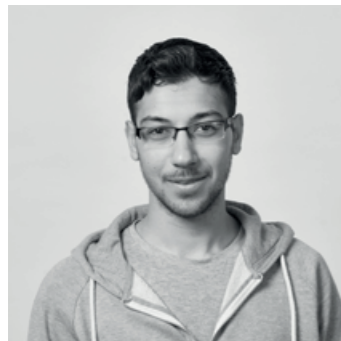Why I code: Logic, problems finding and being creative
My goal: No limits.
In 5 years: Working in Germany.
Biggest wish: Providing a good living for my family.
Special request: Job
Archievements: I had three jobs in Syria, I have two lovely kids.

MOHAMAD SAKKA

To arrive late is better than not to arrive at all.

Age: 20
Language: Arabic, English, German
Computer Language: Java, C++, Java Script, HTML, CSS
Why I code: It's interesting and for smart people.
My goal: I can help with anything related to technology.
In 5 years: I would like to have graduated from university with high marks and work in my own startup company in Germany.
Biggest wish: That the war will be over in Syria.
Archievements: Passed two years at the University of Aleppo at the facility of informatics engineering with perfect marks. I built websites.

GHAITH ZAMRIK

A wise man once said nothing.

Age: 19
Language: Arabic, English
Computer Language: Ruby on Rails, C++, HTML
Why I code: Because it gives you the satisfaction that any person in the world might be able to use easily what you have built. Because with programming you will be able to built something that no one has ever done before you, but at the same time everyone has contributed to this continuous string of knowledge.

In 5 years: Doing my doctorate in artificial intelligence, having a good position in some IT company, being married with a little daughter.
Biggest wish: To be able to study artificial intelligence and to use this knowledge to contribute into researches related to Astronomy, while being able to live a normal happy life with my fiancée, who would be able to study medicine.
Special request: Internship
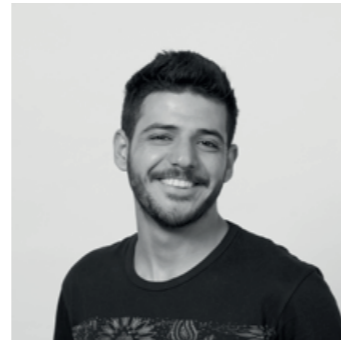
KHALED FAOUR

When you can't change the direction of the wind — adjust your sails

Age: 23
Language: Arabic, English, German, Turkish
Computer Language: Ruby on Rails, HTML, CSS
Why I code: I like logical things.
My goal: I believe in working smarter rather than working harder and I have always applied that principle in my life.
In 5 years: Working in some big company and really proud of what I have done.
Biggest wish: Learn the coding as fast as I can, then teach it to other refugees.
Special request: Tandem partner
Archievements: One year volunteered in the RedCross Syria, Toefel (2013), One year in the faculty of architecture, Aleppo, Syria

MOHAMMAD KHATTAB

Fight for my goal and do not give in or feel despair.

Age: 24
Language: Arabic, English
Computer Language: Ruby on Rails, HTML
Why I code: Because I see it is very important in my life.
My goal: Make the access to the Internet easy and available in all over the world.
In 5 years: I work in a software company.
Biggest wish: To have my own business.
Special request: Internship
Archievements: I can convert a song or video clip to any format, and I know the basics in the computer and mobile and work on them.

MUNZER KHATTAB

No pain, no gain.

Age: 23
Language: Arabic, English
Computer Language: Ruby on Rails, HTML, CSS
Why I code: Because when I was in university what I did best in was the part that was related to the computer. And my whole life I loved to see the magic on computers.
My goal: I would love to create some applications or a website that may change life or make it easier.
In 5 years: Sitting behind my laptop and coding for the biggest companies in the world, and I hope to make my own too but it will need more than five years I think.
Biggest wish: To make something that may change the world for the better, or the way that people think.
Special request: Internship
Archievements: Finished two years of Architecture in Tichrin University in Syria.

NKENTSO LEDIMO

You don't learn to walk by following rules. You learn by doing, and by falling over.

Age: 27
Language: Sesotho, English, Portuguese, French, leraning German
Computer Language: Ruby on Rails, HTML, CSS, Less, Bootstrap, JavaScript

Why I code: I like to solve quizzes, so coding is interesting for me.
My goal: I have unique and actionable ideas.
Special request: Internship
Archievements: Influence a key decision that makes a huge difference in people's lives.

RAMI RIHAWI

If you're going to be thinking, you may as well think big.

Age: 21
Language: Arabic, English, German
Computer Language: Ruby on Rails, Java Script, C++, Java, HTML, CSS
Why I code: Because I like creating stuff and solving puzzles and because I'm smart.
My goal: I'm a good programmer, fast learner and even faster talker, so I can solve all the problems that I encounter.
In 5 years: Graduated from college and working on some high profile projects.
Biggest wish: I wish that my family were here with me in Berlin.
Archievements: I passed two years with high marks at the faculty of informatics engineering. I made a super sexy website. I made a super sexy game using unreal engine 4. I gave an awesome talk at jsunconf 2016. I came to Germany.

MOHAMMAD EMRAN AHMADI

Always be yourself, express yourself, have faith in yourself, do not go out and look for a successful personality and duplicate it.

Age: 20
Language: Dari, Pashto, Farsi, Urdu, English
Computer Language: Ruby on Rails
Why I code: Because the world needs programmers.
In 5 years: Finishing university.
Biggest wish: To be independent.
Special request: Job
Archievements: My own business – I earned my own money from age of 15.

LOUNA AL BONDAKJI

There is always a light at the end of the tunnel.

Age: 22

Language: Arabic, English, German, French
Computer Language: Ruby on Rails, CSS, HTML
Why I code: Because I think people can make a change through coding.
In 5 years: Hopefully making a difference.
Biggest wish: To accomplish something that can change the world as we know it.
Special request: Internship
Archievements: Syrian highschool, three years of studying architecture at Damascus University

OMAR ALSHAFAI

Age: 30
Language: Arabic, English, German
Computer Language: Ruby on Rails
Why I code: It's an opening door to find a good job everywhere.
My goal: Teaching
In 5 years: Electronic engineer in Siemens Company.
Biggest wish: Peace and Freedom for the word and special in Syria.
Special request: Tandem partner
Archievements: I study electronic. Hardware technical. Warehaus accounting. Eight years experience in Saudi Arabia of human resources, personal department, administration.

IMAD SOUKIEH

Age: 32
Language: Arabic, English
Computer Language: SQL, VBA
Special request: Internship

GHANEM ZEIN

Easy come, easy go.

Age: 29
Language: Arabic, English
Computer Language: Ruby on Rails, CSS, HTML
Biggest wish: Peace
Special request: Tandem partner
Archievements: The Life in new eyes

List of all students

Ahmad Alarashi
Ahmadullah Sediqi
Ammar Alhousaini
Ammar Joukhaji
Ammar Merie
Anas Sankar
Basem Riahi
Ehab Zain
Fadi Zaim
Ghaith Zamrik
Ghanem Zein
Ibrahim Algabarte
Imad Soukieh
Isa Abo-Mohana
Issam Shamandour
Khaled Faour
Louna Al Bondakji
Akram Alfawakheeri
Mohamad Sakka
Mohamad Selim
Bourak Maghrebi
Emran Ahmadi
Mohammed Khattab
Munzer Khattab
Nkentso Ledimo
Omar Alshafai
Rami Rihawi
Tarig Beshir Mohamed
Wissam Ghozlan
Yazan Salmo

THE RESULT

Learning a new skill (and a language) can be very hard if you can't see the real life impacts and importance. From the beginning the ReDI first class were asked to apply their coding skills to real challenges and work on providing real solutions.
The students were encouraged to take inspiration from their own challenges and turn them into opportunities. The result has been three start-up ideas and a project to help find emergency help in a foreign environment.

Julia Biro – Our first good laugh was when we broke boundaries and became a team.

DEMO DAY AT STARTUP EUROPE SUMMIT

During the Startup Summit Europe, June 9-10 in Berlin, ReDi School brought together the full power of its first class. The students presented their skills, ideas and visions to hundreds of policymakers, founders, venture capitalists and key startup stakeholders. Inspiring each other and creating the basis for real change and integration.

Kicking off with an expert panel, ReDI student Akram Alfawakheeri guided the discussion about how technology can help improve the lives of refugees. The panelists Gisbert Rühl (CEO of Klöckner & Co SE), Rosa Birch (Policy Programmes Manager EMEA, Facebook), Ahmad Sufian Bayram (Regional Manager MEA, Techstars), Joséphine Gouge (COO, Techfugees) and Anne Kjær Riechert (Co-founder of ReDI School) also discussed how innovation and co-creation impacts in the integration process of refugees into the society.

In front of a packed room full of supporters, future employers, friends and families, the first class of ReDI school then presented their startup ideas. DemoDay concluded in a panel session hosted by student liaison Lana Zaim about challenges for refugees as newbies and about possible solutions for refugees to pursue their dreams in Germany. Panelists were ReDI school students Bourak Mograbi, Ahmadullah Sediqi, Khaled Faour and Ammar "A.J." Joukhaji.

DEMO DAY AT STARTUP EUROPE SUMMIT

LET'S INTEGRATE

An idea born in the first hours of ReDI. The connection between Khaled and Lasse formed at the first student intro sessions grew into a growing and successful social movement. The idea was refined during the ReDI kick off class as students and local IT experts applied design thinking to refine the first paper prototype. Today Let's Integrate is operating across Germany and bringing newcomers and locals together with their unique hand sign.

Team: Khalid Alaswad, Lasse Landt, Lana Criggs

www.facebook.com/letsintegrate.de

BUREAUCRAZY

Winners of the 2016 Spacehack hackathon. This team have shown exceptional growth and determination in bringing this idea to life. Bureacrazy is a web-based and mobile application addressing the real issues faced by newcomers when dealing with German „Bureaucrazy." This classroom project has gone on to become a start-up and they are currently pitching for funding. All the more impressive when you consider that this was a basic class aimed at students with no coding background.

Students: Mohammed Khattab, Munzer Khattab, Ghaith Zamrik, Ahmad Alarashi, Yazan Salmo, Ghanem Zein, Omar Alshafai

Teachers and mentors: Chris Ward, Tarek Galal, Alejandro Machado, Julia Biro, Jason Banks, Dominic Latham

www.facebook.com/BureaucrazyTeam/

JASMIN

For illiterate women coming from conflict regions it can be extremely hard to learn German and find a pathway to economic independence. The beauty and the value they carry in their hearts does not easily find a place in an economy that is totally foreign to their skills and experience. They can however cook and share the history and culture of their country.
When Fadi's mum started a catering business to sell the delicious meals provided by these women, the students jumped on the opportunity to try out their coding skills. Fadi has a degree in Business Administration and speaks several languages fluently. With the coding skills he and his cousin Louna learn at ReDI they were able to help their family build an online presence to expand the reach and market for "Jasmin, the taste of Syria."
The team: Fadi Zaim and Luna Al Bondakji
In building the website they were supported by their teachers and mentors: Arman Nasirtoussi, Genevieve Parkes, Richard Garbutt, Antonio Stilo

Denis Oelkers – Stay curious!

THE ASSISTANT

As a newcomer you are often faced by the challenge of finding help. In a medical emergency this overcoming this challenge can make the difference between life and death. "The Assistant" is an app idea developed by ReDI students Isa Abo-Mohana and Wissam Ghozlan. It took up the challenge of helping sick and elderly people in emergency situations by providing a simple, geo-located app to find quick help based on your indications. On the journey they were supported by the following teachers and mentors: Yasmin El Koshy, Nynne Just Christoffersen, Rawad Traboulsi, Sebastian Uribe, Alina Baciu, Stefan Gränitz.
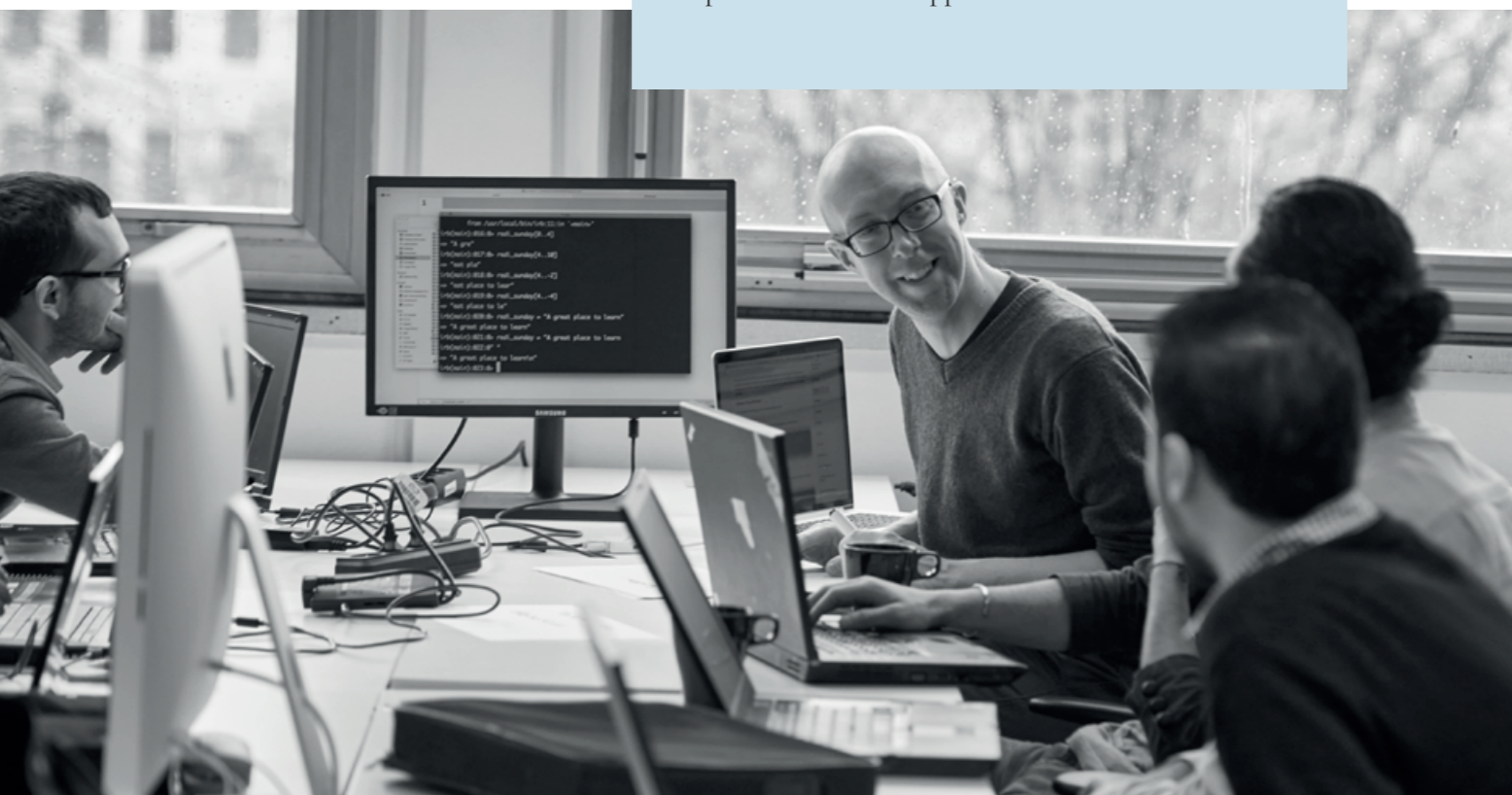
THANK YOU!

THANK YOU TEACHERS!

This course would not have been possible without the hours of commitment and energy contributed by the volunteer teachers, mentors and super heroes. Here is a list of the amazing engineers, entrepreneurs and helpers who sacrificed their Sunday afternoons, their Wednesday and Thursday nights to provide first class support:

Ahmet Emre Acar
Alejandro Machado
Alina Baciu
Amelie Froessl
Antonio Stilo
Arman Nasirtoussi
Bryce Mail
Chris Ward
Dennis Oelkers
Diaa Sami
Dominic Latham
Genevieve Parkes
Henning Peters
Jag Chadha
Jason Banks
Jonas Halbach
Joseph Finlayson
Julia Biro
Lana Criggs
Liana Taylor
Nakeema Stefflbauer
Nuria Tus
Nynne Just Christoffersen
Pertr Prchal
Peter Ihme
Rawad Traboulsi
Richard Garbutt
Sebastian Marambio
Sebastian Probst Eide
Sebastian Uribe
Stefan Gränitz
Steven Renwick
Tarek Galal
Til Singer
Valerie Hoffmann
Vlad Barboni
Vlad Georgescu
Weston Hankins
Yasmin El Koshy

Julia Biro – In the TEDx talk there was a question addressed to us: how would you treat the refugees you met if you wouldn't know they are refugees. I was sitting between Ghaith, Omar and Alarashi. I turned to Ghaith and told him „exactly the same". I learned to care deeply for all of them and not because they are refugees since that wouldn't be fair for them. I care deeply because I see them as they are, with goods and bads and lot of respect. I wish them to succeed, actually I know they will, is just a matter of time!

WORDS FROM GISBERT RUHL

„The integration of refugees into our society is very important to us. This includes a professional perspective for example, in the high growth digital economy. For the purposes of our very own digitalization process at Klöckner, we are increasing our headcount in this area, too, and we hope that by supporting ReDI school, these new positions will soon be filled with graduates of ReDI."

Gisbert Rühl, CEO of Klöckner & Co SE