

Hack4Her at TU/e - Final Report

First TU/e edition, 12-14 June 2026

Short introduction

Hack4Her is a female-focused student hackathon designed to help bridge the gender gap in technology by creating a welcoming space for women to gain hackathon experience, develop technical and project skills, and connect with peers, universities and industry partners. In 2026, Hack4Her expanded to Eindhoven with the first edition at TU/e, alongside the established Amsterdam edition. The TU/e edition took place from 12 to 14 June 2026 in the Neuron building on the TU/e campus. Around 40 female students participated, mainly from TU/e, with additional participants from Maastricht University, University of Groningen, TU Delft, Tilburg University and VU Amsterdam. The event combined real-world hackathon challenges with workshops, keynotes, mentoring, networking and a final jury session.

Activities

The event took place over three days. The programme was a mix of hacking, mentoring, networking, keynote speakers and of course learning experiences.

Friday: Arrival and check-in, introduction, keynote, challenge-specific workshop, career skills workshop, dinner and networking. **Saturday:** Breakfast, hacking kick-off, challenge workshops, hacking sessions, keynote, lunch and dinner, interaction with sponsors and mentoring. **Sunday:** Breakfast, final hacking hours, keynote speaker, submission deadline, preparation of project presentations, judging and deliberation, awards ceremony and closing.

The students had the chance to work on the following challenges from four different ‘challenge sponsors’: Adyen: under-representation in cybersecurity; Booking.com: women's safety while travelling; Databricks: humanitarian crisis funding decisions; TU Delft: gender-aware power flow calculations.

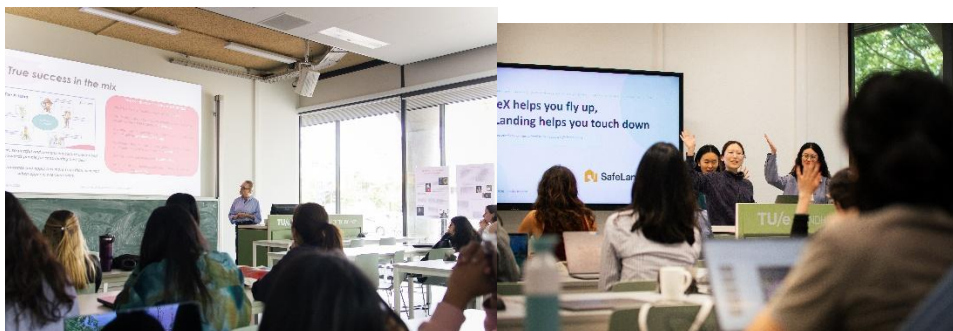
Achieved results and impact

Hack4Her at TU/e successfully established a new Eindhoven edition of the Hack4Her initiative and created a foundation for future female-focused hackathons within the TU/e and 4TU ecosystem. This Hackathon brought together students, sponsors, academic partners, mentors, judges and volunteers around challenges with social relevance and clear technical components.

Participation	Around 40 female students attended, mainly from TU/e, with participation from multiple Dutch universities. This supported the national ambition of making Hack4Her accessible beyond one campus.
Learning	Students worked on real-world challenges from leading companies, worked on a solution within 48 hours and presented final solutions in front of an academic judge panel. It brought new learning opportunities, hands on learning and pitching opportunities.
Network	The event connected students with companies, academic partners, female keynote speakers, mentors and jury members, creating space for career conversations. Also reached out to

	Electrical Engineering students and departments to have students from those disciplines part take in the TU Delft challenge.
Feedback	Feedback was gathered from the students and the companies after the event. Students were happy with the challenges, the general program and just the general atmosphere. They were happy and enthusiastic about this event as many students have no attended an event like this before. It would be beneficial to find a way to increase the number of Electrical Engineering students participating in the hackathon.
Growth	Although the number of participants was lower than anticipated, the first TU/e edition provided an important starting point. The learnings will support earlier outreach, clearer challenge descriptions and stronger recruitment for future editions as well as starting with the challenges and outreach to companies earlier on. This is possible as the current team will establish contact with companies and universities from September onwards.

The event photographs from Friday, Saturday and Sunday can be seen below. The aftermovie from the event is expected to be finalized by the end of August 2026.



As a follow-up, please find the folder with the photos from the event below, one containing photos from Saturday, and another containing photos from Friday and Sunday!

Saturday: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1nKxn1XYZvV4y_SReEmsU4qCrJNKCOKIU?usp=sharing

Friday and Sunday: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SgIF9jPiEeipI-TWnoxpBti4whhfTBpf>

Reflection and next steps

The first edition demonstrated strong potential for Hack4Her at TU/e. For the next edition, the organizing team will build on the established partner network, start participant recruitment earlier, communicate challenge expectations more explicitly, and continue involving mentors and company representatives throughout the event. This will help grow participation and further strengthen Hack4Her's role in supporting women in technology across the Netherlands.