





Annex: Impact story template

Event: DigiCollab Hackathon · Story type: Participant transformation Team collaboration Solution spotlight Unexpected outcome

How to use: Complete this template immediately after the event while memories are fresh. Conduct the interview within 5–7 days of the event. One completed template = one publishable story. Adapt length to format: 600–900 words for a blog post, 150–200 words for a social caption, 90–120 seconds for a video script.

Choose your story type

<p> Participant transformation</p> <p>Before/after personal narrative. Best format: blog post or video interview.</p>	<p> Team collaboration</p> <p>How the team formed and built together. Best format: video with short written version.</p>	<p> Solution spotlight</p> <p>Deep dive into the project. Best format: website project page + infographic.</p>	<p> Unexpected outcome</p> <p>Something nobody planned. Best format: short human-interest piece or social post series.</p>
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Story subject information

Full name (for publication):

First name only is acceptable if preferred

School / organisation:

Age (if sharing):

Team name:

Media consent:

May be named in published content May be photographed May be filmed Full name may be used First name only

Interviewed by:

Interview date:

► Before: The starting point

What brought you to DigiCollab? What were you expecting?

Capture their initial expectations, hesitations, and what motivated them to apply

What was your level of confidence going in? What were you worried about?

Barriers, fears, and first impressions – this is the emotional foundation of the story

What skills or background did you bring to the event?

⚡ During: The turning point

What was the hardest moment? How did you get through it?

Conflict, struggle, and resolution are what make a story compelling – do not skip this

Describe a specific moment that stands out. What happened? How did it feel?

The more specific and sensory the detail, the more vivid and shareable the story

How did your team work together? Was there a moment when the collaboration really clicked?

What role did mentors play at a critical moment?

✓ After: The outcome

What was your project? What problem did it address?

Include the challenge theme and any notable features of the solution

What did you discover about yourself – a skill, a quality, or a way of thinking?

This is the core of a transformation story – the insight that changes how the person sees themselves

What will you do differently because of this experience?

Are you continuing to develop the project? What is the next step?

“” Quotes to capture

Best single quote for social media (one sentence, in their words):

The most quotable line from the interview – punchy, authentic, and specific

Opening quote for the story (sets the scene or theme):

Closing quote (the takeaway – ideally forward-looking):



Publishing and distribution plan

Target formats:

Blog post (600–900 words) Video testimonial (90–120 sec) Instagram carousel
LinkedIn article Media pitch Erasmus+ case study

Distribution channels:

Event website Instagram LinkedIn Email newsletter Partner channels Local media
 Erasmus+ Results Platform

Publishing deadline:

Writer / editor responsible:

Subject has reviewed and approved final version:

Yes Not required (consent covers unseen publication)

Story writing guide

Structure for a blog post: Opening hook (the most vivid moment) → Context (who this person is, why they joined) → The challenge (what was hard) → The turning point (what changed) → The outcome (what they built and what they learned) → Closing quote (forward-looking)

Writing principle	What it means in practice
Lead with the person, not the event	Start with a specific human moment, not "DigiCollab 2026 took place on..."
Specific beats generic	"She had never written a line of code" beats "she lacked technical experience"
Show the struggle	Stories without conflict are press releases. The difficulty is what makes the outcome meaningful.
One idea per story	Do not try to tell the whole event in one piece. Pick one person, one team, or one solution.
Let them speak	Use direct quotes generously. The participant's voice is more credible than the narrator's.
End with forward momentum	The best endings point toward what comes next, not just what happened.
Caption for the distracted reader	Write the first paragraph assuming someone will only read that. Make it earn the rest.