

Summary of projects from shortlisted EuroTeQ Collider teams at EPFL participating at the EuroTeQathon.

Challenge – Distraction by phones and loss of focus among students during lectures

Team name - SharpMind

Challenge Collaborator – PeaceTech Hackathon, EuroTeQ local team

Summary of the project – In universities, auditoriums are big, lectures are long, and students drift off. For a student who is drifting off even the tiniest of distraction, grabbing the phone and checking it out is automatic. SharpMind tackles the problem from three different angles. First, the attractiveness and automatism of reaching the phone are removed by hiding the phone in a simple plastic box under the table. Second, opening the phone for even small, undemanding activities that risk becoming engrossing is discouraged by providing personal statistics of focus in class in a gamified, rewarding way – which can be augmented with an inter-student “attention” competition. This is achieved by a new version of the campus app (which most students already have) that monitors screen time during classes. Finally, this information of the use of phones by students can be anonymized, aggregated and sent in real-time to a desktop app for the teacher to monitor the general level of attention during lecture. Therefore, the teacher can adapt their teaching and try to reconnect to the class when attention drops, and can *a posteriori* analyze the statistics and adapt their next lectures accordingly.