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DE GENÈVE



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SDG OLYMPIAD GENEVA 2025

Empower. Innovate. Impact.



About us

The SDG Olympiad is a global competition where students engage in SDG Innovation Events worldwide, developing data-driven solutions to accelerate progress toward the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The most promising solutions from each local event advance to compete at the SDG Olympiad Award Event, which takes place in Geneva 10-13 October 2025.

Traditional Olympiads test knowledge. The SDG Olympiad builds capacity for developing sustainable solutions. It is a playground for teamwork, experimentation, and action.

Whether you are a student eager to participate in an SDG Innovation Event, a university looking to host one, or a partner with a real-world challenge for student teams to tackle, the SDG Olympiad offers an opportunity for you to be part of the solution.





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How it works



Overview

Inspired by the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the principle of "leave no one behind," the SDG Olympiad is a locally led, globally connected competition.

Over the past 8 years, SDG innovation events have brought students together to address sustainability challenges through innovation and collaboration.

In 2024, the SDG Olympiad officially launched, integrating more than 700 students, 12 partner universities, and participants across 4 continents.

What Makes the SDG Olympiad Unique?

Locally Led Events

Partner universities host their own SDG Innovation Event, fostering diverse and inclusive participation.

Global Connection

The best solutions from each SDG Innovation Event compete in Geneva, showcasing ideas with real-world impact.

Actionable Solutions

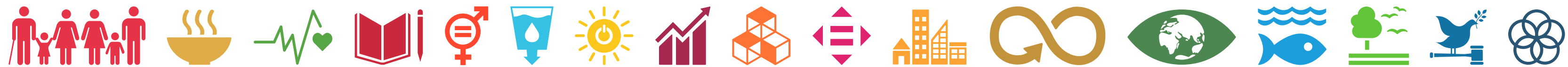
Participants tackle critical challenges, creating scalable and innovative solutions that advance the SDGs.

SDG Innovation Events

SDG Innovation Events are short-term educational programs that use challenge-based learning to develop solutions for the SDGs.

They can be summer schools, hackathons, data sprints or semester projects that foster collaboration between students and sustainability experts to co-create impactful solutions.

Each SDG Innovation Events provides opportunities for recognition and prizes while showcasing innovative ideas to local experts. The most promising project from each event gets to be represented at the SDG Olympiad Award Event.



A global competition with many winners

The SDG Olympiad equips students with teamworking abilities, data and AI skills as well as connections to mentors, integrating local Innovation Events into a global movement. All participants benefit, regardless of whether they progress to the final event.

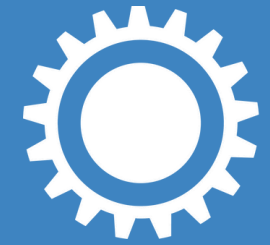
This year, student-led teams will compete for Global Awards at the SDG Olympiad Award Event in Geneva, Switzerland on 10-13 October.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Potential to produce data to measure, monitor, or advance progress toward the SDGs
- Potential to generate positive social, economic, and/or environmental outcomes
- Innovative use of available tools, including AI, citizen science and social media



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2024 Highlights



A Growing Global Community



+700 STUDENTS

12 UNIVERSITIES

4 CONTINENTS

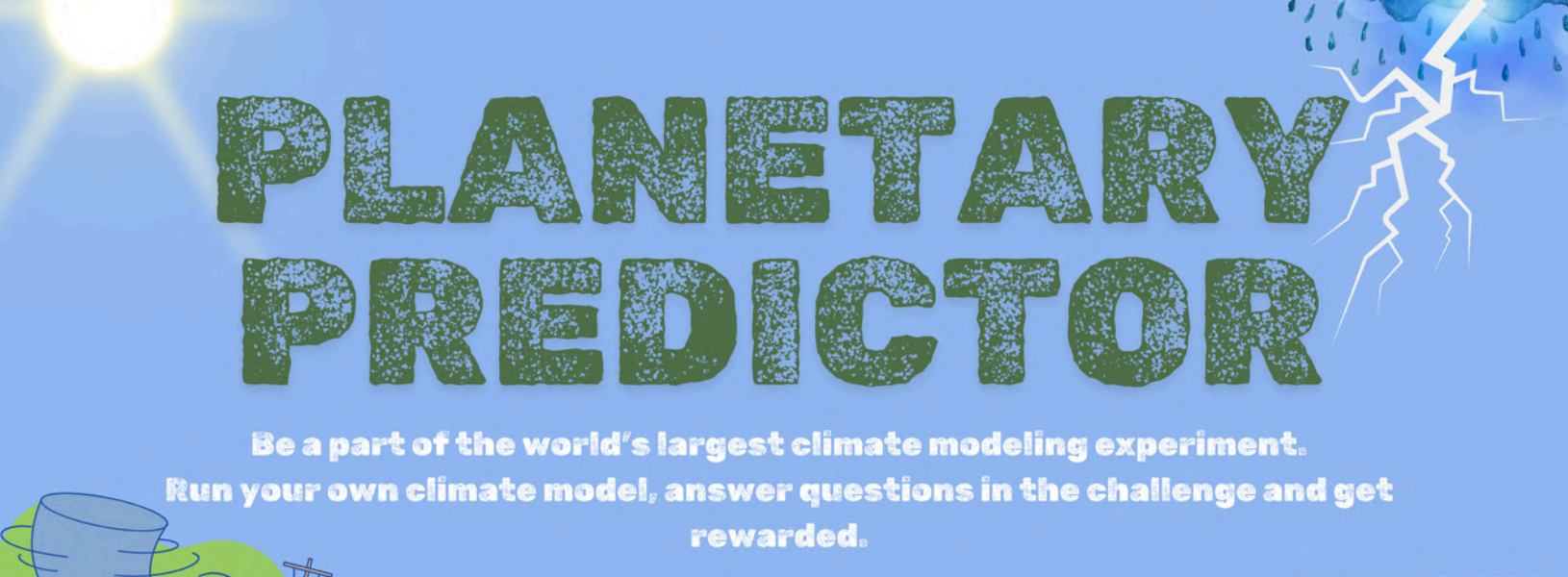
Bronze Medal Winners

Planetary Predictor

SDG Summer School Geneva

Teach children and teenagers about climate modeling

A friendly, fun, and interactive platform adapted from Oxford University's climateprediction.net, designed to bring climate modeling into schools.



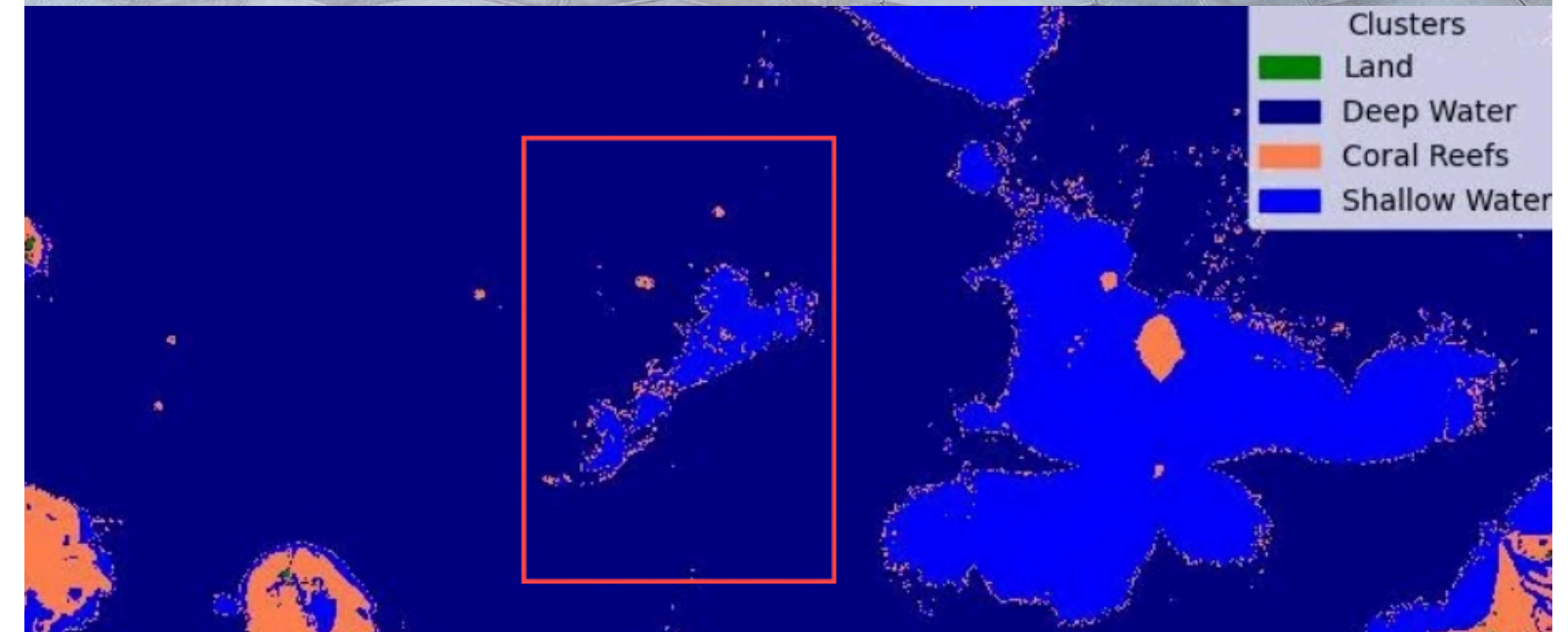
Silver Medal Winners

QMORJAN

NYU Abu Dhabi Hackathon for Social Good

Coral reef restoration using advanced technology

Identifies potential reef sites using satellite imagery, machine learning, and quantum computing to determine optimal locations for coral restoration, facilitating informed decision-making.



Gold Medal Winners

Plasticonn

SDG Summer School Lagos

Connecting Communities for Better Plastic Collection

The initiative tackles inefficient plastic collection in Lagos. The team has mapped key players and will use crowdsourced data to develop an app that connects and improves these efforts, helping the community manage waste more effectively.



ONAFESO
IMISIOLUWA
Team Lead



SHOBOGUN SODIQ
Field Assistant



AZEEZ MOYOSOREOLUWA
Communicator



FATIMILEHIN
OLUWATOBILOBA
Social Media Manager



ODULANA
OLUWATOYIN
Coach



ONASANYA
OLUWADEMILADE
GIS Analyst



What the Students Are Saying



Aknur Kassym
NYU Abu Dhabi

The SDG Olympiad was nothing short of a transformative experience for me. Beyond the invaluable workshops and the opportunity to pitch our team's project in front of a large audience, this event connected me with like-minded, ambitious individuals – people with a fire in their eyes and a shared passion for creating global impact.



Imisioluwa Onafeso
University of Lagos

Participating in the SDG Olympiad was a transformative experience that deepened my commitment to innovation and sustainability. This experience has strengthened my resolve to expand Plasticonn and encourage more environmental accountability in Nigeria and the rest of the world.



Tanvir Rafi
University of Copenhagen

The SDG Olympiad 2024 shifted my perspective, making me more committed to sustainability and real-world problem-solving. It showed me that with the right ideas and collaboration, young minds can drive real change.





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How to join



The SDG Olympiad Engagement Model

Universities

Host your own SDG event and engage students in challenge-based learning.

Partners

Co-design challenges, mentor students, and drive SDG solutions.

Students

Participate in an SDG event within the network, open to Bachelor, Master, and PhD students.

Sponsors

Support innovation and help youth scale impact of SDG solutions.



1. Students

Students are at the heart of the SDG Olympiad. Open to Bachelor, Master, and PhD students, the Olympiad encourages interdisciplinary collaboration to co-create sustainable solutions.

What Do Students Do?

- Participate in an SDG-focused innovation event
- Work in teams to tackle sustainability challenges
- Attend expert-led masterclasses to develop key skills
- Prototype and test data-driven solutions
- Engage with UN experts, policymakers, and industry leaders

Why participate as a student?

- Join a global network of change makers
- Gain exposure to cutting-edge technologies
- Showcase your ideas on a global stage
- Prototype solutions with the potential to continue as entrepreneurial ventures
- Enhance career prospects through a life-changing experience

2. Universities

Universities play a key role by hosting SDG innovation events and creating immersive learning experiences that blend education, innovation, and sustainability.

What Do Universities Do?

- Host SDG-focused programs such as Summer Schools, Hackathons or Data Sprints
- Engage students in hands-on sustainability challenges
- Facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration and mentorship
- Connect students with experts in the field and global networks
- Evaluate and select the best teams for the Olympiad

Why Partner as a University

- Enhance your institution's reputation in sustainability and innovation
- Build lasting partnerships with leading universities and organisations
- Highlight your best student teams on an international stage
- Strengthen your institution's commitment to sustainability and innovation

2024 University Network

The network consisted of 12 universities hosting SDG Innovation Events. The SDG Olympiad Team in Geneva coordinated logistics and ensured consistent approaches for challenges, participant selection, team formation, and project evaluation.



3. Partners

International organizations, NGOs, research centers, and private sector, play a vital role in the SDG Olympiad experience by offering challenges, mentorship, and evaluation.

How Can Partners Engage?

- Propose real-world challenges aligned with the SDGs
- Mentor and guide student teams to develop innovative solutions
- Provide policy and implementation advice
- Engage in project evaluation and feedback
- Offer resources, data, or case studies for student projects
- Have institutional visibility in the Olympiad competition and final event

Why Partner With Us?

- Access emerging talent and connect with motivated students
- Find innovative solutions to your organisation's sustainability challenges
- Build cross-sector collaborations with academia, corporations, and NGOs
- Enhance sustainability reporting by showcasing your support for impactful SDG projects

2024 Strategic Partners



4. Sponsors

Sponsors fuel innovation and impact by providing financial, in-kind, or strategic support to scale student-led solutions and accelerate progress toward the SDGs.

How Can Sponsors Get Involved?

- Sponsor scholarships or travel grants to enable student participation
- Support of local SDG innovation events hosted by universities worldwide
- Fund prizes and acceleration opportunities for top-performing teams

Why Sponsor the SDG Olympiad?

- Connect with emerging talent and innovative thinkers in sustainability
- Support tangible solutions to real-world sustainability challenges
- Build meaningful collaborations with universities, NGOs, and industry leaders
- Gain visibility through branding and engagement in key Olympiad events
- Access data-driven insights and innovative solutions from student-led projects

2024 Sponsors



foundation
BOTNAR




Funded by European Union



REPUBLIQUE
ET CANTON
DE GENEVE

POST TENEBRAS LUX

Project funded by

 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research EAER
State Secretariat for Education,
Research and Innovation SERI



University of
Zurich^{UZH}



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How it all comes together

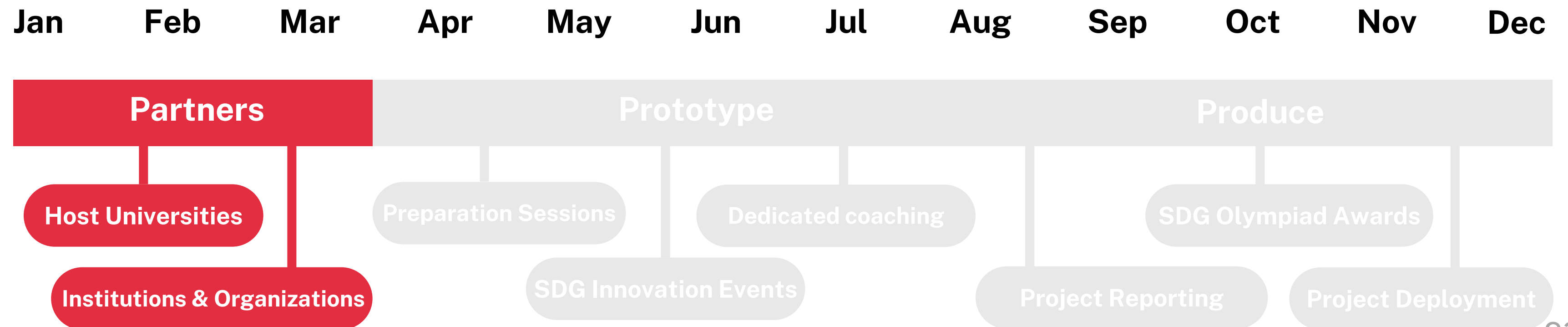


Timeline

February–March: Open Call for Host Universities, Partners, and Sponsors

Universities apply to join the network and host SDG Innovation Events. Applications open for students to apply to SDG Summer Schools and similar Innovation Events in their region. Partners and Sponsors confirm their support of the Innovation Events.

- **March 31:** Open call closes for host universities, partners and Innovation Event sponsors.

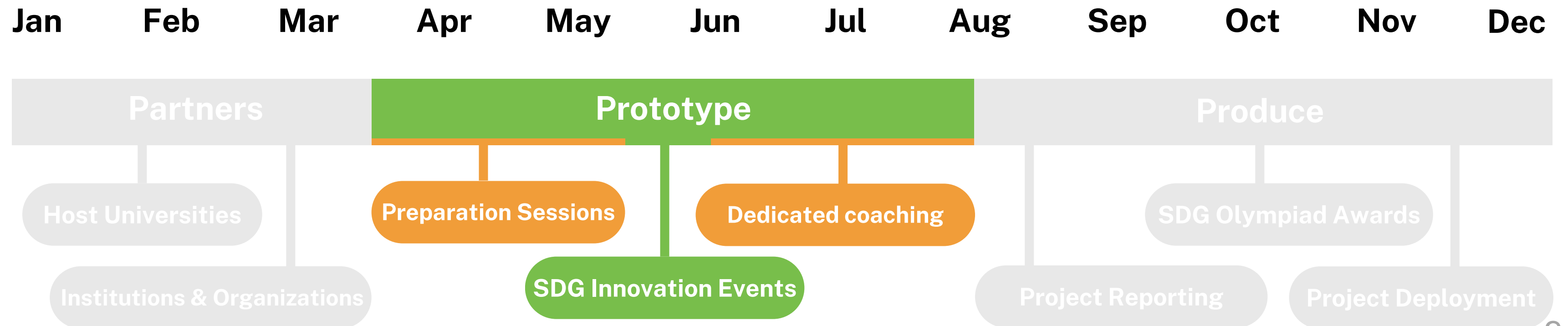


Timeline

March–August: Prototype

Students enroll in SDG Summer Schools and similar Innovation Events. The events must take place between March and August. Best teams are selected from each event to compete at the SDG Olympiad.

- **April-May:** Preparation sessions with host universities to share best practices on team formation, tools for producing and analysing SDG data, and key strategies to optimize SDG event outcomes.
- **August:** Teams selected to go to the SDG Olympiad Award Event get individual coaching sessions to help their projects move forward towards the goal of producing practical SDG data.



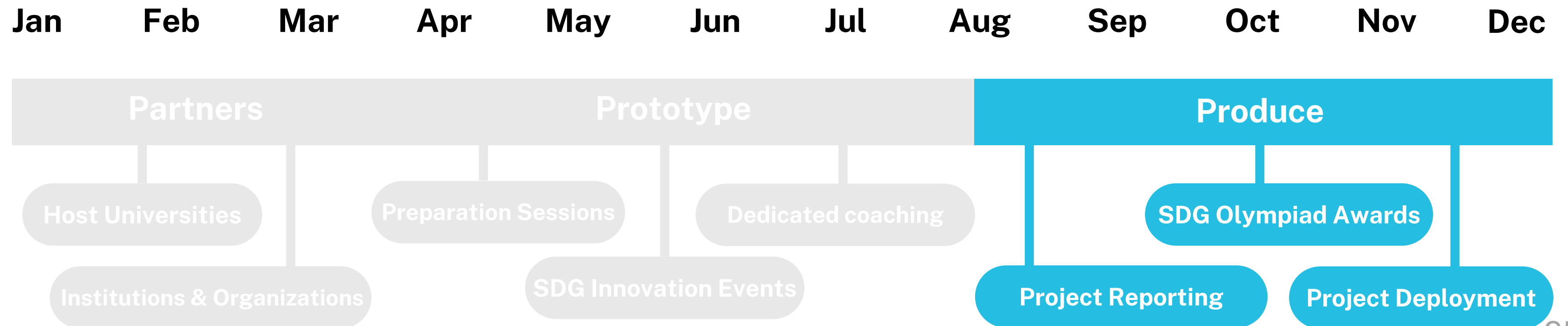
Timeline

August–September: Project Development

Advancing teams refine their prototypes, engage stakeholders, and test solutions. Final submissions include a research report and a 3-minute pitch video by September 30.

October 10-13: SDG Olympiad Award Event

The SDG Olympiad Award Event showcase solutions to be evaluated by an international jury of experts. The most promising projects gain access to support deploying their solutions and sustaining them financially.





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Welcome to the SDG Solution Space

University of Geneva's Student Innovation Space in the Heart of International Geneva



Neighbour to 40 International Organizations
and over 700 International NGOs

sdgsolutionspace.org



Meet the SDG Olympiad Organizing Team



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Expression of Interest

