

**IdeaSquare**  
The innovation space at CERN

# Introduction

## #CERNIdeaSquare

20 September 2022

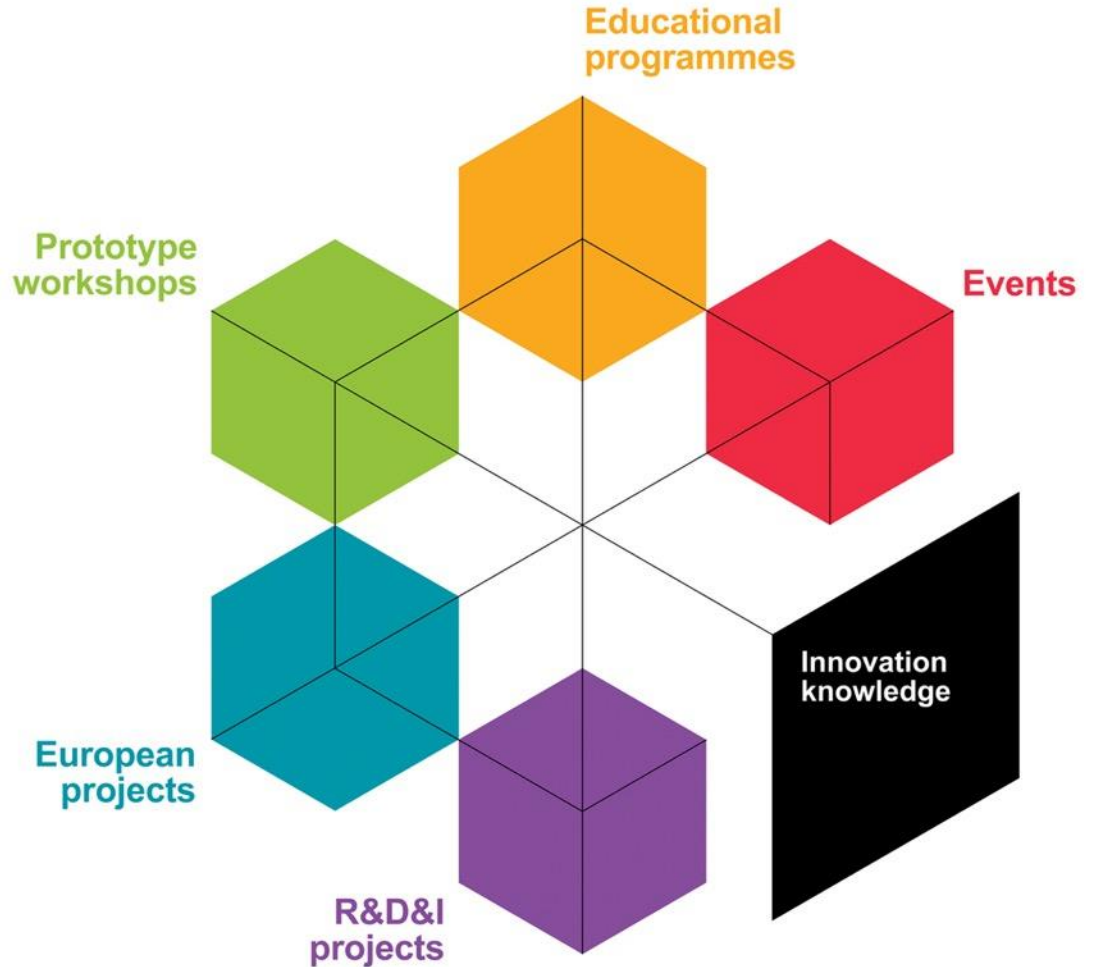
Visit of Foundation Future Leaders Program

By [Markus.Nordberg@cern.ch](mailto:Markus.Nordberg@cern.ch)

# IdeaSquare

## The Innovation Space at CERN

IdeaSquare is the innovation space at CERN, that uses collaborative methodologies, access to CERN expertise and cross-connectivity to ideate solutions for the future of humankind. A place where people have the licence to dream.



**Educational  
programmes**



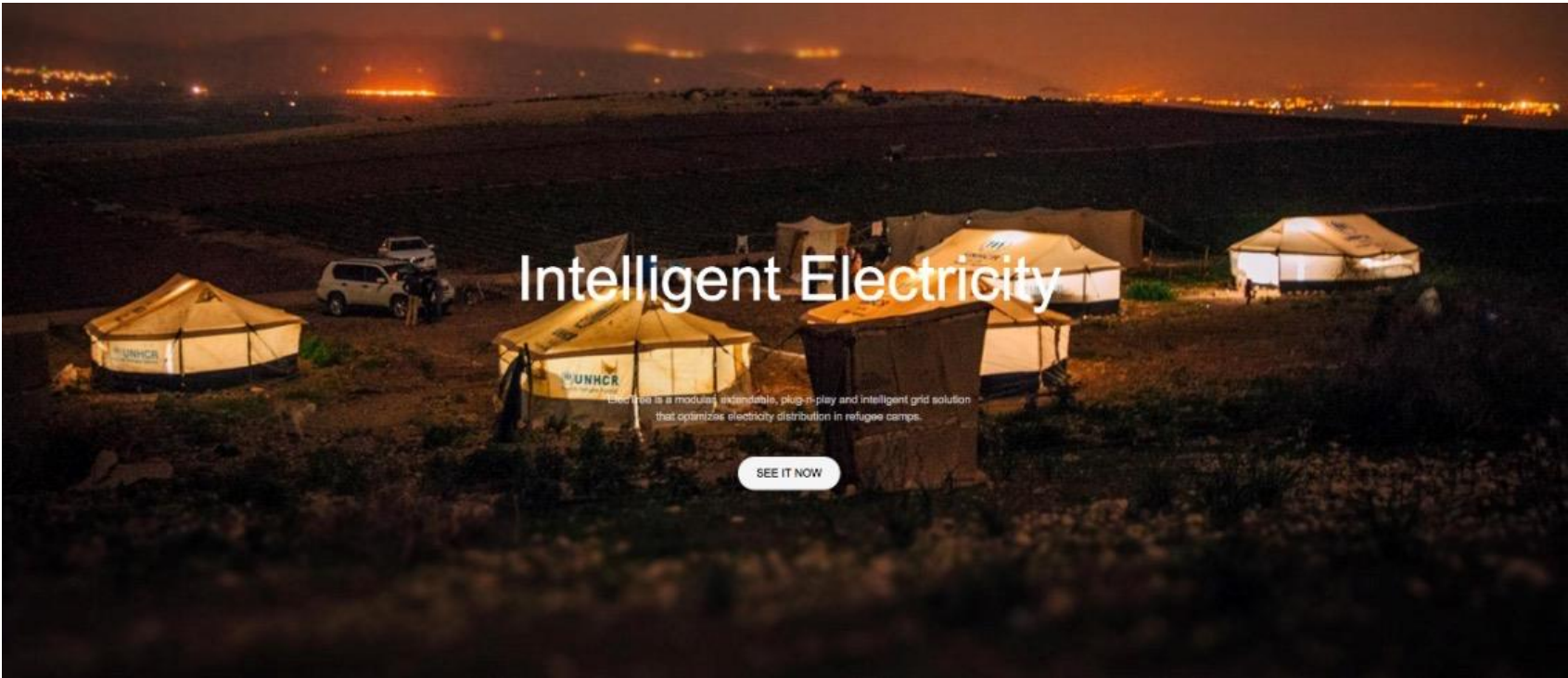
**Training and  
experimenting  
with the  
innovators of the  
future**

# Challenge Based Innovation (CBI)



- 5 - 6 months MSc-level specialization course for product and service development, run by participating universities from 8 countries around the world
- Over 1200 students have participated with more than 200 conceptual prototypes produced at IdeaSquare, contributing to UN Sustainable Development Goals
- In the course, multidisciplinary student teams learn how to apply Design Thinking – process for new product/service development; engaging with CERN researchers who act as technological coaches in the process
- “Work extremely hard, learn and have fun!” AND “Fail fast and often to succeed sooner”

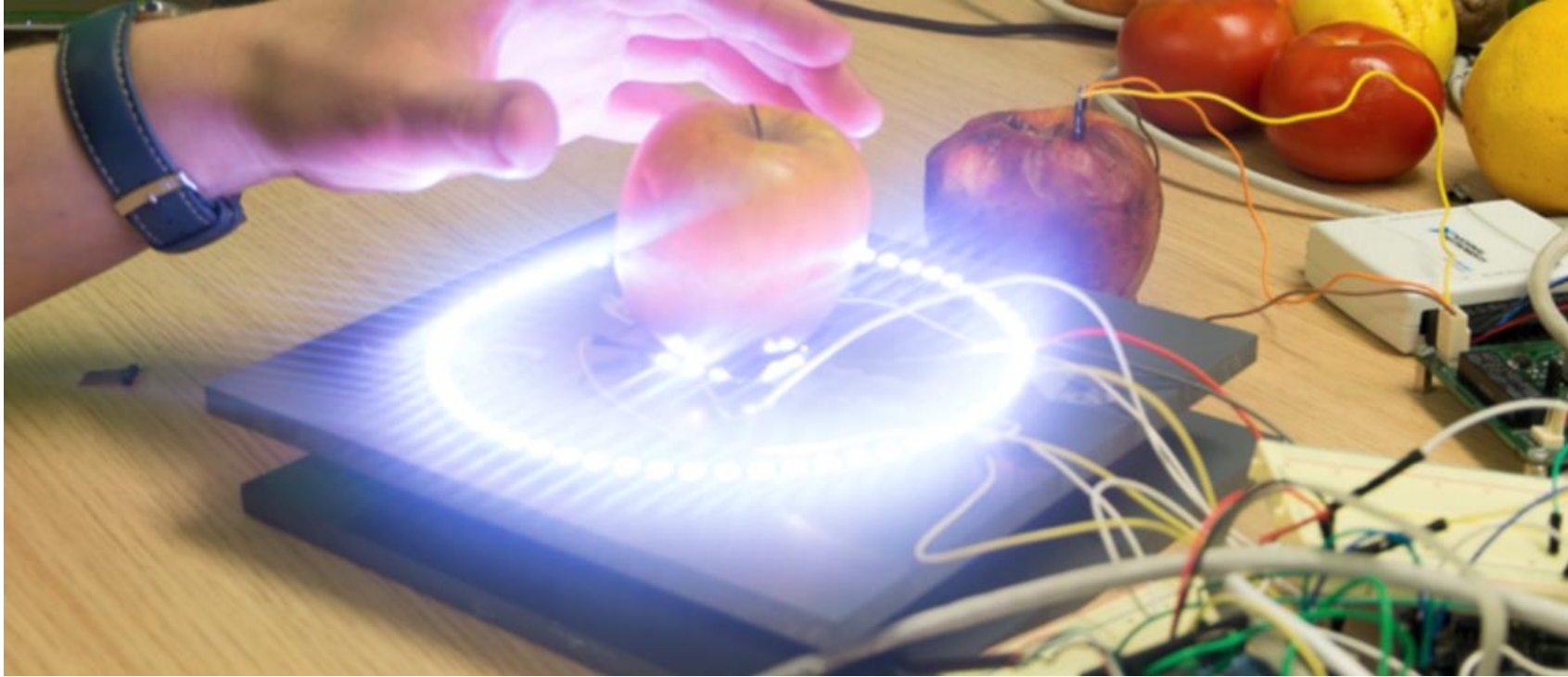
Students prototype to TEDxCERN installation



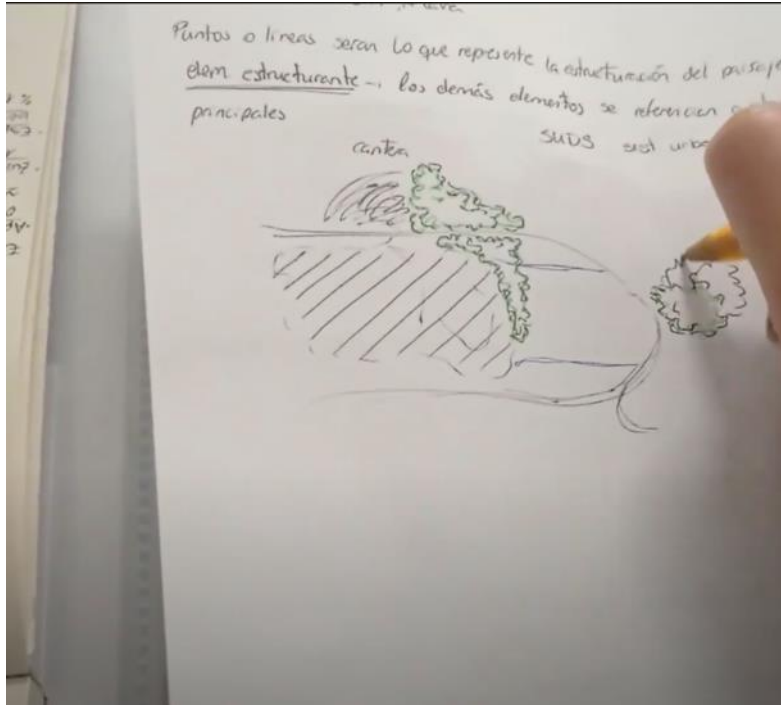
# Intelligent Electricity

Electra is a modular, extendable, plug-n-play and intelligent grid solution that optimizes electricity distribution in refugee camps.

[SEE IT NOW](#)



# Design the Future

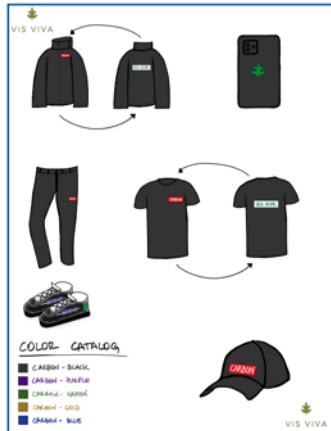


Design the Future is a programme which addresses so-called wicked problems and stimulates participants to use a combination of exponential thinking, system thinking as well as disruptive thinking. The aim of Design the Future is to provide students with a toolbox of methodologies combining the above thinking schools while stimulating their imagination. It is an invitation for designing our future society

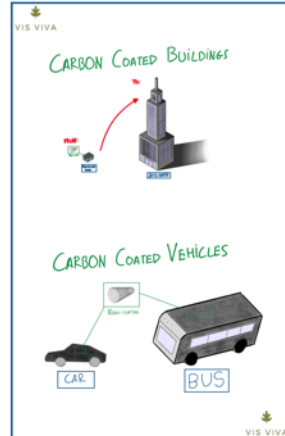
# Design the future

VIS VIVA  
Collection

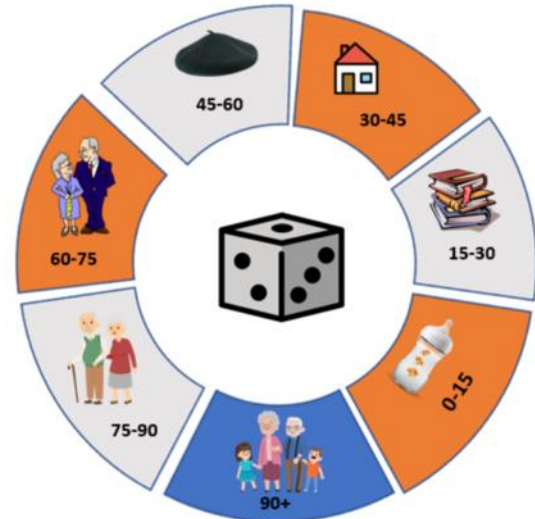
Clothes



Building and Vehicle Coatings



## PREJUDICE-FREE LEARNING GAME





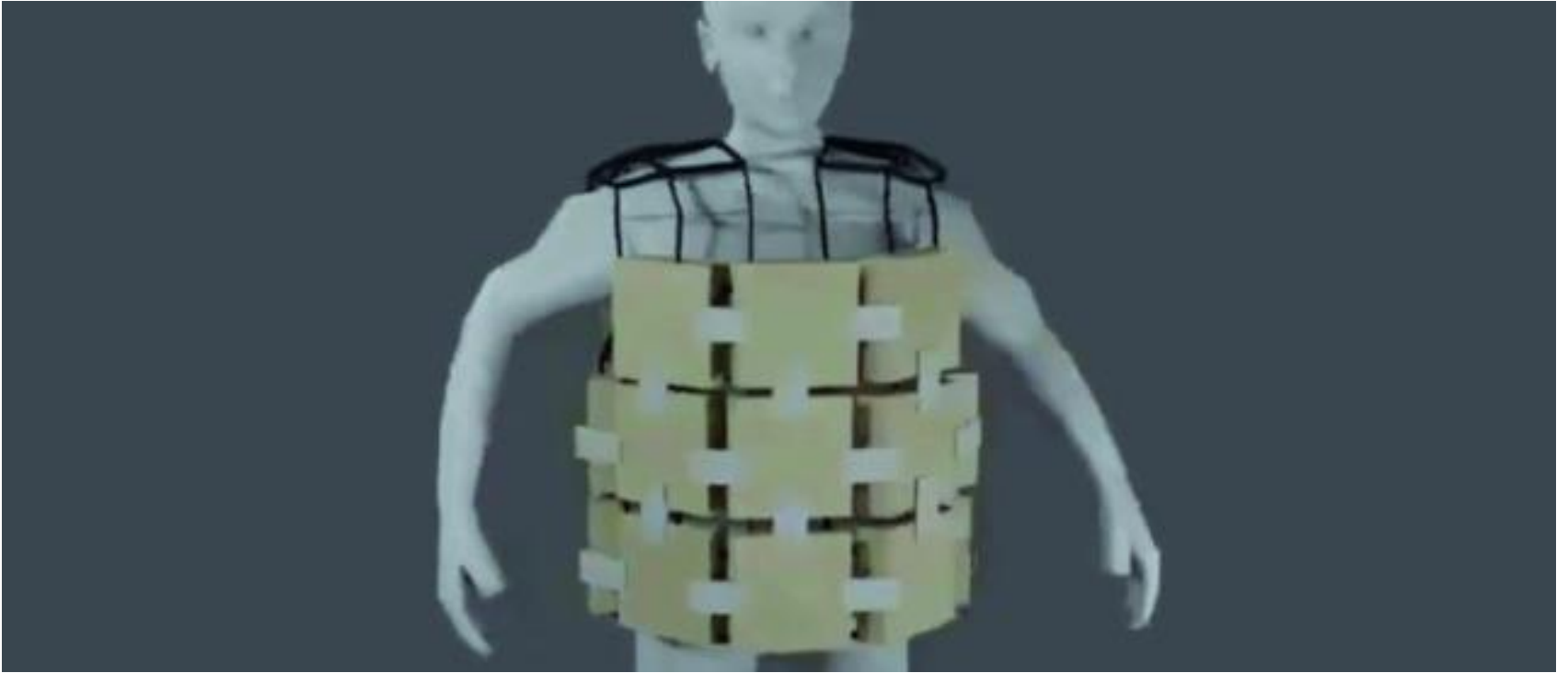


# Linking science innovation and the SDGs

# #ATTRACT EU Project



- ATTRACT funds breakthrough projects in Detection & Imaging
- Provides funding for developing early-stage ideas and prototypes
- Focuses on high innovation with potential outside research
- Engages with MSc-level, cross-disciplinary student activities, seeking for unforeseen entrepreneurial opportunities for the young
- Strong collaboration with partners in most European countries
- Purpose is to create a new innovation ecosystem in Europe
- ATTRACT is coordinated by CERN (IdeaSquare)



WPET - Wearable PET scanner jacket prototype

# #Crowd4SDG



- Crowd4SDG is a three-year Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Action supported by the European Commission's Science with and for Society (SwafS) programme.
- Through an innovation cycle called GEAR (Gather, Evaluate, Accelerate, Refine), the transdisciplinary Crowd4SDG consortium of six partners will promote the development of citizen science projects aimed at tackling the SDG's, with a focus on climate action.
- Its goal is to assess the usefulness of practical innovations developed by the teams and to research how AI applications can enhance and provide effective monitoring of SDG targets and indicators by citizens



Well Yes! - monitoring groundwater quality, to empower users, allow for potential policy change and better water infrastructure.



**Connecting  
curious minds**

# Events, workshops and hackatons



When the building is not in full use, Ideasquare can offer access to its open work areas, rapid prototyping facilities and its meeting rooms for short, deadline driven Challenge Events, such as :

- Innovation Events,
- Workshops
- Hackathons ( an event compressed into a short number of days where participants work towards a concept prototype).

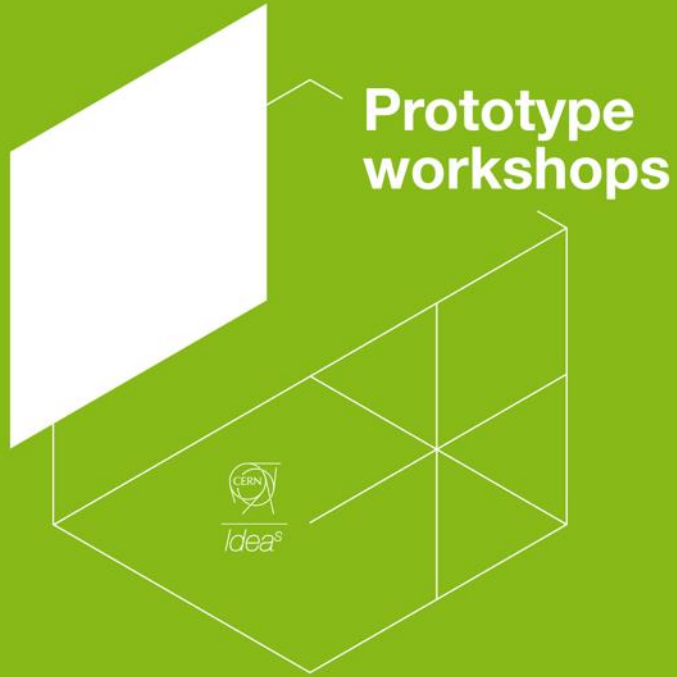


FPGA Workshop





Hackathon for the visually impaired for the development of the CERN Exhibitions



**Fast forward  
through  
prototyping**

# Our Facility



Our facility has 700m<sup>2</sup> of office space, with 5 meeting room containers and 2 meeting rooms in our famous double-decker. Additionally, 140m<sup>2</sup> of prototyping facilities including

- An open space for ideation
- An electro shop
- A machine shop with a laser cutter
- 3D printing equipment



Idea<sup>s</sup>



**R&D&I  
projects**

**Stimulating  
instrumentation  
in research**

# Neutrino Platform

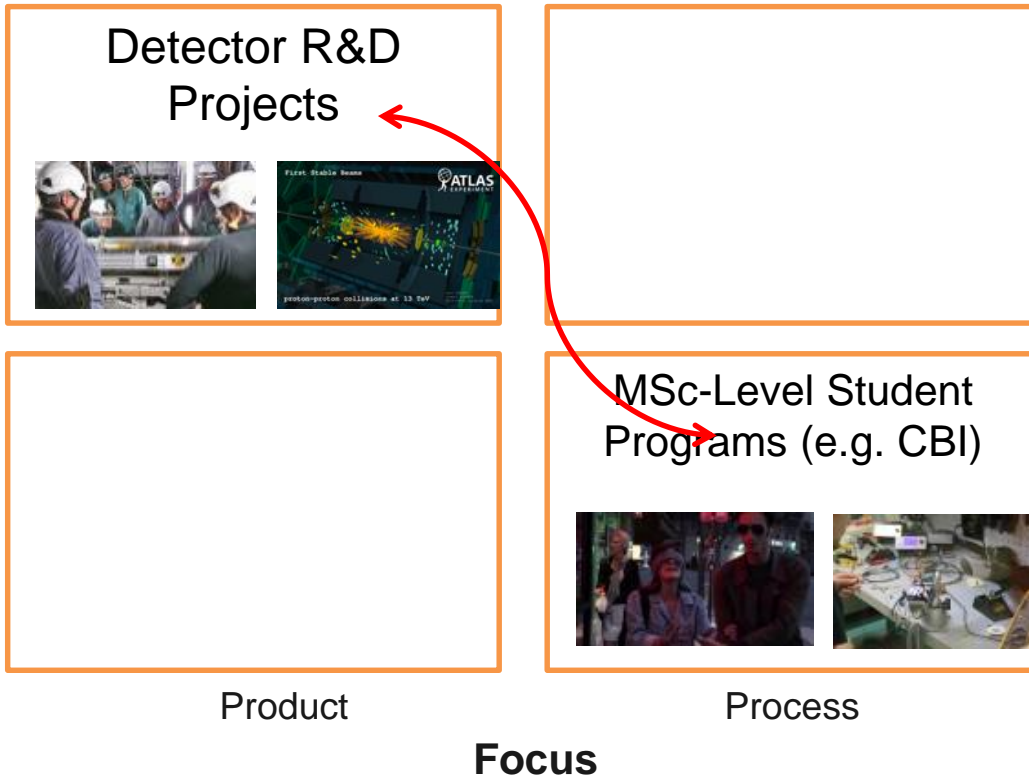


- Neutrino Platform (CENF) fosters fundamental research in the field of Neutrino Accelerator Physics
- CENF supports generic detector, neutrino beams R&D and large detector prototypes or demonstrators. It gives technical, financial and logistics support to approved projects
- Currently includes seven projects, including significant involvement in (Proto) DUNE
- CERN & IdeaSquare provides a facility for R&D on future technologies (HW and SW) and partner in several neutrino research programs



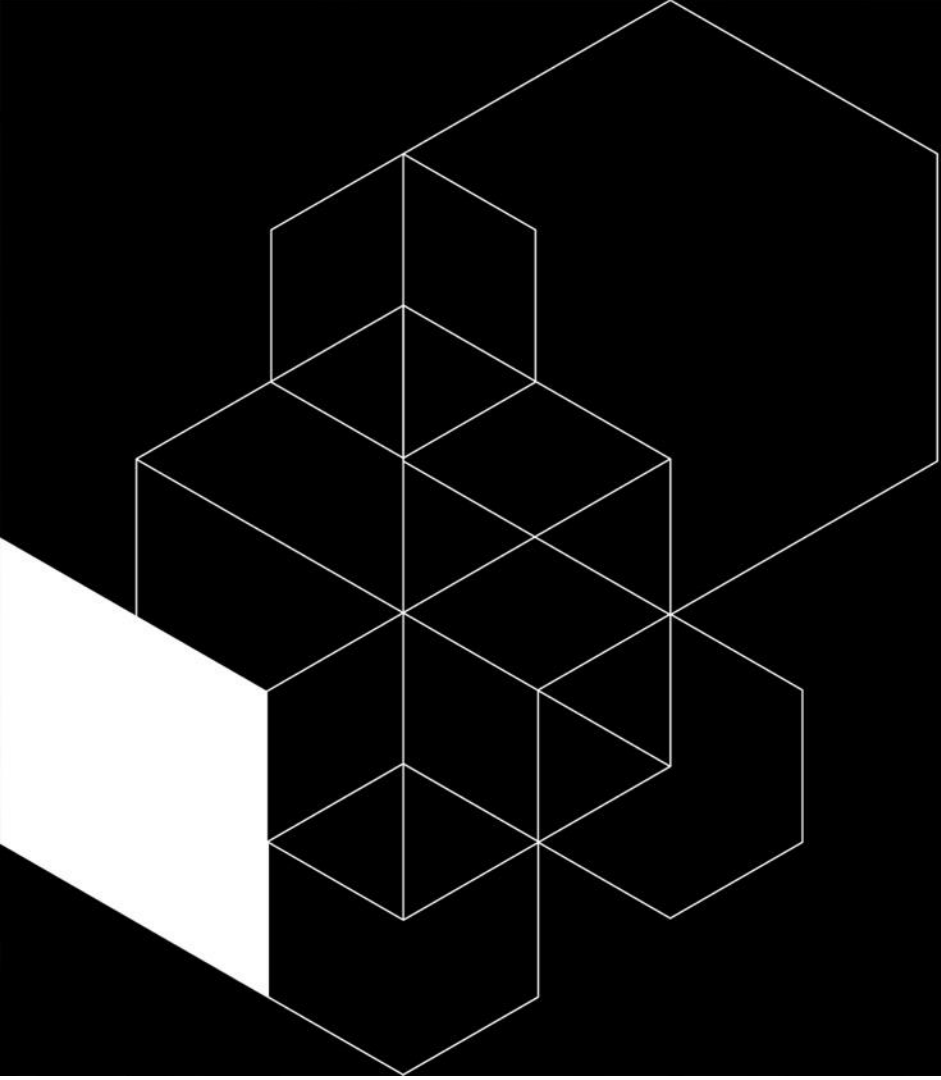
**Technology**

Initially undefined/open





**Contact us!**  
#CERNIdeaSquare  
ideasquare.cern



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*Idea<sup>s</sup>*





# IdeaSquare

## The innovation Space at CERN

### Highlights of 2021:

- Implementing new strategy and comms plan
- Falling Walls Award (P. Tello)
- Fabiola G. present at innovation4Change in Torino
- And...

