First FRANCIS Challenge

Overview and Results

06 October 2023

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101006220

Projects

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Overview on Ideas

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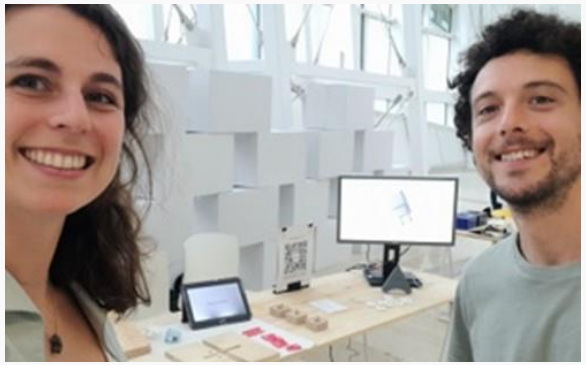
1 Team Despunte

Inventors: Carmen Araquistain Portela & Alejandro Garcia Soto

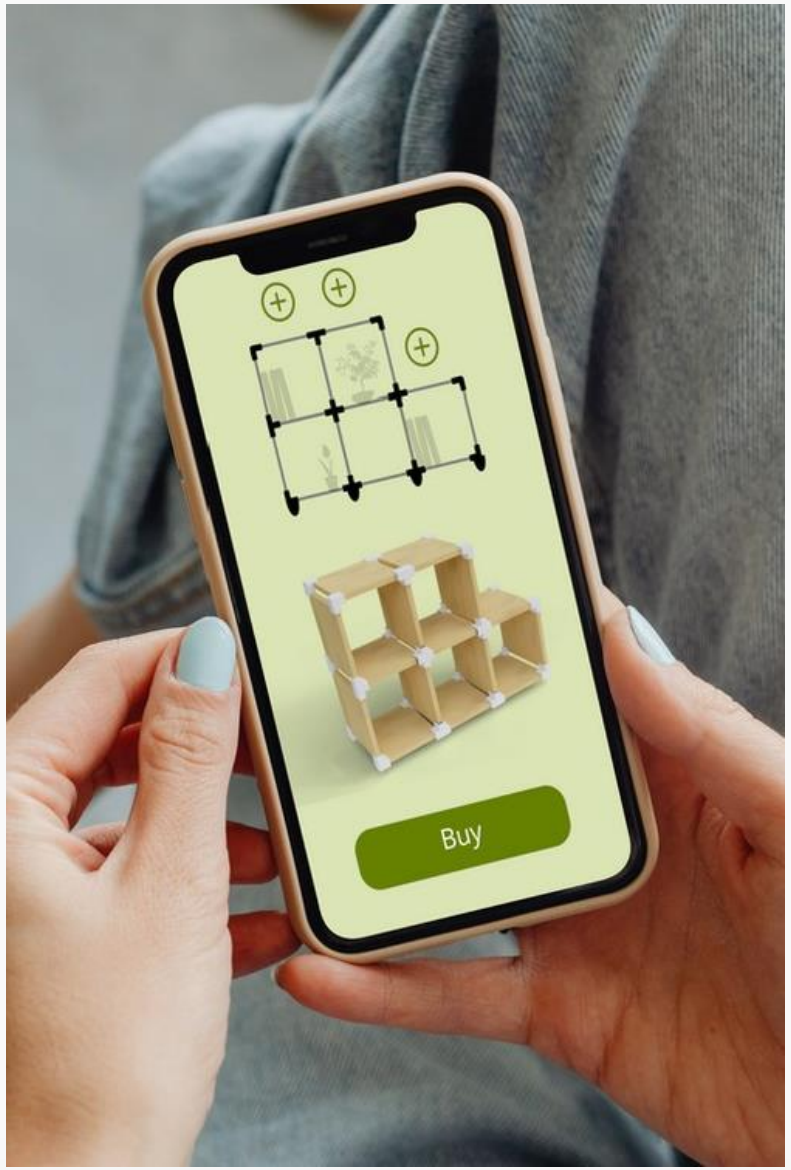
Housing is becoming more and more expensive. That is why an increasing number of people, especially students and families with restricted budgets, are living in confined spaces. To maximise space efficiency, they need small, simple and affordable furniture that can be adjusted to the specific space available.

Team Despunte has developed a concept that provides high-quality shelves that can be optimised to the customers' needs. It is comprised of modular furniture sets and an app for planning and assembly.



"We aim to facilitate the design of modular custom furniture to make the most of our spaces with little resources."

Alejandro and Carmen, 32 and 30,
self-employed designers and engineers



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2 Team Holle

Inventor: Lissy Michna

Most would agree that making your bed is one of the least liked household tasks, similar to cleaning the windows and ironing. This is due to the large dimensions of the mattress and the sheets. This task is particularly difficult for groups with restricted physical abilities.

Holle is an easy-to-use unobstrusive device for putting a linen on the bed which fits various bed types and sizes. It can be adapted to include a motor that pulls the linen on the bed for those who cannot manually operate the device. When the device has been installed, a simple pulley tugs the sheet over the edges of the mattress (see photo).

"I think it's important that the target group is allowed to participate in the innovation process."

Lissy, 23, IT asset manager

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3 Team Smartness at Kitchen

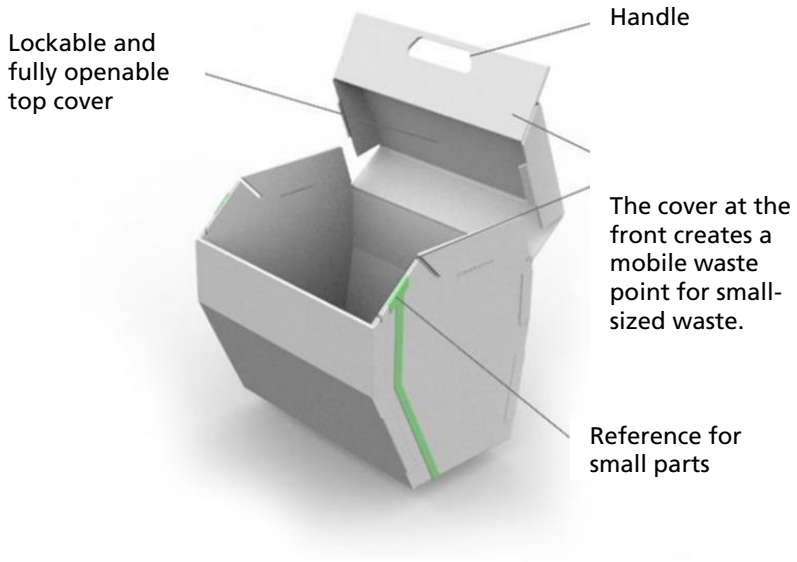
Inventor: Emir Salih Yüksel and Gökay Yazıcı

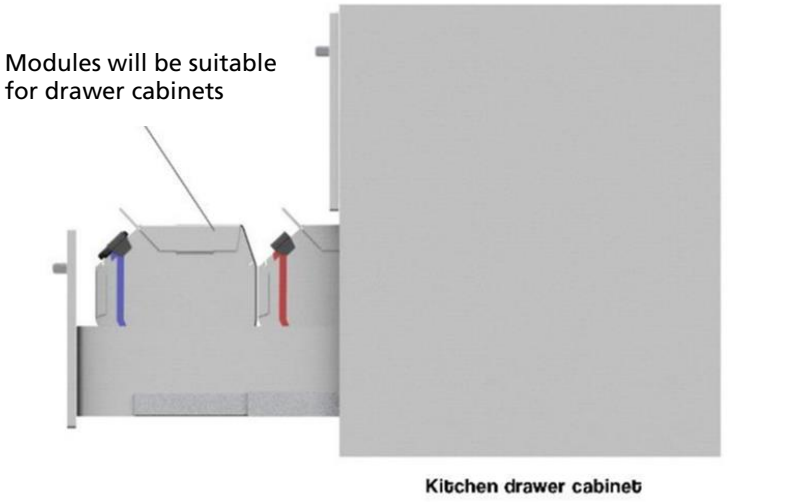
Garbage is an ever-increasing problem for our environment, especially when it has been poorly separated. Increasing citizen awareness and making it easy to separate waste can help to solve this issue.

The Smartness at Kitchen team has developed the concept of a smart waste separation and storage module for kitchens. It includes a label reader and a camera to track the types and volumes of disposed packages.

"Recycling is key for a green future. We want to offer a waste management system that helps to make the world that we live in a sustainable place."

Emir and Gökay, 22, students





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winner

Team Think Smart

Inventor: Nida Oral

For many people, cooking is part of their daily tasks. Preparing different dishes at the same time can make cooking even more complex. Especially (large) families face the challenge of fitting all the pots and pans they need on a standard stove with just four plates. In addition, the cooking process uses a lot of energy.

Team Think Smart has developed a pot stapeling concept that makes it possible to defrost, cook, heat up or simmer multiple types of food at the same time in an easy and energy-efficient way.

Photo (symbolic):
Bruno Cervera (Unsplash)

"We often don't take the time to think about how we could make our everyday life easier. But even simple improvements can make a big change."

Nida, 50, controller

Photo: Cecília Schwartz (Unsplash)

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winner

Team EAS-Y

Inventors: Deniz Öztürk & İbrahim Berk Güntemur

Traditional wood stoves have been in use for centuries. They cause air pollution and health problems, especially on windy days and when they are used inside of homes. Yet many people still use them due to a lack of suitable alternatives.

Team EAS-Y's aim is to make wood stoves more efficient by using the excess heat they produce. Their concept is a heat trap that can be placed next to stoves. It can then either keep the heat in that room for an extended time or be moved to heat up other parts of the home. The device is easy to set up and move.

The most practical way to heat your home."

Deniz and İbrahim, 23, students

Photo: Gustavo Zambelli (Unsplash)

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winner

Team Progress Robotics

Inventor: Amr Ibrahim

High energy consumption of many household appliances is a big problem, both from an economic and ecological perspective. For example, refrigerators requires a constant energy supply across the whole year, even in winter when temperatures are lower.

Team Progress Robotics has developed the concept of a refrigerator that uses cool outside air to keep the inside of the refrigerator cold. The simple, practical solution is especially suitable for people who live in cold places and holiday homes in winter resorts.

Photo (symbolic): Noah Silliman (Unsplash)

"Why use energy to cool when it's already cold outside? Doesn't seem to make sense."

Amr, 35, research and development engineer

Photo: Ello (Unsplash)

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Statistics

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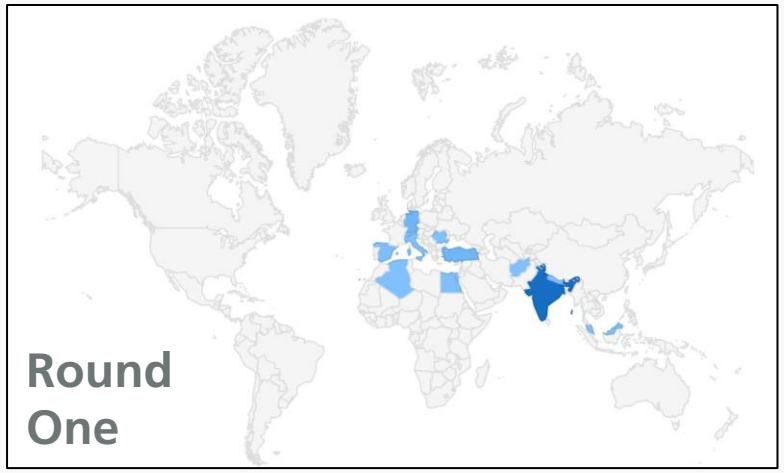
Changes in participation – Teams and Map

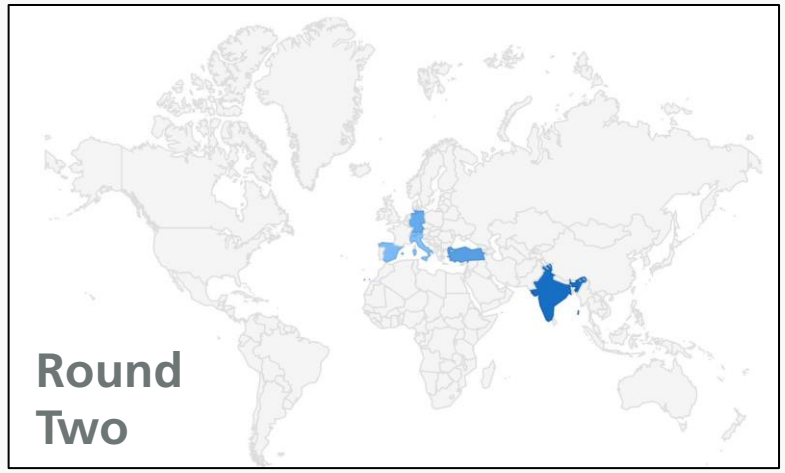


Registrations

- 56 teams/ideas
- 111 participants
- 12 countries

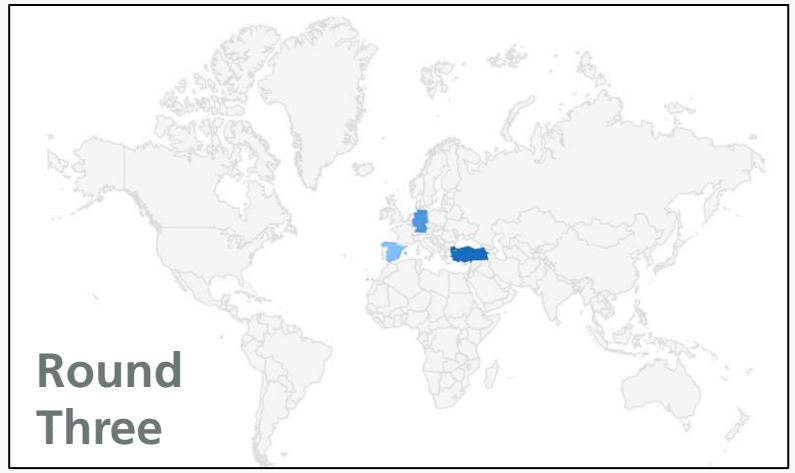
Submissions

- 27 teams/ideas
- 64 participants



Submissions

- 16 teams/ideas
- 32 participants
- 6 countries



Submissions

- 6 teams/ideas
- 9 participants
- 3 countries

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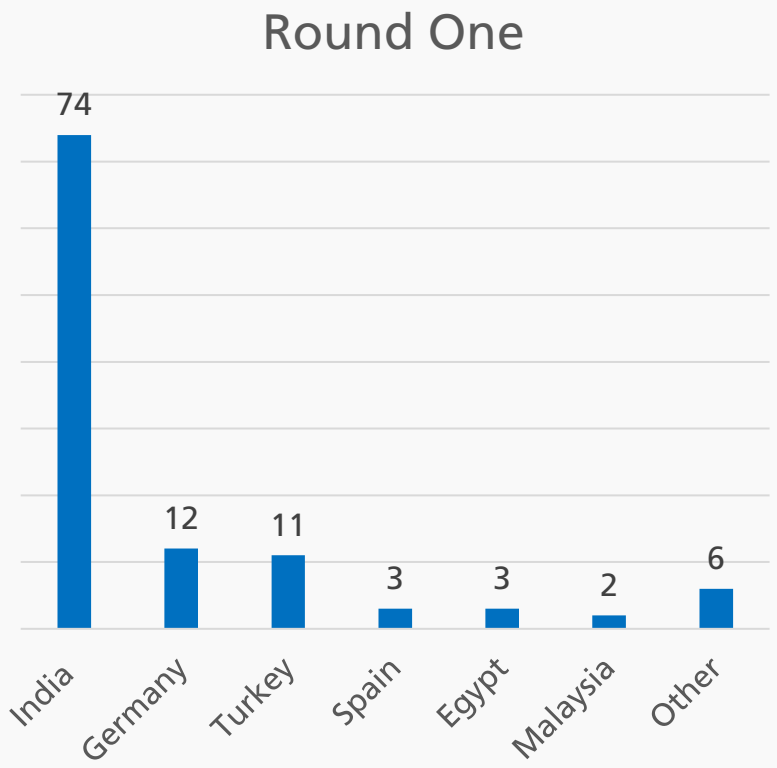
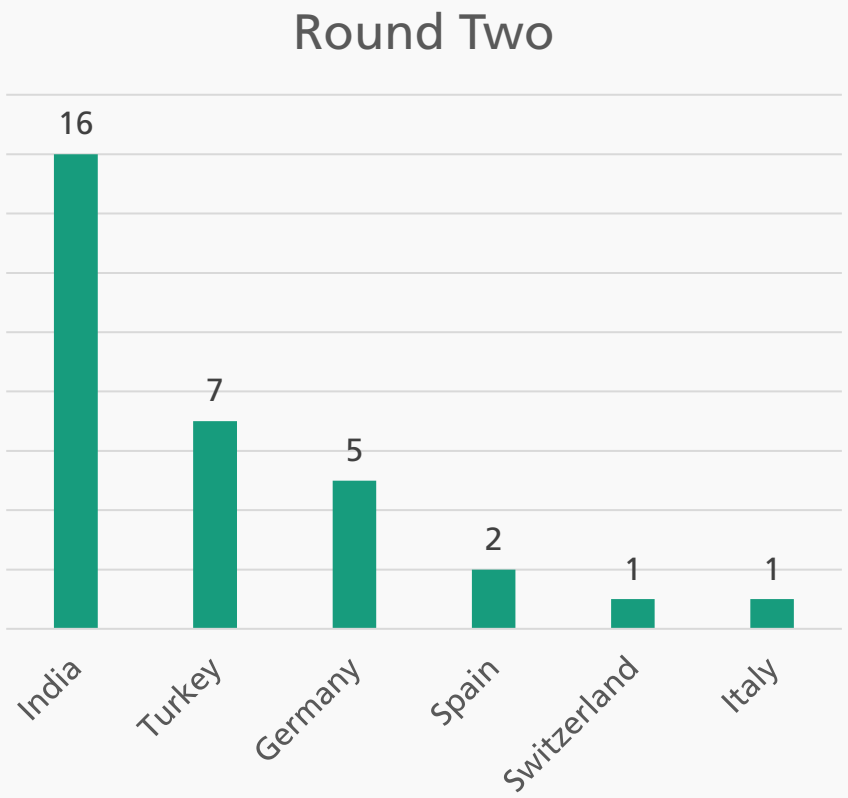
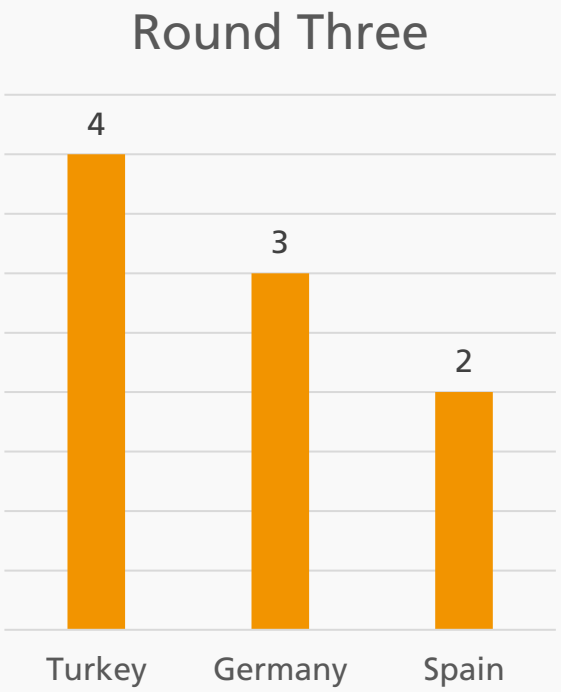
Changes in participation - Countries







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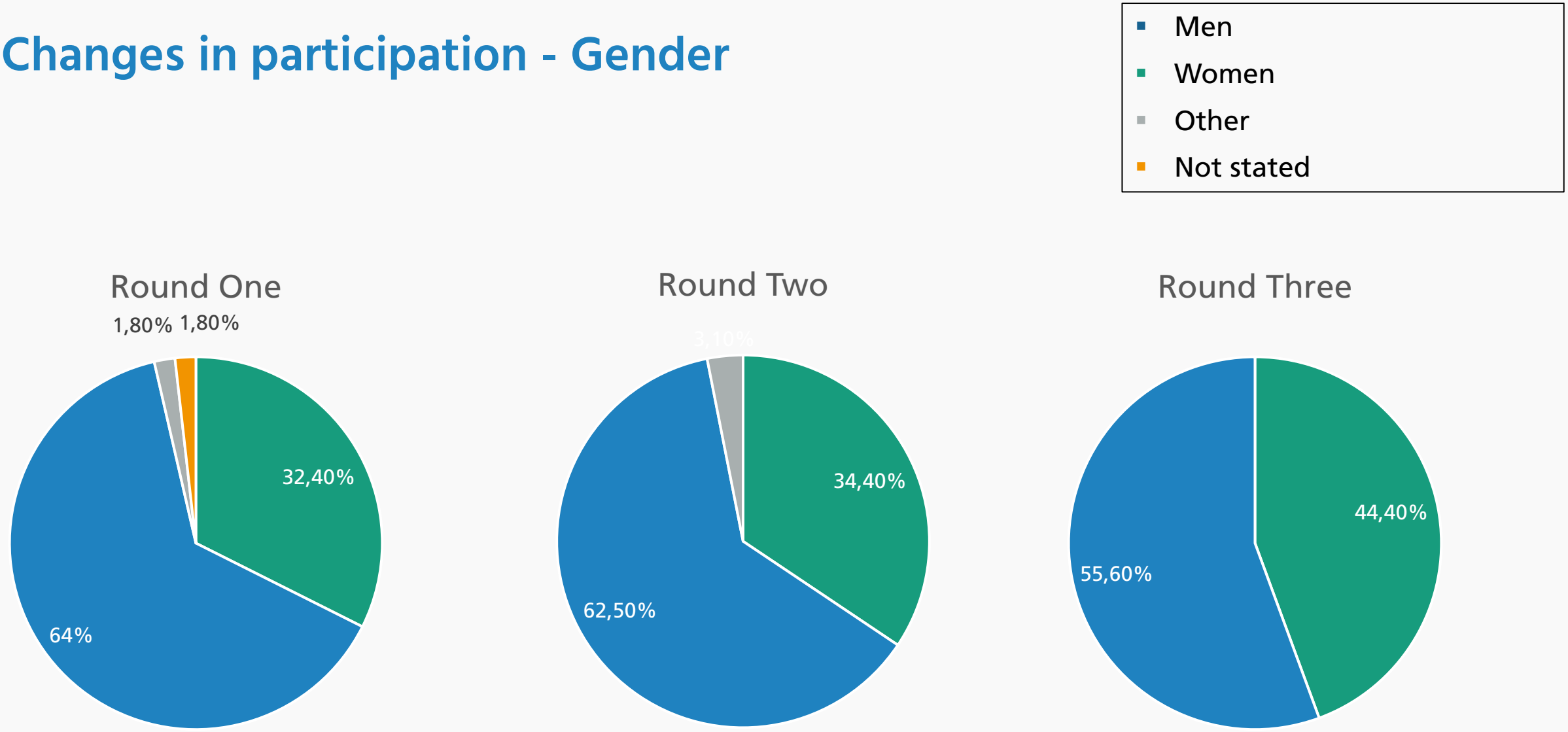
Changes in participation - Gender



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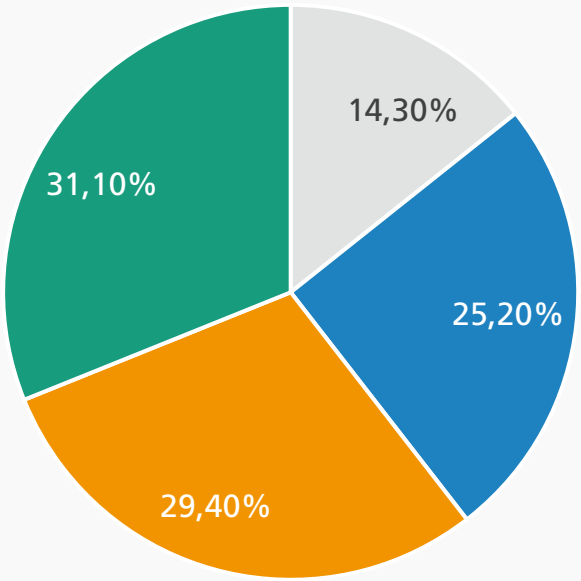
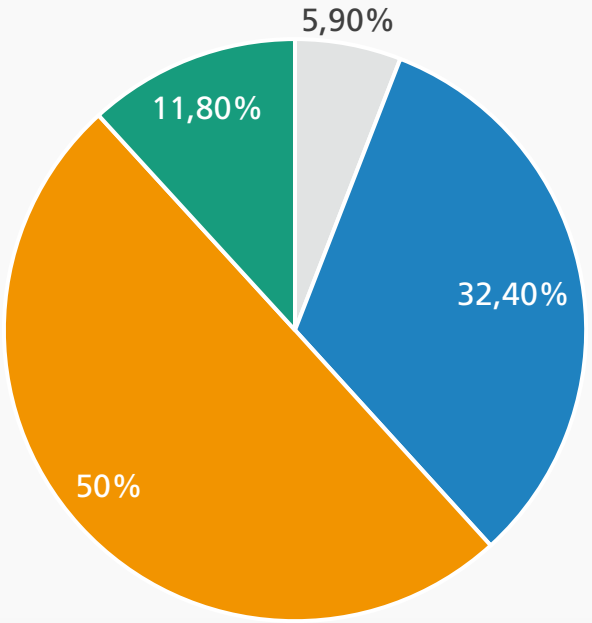
Changes in participation - Groups

- Troubled families
- Green minimalists
- Independent senior citizens
- Other

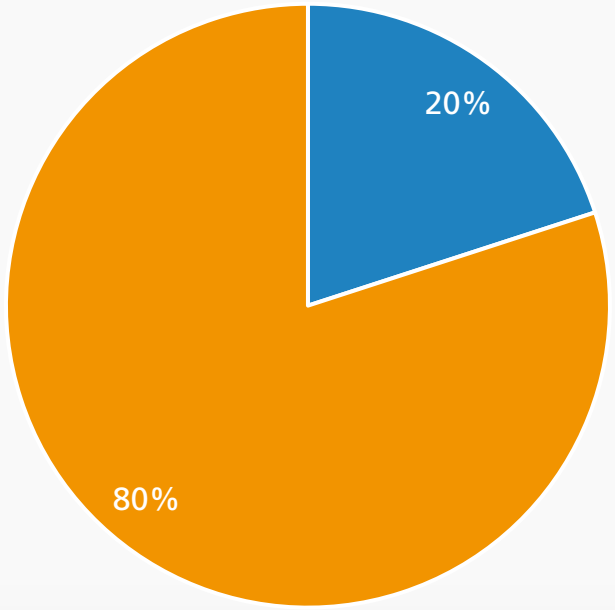
Round One



Round Two



Round Three



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