



Women’s Economic Empowerment TechSprint

AIR--The Alliance for Innovative Regulation -- is partnering with the UK’s Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) to address the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on women. By jointly hosting a global virtual TechSprint, we aim to empower women by exploring innovation that increases financial inclusion, resilience and access.

Women’s economic empowerment is essential for the health and wellbeing of individuals and families, and is a critical component of thriving economies. Our goal is to convene parallel TechSprints in the UK, the US and potentially additional hubs representing emerging markets in Africa and Asia. The teams will focus on use cases and personas designed specifically for each hub, and the prototype solutions will be aggregated and published as a global toolkit. Our goal is to have women represent 75% of participants.

The Opportunity

A TechSprint is a collaboration exercise that brings together disparate groups of people to accelerate problem solving and create rapid prototypes of technology solutions. There are many ways to get involved - join a hacker team, recruit hackers, or sign on as an expert. This is an inclusive event that will promote a culture of “women helping women”, raise the profile of women in technology, and put forth solutions to drive women’s empowerment.

Virtual TechSprint Details

Dates	March 22-25 (Three days of solutioning plus Demo Day on Thursday, March 25)
Draft Problem Statement	How can we use technology and innovation to help empower women to manage their financial lives to strengthen their independence and security?
Draft Use Cases	Focus on the ability to create a holistic profile of the impacted woman using traditional and non-traditional data, the attestation of her identity and creditworthiness, and the ability for market participants to securely access this information.
Participants	Regulators, Banks, Fintechs, Regtechs, Advocates, Academics
Virtual conference	We will host an adjacent conference focused on the acute nature of the challenges facing women and leverage global expertise to foster cross-fertilisation of ideas and solutions

Get Involved

If you or a colleague are interested in participating on a team (see Page 2 for roles) or if you would like to be kept informed about opportunities to observe the TechSprint, please complete this [short application form](#).

Learn More

- For more about the impact that COVID-19 is having on women, read the UN’s paper [From Insights to Action: Gender Equality in the Wake of COVID 19](#)



Sprint Team Roles

Team Leader

In addition to a team role, leaders will be responsible for curating their teams based on the database of participants. They will manage the team's timeline and deliverables, act as the point person for TechSprint organizers, and join a daily scrum session during the TechSprint.

Designer

Designers are the "big ideas persons" who can make unicorns and hit moonshots. Designers know the right design to make the moving parts fit together seamlessly.

Front End Developer

Front End Developers make buttons do stuff, make screens transition, convert design to functionality, ensure the user flow works correctly.

Back End Developer

Back End Developers work with APIs, know data well, and are prepared to manipulate it for good. They glue stuff together to make it all work seamlessly.

Subject Matter Expert

SMEs have in-depth knowledge about the subject matter of the TechSprint, the industry, and operating processes that help drive decisions. SMEs shape the product to avoid pitfalls. Each SME should provide a detailed overview of her or his unique focus area.

Communicator

Communicators work on product descriptions and presentations to make them irresistible commodities and present team updates to TechSprint Observers. Communicators can also supplement the team leaders in talking with the TechSprint organizers about the teams' progress without disrupting their colleagues. Communicators may also be tapped to share updates with VIPs, Doctors, or Observers of the TechSprint.

About AIR

AIR is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promote fair finance -- financial inclusion, consumer financial health through the digital modernization of the financial regulatory system. Cofounded by Jo Ann Barefoot and David Ehrich, AIR generates thought leadership, convenes discussion, demonstrates solutions, and hosts a podcast show on innovation. In July 2020, AIR issued the [Regtech Manifesto](#). In 2021, AIR is launching the Fair Finance Accelerator to build open source tools for regulators that will promote racial justice and gender inclusion.