

Challenge Agent Involvement in a Challenge

What to expect, as a challenge agent, in terms of time investment and involvement throughout a CBL course.

Within a challenge there are different phases that take place in terms of organising the course. As a challenge agent your contribution is very important throughout, and includes different level of involvement depending on the different phases. In the visual below you can get an overview of the different phases and expected involvement and more elaborated explanation per phase.



I. Preparatory Phase

This is the beginning of the collaboration between the challenge agent and the organisation of the challenge, prior the actual start of the challenge. In this phase the definition of the challenge is co-developed, and the expectations of the final deliverables and the collaboration are defined.

For example in this phase, the kind of solutions that the challenge agent could expect are defined, or the criteria for a desirable solution, the hours of investment in the challenge that are required from the challenge agent, the moments that they are asked to join and the type of input they are requested to provide, the way that they would like to communicate with the students and the organisation of the challenge. Besides this the challenge agent can offer resources for the challenge such as: experts that can join as guest speakers or to provide a workshop for the students, contacts for the students to reach out and receive advise for their solutions, physical spaces for students to work, tools and technology needed for the students to develop their solutions, costs for the organisation of events. Such decisions and arrangements are important to be made in the beginning of the collaboration with the challenge agent.

Key points:

- Co-define challenge topic, together with course coordinator.
- Co-define expectations for final deliverable
- Co-define expectations on collaboration
- Provide input on the content and advise on expertise needed, also via their own network
- Decide whether the challenge agent will provide coaches/experts for the challenge
- Agree on contact/meeting/feedback moments

II. During a challenge

When the challenge starts, the challenge agent is invited to present to the students the challenge definition together with the core team organizing the course. During this moment the challenge agent shares experience and reason for discussing this particular challenge, and clarifies expectations regarding the final deliverables. This is the first introduction of the challenge agent to the students and vice versa, so it's important to give space and time for this meeting, and make sure that the information shared are in line with the course information.

Depending on the duration of the course, students (teams) will have more meetings with the challenge agent – and other stakeholders of course. These meetings will be mainly opportunities for providing feedback and co-creating with the students, taking the solution further towards the final product. This feedback can be given in various forms (written/spoken, formal/informal), depending on the arrangements that are made in the start of the collaboration. Other than that, the challenge agent contacts/ network can join as guests throughout the challenge as experts, trainers, audience, coaches for the students.

Key points:

- Present the challenge topic and why is this important
- Share expectations
- Share relevant information/content to the challenge topic
- Meeting with students
- Provide feedback to students
- Connect students to people from network connected to the topic
- Arrange location for events (optional)

III. Wrap up

By the end of the course, students (teams) would have delivered their final solution and according to the assessment plan of the educational team, the challenge agent could or not be part of the final assessment. Other than the assessment though there is also the question of what happens with the winning solution, and whether the challenge agent would take an active role in supporting the students to apply their solution in the “real world”.

Key points:

- Provide feedback to final deliverables
- Assess final deliverable (optional)
- Scaling up final deliverable (preferable)