

THE
ENGINE
ROOM

Accelerating social change

Our support types and goals for 2016 and 2017

June 2016

Purpose of this document

This document outlines the support types of The Engine Room, and our goals for 2016 and 2017:

1. Who we support and why
2. An overview of the purpose, intended impact, and duration of The Engine Room engagements
3. Detailed descriptions of our short, medium, and long-term support types
4. Ongoing metrics for different engagement types

[For more, you can find our organisational strategy **here.**]

Who we support.

We support any and all social change initiatives that meet these **basic criteria**:

- **We have the skills and resources** to meet the request
- We believe that **the project has a good chance to contribute to positive social change***
- We believe that providing **support can lead to useful learning**
- We believe **the partner will collaborate** diligently, and has networks and resources to follow through

* We define **positive social change** as shifts in society that promote equality, access to justice, exercise of rights, good governance, and accountability.

Number of engagements in 2016

Engagement



Events & Communities of Practice (CoP)

Short-term 1-3 days

Medium-term 1-6 months

Long-term 6+ months

Purpose

Cultivate key communities of practice, matchmake within them	Network with change agents across sectors, provide strategic support to a large number of projects	MeTS support key project, research builds sector knowledge, replication sprints scale our support model	Support of key projects, reusable documentation for more efficient replication, norm-setting
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Impact

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Project-levelOrg-levelSector-level | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Project-level | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Project-levelSector-level | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Organizational-levelSector-level |
|--|---|--|---|

Income % w/ Earned



Our short, medium, and
long-term **support types**

Light Touch Support (LiTS)

2015: 43 2016: **100** | 2017: **200**

These engagements are available to any organization that reaches out for support.

They are a combination of conversations, matchmaking, resource curation, strategic planning, and idea refinement.

They are designed to provide actionable, customised assistance in: project design, desk research on technical options, comparable project research, stakeholder analysis, scoping concrete outcomes, potential pitfalls, and overall advising in concrete ways to positively adjust the trajectory and definition of a project. Light Touch Support has three levels of intensity: **LiTS Basic**, **LiTS Intermediate**, and **LiTS Intense**. Some partners will move through each level of intensity, and can potentially move into other types of engagements depending on how the project and relationship develops.

LiTS Basic

2016: 40 | **2017: 120**

LiTS Basic is the lowest intensity type of support. It can include matchmaking with relevant resources, email exchanges to fine-tune a project idea or recommend a tool, one conversation about project strategy, less than an hour of desk research to explore tools, and referring an initiative to another support organisation with a careful and thorough introduction.

LiTS Intermediate

2016: 30 | **2017: 50**

LiTS Intermediate is the mid-range type of light-touch support. It can include 1-3 hours of desk research to advise on tools, 2-3 strategic conversations about the project, desk research on comparable projects, matchmaking with similar projects, relevant support organisations, and potentially contractors that can help carry out the work.

LiTS Intense

2016: 30 | **2017: 30**

LiTS Intense is the highest level of support we can go in LiTS. It can include 2-3 strategic conversations about a project concept, budgeting support, writing assistance or editing of proposals or other project documents, original research or document drafting to support the project, introductions to relevant funders, coaching on data and technology strategy.

Medium Touch Support (MeTS)

2015: 19 2016: 25 | 2017: 35

These engagements are available to any organisation that reaches out for support. They are more in-depth in nature than LiTS, in that they involve implementation of data and technical components, in addition to strategic planning support. They are between 1-6 months in length and the outcomes of MeTS can include: a completed database, website, technical specifications document, business case for fundraising to build a larger scale technical initiative, scoping or feasibility studies, wireframing and information architecture for a large-scale project, planning workshops, and more. These projects are most often earned income projects, but partners come from a variety of sectors and sizes. Earned income MeTS comprises 30% of our income. We plan for this proportion to continue through 2017.

Research and Documentation Projects

2015: 7 2016: 10 | 2017: 12

We carry out different types of research when we think a more rigorous examination of a problem or a question will help us and others be more effective. We do careful collection and organising of complex information or processes like state-of-the-art in sectors and technical possibilities for solving particular problems. Research that is suitable for consideration within academia. We lean increasingly toward documentation so we can produce more, faster, on a larger number of topics.

Practitioner Events

2015: 8 2016: 10 | 2017: 10

We support organisations to more productively collaborate internally, with peers, and across sectors.

We develop event strategies and facilitate convenings with organisations when we are uniquely positioned to do so, and when our support would induce meaningful improvement to the organisation's productivity.

This includes events like the Asylor volunteer summit, the School of Data Summer Camp, and the Rainforest Network SE Asia Camp.

This engagement also contributes to our earned income stream.

Replication Sprints

2015: 0 2016: 2 | 2017: 4

Replication sprints are designed to reuse technical and data components from prior Matchbox partnerships (**next slide**) or The Engine Room projects to solve a specific problem for new partners.

It is an attempt to increase the speed, without lowering the quality of the Matchbox support we provide.

It improves available documentation of the published components of projects, and allows us to replicate projects while respecting context.

Matchbox Partnerships

2015: 7 2016: 10 | 2017: 15

Our Matchbox partnerships involve collaborative work with partners for in-depth 6+ months engagements on complex data and technology projects. Predominantly we work with transparency and accountability projects, but we have also been rolling out in-country Matchbox projects in other sectors and other regions, and Matchbox partnerships with INGOs like Amnesty International. These partnerships deliver project-level impact alongside organizational transformation and have potential to positively impact entire sectors. These are often pro bono, and in partnership with small initiatives and organizations.

Communities of Practice (CoP)

Before 2016: 33 2016: 30 | 2017: 50

The Engine Room operates between many communities. As such, we have been able to identify communities of practice that do not exist, but should, and to engage in those communities that are important to invest in to work towards our mission. In the past two years we have developed and contributed to an Organisational Security and Responsible Data CoP, and are working toward developing a Matchbox CoP. CoP engagements include: organising convenings connected to CoPs we are a part of or have started; facilitating discussions on mailing lists or webinars; developing publications and resources meant to serve CoPs.

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