

# PoC: Success through Build-a-thon

Presented during  
FG-AN Workshop on "Advances in Autonomous  
Networks: 2023 and beyond"  
Geneva, Switzerland, 24 October 2023

**24 Oct 2023**

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**Independent expert (India)**

# FG-AN: Build-a-thon intro

**Create a distributed eco-system:** In collaboration with ITU AI/ML in 5G Challenge enable participants to connect with new partners in industry and academia (<https://aiforgood.itu.int/ai-ml-in-5g-challenge/>).

**Diverse participation:** A mix of participants (not only data scientists) from various backgrounds came together to solve problems, and students were provided mentoring by experts.

Publish solutions in <https://www.itu.int/pub/S-JNL-VOL2.ISSUE4>  
<https://www.itu.int/pub/S-JNL-VOL3.ISSUE2-2022>

**Create practical implementations :** the Build-a-thon was more than just predictions and inferences, but also about coding and proving the concepts in FG specifications.

I have a question!!!

<https://github.com/vrra/FGAN-Build-a-thon/discussions>

## What is a Build-a-thon?

Build-a-thon is an almost year long PoC activity led by ITU-T FG AN.

It is aligned with ITU AI/ML 5G Challenge and offered as a problem statement

## Who can participate in the Build-a-thon?

Anyone can. For example - you could be a student, a startup, a small enterprise, a university professor, from anywhere.

## How can I register?

<https://github.com/vrra/FGAN-Build-a-thon/issues/new/choose>

**Register for Build-a-thon 2023**

Register for Build-a-thon 2023

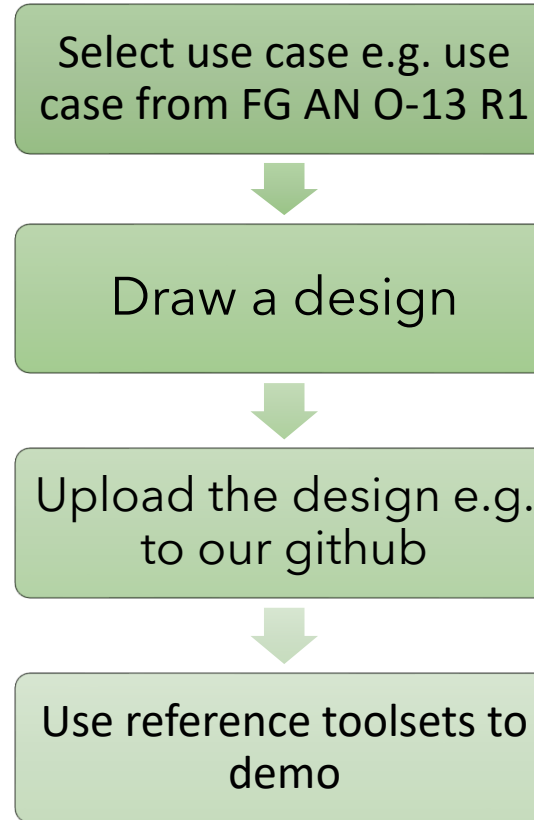
# FG-AN: PoC activities

## PoC / Build-a-thon 2021, 2022, 2023

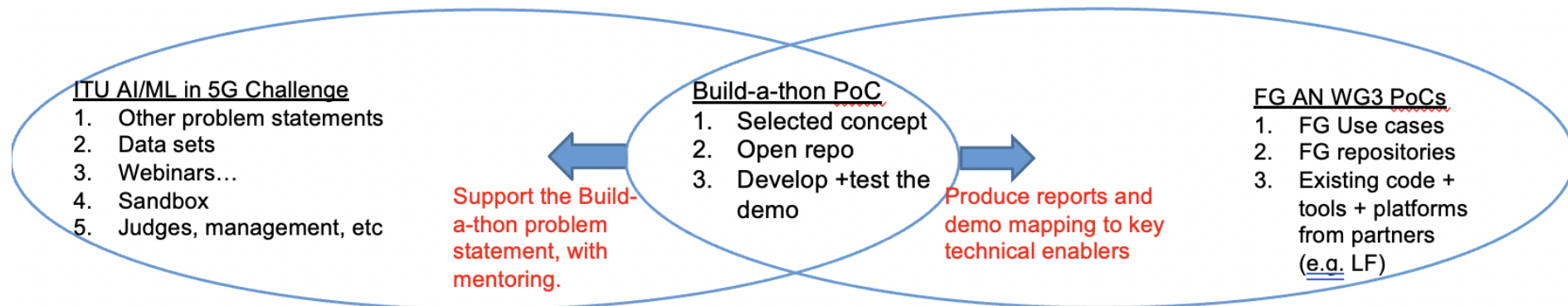
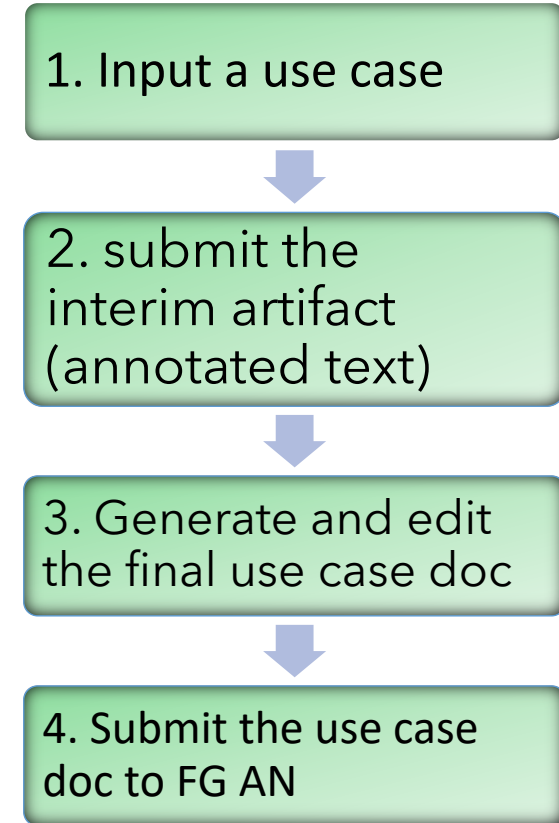
Progressing proof of concept activities. In conjunction with the ITU AI/ML in 5G Challenge under the Build-a-thon initiative.

Proving concepts **practically** with codes, test setup and demo setup

### 2022 PoC




### 2023 PoC



# Rules: FGAN Build-a-thon

- FG AN Build-a-thon is open to anyone.
- **Participant-** you could be a student, a startup, a small enterprise, a university professor, from anywhere.  
You are welcome to form a team and submit solutions.
- We prepare mentoring sessions for you to code. You can find the notebooks [here](#).
- **Mentor:** If you are an experienced professional or teacher or professor or leader, we welcome your guidance in the form of mentoring to the teams.

# FG-AN: Deliverables

	INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION <b>TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION SECTOR</b> STUDY PERIOD 2022-2024	<b>FOCUS GROUP ON AUTONOMOUS NETWORKS (FG-AN)</b>  AN-O-028 <b>Original: English</b>
<b>Question(s):</b>	ITU FG AN WG3	Virtual, TBD, 2023
<b>INPUT DOCUMENT</b>		
<b>Source:</b>	Vishnu Ram OV, Rakuten Mobile, University of Glasgow, China Mobile	
<b>Title:</b>	Technical Report on Proof of Concept activities	
<b>Contact:</b>	Paul HARVEY University of Glasgow United Kingdom	E-mail: <a href="mailto:paul.harvey@glasgow.ac.uk">paul.harvey@glasgow.ac.uk</a>
<b>Contact:</b>	Leon WONG Rakuten Mobile Japan	E-mail: <a href="mailto:leon.wong@rakuten.com">leon.wong@rakuten.com</a>
<b>Contact:</b>	Xi CAO China Mobile P.R. China	Tel: +86 13911364997 E-mail: <a href="mailto:caoxi@chinamobile.com">caoxi@chinamobile.com</a>
<b>Contact:</b>	Xiaojia SONG China Mobile P.R. China	Tel: +86 15011488067 E-mail: <a href="mailto:songxiaojia@chinamobile.com">songxiaojia@chinamobile.com</a>
<b>Contact:</b>	Vishnu Ram OV Independent Expert India	Tel: +91 9844178052 E-mail: <a href="mailto:vishnu.n@ieee.org">vishnu.n@ieee.org</a>
<b>Keywords:</b>	Autonomous networks; Build-a-thon, PoC	
<b>Abstract:</b>	This contribution proposes a report to ITU-T SG13 on the PoC activities conducted by ITU FG AN during the period of 2020-2021 and 2021-2022. This technical report will also be made available at ITU-T FG-AN webpage.	

## Technical Report on Proof of Concept activities

FG-AN output document

Provides the technical report on the PoC activities conducted by ITU FG AN during the period.

The technical report is currently in the process of being published as FG AN deliverables and has been submitted to ITU-T SG13.

# ITU J-FET publications from our members

## 2022 paper based on Build-a-thon PoC



### Network resource allocation for emergency management based on closed-loop analysis

**Authors:** Guda Blessed, Ibrahim Aliyu, James Agajo, Thiago Lima Sarmento, Cleverson Veloso Nahum, Lucas Novoa, Rebecca Aben-Athar, Mariano Moura, Lucas Matni, Aldebaro Klautau, Deena Mukundan, Divyani R Achari, Mehmet Karaca, Doruk Tayli, Özge Simay Demirci, V. Udaya Sankar, Sai Jnaneswar Juvvisetty, V.M.V.S. Aditya, Abhishek Dandekar, Shabnam Sultana, Jinsul Kim, Vishnu Ram OV

**Status:** Final

**Date of publication:** 22 September 2022

**Published in:** ITU Journal on Future and Evolving Technologies, Volume 3 (2022), Issue 2, Pages 175-201

**Article DOI :** <https://doi.org/10.52953/HVPI8935>

## 2023 paper based on Build-a-thon PoC



### Build your own closed loop: Graph-based proof of concept in closed loop for autonomous networks

**Authors:** Jaime Fúster de la Fuente, Álvaro Pendás Recondo, Paul Harvey, Tarek Mohamed, Chandan Singh, Vipul Sanap, Ayush Kumar, Sathish Venkateswaran, Sarvasuddi Balaganesh, Rajat Duggal, Sree Ganesh Lalitaditya Divakarla, Vaibhava Krishna Devulapali, Ebeledike Frank Chukwubi, Emmanuel Othniel Eggah, Abel Oche Moses, Nuhu Kontagora Bello, James Agajo, Wael Alron, Fathi Abdeldayem, Melanie Espinoza Hernández, Abigail Morales Retana, Jackeline García Alvarado, Nicolle Gamboa Mena, Juliana Morales Alvarado, Ericka Pérez Chinchilla, Amanda Calderón Campos, Derek Rodríguez Villalobos, Oscar Castillo Brenes, Kodandram Ranganath, Ayushi Khandal, Rakshesh P Bhatt, Kunal Mahajan, Prikshit CS, Ashok Kamaraj, Srinwaynti Samaddar, Sivaramakrishnan Swaminathan, M Sri Bhuvan, Nagaswaroop S N, Blessed Guda, Ibrahim Aliyu, Kim Jinsul, Vishnu Ram

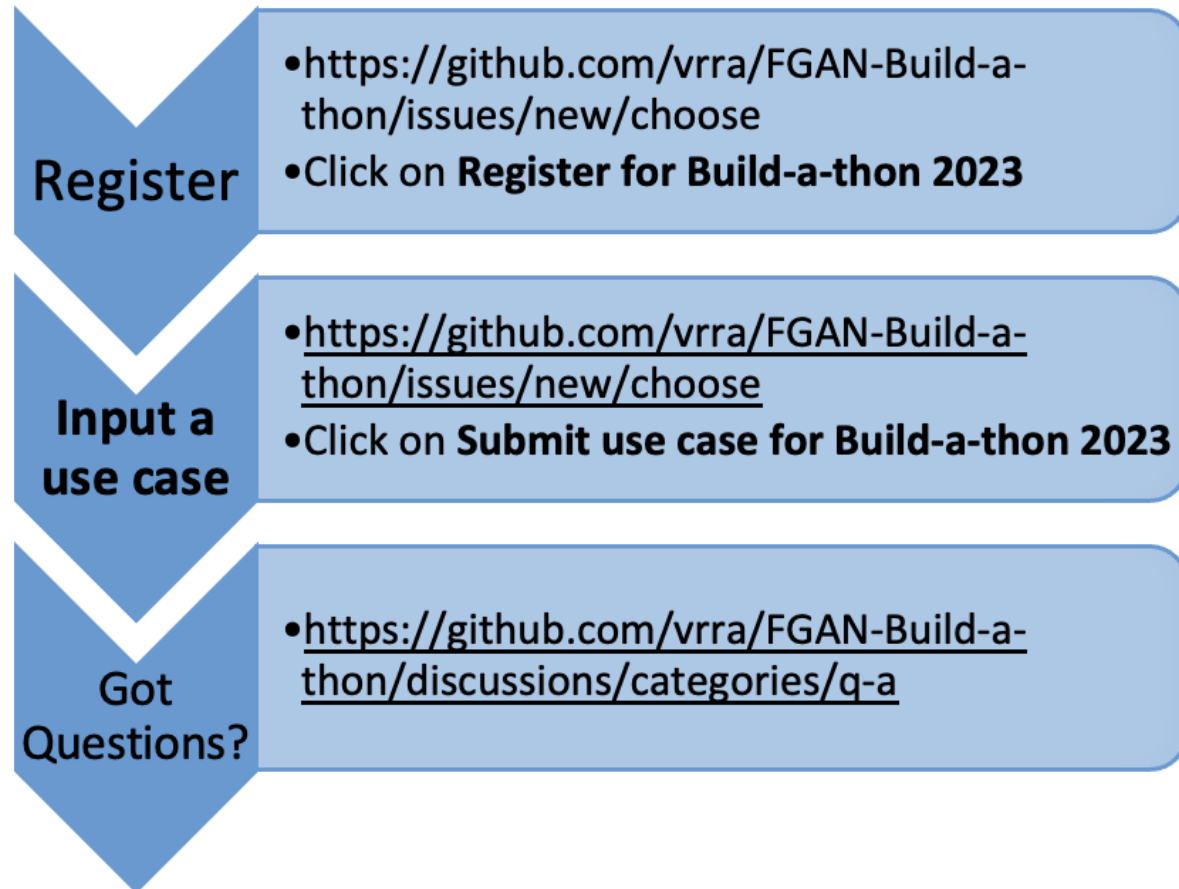
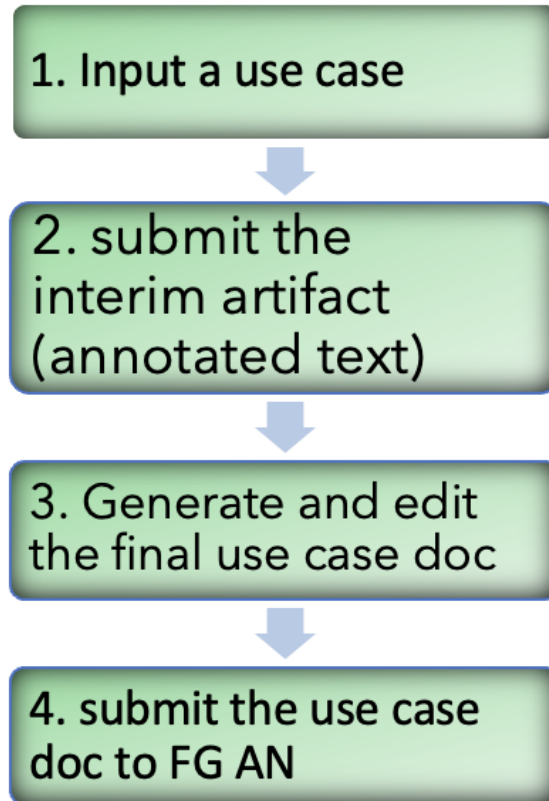
**Status:** Final

**Date of publication:** 14 September 2023

**Published in:** ITU Journal on Future and Evolving Technologies, Volume 4 (2023), Issue 3, Pages 503-536

**Article DOI :** <https://doi.org/10.52953/OPDK5666>

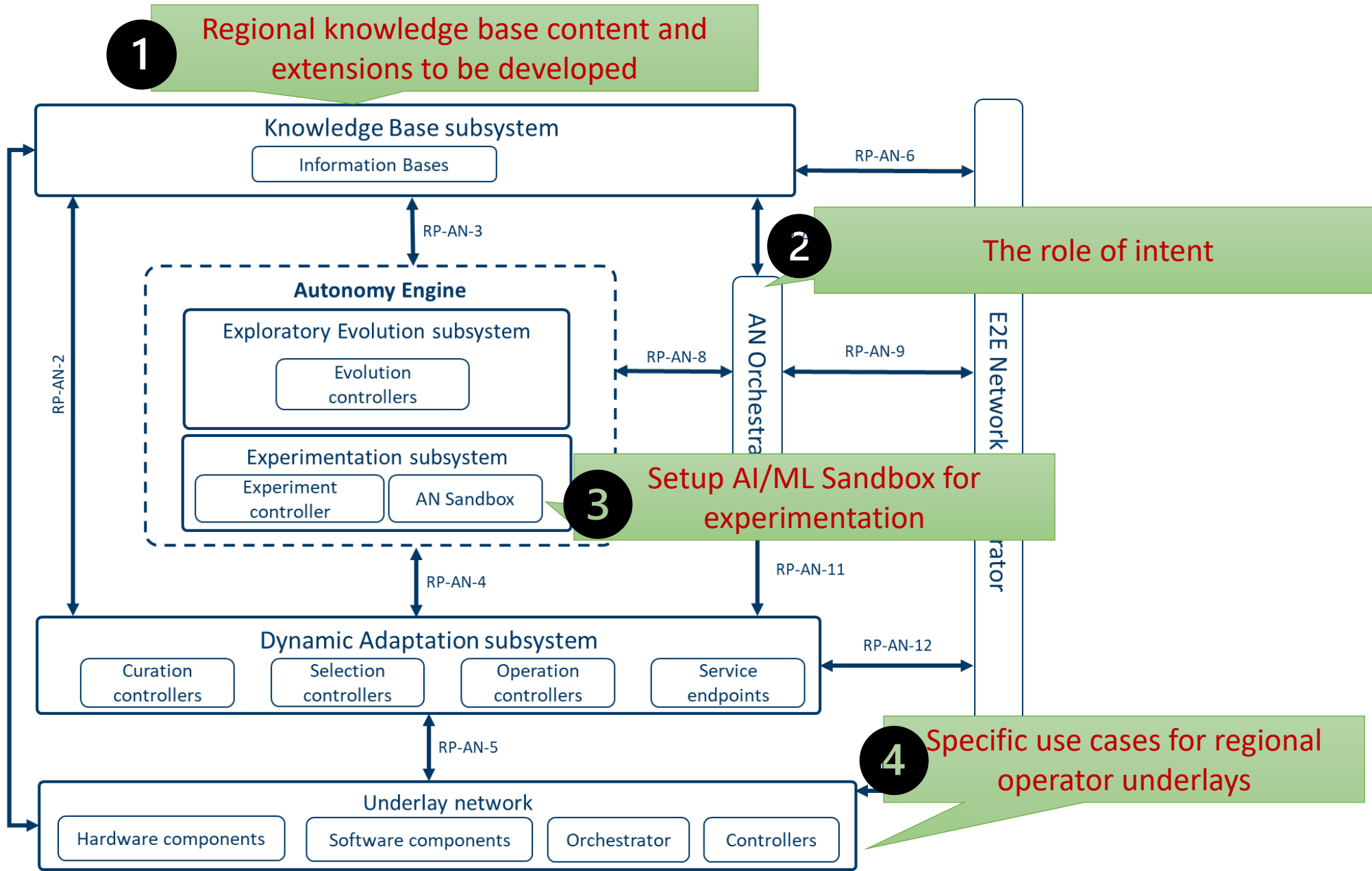
# FG-AN: Build-a-thon welcomes participation



**Register for Build-a-thon 2023**

Register for Build-a-thon 2023

# Futuristic opportunities for collaboration





# FG-AN Build-a-thon: Progress

## Build-a-thon 2022:

Build-a-thon Workshop Kickoff, 3 Jun 2022

Build-a-thon Workshop 2.0, 2 Sep 2022

Build-a-thon Workshop 3.0, 7 Nov 2022

## Build-a-thon 2023:

Build-a-thon Workshop Kickoff, 3 Feb 2023

Build-a-thon Workshop 2.0, 22 Apr 2023

Build-a-thon Workshop 3.0, 15 Jul 2023

Build-a-thon Workshop 4.0, 29 Sep 2023

# Events and Deadlines

Activity	Timeline
Registration opens	May 1
Dataset preparation (Graphs, reference parser)	June 3
2022 Build-a-thon kickoff workshop	June 3
Podcasts, webinars	May-June
Registration closes	31 Oct 2023
Mentoring support, round-tables with participants.	May-Sep
Last date for submissions by participants	28 Oct 2023
Judging and demo event	7 Nov 2023
Reports to ITU-T SG13	Nov/Dec
Grand Challenge Finale	Dec 2023

# FG-AN: Build-a-thon (PoC) 2021

Build-a-thon 2021 attracted 5 teams from across the globe. During the ITU Grand Challenge Finale Evaluation, 3 of the Build-a-thon teams presented their solutions to global audience. top team from 2021 FG AN Build-a-thon was presented with a prize courtesy Rakuten Mobile.

Home Problem Statement Datasets Forum

**AI for Good**  
Machine Learning  
in 5G Challenge

*Applying machine learning  
in communication networks*

ITU-ML5G-PS-014: Build-a-thon(PoC) Network resource allocation for emergency management based on closed loop analysis Team Number Submits  
Number 4 7 0

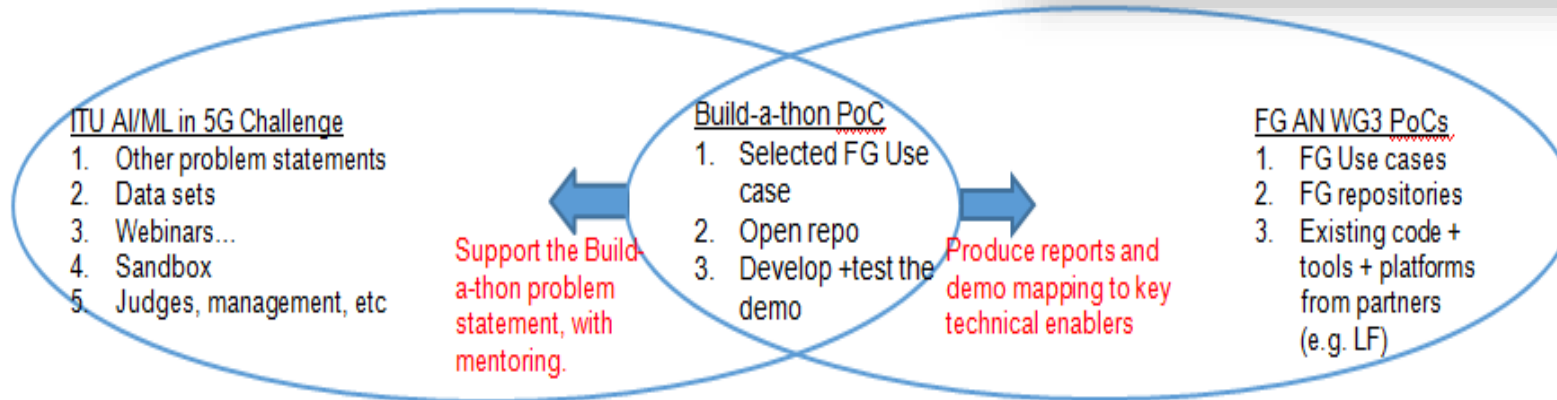
Registration period: 2021-06-14 - 2021-09-01

6-13 8-31 10 10-14 10-31 1 12-10 Login

Competition Phase Evaluation Final ranking ITU Judges Panel G...

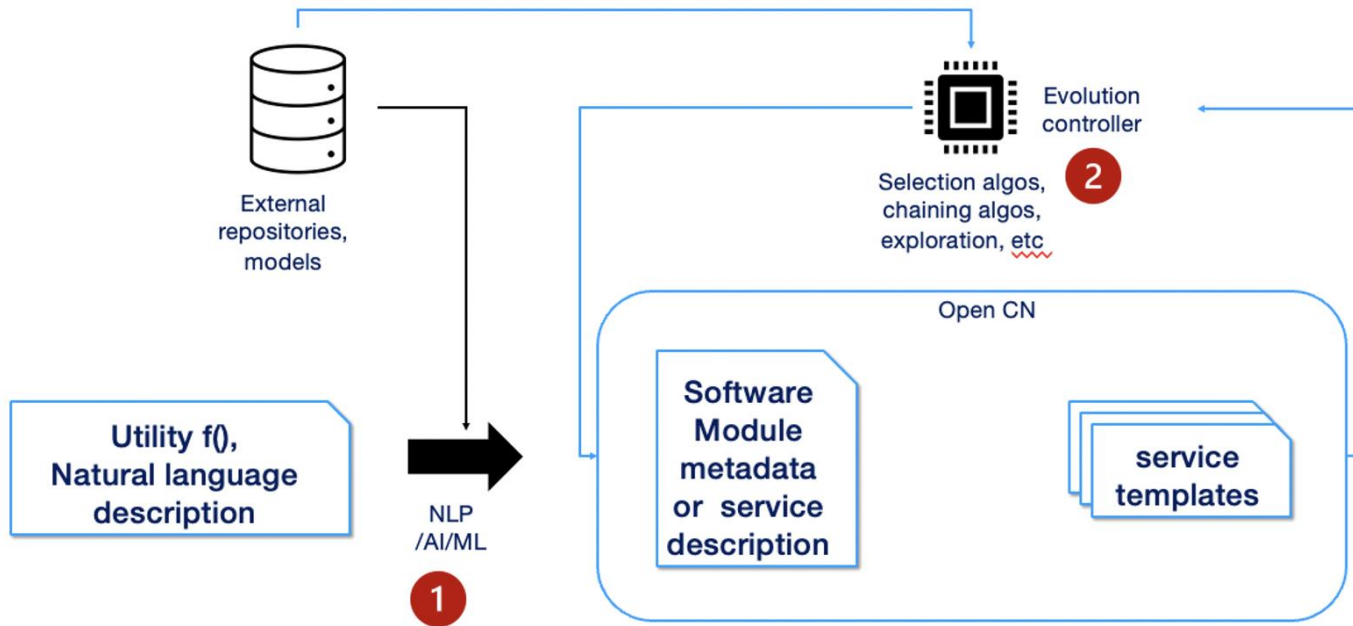
Introduction Player and Team Ranking

< Description Challenge Track/Theme Evaluation criteria Data source Resources Any contr >



# FG-AN: Build-a-thon (PoC) 2022

Create baseline representation of closed loops: “BYOC – Build your own closed loop”



Winners certificate: Awarded to winning teams in the following categories:

1st prize:  
ITU AI/ML in 5G  
Challenge Gold  
Champion  
Cash prize: 5000 CHF

2nd prize:  
ITU AI/ML in 5G  
Challenge Silver  
Champion  
Cash prize: 3000 CHF

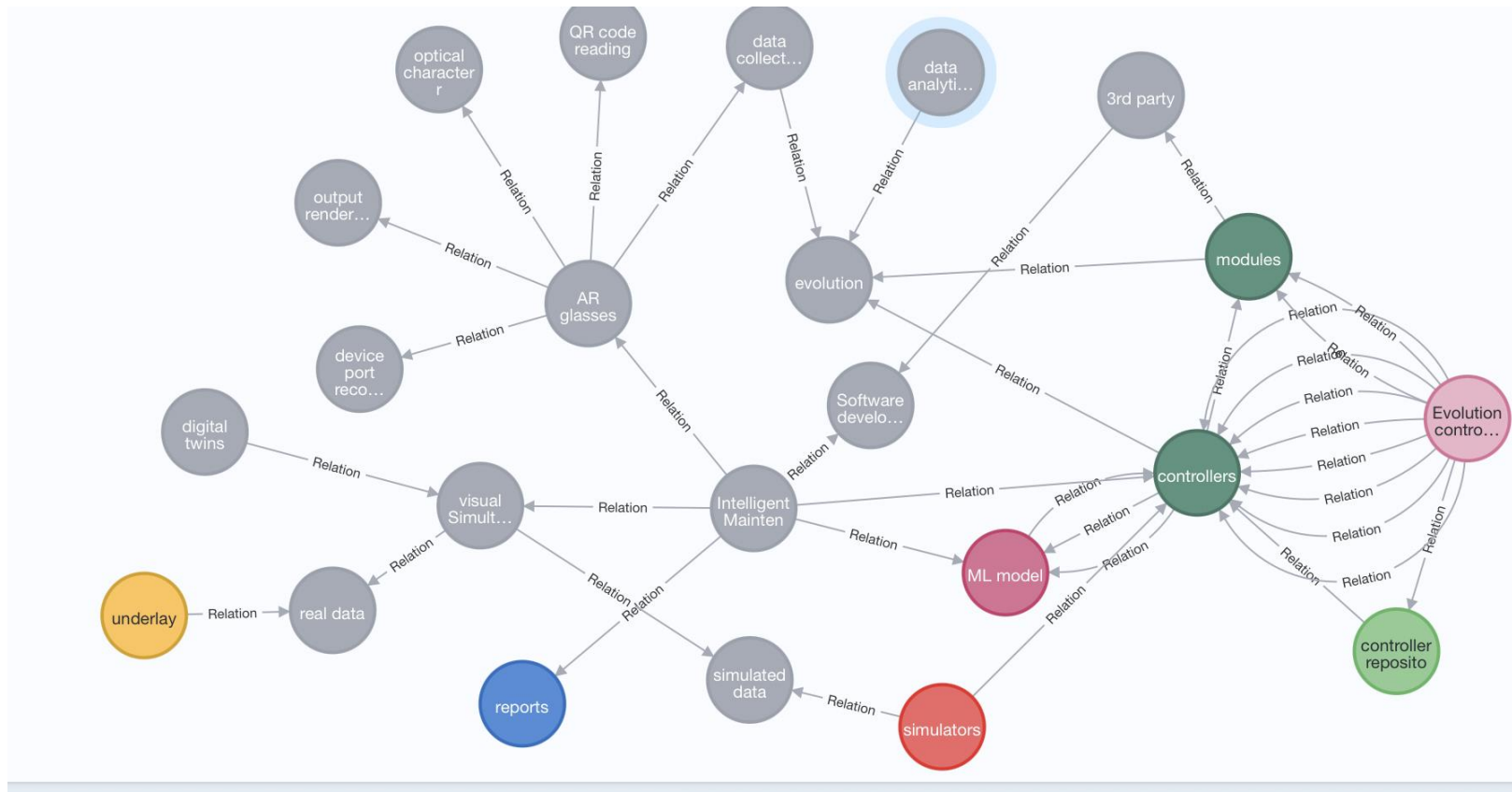
3rd prize:  
ITU AI/ML in 5G  
Challenge Bronze  
Champion  
Cash prize: 2000 CHF

- collaboratively create a crowdsourced, baseline representation for AN closed loops (controllers), review and analyse them, and publish them in an open repository.
- trigger technical discussions on the standard format for representing closed loops (controllers) with FG AN members and other stakeholders.
- Collate the learnings from this exercise
- Produce reference implementations of parser, “AN orchestrator” and “openCN” [[FGAN-O-013-R1](#)] and Evolution controller [[FGAN-I-198](#)].

# FG-AN-usecase-029: China Unicom

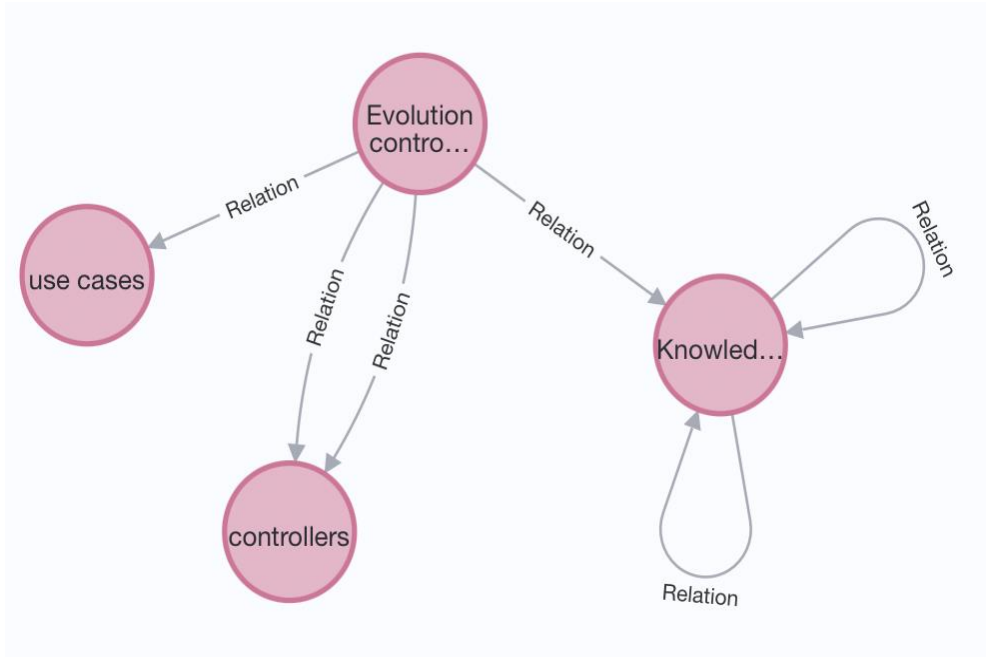
\*\*Graph below is generated from [notebook](#)

MATCH (n) where 'usecase\_029' in labels(n) return n

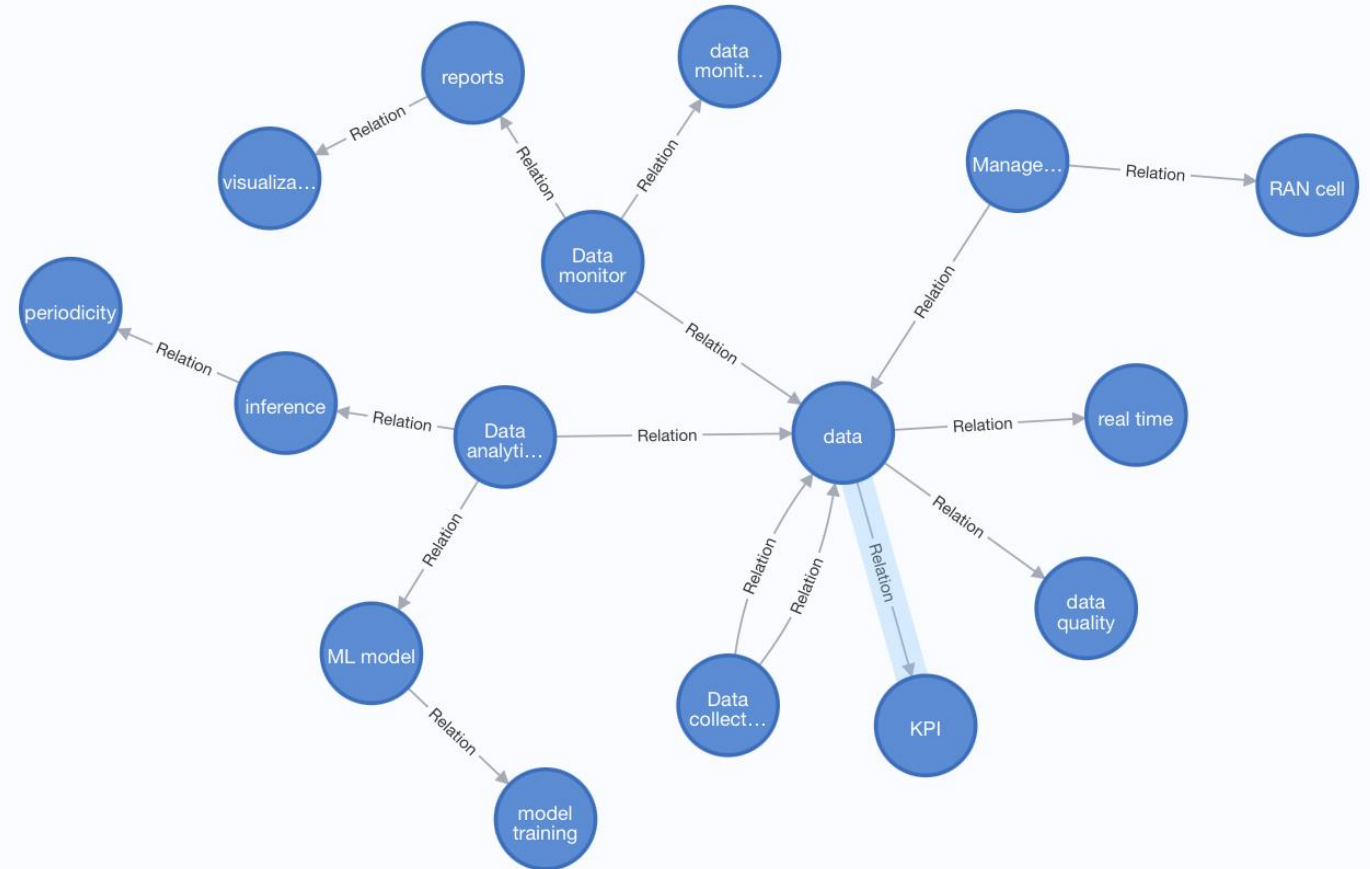


# FG-AN-usecase-006: China Telecom

\*\*Graph below is generated from [notebook](#)



MATCH (n) where 'usecase\_006\_cat1' in labels(n) return n

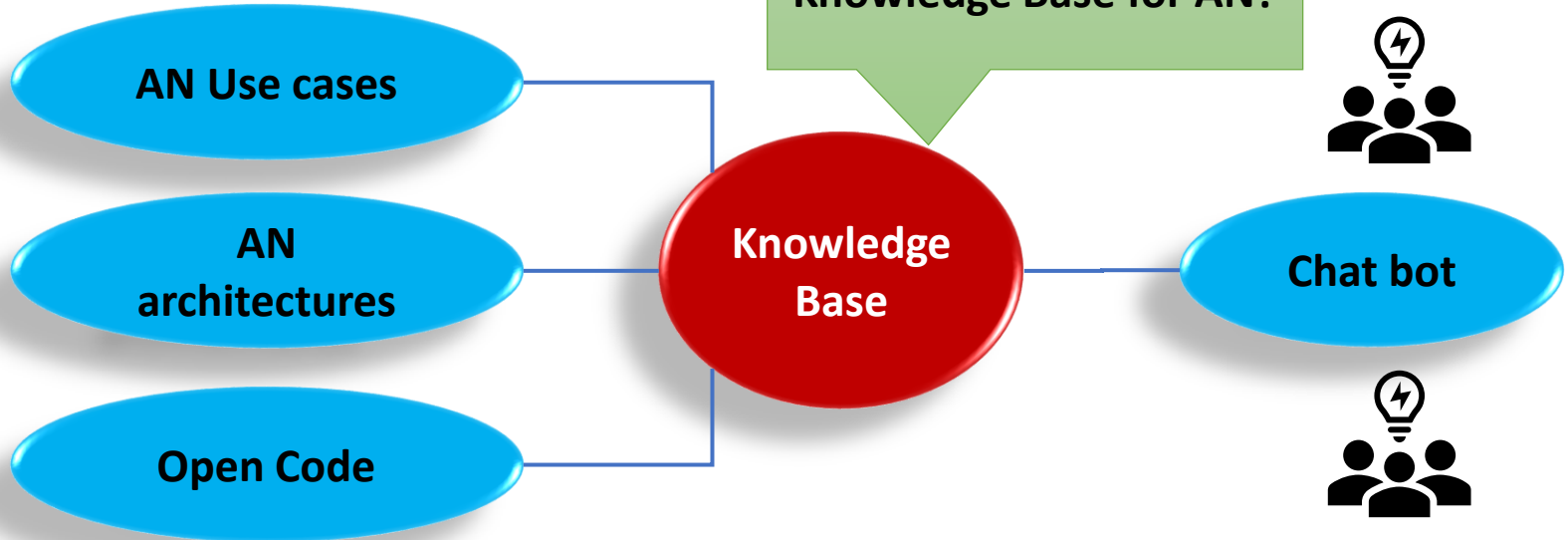


MATCH (n) where 'usecase\_006\_cat2' in labels(n) return n

# Call for collaboration: Build-a-thon

[FGAN-O-030/LS11](#)

LS on ITU FG AN Build-a-thon 2023



Scan me!

*Contributors and participants and Students*



- ITU is conducting Autonomous Network Build-a-thon
- A chatbot is trained to **assist** contributors and participants

<https://github.com/vrra/FGAN-Build-a-thon>

**ITU Events**

**Focus Group on Autonomous Networks BUILD-A-THON**

**Workshop 4.0**

Friday, 29 September 2023  
12:00 - 16:30 Geneva (CEST)

[itu.int/en/ITU-T/focusgroups/an/](https://itu.int/en/ITU-T/focusgroups/an/)

# ITU provides State-of the art compute platform for Challenge participants

I. Free GPU access



II. Jupyter Notebooks



III. Python IDE



Server

Main Motivations

Level the playing field

Common reference solutions based on standards

Encourage collaboration and quality submissions.

Create a Sandbox of cross-domain knowledge



# Problem statement for 2023?

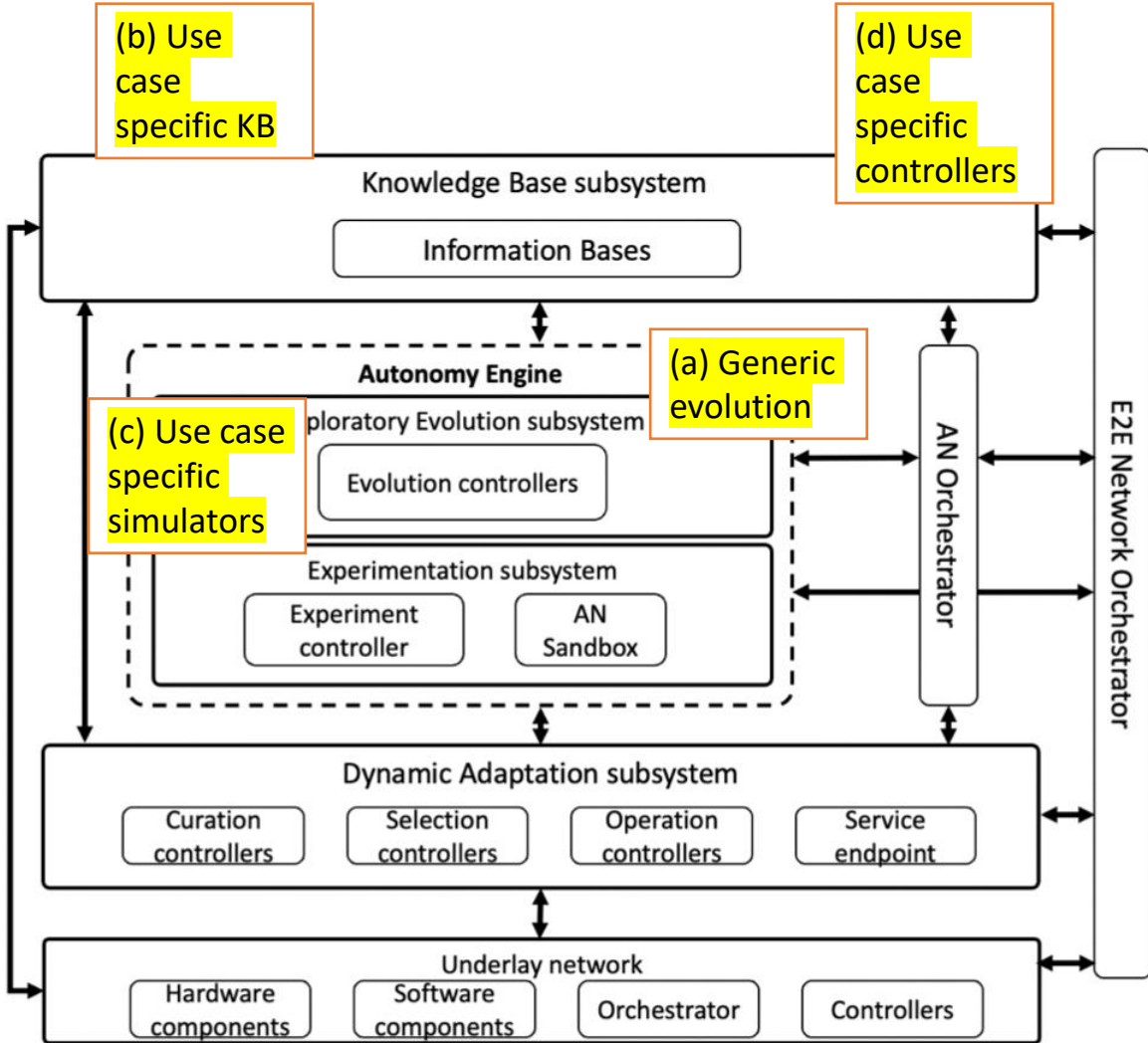


Figure 5: High-Level Framework for Autonomous Network

Problem statement options:

- 1) What is the End goal? Concepts that we would like to prove:
  - a) It is possible to plugin different **evolution mechanisms** as a service with clear but limited interfaces
  - b) It is possible to interoperate with **different knowledge bases** with clear but limited interfaces
  - c) It is possible to **host experimentation** in a Sandbox as a service with clear but limited interfaces
  - d) It is possible to **interoperate with different closed and open loops** and openCN repo with clear but limited interfaces.
- 2) Demos that you would like to see:
  - a) **Homework:** Demo of basic framework (KB, Autonomy Engine) which can be used by various participants - by June 2023
    - i. Reuse the code from 2022 (Digital twins, Innovnet, FUT Minna, etc)
  - b) **Challenge:** Demo of various participants using the framework for different use cases – by Dec 2023

# Expectations (at use case level) from the participant

1. **Text Input of use case:**
  - A. Type the use case in Slack (or a github form) in English
  - B. Graph based design is made automatically using NLP methods (or try existing pipeline tools such as Argilla)
2. **Click and submit the use case for Integration into the openCN**
  - A. Evolution at **use case level**: The generated graph based design is "integrated" into the overall "openCN".
    1. Immediately after submission, the graphs just co-exist as disjoint
    2. A periodic or async trigger for "property prediction" and "link prediction" is done, so that disjoint graphs may be included in the predictions.
  - B. Validation at use case level: Such integrations are validated
    1. By domain experts OR
    2. By automated scripts
    3. This feedback is then fed back to the prediction algos in 2.A.2 and the participant.
3. **Click and Generate use case doc** from the predicted subgraph
4. **Submit the doc** to FG AN.

# "Ninja" Extensions - for module level

1. **GUI based Input of controller modules:**
  - A. Generated from graph nodes (?)
  - B. Input as code from github by participants
2. **Click and Integrate controller modules into KB**
  - A. Evolution at **module level**: The generated or input components are "integrated" into the overall "openKB".
    1. Make sure the modules are packaged as containers with exposed APIs.
    2. pipelines of modules is made by stringing together the containers.
  - B. Validation at pipeline level: Such integrations are validated:
    1. By domain experts
    2. By automated scripts and simulators in Sandbox.
3. **Click and Generate the experimentation report**
4. **Submit the report** to FG AN.

# Expectations (at use case level) from the participant

mentors

## 1. Text Input of use case:

- A. Type the use case in Slack (or a github form) in English
- B. Graph based design is made automatically using NLP methods (or try existing pipeline tools such as Argilla)

Parse the sentence  
Make graph

For each step,  
Make small jupyter  
notebooks

## 2. Click and submit the use case for Integration into the openCN

- A. Evolution at **use case level**: The generated graph based design is "integrated" into the overall "openCN".
  1. Immediately after submission, the graphs just co-exist as disjoint
  2. A periodic or async trigger for "property prediction" and "link prediction" is done, so that disjoint graphs may be included in the predictions.
- B. Validation at use case level: Such integrations are validated
  1. By domain experts OR
  2. By automated scripts
  3. This feedback is then fed back to the prediction algos in 2.A.2 and the participant.

Traverse the graph  
Make graph analytics

Make videos/podcast for  
explaining the notebook  
usage.

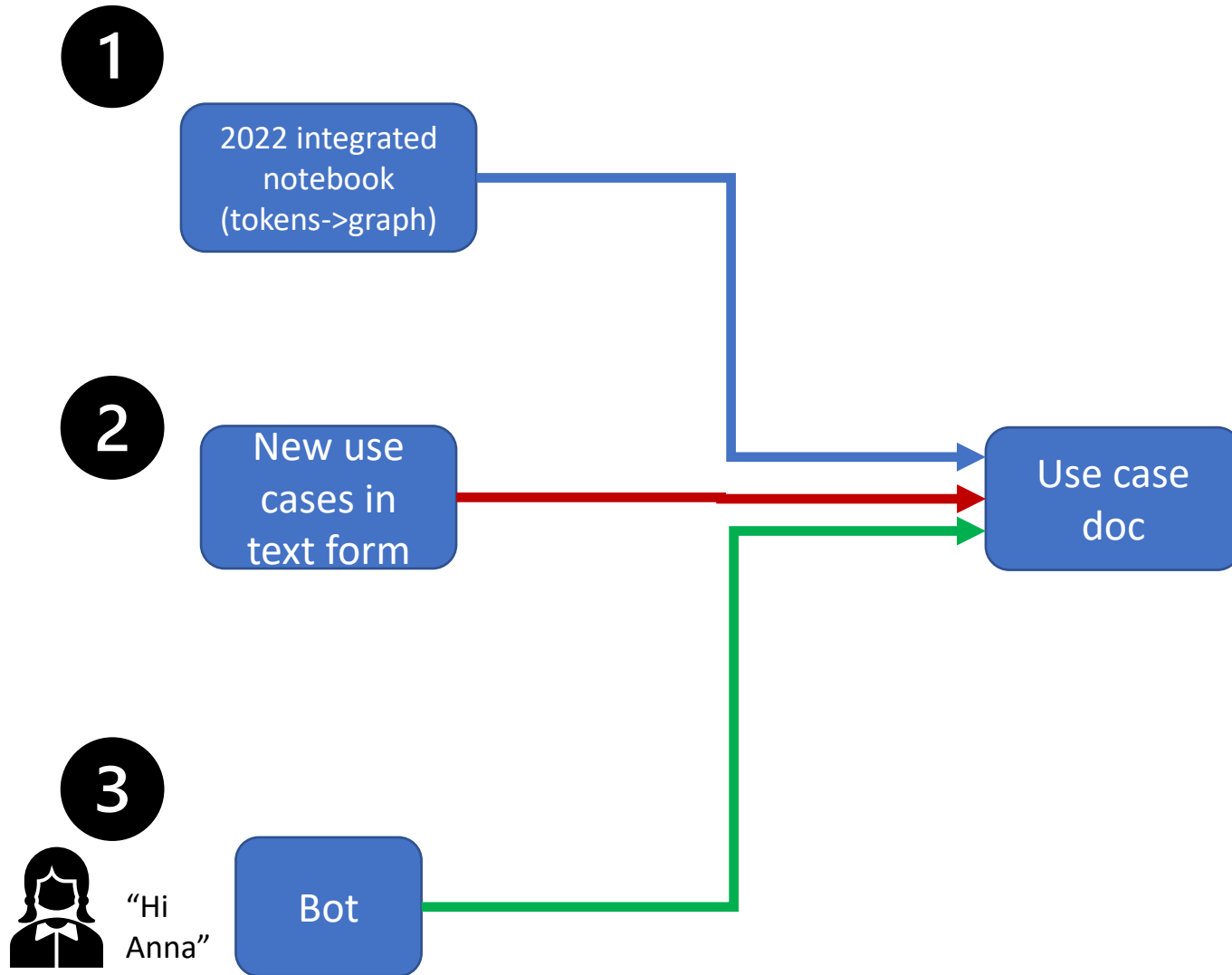
## 3. Click and Generate use case doc from the predicted subgraph

Interact with human expert

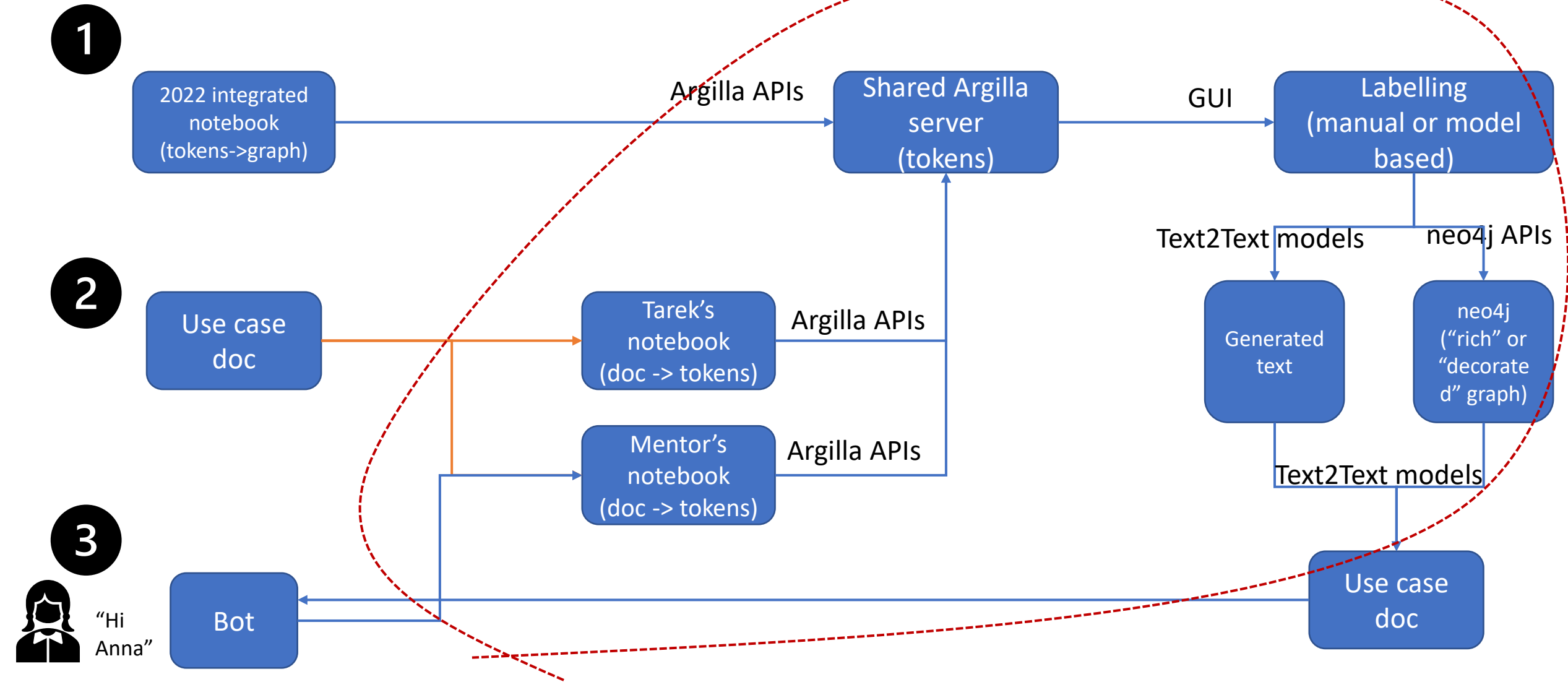
## 4. Submit the doc to FG AN.

Generate text from Graph

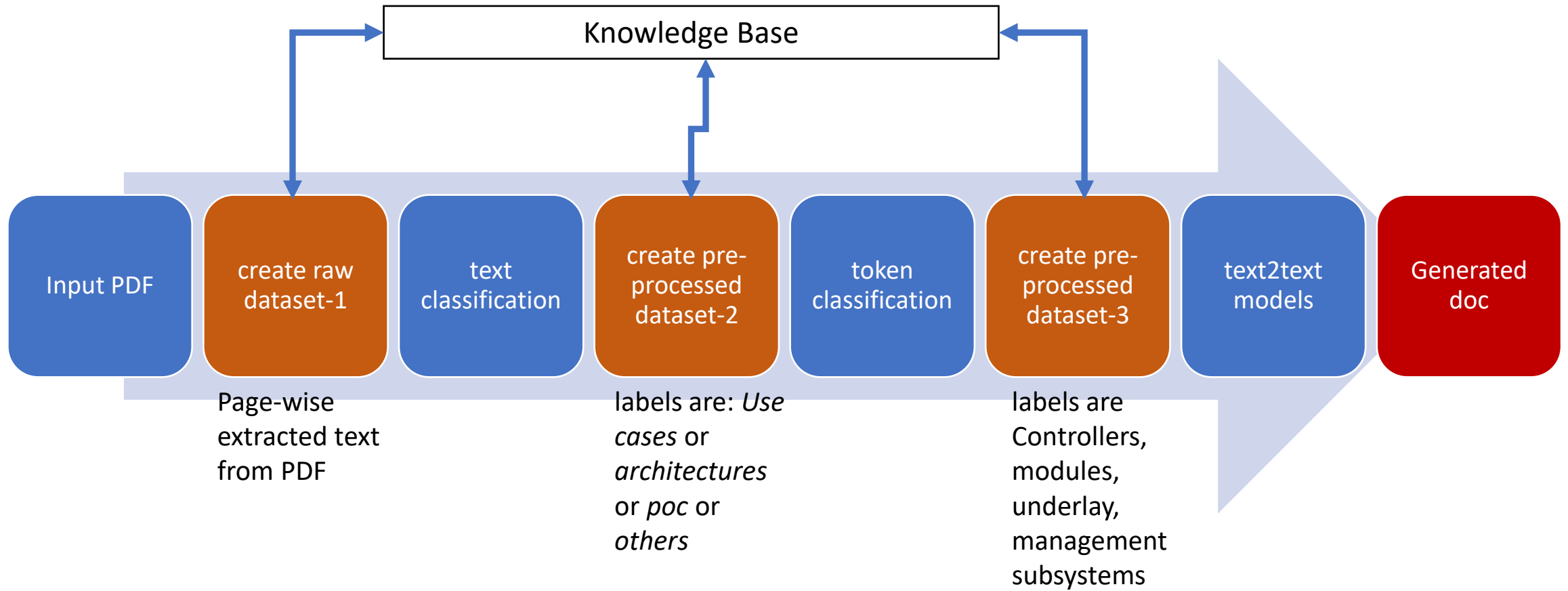
# Participants' view: Toolsets and notebooks and workflows



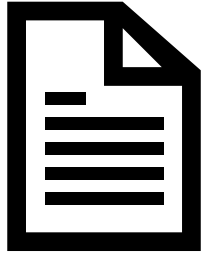
# Mentors' view: Toolsets and notebooks and workflows



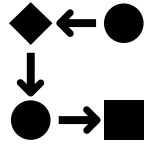
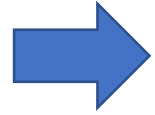
# A sample pipeline (1)



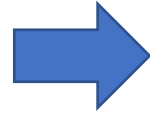
# A sample pipeline (2)



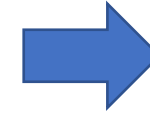
Github  
issue form



Github  
Actions



Upload dataset  
(argilla on HF  
spaces)



push dataset to  
on HF hub


[https://github.com/vrra/FGAN-Build-a-thon/blob/main/.github/ISSUE\\_TEMPLATE/submit-usecase-2023.yml](https://github.com/vrra/FGAN-Build-a-thon/blob/main/.github/ISSUE_TEMPLATE/submit-usecase-2023.yml)

<https://github.com/vrra/FGAN-Build-a-thon/blob/main/.github/workflows/sample-1.yml>

<https://github.com/vrra/FGAN-Build-a-thon/blob/main/Python/Scripts2023/PushRecordToArgilla-HF.py>

Available under:  
<https://huggingface.co/datasets/vishnu-ramov/ITU-T-Build-a-thon>

Datasets:  vishnuramov/ **ITU-T-Build-a-thon** 

 like 0

 Dataset card

 Files

 Community

 Settings

### Dataset Preview

Size: 15.9 kB

 API

 Go to dataset viewer

<b>text (string)</b>	<b>inputs (dict)</b>	<b>prediction (null)</b>	<b>prediction_agent (null)</b>	<b>annotation (null)</b>
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"standortübergreifende Impact und Root Cause..."	{ "text": "standortübergreifend..."	null	null	null
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# Programming Tasks

- 1) Dataset creation
  - 1) HF dataset
- 2) Select base model
  - 1) Llama
  - 2) Mistral
- 3) Fine-tuning
  - 1) Low Rank Adaptation (LoRA) approaches
  - 2) Reinforcement learning from human feedback (**RLHF**) approaches
- 4) Saving the fine tuned model
  - 1) Saving, reloading

# The WINEST blueprint for Build-a-thon collaboration

## ITU FG ML5G Student projects

- More than 3 contributions from WINEST

## ITU News Magazine for ML in 5G

- Article highlighting the research projects in Nigeria.

## ITU RG13 AFR 7th workshop

- “Use cases and solutions for migrating to IMT-2020 networks in emerging markets”

## ITU RG13 AFR 8th workshop

- “An in-depth study of existing standards related to autonomous networks”

## ITU FG AN Build-a-thon

- 2021: 1<sup>st</sup> Position, Network resource allocation for emergency management based on closed-loop analysis
- 2022: 3<sup>rd</sup> Position, Baseline representation of AN controllers

Step-1: Form a team of scholars and students



Step-2: Weekly meetings brainstorming the relevant problem statements



Step-3: Wider consultation in ITU meetings and submissions

# Success

- A paper based on Build-a-thon 2021, titled "Network resource allocation for emergency management based on closed-loop analysis" is published on ITU Journal on Future and Evolving Technologies. It is a collaborative paper with 22 authors, distributed across 6 countries. <https://www.itu.int/pub/S-JNL-VOL3.ISSUE2-2022-A16>
- In 2023, "Graph based PoC on closed loops" is published in the ITU J-FET (ITU Journal on Future and Evolving Technologies, Volume 4, Issue 3, September 2023). 9 countries 14 different entities including academia, industry and startups. <https://www.itu.int/pub/S-JNL-VOL4.ISSUE3-2023-A37>
- Build-a-thon 2021 reports from FG AN teams are available in [FGAN-I-183], [FGAN-I-166], [FGAN-I-163-R2], [FGAN-I-187] and [FGAN-I-151-R1].
- Build-a-thon 2022 reports from FG AN teams are available in FGAN-I-289-R7.
- In addition to certificates from ITU, the top team from 2021 FG AN Build-a-thon was presented with a prize courtesy Rakuten Mobile.
- The top team from 2022 Build-a-thon was presented with a prize money of CHF 1000 courtesy of ITU. NOTE- the 2022 Challenge playoffs includes 4 teams from FG AN Build-a-thon.
- Discussions with open source and other partners (e.g. FGAN-I-233, FGAN-I-228-R1, FGAN-I-224 and other LS)