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# Summer of Startups 2014 / Week 6

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## Summer of Startups 2014 / Week 6

Panu Paljakka | [Blog, Featured Blog](#) | [No Comments](#)

JUL

Our post-Tallinn anxiety is almost gone, thanks to the glorious weather. We still can't believe how fast the time has been going.

We are Aalto-Helsinki Bioworks and we're the crazy ones in this batch. Nine people working on a bio-startup in a software oriented startup-scene. So how do you keep a nine person team happy and working?

Honestly, it starts with some unique people with a shared passion: Biology is an exciting field close to reality with lots of exploring to do. Our team was assembled to participate in iGEM, an international synthetic biology competition. This has been the base of our project.

We found our way to Summer of Startups, partly because many teams in previous iGEM competitions have spun into real companies and also because the entrepreneurial spirit is present in our team and we want to develop something new and useful.



One of our daily routines is Scrum, a teamworking method. Every morning starts by telling each other, what we did yesterday. This keeps the team connected and updated. Work is divided into tasks. Focusing on fewer tasks with more resources will lead to results faster and helps us realize problems early.

Being a biotech-startup hasn't been easy at Summer of Startups. Majority of the other teams and coaches focus on software. The Lean startup strategy has got a big focus, but it seems difficult to apply to our field... Many companies want to see a prototype. Luckily we'll have one this autumn and we'll be presenting it at the iGEM finals at Boston USA. Yay!

SoS has taught us many things, which will be useful both at iGEM and in founding a company. We've overcome one of the biggest problems in academic research: Nobody understands what you are doing. Our pitching is constantly evolving and people seem to get what we want to accomplish. We are very happy with our work and how it is proceeding.

But about this week: Mikael Gummerus from Frosmo held a lecture on how "Strategy" is vital to lean startups and on thursday Reima Rönholm From Palmu did a talk on Service Design. We learned that it is indeed possible to pivot from being a software company to an eCommerce specialist, without changing the team.



On wednesday evening we had a BBQ with smartly.io. The startup teams Grown and OurNeighborhood also brought us some russian style refreshments, which kept people at the sauna 'til late evening.

We hope you'll join us next Wednesday at the BBQ again!  
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