



EU Civic Tech Hackathon (22–23 June 2026): call for participants

Are you working on digital tools to improve democratic participation? The European Commission invites you to apply to the **EU Civic Tech Hackathon** (22–23 June 2026).

Applicants from across the European Union are invited to register until **5 June 2026** and take part in this initiative supporting democratic participation through innovative digital tools.

Held in connection with the **High-Level Event on Democracy (24 June 2026)**¹, the hackathon contributes to the European Democracy Shield, which highlights the importance of strengthening democratic resilience and enhancing citizen engagement across the Union. In this context, civic tech is recognised as a key means to complement in-person participation, broaden outreach and support more transparent, inclusive and effective democratic processes.

Develop practical solutions for democratic participation

Over the course of **48 hours**, participants will work collaboratively in teams of 5 people, to develop prototypes of civic tech tools, with support from mentors in technical, policy and legal fields.

The hackathon follows a co-creation approach, with participants actively shaping the challenges and developing solutions together.

Participants will have the opportunity to test ideas, collaborate with peers from across Europe, and contribute to solutions that may be further developed or supported at EU level.

¹ As announced in the [European Democracy Shield communication](#), the European Commission will organise a High-Level Event on Democracy, bringing together representatives from EU institutions and Member States, as well as key stakeholders active on democratic innovation and building democratic resilience. The event will showcase progress made on the European Democracy Shield in several priority areas, from safeguarding the integrity of the information space to boosting societal resilience and citizens' engagement and strengthening democratic institutions, free and fair elections and free and independent media.



The initiative also contributes to the development of the European Civic Tech Hub², a future platform designed to connect actors, share knowledge and support the scaling of civic tech solutions across the Union.

² See page 24 of the European Democracy Shield (JOIN(2025) 791 final): “To launch engagement with the civic tech sector, the Commission will organise a civic tech hackathon to showcase innovative projects and will set up a European civic tech hub, which will provide a comprehensive, multilingual focal point for information, resources and tools on the civic tech”.



Themes and challenges

Through a co-creation approach, participants will select a theme from a predefined list and jointly develop solutions. The themes reflect key challenges for democratic participation in Europe and include:

- Interoperability and Civic Tech Infrastructure
- Inclusive and Accessible Participation
- Making Civic Tech Attractive: Engaging Citizens in a Competitive Digital Environment
- From Participation to Impact
- Civic Tech for the European Civic Tech Hub
- Safe and Trustworthy Participation

The specific challenge questions will be refined with participants ahead of the hackathon.

Who can participate

The call is open to individuals and organisations with an interest or experience in civic technology and democratic participation, including:

- developers and designers
- civic tech organisations
- civil society actors
- researchers
- start-ups and SMEs
- public authorities

A diverse group of up to 50 participants will be selected, ensuring a balance of profiles, expertise and geographical representation.

The hackathon is not open to staff working in the EU institutions, agencies, bodies, and partnering organisations.



From prototypes to impact

During the hackathon, teams will be expected to deliver:

- a working prototype or functional demo
- open-source components where possible
- a short description of the use case and potential for scaling

After the event, selected projects may be considered for further development, pilot actions or support under relevant EU funding programmes. A prize money will not be awarded.

Selected solutions may also be showcased at European-level events, including the High-Level Event on Democracy, and may contribute to the European Civic Tech Hub.

How to apply

Applications are open from **13 May to 5 June 2026**.

Interested applicants are invited to apply via: [EU Civic Tech Hackathon - call for participants](#)

Selected participants will be invited to a preparatory webinar, where practical information will be provided ahead of the hackathon.