GovTech4All Awards in Collaboration with the G4I

Terms of Reference

GOVTECH4ALL

What are the **GovTech4All Awards in Collaboration with the G4I**?

The GovTech4All Awards in Collaboration with the G4I are a GovTech4All initiative, an ambitious and overarching collaborative catalyst for the European GovTech network, bringing together digital agencies across Europe to sponsor and scale innovative digital government pilots in alignment with the goals of the Interoperable Europe Act.

Funded with €21 million over six years by the European Commission's DG CONNECT, GovTech4All brings together a consortium of 32 GovTech organisations from 20 European countries, focusing on accelerating digital transformation in the public sector All, while working collectively to cultivate a single European GovTech market and ecosystem, and to address the continent's most pressing digital challenges across a wide range of thematic areas.

Leveraging the collaborative ecosystem and innovation capacity fostered by the GovTech4All initiatives and community, the GovTech4All Awards in Collaboration with the G4I serve as a platform for celebrating and rewarding the most promising digital transformation initiatives born from the collaboration between startups, digital SMEs, and European public administrations.

The awards aim to recognize and empower emerging projects that embody the key attributes we seek to foster within the GovTech Revolution. The winners will showcase collaborations that best represent the movement's growth and highlight the stories that drive the change, using innovative tools to solve public sector challenges. By celebrating these successful partnerships, we aim to accelerate the adoption of scalable, interoperable initiatives that create a tangible, positive impact on the lives of citizens.

What Are We Looking For?

We aim to spotlight promising public-private collaborations, following the strategy of the GovTech4All project aimed at accelerating digital transformation in the public sector while strengthening the European GovTech ecosystem.

> Have you worked on a **public-private collaboration** project that transforms public services and improves the lives of citizens?
>
> If you are looking for a **global platform to showcase the project**, this is your chance.

We are on the lookout for digital transformation and innovation projects developed through public-private collaborations between a public administration and an innovative company such as a startup, scaleup, or digital SME based in Europe or the European Economic Area (EEA).

The GovTech4All Awards in Collaboration with the G4I will be divided into two categories:

Impact Award:

This category recognizes projects that have delivered **significant positive impact on a public administration's** ability to provide essential public services.

The impact element should be evidenced by the methodologies used to design and implement solutions rather than relying solely on quantitative indicators. These approaches assess projects based on their societal value, user-centered design, and real-world implementation. Methodologies such as citizen engagement, service design, and behavioral insights are considered strong indicators of meaningful improvements in public service delivery and citizen outcomes, with particular emphasis placed on End-User Engagement as a key evaluation criterion.

This category honors **groundbreaking and cutting-edge solutions that tackle critical challenges** in the public sector, going beyond conventional approaches.

The focus will be on solutions that push the boundaries of traditional thinking, demonstrating originality, scalability, sustainability, and interoperability. Particular attention will be given to the use of emerging technologies that have the potential to transform public administration (such as deeptech and generative AI, autonomous AI agents capable of executing complex tasks, or domain-specific language models designed for policy and regulatory environments) illustrating how advanced innovation can enable governments to deliver smarter and more adaptive public services.

What's in it for the project team?

The awarded projects will have the chance to elevate their visibility to the next level, unlocking further opportunities and broadening their impact across the global public sector ecosystem.

Winners will have the chance to:

1. Join the GovTech4Impact World Congress with a Complimentary pass:

Project representatives will receive a complimentary pass to the G4I Congress, unlocking access to inspiring keynotes, expert panels, and exclusive networking opportunities with global GovTech leaders, policymakers, startups, and innovators shaping the future of digital government.

2. Showcase Your Project on the GovTech4Impact Stage:

You will have the opportunity to present your project during the GovTech4Impact World Congress programme, highlighting your work as a leading example of innovation transforming public services and sharing your approach with an international GovTech audience, including the G4I Expert Committee (see "Selection Process" for detail), G4I participants, G4I +35 partners, sponsors and exhibitors.

The partners of the GovTech4Impact World Congress include but are not limited to:

Generalitat of Catalunya · Microsoft · Cisco · City of Madrid · Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) · Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) · European Commission · Tony Blair Institute for Global Change · The World Bank · Public Digital · Plug and Play · Loti · International Telecommunication Union (ITU) · Global Sustainable Tourism Council · Republic of Estonia Ministry of Justice and Digital Affairs · Creative Bureaucracy Festival · Center for Digital and Public Infrastructure · Berlin Global Government Technology Centre · UN Tourism · United Nations Development Programme · Gobe · The Lisbon Council · Digital Hub Denmark · Spanish Network of Smart Cities (RECI)

The sponsors and exhibitors of the GovTech4Impact World Congress include but are not limited to:

Amazon Web Services · Coursera · Generalitat of Catalunya · Digital Capital City of Madrid · Nextcloud · T-Systems

3. Pitch Your Project inside the GovTech4All Consortium:

This unique network brings together 24 partners from 17 countries and connects to a broader community of 32 GovTech organisations from 20 European countries working to build a single European GovTech market and ecosystem, putting your project in front of the very actors shaping the future of digital governance.

4. Become Part of the First Cohort of Awardees and Receive Your Trophy at the Award Ceremony:

As part of the inaugural cohort of GovTech4All Award winners, you will take the stage in Madrid, pitching at the forefront of the next generation of GovTech innovation to the audience of around 1,000 participants.

5. Gain Global Visibility:

Your winning solution will be showcased across GovTech4All's communication channels (LinkedIn, Interoperable Europe Portal), as well as the GovTech4Impact World Congress' channels (LinkedIn, Instagram, and Twitter/X), and the Congress' newsletter and website.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible projects

- The project must be a collaboration between digital SMEs, startups, or scaleups, and public sector institutions.

- The project must have reached the implementation phase, having completed at least 40% of its total planned milestones.

- The project must be a technology based solution that contributes to public sector transformation by addressing a broad public challenge with clear public value, advancing innovative approaches beyond traditional government operations.

- The project must be delivered within European Union countries.

Eligible countries: Austria · Belgium · Bulgaria · Croatia · Republic of Cyprus · Czechia · Denmark · Estonia · Finland · France · Germany · Greece · Hungary · Ireland · Italy · Latvia · Lithuania · Luxembourg · Malta · Netherlands · Poland · Portugal · Romania · Slovakia · Slovenia · Spain · Sweden

- In the event that the project is selected as an award winner, at least one project representative must agree to travel to Madrid to receive the award on the GovTech4Impact stage. **All travel expenses must be covered by the project's own funds, as no external travel costs will be provided.**

Private companies:

- The company must have been founded at least 1 year before the application is submitted, and no more than 10 years ago.

- The company must contribute to public sector transformation through their products, services, or technologies, pushing the boundaries of what has been traditionally implemented in government operations.

- The company must be a part of the European Economic Area with the exception of Switzerland.

Austria · Belgium · Bulgaria · Croatia · Republic of Cyprus · Czechia · Denmark · Estonia · Finland · France · Germany · Greece · Hungary · Iceland · Ireland · Italy · Latvia · Liechtenstein · Lithuania · Luxembourg · Malta · Netherlands · Norway · Poland · Portugal · Romania · Slovakia · Slovenia · Spain · Sweden · Switzerland

Public institutions:

- Eligible entities must be governing bodies within the previously mentioned 27 European Union countries that include:

Core Public Administrations: Entities that form part of the formal structure of government, such as:

National governments · Ministries · Secretariats of State · Government departments · Regional governments (states, autonomous communities, regions, cities, etc.) · Provincial governments · County administrations · Municipal governments / city councils · Local councils · Metropolitan governments · District administrations · Prefectures · Intermunicipal associations · Local government unions

Public Agencies and Authorities: Specialised public bodies responsible for implementing policy or regulating sectors, such as:

National agencies · Regional agencies · Municipal agencies · Executive agencies · Regulatory authorities · Supervisory authorities · Independent administrative authorities · Public authorities · Digital government agencies · Data protection authorities · Competition authorities · Procurement authorities · Other domain-specific public authorities

Public Service Institutions: Public entities responsible for delivering essential public services, such as:

Public hospitals · Public healthcare providers · Public health services · Public schools · Public education authorities · Public universities · Public libraries · Public cultural institutions · Other publicly operated service institutions

Public Utilities and Infrastructure Operators: Entities responsible for operating public infrastructure or utilities, such as:

Public water and sanitation utilities · Public energy utilities · Public transport operators · Airport and port authorities · Public telecommunications infrastructure operators · Other publicly operated infrastructure and utility providers

State-Owned or Publicly Owned Enterprises: Commercial entities owned or controlled by the state or local authorities, such as:

State-owned enterprises (SOEs) · Government-owned companies · Municipal companies · Public corporations (including utilities) · National infrastructure companies · Public technology and digital service providers · Other publicly owned enterprises

Public Research and Higher Education Institutions: Public entities dedicated to research, innovation, and knowledge development, such as:

Public universities · Public research institutes · National research councils · Government innovation labs · University technology transfer offices · Other publicly funded research and innovation institutions

Public Foundations: Organizations established by governments to carry out public missions, such as:

Public development, cultural, research, and other public-interest foundations

Development, Innovation, and Economic Promotion Bodies: Entities focused on regional development, entrepreneurship, and innovation, such as:

Regional development agencies · Economic and investment promotion agencies · Innovation and digital transformation agencies · Smart city offices · Public startup support programs · Public investment and venture funds · Other public economic development and innovation bodies

Public Consortia and Collaborative Governance Structures: Entities composed of multiple public bodies, such as:

Public consortia · Intergovernmental consortia · Regional and intermunicipal cooperation bodies · Cross-border governance entities · Public service alliances · Other multi-government collaborative bodies

Judicial, Oversight, and Accountability Bodies: Public institutions responsible for governance oversight and legal functions, such as:

Courts · Judicial administration bodies · Public prosecutor offices · Ombudsman institutions · National and supreme audit offices · Anti-corruption authorities · Public ethics commissions · Other judicial and public oversight bodies

EU Supranational and Intergovernmental Public Institutions: Public institutions operating beyond a single national government, such as:

European Union institutions · EU agencies · EU joint undertakings · EU-based intergovernmental organizations · EU cross-border regional authorities · Other supranational public institutions based in the EU

Selection Process

The selection process consists of two rounds (shortlisting, final selection) and two evaluating teams (GovTech4All team, GovTech4Impact Expert Committee).

Evaluations Rounds:

1. **Shortlisting**: The GovTech4All team will review applications to ensure their eligibility, and evaluate eligible applications to shortlist the top 30% scoring projects.

2. **Expert committee final selection:** The Expert Committee will receive all shortlisted applications and select each category winner according to their final scoring.

<u>Expert Committee:</u>

The expert committee that will evaluate your project is composed of **globally renowned govtech specialists** with diverse backgrounds, including representatives from public institutions, international organizations, and C-level executives from technology companies.

Natalia Laguyas
Lead Specialist, Ecosystem Building and Acceleration Division, Inter-American Development Bank, USA

Miguel Porrúa
Digital Government Principal Specialist, Inter-American Development Bank, USA

Ana Rita Pereira
Public Sector Verticals Leader for Europe, Middle East & Africa, Microsoft

Fernando de Pablo
Digital Office Director, City of Madrid, Spain

Marina Manzoni
EU Policy Officer, European Commission

Tamara Srzentić
Minister of Public Administration, Digital Society and Media, Government of Montenegro

Carlos Santiso
Senior Advisor on Digital Government and Artificial Intelligence, OECD

Jonas Onland
Chief Vision Officer, Serendipity Tech, Netherlands

Evaluation Criteria

Your project will be assessed using a two-layer scoring system. All applications are first evaluated against the Base Criteria, which account for 100 points.

Based on these scores, a preselected shortlist of the top 30% projects will be established. The shortlisted projects will then be evaluated by the Expert Committee under the same 100 point criteria but will apply an additional Category Module worth 10 additional points for each relevant category, bringing the maximum total score to 110 points.

The Expert Committee will determine which category best fits each project and will apply the corresponding Category Module, adding up to an additional 10 points for either the Impact Award or the Innovation Award. Each project may compete in only one category, and no project can receive both awards.

Criterion	Weight	Description
Solution Feasibility	20 points	Evaluates the practical viability of the project in terms of resources, technology, and operational execution. It looks at whether the project can realistically be deployed within the current context and infrastructure, and whether there are clear, actionable steps for implementation.
Team	10 points	Assesses the expertise and experience of the project team. This includes whether the team has the necessary technical capabilities, leadership, and relevant background to successfully execute and manage the project.
Company Experience	10 points	Reviews the company's track record in the relevant sector, particularly its experience working with public administrations. It considers the ability to build institutional relationships, scale solutions, and deliver results in the public sector environment.
End-User Engagement	25 points	Evaluates how effectively the project involves its intended users, particularly citizens, throughout design and implementation. This criterion focuses on user-centred approaches and the project's ability to improve citizen interaction with public services.
Sustainability	15 points	Assesses the long-term viability and scalability of the solution. It considers whether the project can continue delivering value over time, adapt to future needs, and remain cost-effective while minimizing environmental and operational impact.
Relevance	20 points	Measures how closely the solution addresses a real and pressing public sector need. It evaluates the alignment of the project with policy priorities and the strategic importance of the problem it aims to solve.
Impact Award Module	10 points	Assesses the project's demonstrated public value in practice. It evaluates whether the solution is already improving service delivery or citizen outcomes, how it has been integrated into operational processes, and how convincingly those results are evidenced through the use of user driven methodologies.
Innovation Award Module	10 points	Scores the project's distinctive innovation in the public sector context. It assesses how the project involves new technologies and moves beyond conventional approaches, and its potential for scaling or replication across administrations.

Application Process

All applications must be submitted through the **online application form** available on the GovTech4All Award landing page on the GovTech4Impact website before the **deadline on April 10th, 2026, at 11:59 PM CET.**

Expected application time is around 20 minutes.

The application form requires submitting the following relevant information:

Application Field	Type of Response	Response Guidelines
Applicant Section (4 Questions)		
Applicant Name	Short text	• Full name of the person submitting the application.
Applicant Organization	Short text	• Indicate the organization the applicant represents and their role in the project.
Applicant Position	Short text	• Indicate the applicant's role in the organization.
Applicant Contact Email	Short text	• Provide a professional email address that is actively monitored. • All communication regarding the application and potential follow-ups will be sent to this address.
Project Section (6 Questions)		
Project Name	Short text	• Provide the official or commonly used name of the project. • This should refer to the initiative being submitted, not necessarily the name of the company.
Project URL (if applicable)	URL	• Provide a link to a webpage where the project is described. • Acceptable sources include: a project webpage, a

		company product page, a news article or public announcement about the project.
Collaboration Agreement Type	Dropdown	• Indicate the formal framework through which the collaboration between the company and the public administration was established. • Examples: Grant, Public tender, Public contract, University/research collaboration, Partnership agreement, Public–private partnership, Other.
Country, Region and City where the project takes place	Short text	• Specify the geographic location where the project is implemented. • This refers to the location of the public administration using the solution, not necessarily where the company is registered.
Project Status	Dropdown	• Indicate the current stage of the project implementation. • Options include: Planning, Implementation (less than 40% of milestones), Implementation (more than 40% of milestones), Scaling, Completed.
Optional: Supporting Materials	File upload	• Upload materials such as pitch decks, pilot reports, testimonials, or project presentations. • Focus on evidence of implementation and results.
Details about the participating Public Institution Section (6 Questions)		

Type of Public Institution involved	Dropdown	• Select the category that best describes the institution:
		   ○ Core Public Administrations
		   ○ Public Agencies and Authorities
		   ○ Public Service Institutions
		   ○ Public Utilities and Infrastructure Operators
		   ○ State-Owned or Publicly Owned Enterprises
		   ○ Public Research and Higher Education Institutions
		   ○ Public Foundations
		   ○ Development and Innovation Bodies
		   ○ Public Consortia
		   ○ Judicial and Oversight Bodies
		   ○ EU Supranational Institutions

Name of the Public Institution Involved	Short text	• Provide the official name of the public administration or institution collaborating in the project.
Department or Unit within the Public Institution	Short text	• Specify the department, directorate, or operational unit responsible for the project. • This helps evaluators understand where the project sits within the institution.
Responsible Person from the Public Institution	Short text	• Provide the name of the main contact person within the public administration responsible for the project.
Email of Responsible Person from the Public Institution	Short text	• Provide the official institutional email address of the responsible public sector contact.
Phone Number of Responsible Person from the Public Institution	Short text	• Provide the direct phone number including international country code.
Details about the participating Private Company Section (8 Questions)		
Company Name	Short text	• Official legal name registered in company registries.

		• Include legal suffixes (Ltd., GmbH, S.L., etc.). • <u>If the commercial name differs, please indicate.</u>
Company founding year	Number	• Official year the company was legally founded.

Company Stage	Dropdown	• Select the company maturity stage (if applicable):
		
		    ○ Pre-Seed – Identify a problem and develop the initial concept (0–1 yr)
		
		    ○ Seed – Prototype development and early validation (0–2 yrs)
		
		    ○ Early / Series A – MVP launched and early customers (1–3 yrs)
		
		    ○ Growth / Series B–C – Scaling operations (3–5 yrs)
		
		    ○ Expansion / Scale-up – Market expansion with proven model (5+ yrs)

Responsible Person from the Company	Short text	• Name of the person responsible for the project within the company. • This individual should have direct knowledge of the implementation and collaboration.
Email of Responsible Person from the Company	Short text	• Provide professional email of the company representative responsible for the project.
Phone Number of Responsible Person from the Company	Short text	• Provide a direct phone number including international country code. • This will only be used if the committee needs clarification during evaluation.
Describe the company's experience working with the public sector	Long text	• Describe the company's track record in delivering solutions for public administrations. • Mention relevant projects, partnerships, or deployments where applicable. • Maximum: 150 words

Describe the project team and their relevant expertise	Long text	- Briefly describe the key team members involved in the project. - Highlight experience relevant to technology deployment, public sector collaboration, or project implementation. - Maximum: 150 words
Details about the Submitted Project Section (5 Questions)		
What challenge are you solving?	Long text	- Describe the public sector challenge addressed by the project. - Focus on: the administrative or societal problem, who is affected (citizens, businesses, public servants), why this issue matters for the public administration. - Maximum: 250 words
How is the project addressing the challenge?	Long text	- Explain how the solution works and how it responds to the challenge. - Include: how the collaboration between the company and public institution was structured, how the solution was implemented in practice. - Maximum: 250 words.
Were users involved in the design or implementation of the project?	Long text	- Briefly describe how citizens, civil servants, or other end users were engaged. - Methods may include: service design workshops, usability testing, pilot programs, feedback mechanisms. - Maximum: 100 words.
What impact has the project had or aims to have?	Long text	- Describe the expected or demonstrated impact of the project. - Possible impacts include: improved service delivery, efficiency gains, reduced costs or processing times, improved citizen experience, environmental or social benefits. - Both qualitative and quantitative indicators are welcome. - Maximum: 200 words

		● Explain the long-term sustainability of the project and whether the solution could be adopted by other public administrations.
How can the solution be sustained, scaled, and replicated over time?	Long text	● Consider: operational sustainability, financial viability, conditions required for replication, interoperability with existing systems, potential scalability to other cities, regions, or countries.
		● Maximum: 250 words

Timeline & Key Dates

Date	Description
March 16th	Open call launch
April 10th, 23:59h CET	Application deadline
April 15th	Internal shortlisting
April 20th	Expert Committee Evaluation deadline
April 21st	Winner notification
Date TBC	Award Ceremony at the G4I Congress in Madrid

Transparency & Conflict of Interest

The GovTech4All Awards in Collaboration with the G4I are committed to ensuring a transparent, fair, and impartial evaluation process.

All members involved in the evaluation process are required to declare any actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest related to a submitted project. A conflict of interest may arise when an evaluator has a professional, financial, institutional, or personal relationship with an applicant organization or project that could influence, or be perceived to influence, their judgment.

If a conflict of interest is identified, the individual concerned will not participate in the evaluation, discussion, or scoring of the relevant application. In such cases, the evaluator will be recused from all stages of the decision-making process related to that project.

Contact Information:

For queries and further information, contact the Project Team:

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