



Funded by  
the European Union



**EaP** | Eastern  
Partnership 

---

# 2024 EaP Civic Tech Hackathon

---

Information Session

24 February 2026

**EASTERN PARTNERSHIP  
CIVIL SOCIETY FACILITY  
PROJECT**

#EaPCivilSociety

# Eastern Partnership Civil Society Facility in a Nutshell

**Objective:** to strengthen the role and increase the capacity of CSOs and activists in the EaP region to:

- engage in policy making processes and policy dialogue,
- promote reforms and public accountability,
- foster local democracy, local development and engage citizens in public debate.

**Implemented** by a consortium led by GDSI Limited (Ireland)

**Timeline:** June 2021 – April 2028

**Website:** <http://eapcivilsociety.eu/>

1

## Capacity building activities

Courses, trainings, webinars, coaching and mentoring for civil society

2

## Civil society fellowships

Community Engagement and Civic Digital fellowships

3

## Civil society hackathons and civic tech activities

Annual ideathons and hackathons, development of digital solutions

4

## Civil society networking and ad-hoc support

Regional networking, relevant regional and international events and helpdesk for EU grantees

5

## Country specific communication campaigns

Communication campaigns to improve the public image of civil society

6

## Mappings, analyses, studies and research

To contribute to the EU's better understanding of CS

# 2026 EaP Civic Tech Hackathon

17-19 April 2026  
Chisinau, Moldova

[REGISTER NOW!](#)

# 2026 EaP Civic Tech Hackathon

**When:** 17-19 April 2026

**Where:** Chisinau, Moldova

**Who:** teams of civic activists, developers & designers from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine (and EU!)

**Prize:** ≈ EUR 10,000 per winner (up to EUR 12,000 if you convince the Evaluation Committee 😊)

**Costs:** Free. All costs, including travel and accommodation for those outside of Chisinau, are covered by the European Union

**Working language:** English

**Registration and details:** <https://ict.eapcivilsociety.eu/>

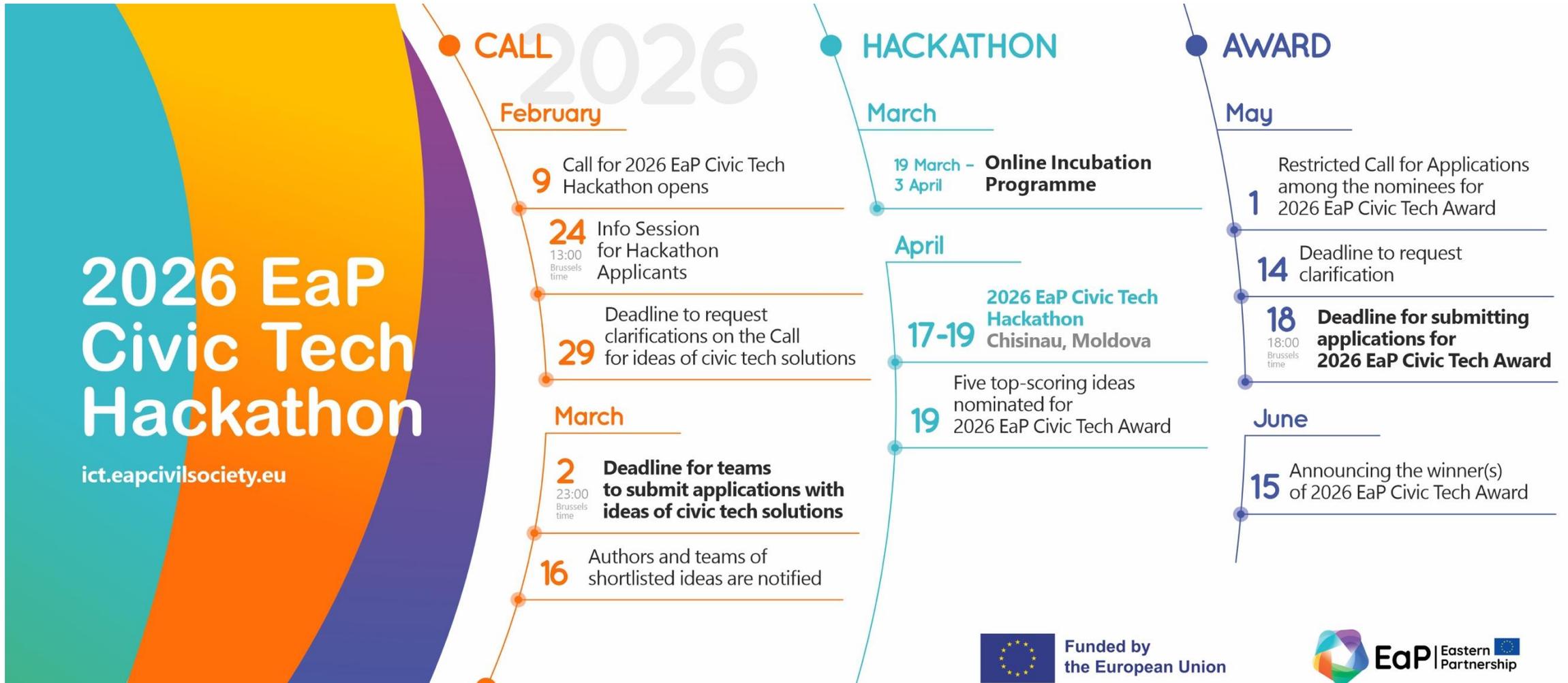
2026 Hackathon consists of three stages:

- **Online Incubation Programme** on 19 March – 3 April for authors (and their teams) of appr. 15 shortlisted ideas of civic tech solutions.
- **Offline Hackathon** on 17-19 April in Chisinau where the teams will prototype their civic tech solutions (≈ 45 participants).
- Up to two **EaP Civic Tech Awards** to be awarded to the Hackathon finalist(s) in June 2026.

# 2026 EaP Civic Tech Hackathon: Challenges



# Key Hackathon Dates



# Hackathon 2026: Key Dates & Activities

The **Online Incubation Programme** is an intensive 2.5-week work of the Hackathon teams and mentors on the ideas of civic tech solutions held **on 9 March – 3 April**. Teams will present (pitch) their ideas to the mentors and organisers and then discuss them within 3 individual consultations with the mentors. There will be several (not too many) webinars to help teams with some theoretical parts and practical tips.

**The Incubation Programme is mandatory for the authors (team leaders);** other team members are welcome to join.

There is no selection at the end, but if a team fails to meaningfully engage (fails to pitch their idea and/or misses more than 30% of the sessions), its participation in the 2026 Hackathon in Chisinau may be cancelled.

01

**29 February 2026**

Deadline to send your questions on the Hackathon

02

**2 March 2026, 23:00**

Deadline to submit your applications

03

**19 March – 3 April 2026**

Online Incubation Programme

04

**17-19 April 2026**

***Hackathon in Chisinau:*** 15 solutions = 15 teams (circa 45 participants). Voting for 5 top ideas

05

**May 2026**

**Call for Applications for the EaP Civic Tech Award**  
among the 5 Hackathon finalists



Funded by  
the European Union



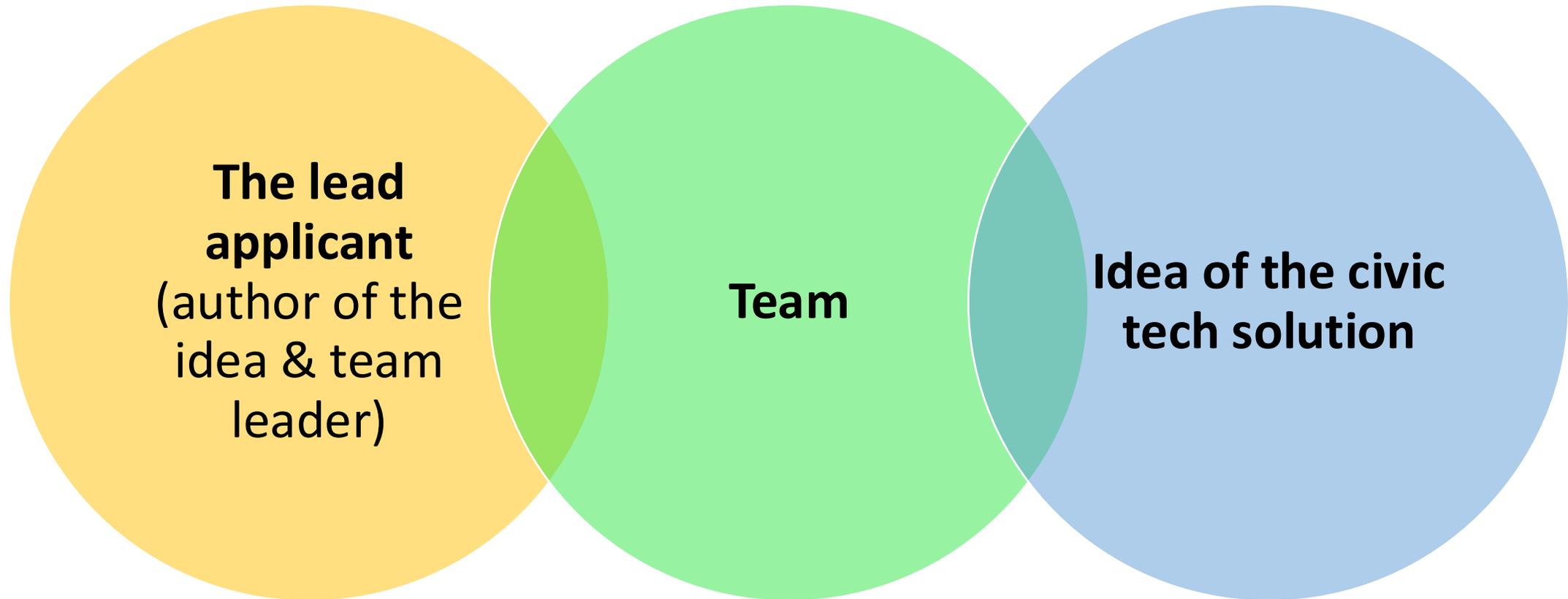
---

# All About Eligibility

---

Let's check the boxes

# Who can participate in the 2026 EaP Civic Tech Hackathon?



# Lead Applicant

AKA *'the author of the proposed digital solution', 'civil society activist' and 'team leader'*

## **MUST:**

- ✓ Be a natural person
- ✓ 18+ years old
- ✓ Citizen of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova or Ukraine
- ✓ Have decent command of English
- ✓ Have not won EaP Civic Tech Hackathon before

# Hackathon team (you MUST apply with a team)

## Your team members MUST:

- ✓ Be 18+ years old
- ✓ Be a citizen of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine – or EU member state
- ✓ Have decent command of English
- ✓ Have technical (IT) skills to develop a prototype in Chisinau
  - Actual skills depend on the prototype, but you are likely to need at least one developer / coder
  - You (lead applicant) + 2 members
  - If you are a developer/designer yourself, you may have only +1 team member
  - No maximum, but travel & accommodation will be covered only up to 3 persons per team



## Some suggestions

It's okay if your team does not have a 'hard-core' developer. At the end, you will be presenting a demo of the proposed solution, and it's okay to use any AI prototyping tools to do that.

Here are a few examples of such tools:

- **Lovable.dev** and **V0.app** for web apps. These tools generate UI components via text prompts, saving hours of frontend development.
- **Bolt.new** is great for both web and native (i.e. mobile) apps.
- **Bubble.com** is great for visual programming of web apps as it combines a drag-and-drop UI builder with visual workflow logic, database and hosting.
- **Replit.com** is the most flexible, it's a full coding environment, so you can build with any stack, but it requires more technical confidence.
- **Cursor.com** is a standard for AI-assisted coding; it also requires more experience and is often paired with Claude 3.5 Sonnet for rapid code generation.
- **Airtable.com**, a spreadsheet-database hybrid with powerful automation and interface builder, helps to bypass some backend issues.

# Idea of Civic Tech Solution

AKA *'the proposed civic tech solution'* and *'proposed digital solutions'*

## **MUST:**

- ✓ Address at least one of the 2026 Hackathon challenges:
  - disinformation and misinformation
  - societal polarization
  - civil society resilience
  - forced displacement
- ✓ Be not-for-profit
- ✓ Benefit and/or used by EaP citizens and/or civil society, in or outside of EaP countries
- ✓ Require designing and coding (programming)
- ✓ Have a strong 'user-system' interaction, i.e. users must be active
- ✓ Be new, i.e. has not been launched yet

## SOME examples of eligible ideas:

- enable citizens identify and/or act against online misinformation & disinformation;
- help citizens engage in policy- and decision-making, including at the community level, by enabling access to or simplifying their digital participation, feedback and dialogue;
- foster collaboration between communities;
- support CSOs in providing services to citizens;
- improve CSOs' security and adaptability and/or organisational transparency by enhancing their communication, data protection, fundraising and management tools;
- capacitate communities and organisations to engage and motivate citizens, stakeholders and allies for a specific development need or cause;
- ...

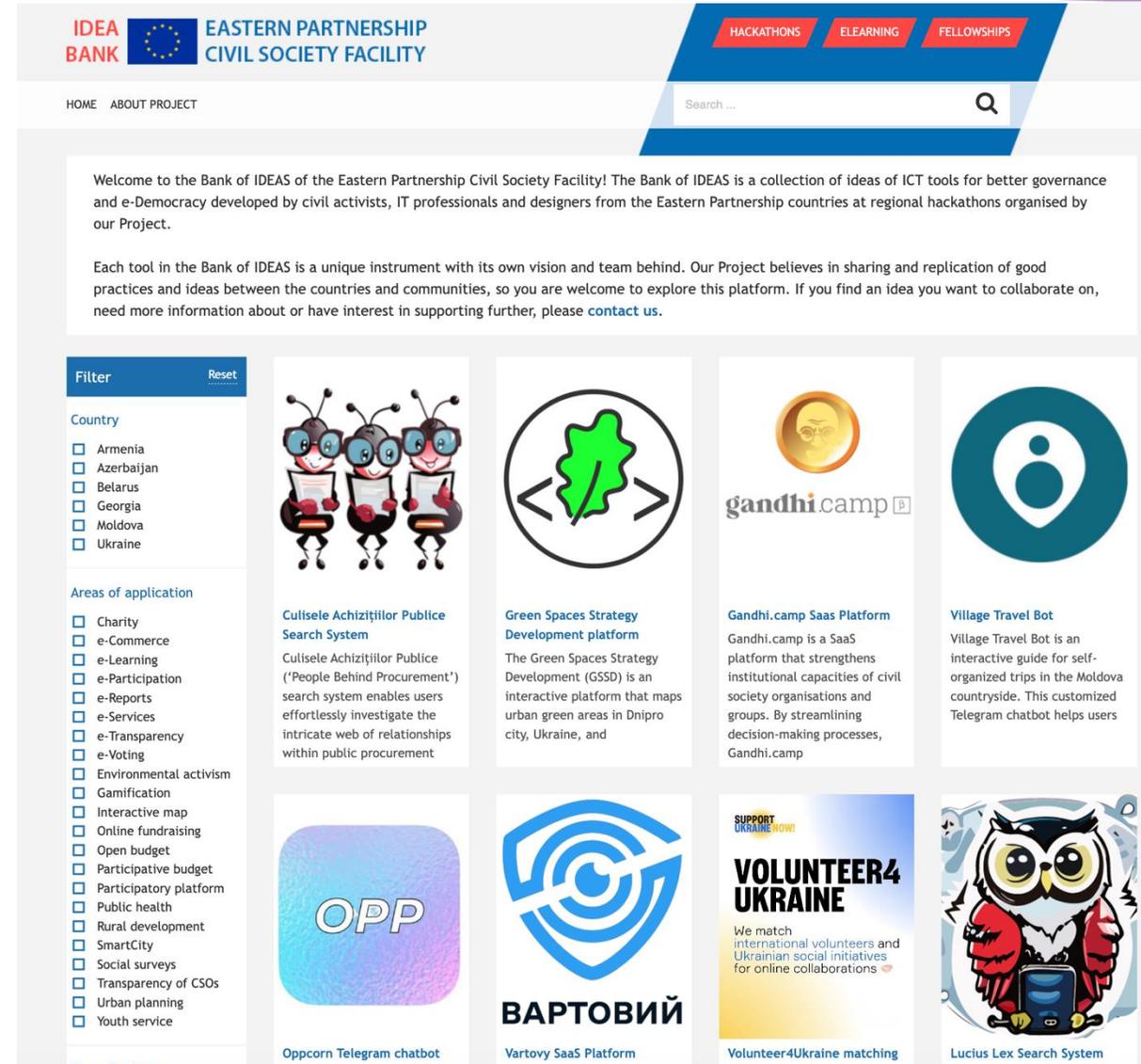
## Ineligible Solutions:

- digital solutions that have already been developed and launched;
- pure information (news) websites and pages, with little or no 'user-system' interaction;
- pure for-profit (commercial) IT products, with little or no social value;
- the websites and platforms of individual organisations, institutions, communities, projects, groups, etc., and/or networks of such organisations;
- IT tools supporting political parties or candidates;
- IT tools aiming to proselytise (i.e., the attempt of any religion or religious individuals to convert people to their beliefs);
- videos / groups / pages / campaigns in social networks and messengers, including the YouTube (no development of a new IT product);
- seminars, trainings and other capacity building (there is no IT product);
- hardware, i.e. equipment, devices, etc.

# For inspiration and self-check

Our **Bank of IDEAS** is a collection of [some] ideas of civic tech solutions developed by our previous Hackathon participants and Civic Digital Fellows:

<https://ideas.eapcivilsociety.eu/>



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Bank of IDEAS website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the 'IDEA BANK' logo, the 'EASTERN PARTNERSHIP CIVIL SOCIETY FACILITY' logo, and three menu items: 'HACKATHONS', 'E-LEARNING', and 'FELLOWSHIPS'. Below the navigation bar is a search bar with the text 'Search ...' and a magnifying glass icon. The main content area features a welcome message: 'Welcome to the Bank of IDEAS of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Facility! The Bank of IDEAS is a collection of ideas of ICT tools for better governance and e-Democracy developed by civil activists, IT professionals and designers from the Eastern Partnership countries at regional hackathons organised by our Project.' Below this is a paragraph explaining the project's goal: 'Each tool in the Bank of IDEAS is a unique instrument with its own vision and team behind. Our Project believes in sharing and replication of good practices and ideas between the countries and communities, so you are welcome to explore this platform. If you find an idea you want to collaborate on, need more information about or have interest in supporting further, please [contact us](#).'

On the left side, there is a 'Filter' section with a 'Reset' button. It includes two categories: 'Country' and 'Areas of application'. The 'Country' list includes Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. The 'Areas of application' list includes Charity, e-Commerce, e-Learning, e-Participation, e-Reports, e-Services, e-Transparency, e-Voting, Environmental activism, Gamification, Interactive map, Online fundraising, Open budget, Participative budget, Participatory platform, Public health, Rural development, SmartCity, Social surveys, Transparency of CSOs, Urban planning, and Youth service.

The main content area displays a grid of project cards. Each card features an icon, a title, and a brief description. The visible cards are: 'Culisele Achizițiilor Publice Search System' (with an icon of three ants), 'Green Spaces Strategy Development platform' (with a green leaf icon), 'Gandhi.camp Saas Platform' (with a gold coin icon), 'Village Travel Bot' (with a blue circular icon), 'Oppcorn Telegram chatbot' (with a purple and blue icon), 'Vartovy SaaS Platform' (with a blue shield icon), 'Volunteer4Ukraine matching' (with a blue and yellow icon), and 'Lucius Lex Search System' (with an owl icon).



Funded by  
the European Union



**EaP** | Eastern  
Partnership 

---

# Joining the Hackathon

---

Deadline: 2 March, end of the day

# Registration at <https://ict.eapcivilsociety.eu/en/register-form>



[About the Project](#) [Contact us](#)



[EAPCIVILSOCIETY](#)

[IDEA BANK](#)

[FELLOWS](#)

[HACKATHONS](#)

[E-LEARNING](#)



[HOME](#) [ABOUT THE HACKATHON](#) [WHY PARTICIPATE](#) [MENTORS](#) [AGENDA](#) [PREVIOUS HACKATHONS](#) [RULES AND FAQ](#) [ORGANISERS AND PARTNERS](#) [REGISTER NOW!](#)

## 2026 EaP Civic Tech Hackathon

17-19 April 2026

Chisinau, Moldova

**Register**

Application form for teams with ideas of civic tech solutions

# Part I: Your Details

- Information on the **person submitting the idea of the civic tech solution** – author of the solution / Team Lead (aka main applicant).
- Make sure the **email address is correct**: this is how we will contact you.
- You **MUST reside in an EaP or EU country** to be eligible for the paid travel

## Personal information (Author / Team Lead)

1.1 First name:

1.2 Last name:

1.3 Contact phone with country code (numbers only):

1.4 Email Address (valid email only):

1.5 Residential Address:

City/town

Country

1.6 Country of Citizenship:

1.7 Gender:

1.8 Age:

1.9 Language skills:

Indicate your English language competence:

English:	Reading	Speaking	Listening comprehension
	<input type="text" value="Please, choose"/>	<input type="text" value="Please, choose"/>	<input type="text" value="Please, choose"/>

PREV

NEXT

# Part II: Your Solution

- Working name / title of your proposed solution.
- For what **country** (and if relevant, city or region) you develop it.
- Choose **one or two** of the 2026 Hackathon challenges
- **Short description** of the proposed civic tech solution.
- What **specific problem** you want to solve.
- Technical implementation = **main functions**.
- What is your **business model**, i.e., how will you support it in future once you launch it? Grants? Commission? Crowdfunding? Partners?
- Who else provides similar services?

## Application Form for Teams with Ideas of Civic Tech Solutions

### Proposed civic tech solution

2.1 Title / name of the proposed digital solution

2.2 Targeted town(s)/province(s) and country(ies):

2.3 What societal challenge does your digital solution address? (not more than 2 option)

Counteracts online disinformation & misinformation

Tackles societal polarisation

Advances civil society resilience

Supports refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and asylum-seekers

2.4 Describe your digital solution in brief (not more than 1200 characters)

2.5 The problem to be addressed and how your digital tool will help to solve it (not more than 1800 characters)

Describe here the specific issue the proposed civic tech solution is addressing. How well do you know the challenge / problem? Who is in the target community of the proposed solution: users and beneficiaries? What will happen to them after/if the proposed IT product is further developed and launched?

2.6 Describe the technical implementation of your digital solution (not more than 1800 characters)

Describe here the main features of your IT product, and how users will interact with/utilise it.

2.7 Describe how your solution be maintained and updated in future (not more than 600 characters)

If you envisage to cooperate with / engage other actors into the development and maintenance of your digital solution, including any state actors, please describe it here, too

2.8 Are there any other digital tools that tackle the same challenge in your home country, other EaP countries, in Europe or in the world? (not more than 600 characters)

If yes, please provide a brief description, a link to the solution and how your proposal differs from existing IT tools



# Part III: Your Experience

- **No requirement** to be a member of a registered CSO.
- Almost everyone has some experience of civic engagement: volunteer, student clubs, local communities. They all count.
- Use 3.3/3.4 to mention relevant experience (no need to list everything).
- **The letter of support** from an organisation / initiative / group is **not a must!**
- If you want to add a letter of support, it may be just an email, even in your local language.
- Let us know **if you have IT skills** to work on the prototype.

## Application Form for Teams with Ideas of Civic Tech Solutions

**Team lead's relevant experience: (Please note that characters limit in this section is 1000 per question)**

3.1 Do you have experience of working or volunteering in civil society organisation, community or civil movement, in any form?

No  Yes, for 0 - 2 years  Yes, for 6 - 8 years  Yes, for over 8 years

3.2 Are you currently working or volunteering in CSO, community or civil movement? Please select as applicable

No, I am not engaged in any civic activity now  
 Yes, I am employed full-time by a civil society organisation  
 Yes, I am employed part-time employed by a civil society organisation  
 Yes, I volunteer for a civil society organisation, community or civil movement  
 No, I am in full-time education (Please, provide details)  Other (Please, provide details)

3.3 Provide the name and links (website or social media pages) of the organisation(s) you are associated with (if any) (not more than 600 characters)

3.4 Describe your position and how long you have been working with the organisation(s) (not more than 600 characters):

3.5 Are you a Founder of the organisation?

No  Yes

3.6 Is the Board or management of your organisation/community aware of your interest in this Hackathon programme?

No  Yes If you have a letter of support from them, please upload it here

3.7 Do you have technical skills to develop the prototype of the proposed civic tech solution?

Yes, I am a software developer (full-stack, front-end or back-end; web or mobile)  
 Yes, I am a designer (graphic, web / mobile, or UI/UX)  
 No, I do not have technical skills to develop a prototype  Other (Please, provide details)

3.8 Have you ever participated in or led a project on design and development of other IT products, except for the one proposed for this Hackathon? If yes, can you describe the project and results achieved? (not more than 1200 characters)



# Part IV: Your Team

- You must add 2 persons.
- DO NOT include yourself as Team Member #1 – unless you are a developer / designer yourself and your team has only +1 person.
- We do not ask for your team members’ contact details (we have yours).
- Unless we have doubts, we do not check your team members’ technical skills.
- If your application is selected to participate in the Hackathon, we will check your team members’ age and nationality.
- We do not check your team members’ English: that’s your responsibility.
- If you have more than 2 team members, list them in “Other team members” and provide the same information as for team member #1 and #2.

## 4.1 Please provide information on your team members:

### Team Member 1

First and last name:

Citizenship: Choose the country of the citizenship

Residential address:

City/Town:

Country:

Technical expertise and link to portfolio/ examples of work: (not more than 600 characters)

Role in the team:

### Team Member 2

First and last name:

Citizenship: Choose the country of the citizenship

Residential address:

City/Town:

Country:

Technical expertise and link to portfolio/ examples of work: (not more than 600 characters)

Role in the team:

Other team members (please provide information in a similar format as on the team members above) (not more than 1800 characters)





Funded by  
the European Union



---

# Questions?

---

If nothing comes to mind now, please  
write to us at [ict@eapcivilsociety.eu](mailto:ict@eapcivilsociety.eu)

# Maybe these questions will be relevant

**13 Q&A are published on our website:** <https://eapcivilsociety.eu/news/hackathons-news/2026-hackathon-faqs.html>. Here are just a few of them:

- **I have already applied for your Fellowship programme. Is it ok to apply for the Hackathon as well?**  
Absolutely! These two programmes are not mutually exclusive.

- **I am hesitant to apply as my English is not super great.**

A big secret: none of us is a native English speaker 😊 Most of our mentors and us (the organisers) speak 2+ languages and are happy to help. You may decide within your team and with your mentor what language you will use for the internal communication.

- **The Hackathon guidelines say I can apply with an idea of a civic tech solution, but I have already started developing it. May I still apply?**

This year we focus on supporting activists in launching new civic tech solutions. If your IT solution has not been released / made available to users by the Hackathon dates, you may apply with it.

# Thank you for your attention!

## Hackathon Contact Details:

 [ict@eapcivilsociety.eu](mailto:ict@eapcivilsociety.eu)

 [ict.eapcivilsociety.eu](http://ict.eapcivilsociety.eu)

## GDSI Limited Contact Details:

 +38 063 376 55 46

 [consulting@gdsi.ie](mailto:consulting@gdsi.ie)

 [www.gdsi.ie](http://www.gdsi.ie)

## Disclaimer

This presentation was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of GDSI-led Consortium and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.