UNDP "Technology for Citizen Engagement Challenge"
Guidelines for Applicants

OVERVIEW

UNDP helps build better lives. On the ground in more than 170 countries and territories, we partner with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis and sustain the kind of inclusive growth that improves the quality of life for everyone.

As the world is changing with increasing pace, it has become ever more important for UNDP to be able to respond to different types of development challenges with innovative, agile and flexible solutions.

We recognize that the rapidly changing technological landscape of today's world allows us not only to access information and expertise with unprecedented ease, but also to find opportunities for the smart use of technologies to develop transparent and efficient ways for addressing development challenges.

In a gradual process of change, UNDP has begun to work differently. We are taking steps to create spaces for individuals to collaborate creatively, adopt an outside-in perspective that is driven and identified by the needs and perspectives of those we serve.

A key focus of the UNDP Strategic plan 2014-17 is inclusive and effective democratic governance. We are committed to supporting citizen participation and engagement in policymaking and governance, to foster more peaceful and inclusive societies.

That's why we are launching the "Technology for Citizen Engagement Challenge". UNDP invites you to come up with technology-enabled solutions that can help to better engage citizens in addressing some of the challenges faced in our daily lives.

UNDP offers both funding of up to $10,000 and mentoring support to help turn the best ideas into reality. Winning teams will also be invited to attend the 2nd Annual Build Peace through technology conference in Nicosia, Cyprus on 25th & 26th April 2015.

THEMATIC AREAS

Do you have an idea for a technology enabled solution that can help to better engage citizens in addressing the following issues?

Common Vision for the Future - How can we use technology to bring together different groups to imagine a common vision for the future? Submit your ideas for how to embrace differing views to find common ground by sharing a vision for the future.

Inclusion through Diversity – How can technology help to diversify the voices that inform policy by embracing more inclusive decision-making processes? Submit your ideas for how to increase dialogue between citizens and decision makers so that a multitude of voices are represented in public policy, including those of women and youth.

Improve access to public services and data – How can we utilize technology to improve access to public services and/or data? Submit your ideas for how better access to services and data can strengthen trust in institutions and encourage greater public participation in decision-making.

THE PROCESS – HOW TO APPLY

The UNDP Technology for Citizen Engagement challenge will follow a 5 stage process:
1. Ideas Generation.
2. Concept Development and Community Support
3. Selection of Winning Teams
4. Refining Prototypes & Participation in Build Peace Conference
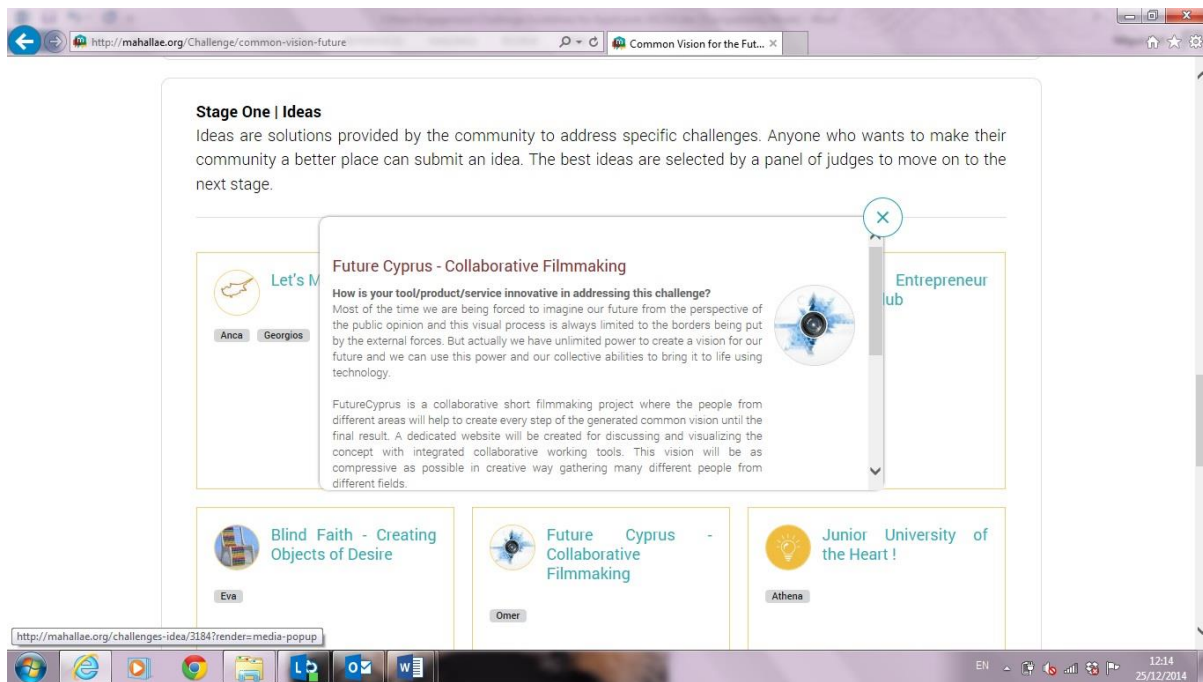5. Building Prototypes

STAGE ONE: IDEAS GENERATION

You are invited to post your most innovative ideas directly through the Mahallae website. This online brainstorming process will be supported by a series of webinars and google hangouts to respond to questions and help to stimulate and support the development of innovative ideas.

You can submit as many ideas in response to each thematic area as you want (but please bear in mind that you can only be part of one winning team). You'll just need to set up a profile here, choose a title for your idea, provide a short description by answering these 3 simple questions and (if you want) upload an image.

1. Describe the problem that you want to address. How does this problem affect people in their daily lives?

2. Describe your proposed solution – How does your approach build on or add to more traditional ways of dealing with problem?

3. Which technologies are you planning to use and why? Please make reference to other similar uses of your proposed technology enabled solution.

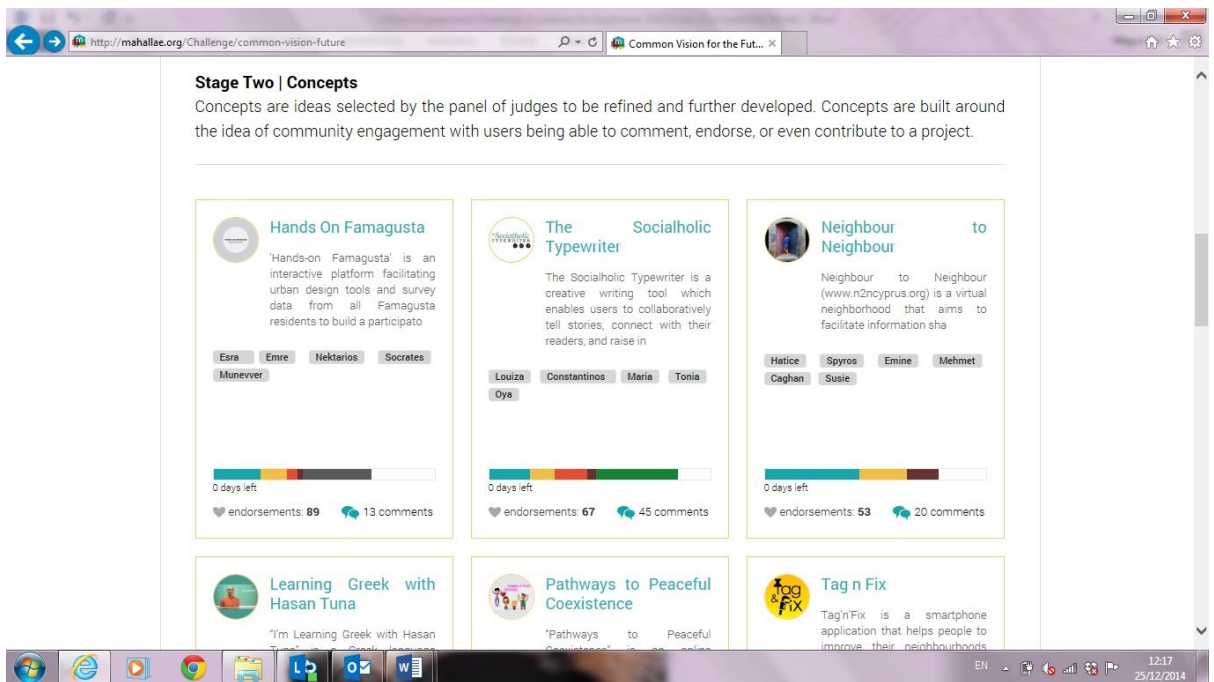**All ideas will be openly shared on the Mahallae platform.**

Example of Ideas Generation Stage on the Mahallae platform

Deadline for submitting ideas: Thursday 5th March 2015 17.00 GMT +2

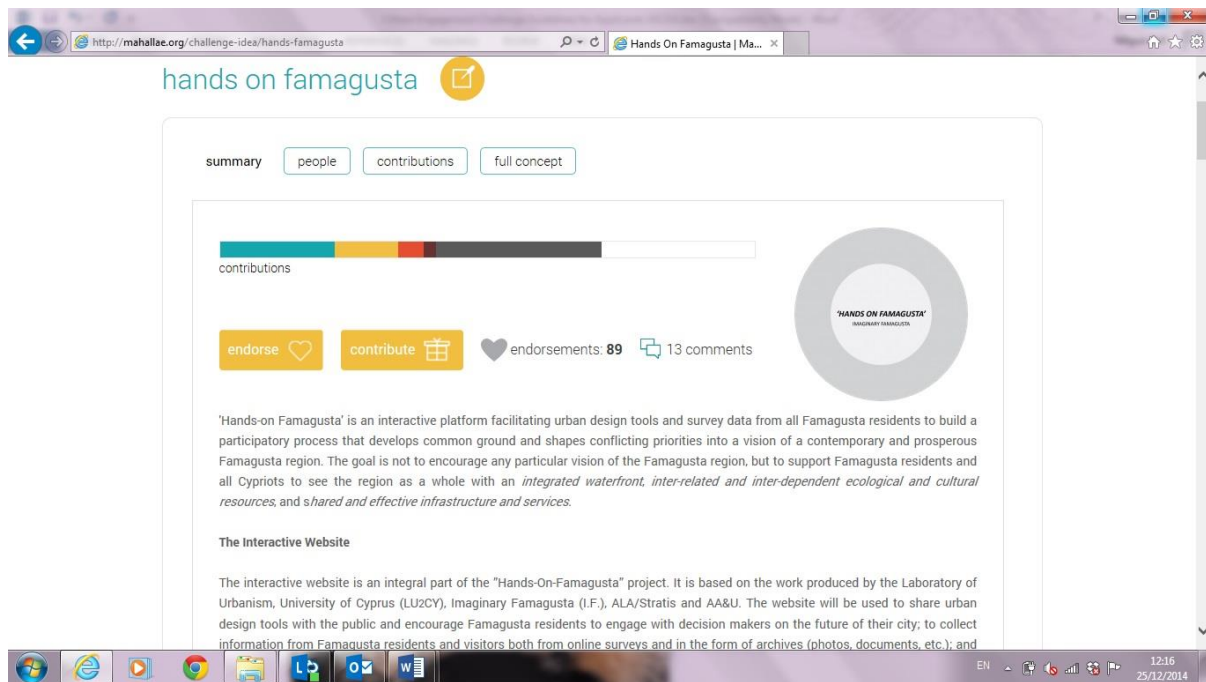**STAGE TWO: CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT**
A panel of judges will select eight ideas that best match the criteria from the stage one process to go onto this next stage. These ideas will receive mentoring from UNDP to be developed into full blown concepts. The shortlisted concepts will be featured on the Mahallae website and will include:

- Information about the team – It's important to get to know the people behind the idea.

- A longer description of the problem and proposed solution – Innovation comes from good well-structured problem definition – it's important to understand how the solution will address the problem.

- A theory of change – How will your concept contribute to positive social change? It's important to ask yourself and answer the "so what" question so that others can really understand the potential impact.

- An end user journey – How will people actually use the technology? It's important to ensure that end users are attracted to using your proposed technology, and that they remain engaged throughout the process.

- Summary of the budget – How will you ensure the most efficient use of the available funds?

Example of the Concept Development stage

The shortlisted teams will use this period to refine their idea and build community support around their concept. Members of the public will be able to endorse the project, ask questions, provide feedback and offer in kind resources, through the Mahallae platform. The level of community support generated during this stage will be assessed by the panel of judges as part of the evaluation process for selecting the finalists.

Example of building community support on the Mahallae platform

Deadline for finalising concepts: Monday 30th March 2015 17.00 GMT +2

STAGE THREE: SELECTION OF WINNING TEAMS

A panel of judges will select between two to four the winning concepts to receive start-up funding of up to $10,000. The winning teams will be those that best demonstrated the most innovative yet feasible solution to the challenge, and have successfully built support from their communities.

Winning Teams announced: Friday 10th April 2015

STAGE FOUR: REFINING PROTOTYPES AND PARTICIPATION IN THE BUILD PEACE CONFERENCE

The winning teams will be invited to attend the 2nd Annual Build Peace through technology conference in Nicosia, Cyprus on 25th & 26th April 2015. The conference will examine, in-depth, how the use of technology can result in the creation of alternative infrastructures for peace. On the day before conference, the winning teams will have a chance to receive advice and support from UNDP and some of the conference key note speakers and panellists in order to refine their prototypes and learn from others working in this area.

STAGE FIVE: BUILDING PROTOTYPES

UNDP will continue to provide support and mentoring to the winning teams to co-create and develop their prototypes. This will include creating mechanisms to involve end users in the design and testing of the prototypes. As part of the implementation process, teams will adopt a "work out loud" approach whereby they will share regular updates throughout the development process and results through social media and blogs.

Implementation Phase: May – December 2015

WHO CAN APPLY?

The UNDP Citizen Engagement Challenge is open to submissions from:

Registered Civil Society Organisations
Registered Not for Profit Companies
Individuals
UNDP Country offices

Eligible Counties and Territories:
Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo[1], Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Tajikistan, fYR Macedonia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan
Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, UAE and Yemen

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[1] All references to Kosovo are in the context of UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

Please note:
 An applicant can submit a number of ideas to one or more thematic areas but can be part of only one idea selected to move onto the concept stage.

FUNDING GUIDELINES
The UNDP Technology for Citizen Engagement Challenge finalists will receive funds of up to $10,000.

Financial disbursements will be paid in US Dollars ($) Full concepts will be developed in sufficient detail to reflect the complexity and scope of the proposed funded activities. All information submitted with the full concepts must be directly relevant to the proposed activities. All financial reporting requirements will be based on activities that are defined in the written agreement between UNDP and the challenge winners. Disbursements will be made for items that are in-line with pre-approved budget items which are accompanied by original receipts.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The panel of judges will review submissions against the following evaluation criteria:

STAGE ONE: IDEAS GENERATION

Criteria	Points
Impact: The idea demonstrates the potential to contribute to social change in the thematic area	45
Innovation: The idea demonstrates an innovative approach to addressing the specified challenge	30
Tech component: The idea presents an appropriate and smart use of use of technology.	25
TOTAL	100

STAGE TWO: CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Criteria	Points
Feasibility: The concept demonstrates clear and realistic plans for development and implementation.	20
Capacity: The team clearly demonstrates that it has the knowhow to turn the concept into reality.	20

Scalability: The concept demonstrates sufficient potential to be scaled up after initial implementation.	**20**
Community Support: The concept has received sufficient support and interest from potential users.	**20**
Value for Money: The budget accurately reflects the scope and nature of the proposed activities	**20**
TOTAL	**100**

PANEL OF JUDGES

All submissions will be evaluated by a panel of judges comprised of representatives from UNDP and practitioners working in the field of citizen engagement, peacebuilding, innovation and technology. Click here to see the full list and profiles of the judges.

QUESTIONS

Please send any questions that you may have to info@mahallae.org Visit www.mahalle.org/colloborate for further information and for the most recent updates on Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Nesta Development Impact and you toolkit