



GovTech Connect

Transforming Government, Together

GovTech Connect

Q&A Webinar for Boot Camp 3 & 4-
Western & Eastern Europe

22nd February 2024, 12:00–13:00 CET

With the support of:



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GovTech Connect Boot Camp Webinar – Western & Eastern Europe & Reimagining Cities: Pioneering Smart Solutions for a Sustainable Future

February 22nd 2024, 12:00– 13:00 (CET)

Objective

As part of GovTech Connect, we are running a series of boot camps for SMEs and start-ups aimed at identifying innovative solutions across European regions that address challenges around digital infrastructure, health technology, net-zero goals and smart cities. The boot camps are designed as innovation challenges, where early-stage start-ups and SMEs come up with solutions to address challenges.

Boot camp 3 & 4 will focus on startups based in **Western & Eastern Europe focusing on “Reimagining Cities: Pioneering Smart Solutions for a Sustainable Future.”**

The goal of the webinar was to **launch the boot camp, engage interested startups and outline the programme and application process**: introducing the consortium delivering the programme, presenting the programme opportunity as well as key details about the application and selection process.

Agenda

This Webinar was split into three parts:

- **11:00 – 11:05 – Introduction to GovTech Connect: Project Overview**

Marta Bertoni, Intellera Consulting

The first section of the Webinar was dedicated to giving an overview of the GovTech Connect project, going through who makes up the consortium

- **11:05 – 11:30 – Introduction to the GovTech Connect Boot camp 3 & 4 (Western & Eastern Europe)**

Jemima Kola-Abodunde, Zara Qadir, PUBLIC

The second part of the Webinar was dedicated to introducing boot camp 3 & 4 – Western and Eastern Europe and talking the startups through the challenge statements, the bootcamp learning structure, selection process and entry requirements.

- **11:30 – 12:00 – Open questions and answers**

Moderated by PUBLIC team

The final part of the Webinar was an Interactive questions and answers session in which startups got the chance to ask questions to the PUBLIC team about the boot camp and wider programme

Major outcomes

The webinar had **12 startup attendees** (Fluves, aIoT Cloud, Quaesta.AI, Tranzy.AI, amongst others). The attendees were invited to interact on the webinar chat as they joined the online session, intervening and asking questions to speakers and panellists.

During the **introduction**, the audience members learned about the scope of the GovTech Connect Programme and the companies that made up the consortium. As well as a wide overview of the whole GovTech Connect project with a timeline for activities over the next year, as well as learning about our online community on JoinUp.

Marta Bertoni explained that the consortium team is in a fantastic position to deliver the programme as a result of our extensive collective experience from research to running innovation programmes for startups. She then went on to explain the wider project and gave a running timeline for the programme and explained the 4 separate boot camps taking place over the projects two-year period.

The audience was then introduced to **the bootcamp**, with Jemima Kola-Abodunde and Zara Qadir giving an extensive run through of Bootcamp 3 & 4: Western & Eastern Europe & Reimagining Cities: Pioneering Smart Solutions for a Sustainable Future.

Jemima and Zara started by explaining **the GovTech opportunity for startups**, and why now is a fantastic time for startups to innovate within the public sector – the market for digitising Government is growing fast. A few examples were given of startups who have successfully completed the Northern & Southern European boot camps:

- SkenarioLabs
- OpenHydro
- Measure & change

The **objectives of the bootcamps** were then explained, this being: driving the EU GovTech Market, catalysing public sector digital innovation and smart cities; and supporting the co-development of user centred solutions. Zara then discussed the 2024 **timeline** for bootcamp 3 & 4, from the design in January 2024 to selection in March to the kick off of the boot camp in April (Western Europe) and September (Eastern Europe).

Jemima then walked the audience through the **challenge areas** that the boot camps will be addressing during the program, offering policy context around each challenge statement and examples of the solutions that would be relevant for the program. The challenge areas for this boot camp are:

SMART ENERGY

1. How can technology make infrastructure smarter and greener, promoting active energy optimisation in buildings and roads?
2. How can technology enhance the integration of renewable energy sources into existing urban infrastructure, considering scalability and adaptability?

SMART MOBILITY

1. How can technology improve the accessibility of public transportation systems for individuals with diverse needs, considering physical and digital inclusivity?
2. How can technology optimise traffic flow and reduce congestion through innovative solutions, taking into account environmental sustainability?

SMART WELLBEING

1. How can technology be employed to facilitate real-time monitoring that ensures the well-being of residents by proactively improving health and preventing illness?
2. How can technology design community-driven digital platforms that foster social connections and facilitate neighbourhood collaboration for improved well-being?

SMART ENGAGEMENT

1. How can technology design intuitive citizen engagement platforms that allow residents to easily access and provide feedback on public services, enhancing overall interaction with local authorities?
2. How can technology effectively address inclusion barriers and enhance the inclusivity of diverse urban populations, ensuring equitable service delivery through more accessible public services?

WILDCARD

How can technology catalyse transformative citizen behaviour change to foster smart cities and promote sustainable public sector services.

Additionally, participants were walked through the **application process, eligibility requirements and selection process**. In terms of eligibility requirements, Zara explained the bootcamp is designed for early-stage start-ups up to Series A and digital SMEs, and that preference will be given to companies based in the target region as well as those addressing the challenge areas directly.

In terms of selection process, startups were walked through the internal selection process and the way in which the application was scored:

- Solution feasibility (Weighted 25%, ranked from 1 to 5)
- Team (Weighted 25%, ranked from 1 to 5)
- Company experience (Weighted 25%, ranked from 1 to 5)
- Plan for working with end-users (Weighted 25%, ranked from 1 to 5)

Following this, the audience were then walked through the **learning programme offering**, and the **benefits** startups would receive by being part of the programme. Jemima exemplified the learning journey and process – this being a 5-week course, first taking place in April 2024 with a final pitch in June, and September 2024 with a final pitch in November, with the learning delivered exclusively virtual with weekly 5-hour sessions. The program includes onboarding, and introduction to the public sector, innovation business models, investment and fundraising, pitch preparation and a pitch day.

On a final note, the team touched on the **stakeholder engagement activities** that are a key part of the programme. Boot camps will act as experimentation environments where start-ups can gain new knowledge and co-create value with citizens and other societal stakeholders. The journey of this is: Initial survey, masterclass, workshop, focus groups and the final survey.

Live Q&A

The live Q&A offered the opportunity for startups to ask **open questions** to the PUBLIC team about the programme. Early-stage startups with a digital solution that the programme can provide value to. The majority of the questions were around the boot camp requirements and the smart cities categories the startups would fit into. To give some example of some questions we received and the answers we gave:

We're a startup that is keen to apply, but our solutions go beyond the scope of 'Smart Energy'. Which category would we likely fit into? *The startups which fit in different categories are welcome to apply for the Wildcard theme!*

Next steps for GovTech Connect

Applications for the Western and Eastern European Boot Camp will be considered until March 13th. Results will be announced in late March.

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