

Mahallae Challenges - Guidelines for Applicants

OVERVIEW

Mahallae is a digital platform for civic engagement - where people can gather to brainstorm ideas and support each other in developing concepts into effective and practical, community actions that can have a lasting impact.

Mahallae has been developed through a partnership between UNDP- Action for Cooperation and Trust and its partners with the support of USAID.

The Mahallae Challenges provide opportunities for civic engagement by soliciting ideas about how best to use technology for addressing issues that can contribute to building a more peaceful society.

THE FAMAGUSTA REGION CHALLENGE- IN PARTNERSHIP WITH RENEWAL

Tell us how you as youth entrepreneurs can use technology creatively to support positive economic and social development in the greater Famagusta region.

Youth unemployment has reached approximately 40% in the communities in the Famagusta region and young people are disenfranchised. Many are moving away from their communities to other parts of Cyprus and abroad for economic opportunities. When economic opportunities are so rare, it's even more difficult to set up joint ventures with people from other communities.

However, what if young people from different groups in the greater Famagusta region could work together to create new economic opportunities for their region? There is nothing as powerful as a new idea in the hands of young ambitious entrepreneurs. Now is the time to think outside the box. Young entrepreneurs in the Famagusta region can change the face of business and their economy; they can act as the change agents for their society, seizing opportunities to improve systems; they can invent new approaches and create solutions to change their society and economy for the better. And when entrepreneurs can work together, the economic benefits of living in a diverse, peaceful society become more evident.

That's why we are inviting you, the youth entrepreneurs of the greater Famagusta region, to come up with new ideas for technology-enabled tools, products or services that can support positive economic and social development in the greater Famagusta region. Show us how you can use innovative new technologies to work together on ventures that would create economic opportunities for your region. Show people that coming together can make us all more prosperous. Join the Mahallae-Renewal challenge for a chance to receive the support and funding you need to turn your ideas into reality.

THE PROCESS – HOW TO APPLY

The Mahallae challenges will follow a 4 stage process: Ideas, Concepts, Solutions, and Actions.

One: IDEAS STAGE

You are invited to post your most innovative ideas directly through the Mahallae website. This is an online brainstorming party.

You can submit as **many ideas** as you want (but please bear in mind that you can only be part of 1 winning idea). You'll just need to set up a profile, choose a title for your idea, provide short answers to three questions and (if you want) upload an image.

All ideas will be openly shared on the Mahallae platform.

Deadline for submitting ideas: Friday 30th January 2015

Two: CONCEPTS STAGE

A team of judges will select those ideas that best match the criteria from the online brainstorming process. These ideas will receive support and mentoring from the Mahallae and RENEWAL teams to be developed into full blown concepts. These concepts will be featured on the Mahallae website and will include a longer description, information about the team behind the concept and a detailed budget.

Members of the public will be invited to endorse the concepts, ask questions, provide comments and offer in kind resources.

Shortlisted ideas announced: Friday 6th February 2015

Deadline for finalising concepts: Monday 23th February 2015

Three: SOLUTIONS STAGE

Our judges select **the finalists**: the winning concepts will be the ones which have best demonstrated the most feasible solution to the challenge, and have evoked endorsements, discussions and contributions from their communities. The winning concepts will receive **start-up funding of up to 5,000 Euro each.**

Important Note: UNDP-ACT will decide on the number of grants depending on the level of interest and quality of the concepts submitted. UNDP-ACT also reserves the right to increase or decrease the level of funding to winning applicants on a case-by-case basis.

Winners announced: 9th March 2015

Four: ACTIONS STAGE

The Mahallae team will continue to provide support and mentoring to the winning teams to co-create and develop their solutions. All **reporting and updates** on implementation, process and results happen via the Mahllae platform, to keep all contributors and endorsers informed.

Implementation: 15th March 2015 – 31st July 2015

WHO CAN APPLY?

- Civil Society Organizations based and registered in Cyprus;
- Not for profit companies based and registered in Cyprus
- Private Sector
- Non-formal groups (groups of individuals who are not part of an organization/company) based in Cyprus
- Individuals based in Cyprus.

Please note: Although applicants may submit multiple ideas to this Challenge, a single applicant can participate in only **ONE** idea selected to move onto the concept stage.

FUNDING GUIDELINES

Winning teams will receive up to 5,000 Euro to implement their ideas.

Financial disbursements will be paid in Euros (€). Full concepts will be developed in sufficient detail to reflect the complexity and scope of the proposed grant-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.

Copyright

Intellectual property rights of the technology enabled products, tools or services that are selected to receive funds will be owned by the applicants who will grant UNDP a non-exclusive, royalty-free right to use and to further license. Successful applicants will need to follow UNDP branding and visibility guidelines.

SELECTION CRITERIA

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

One: Ideas stage

Criteria	Points
Innovation: The idea demonstrates an innovative approach to addressing the relevant challenge.	40
Impact: The idea demonstrates the potential to contribute to social change.	35
Tech component: The idea presents an	25

appropriate and smart use of use of technology.	
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Two: Concept stage

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
Adaptability: The concept demonstrates sufficient potential to be replicated in a different context.	20
Adoption: The concept has received sufficient support and interest from potential users.	20
Sustainability: The concept has attracted other resources and support and demonstrates the potential to be scaled after initial implementation.	20

JUDGES

All submissions will be evaluated by a panel of judges comprised of representatives from UNDP/USAID, Cypriot Enterprise Link and RENEWAL as well as local and international technical experts.

QUESTIONS

Please send any questions that you may have to info@mahallae.org Visit <http://www.mahalle.org/collaborate> for further information.