

Hackathon Charter – E-Gov’A Africa

Preamble

As part of E-Gov’A 2026, organized by Smart Click Africa in partnership with Digital Business Africa, the **E-Gov’A Hackathon** to be held from **14 to 16 May 2026** in Yaoundé mobilizes talent from universities and higher education institutions to design concrete digital solutions serving public administration, local and regional authorities, and Cameroonian enterprises.

Article 1 – General objective

The overall goal is to stimulate digital innovation in the public sector by having student teams develop a solution or application addressing a specific problem of a public administration, a decentralized local authority, a ministerial department, or a company. The challenge statement is validated by Smart Click Africa.

Article 2 – Target audience and eligibility

Participation is encouraged as a priority for universities and higher education institutions in ICT, Telecommunications, IT, AI, and digital disciplines located in Yaoundé. Institutions based outside Yaoundé may also participate, provided they cover their teams’ travel and accommodation costs for the three days. Should partners join the support program, these costs may be covered by Smart Click Africa and/or said partners.

Article 3 – Registration and team composition

Eligible participants are students duly enrolled in the 2025–2026 academic year in a university or higher education institution in ICT, Telecommunications, IT, AI, and digital disciplines. Each team comprises 3 to 5 members, coached by at least one lecturer or mentor. Any change in team composition is possible up to D–3 with the organizer’s written approval. Team names are the names of the training institutes. Example: Team IAI. The registration deadline and practical arrangements are published on www.e-gov.africa.

Article 4 – Process

A brief will be presented on 14 May 2026 at the hackathon venue on a concrete challenge provided by the partner administration and validated by the Smart Click Africa team. Prototyping duration: 48 hours. Coaching by technical mentors and subject-matter experts. Pitch and demo sessions at the end.

However, it is recommended (not mandatory) that each team prepare a digital solution addressing a problem of a community, a public institution, or a company. The team could thus be ahead if the official brief aligns with the spirit of its initial project. Internal competitions may be organized within institutions to select the best team to participate in the E-Gov’A Hackathon 2026.

Article 5 – Deliverables and submission

Each team must submit by the deadline a package including source code, executable or demo link, a presentation (6 slides), and a user guide. Deliverables are uploaded to the version-controlled space indicated by the organizer. Any late submission will not be evaluated. The team leader, accompanied by teammates, will pitch before a jury to defend the project.

Article 6 – Data, APIs, and confidentiality

Datasets and APIs provided are anonymized and reserved for the hackathon. The use of real personal data outside the provided scope is prohibited. A confidentiality undertaking may be required for certain datasets.

Article 7 – Cybersecurity, compliance, and AI ethics

Solutions must implement minimum good practices (secret management, credential encryption, no intentional vulnerabilities). For AI, transparency on models and sources, description of limitations, and bias-mitigation measures are required. Unlawful scraping, deepfakes, and uses contrary to law are prohibited.

Article 8 – Intellectual property and support for winners

Intellectual property in the winning solutions remains entirely with the student winners. Winners accept the exclusive support of Smart Click Africa covering the technical maturation and deployment of the winning solution, as well as its commercial and institutional valorization. A separate agreement may govern piloting and exploitation with the beneficiary administration.

Article 9 – Intellectual property for non-winners and third-party components

IP for non-winning projects remains with their teams. Each team warrants it holds the rights to all components used and documents libraries and licenses in a dedicated file.

Article 10 – Jury, scoring, and conflicts of interest

The jury comprises experts, ministerial representatives, and tech professionals. Indicative scoring: Impact 30%, Feasibility 25%, Innovation 20%, User Experience 15%, Pitch Quality 10%. Any juror in a conflict of interest must recuse themselves for the team concerned.

Article 11 – Final selection and ties

Shortlist followed by a public final. In the event of a tie, the Impact score prevails; if still tied, the Jury Chair shall decide. The organizer reserves the right not to award a prize if minimum criteria are not met.

Article 12 – Prizes and grants

1st Prize: 500,000 XAF + deployment support

2nd Prize: 300,000 XAF

3rd Prize: 100,000 XAF

Prizes are awarded during the E-Gov'A Awards. Amounts may be increased in case of co-sponsorship.

Article 13 – Prize disbursement

Disbursement within 30 working days after receipt of required documents. Applicable withholdings and legal obligations apply. Payment may be made to the team leader, the institution, or an incubator structure per written agreement.

Article 14 – Pilot framework with the administration

A letter of intent for a pilot may be signed with the partner administration, specifying scope, focal points, timeline, success criteria, and responsibilities. Winning the hackathon does not create any public-procurement obligation.

Article 15 – Post-hackathon timeline and exclusivity of support

Indicative support duration: one year, with milestones at D+30 (scoping), D+90 (pilot), D+180 (review). Extension possible by addendum. During this period, support for the winners by Smart Click Africa is exclusive.

Article 16 – Code of conduct and academic integrity

Zero tolerance for harassment, discrimination, fraud, and plagiarism. Any uncredited appropriation or behavior contrary to the charter results in disqualification.

Article 17 – Mentors and scope of assistance

Mentors, mainly lecturers from these universities and institutions, advise, challenge, and train without coding in place of the teams. Any intervention beyond this scope is prohibited. The institution may designate in writing a mentor who is not part of its own staff.

Article 18 – Tools, environment, and assistance

The organizer provides badges, workspaces, electricity, Wi-Fi, and an official support channel. Unless otherwise stated, cloud environments and specific hardware remain the responsibility of teams.

Article 19 – Logistics, accessibility, and image rights

Information on accessibility, security, breaks, and catering is provided to admitted teams. Unless prior written objection is made, participants authorize the non-exclusive use of their image and project visuals for hackathon communications.

Article 20 – Communications and brand usage

Any use of E-Gov'A, Smart Click Africa, Digital Business Africa, or administration brands and visuals requires prior approval. Teams agree to correctly acknowledge partners.

Article 21 – Inclusion and gender balance

The hackathon encourages mixed teams and the participation of female students. Travel grants for institutions outside Yaoundé may be mobilized if dedicated partnerships are secured.

Article 22 – Use of AI assistants

Permitted subject to clear documentation in a README_AI file specifying significant prompts, AIs used, generated parts, and limitations. Teams remain responsible for content compliance.

Article 23 – Force majeure, postponement, and hybrid format

In case of force majeure, the organizer may reschedule, or switch to a hybrid or virtual format, preserving awards and competitive fairness as far as possible.

Article 24 – Governing law, duration, and disputes

The charter applies throughout registration, event delivery, and post-event follow-up. Governing law: Cameroon. Any dispute is first submitted to mediation; failing that, jurisdiction lies with the courts of Yaoundé.

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