

REGIONAL OPEN DATA CHALLENGE 2024



WHAT IS THE REGIONAL OPEN DATA CHALLENGE 2024?

To promote and recognise efforts in public administration in publishing open data and promote the use of open data, the Regional School for Public Administration (ReSPA) joins forces with United Nations Development Programme Serbia (UNDP Serbia) to launch Regional Open Data Challenge 2024 (RODC 2024). This initiative aims to promote the use of open data for addressing challenges recognised as the themes of common interest for ReSPA Members - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia (hereinafter: Members).

The RODC 2024 aims to recognise, award, and promote the innovative reuse of open data across Members for greater transparency, accountability, inclusiveness and effectiveness in service delivery and design.

The ultimate goal is to foster collaboration between government and initiatives from civil society organisations (CSOs), academia and the private sector to stimulate data-driven innovation and promote the positive impact of using open data. Whether it's improving public services, empowering citizens, or driving economic growth, the RODC 2024 will emphasize the tangible benefits that open data can bring to communities. Additionally, it is expected that the RODC 2024 will raise public awareness about the importance and potential of open data across the region. It will convey the message to policymakers and decision-makers to support open data publishing as it can benefit citizens and businesses and boost economic activities.

Participants must develop mobile or web applications using open datasets published by public sector bodies across ReSPA Members. The Western Balkan needs innovative people's vision, engagement, and participation to build a greener, more inclusive, and digital future.



CONDITIONS AND WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The competition aims to create a for-profit or non-profit (social) business model through data exploration and/or in making the **solution or idea** based on open and public data.

The condition for participation is that at least one set of open data from open data portals¹ of ReSPA Members administrations is used. The additional data in the reusable format (example: excel sheets) should be used from any other publicly available dataset(s), for example, data from statistical offices, other public administration institutions, and data.europa.eu that refer to the Members.

NOTE: Following the Info Session on 26th March, the above sentence from the call has been updated:

The condition for participation is that at least one set of open data from open data portals of ReSPA Members administrations is used, or one set of open data from website of any public administration institution of ReSPA Members administrations (in case where that dataset is not available on the national open data portal).

Solutions must be developed under an open licence (GPL, Creative Commons or similar), publicly available and currently or potentially replicable in other environments (s), i.e local, entity or state level.

Throughout the challenge, in order to produce solutions or ideas, participants will have access to a variety of data sources as well as mentorship.

They will have the opportunity to present the developed solutions to credible assessors for review and examination.

The competition will respect the principles of transparency and equal treatment.

- Following categories are eligible to apply: companies, civil society organisation/foundations, science and research facilities, individuals/group of individuals (the contract will be signed with the leader of the team). Legal entities and individuals registered or residing in the participating economies – Members are eligible to apply.
- A team can be composed of one or more individuals (up to 4), one or more companies (up to 4) or one or more other legal entities (up to 4).
- The competition is not open to staff working in public sector bodies across ReSPA institutions.
- Teams can be composed of persons under the age of 18. If that is the case, a written consent of the parents is required

¹ Open data portals in the ReSPA administrations are on the following links:

• <https://opendata.gov.al> • <https://odp.iddeea.gov.ba> • <https://data.gov.me> • <https://www.otvorenipodatoci.gov.mk> • <https://data.gov.rs/sr/datasets/>



WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?

The competition consists of four challenges. Each challenge is organised as a separate competition of equal importance. Applicants may participate in any or all of the following challenges:

Challenge 1: Mobility and Transportation Data

With autonomous vehicles and smart transport systems on the rise, there's a growing need for real-time transportation data. Solutions about traffic flow, route efficiency, or transport system status can meaningfully benefit citizens as well as transportation management and planning.

- **Develop a solution or propose an idea** that could be used for creating the solution for smart and sustainable transport models. Examples: more efficient travel patterns, identification of areas with alternative modes of transport such as public transport - cycling or walking, real-time information on workable routes in the Members or on waiting time at the borders crossings, identification of electric-vehicle charging stations, bicycle or car-sharing schemes, green freight initiatives, etc.

Combine at least one dataset from open data portals within one or more Members with any other publicly available dataset(s) in the Members.

Challenge 2: Workforce mobility

Empower youth in the Members by facilitating skill development, job matching, and career advancement. The platform aims to bridge the gap between youth and employers, while fostering a dynamic and resilient workforce, empowers youth with real-time information for informed career decisions. The real time information on temporary employments in the region and in EU, "work and travel schemes" or internships would increase youth workforce mobility and enable employers to have bigger outreach to potentially interested youth. In certain sectors such as tourism there is considerable mobility of youth workforce within the region and with neighbouring EU countries that could entail more information on the demand for works within regulated schemes.

- **Develop a solution or propose an idea** that could be used for a "digital skills passport" for each user, allowing them to showcase a comprehensive profile of their skills, experiences, and achievements. Implement a feature that provides real-time insights into the data from labor market, including demand for specific skills, emerging industries, and trending job opportunities. This helps youth make informed career decisions.

Combine at least one dataset from open data portals within one or more Members with any other publicly available dataset(s) in the Members.

Challenge 3: Tourism Atlas

Create an intelligent itinerary planner that considers user preferences, interests, and real-time events at the destination. Utilize machine learning algorithms to suggest personalized itineraries based on data and user feedback. The solution can encourage the local community to contribute their insights.

Develop a solution or propose an idea that aims to enhance the overall tourism experience for travellers, such as:

- Provide information on accommodations, transportation, and activities;
- Implement a safety feature that provides real-time updates on local safety conditions and emergency contact information. Include an SOS button for immediate assistance.
- Travelers can enjoy a personalized and enriched travel experience.
- Encourages local communities and travellers to actively participate in sharing information.
- Contribute to the promotion of sustainable tourism practices.

Combine at least one dataset from open data portals within one or more Members with any other publicly available dataset(s) in the Members.

Challenge 4: Demographic trends

Leverage data to enhance the understanding of demographic trends in the Members, fostering informed decision-making and community involvement, and analyse and visualize demographic trends in the Members.

- **Develop a solution or propose an idea** that could provide insights into population dynamics, migration patterns, and other demographic factors to help policymakers, researchers, and the public understand and respond to changing demographic landscapes; aggregate and visualize key demographic indicators, including population size, age distribution, birth rates, mortality rates, and migration patterns, include a migration tracker that visualizes the flow of people within the region and beyond. This can provide insights into the reasons behind migration and its impact on population distribution and assess demographic trends' social and economic impact.

Combine at least one dataset from open data portals within one or more Members with any other publicly available dataset(s) in the Members.

All above proposals for the solution are indicative illustrations. Participants are encouraged to create innovative proposals which go beyond this list, while staying in the relevant thematic area.

Proposals need to refer to and create benefit for the participating economies.



HOW TO APPLY?

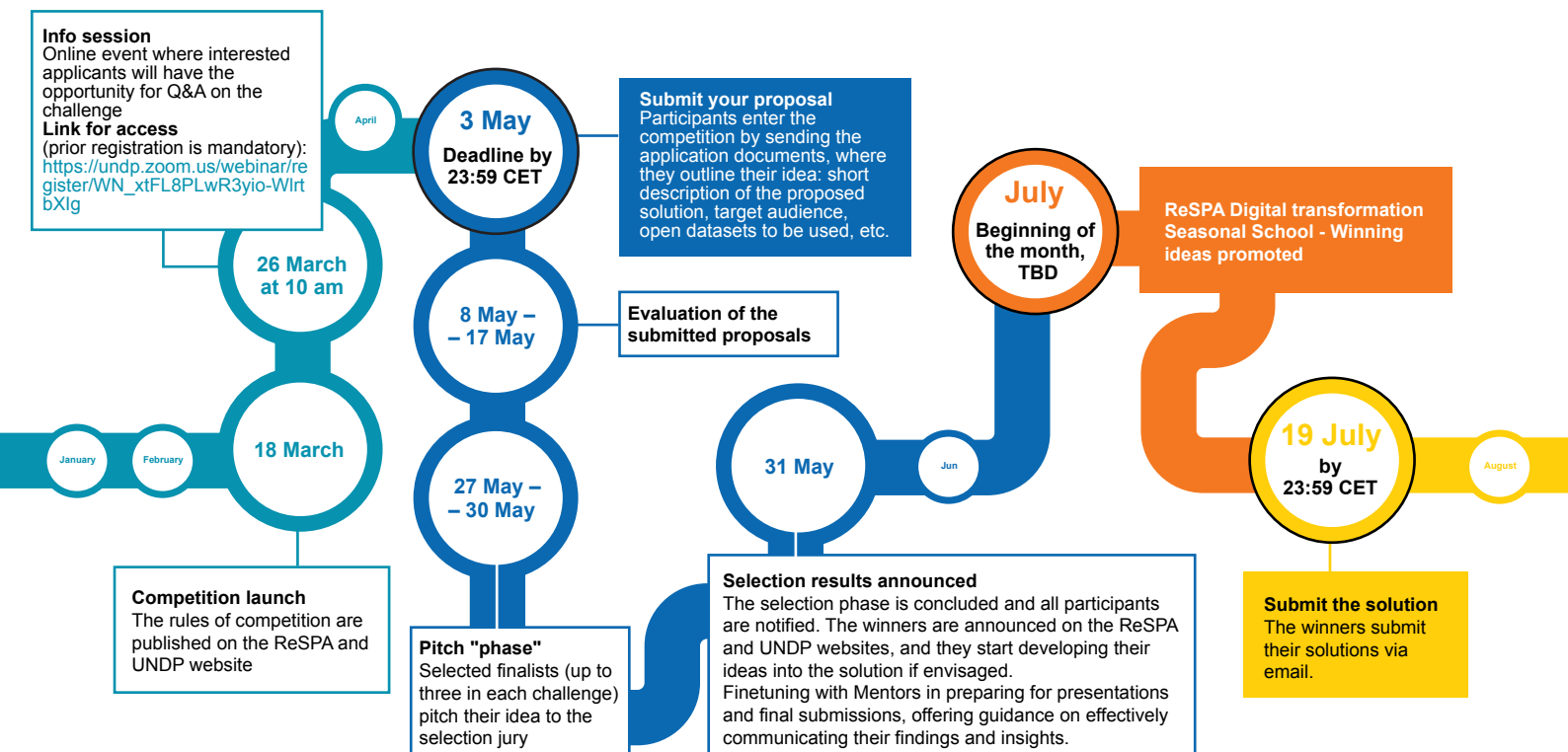
Application should include the following documents:

- **Application form** (named after the name of the application team in the following form "Application form_name of the team")
- CVs (in a free form) of all the members of the team
- Certificate of registration of legal entity if the applicant is legal entity

The deadline for submission of the applications is 3rd May 2024, by 23:59 CET. Applications should be sent to email **datachallenge.rs@undp.org**

Late applications will not be received and considered. It is applicant's responsibility to assure the technical conditions for application to be delivered on time.

COMPETITION TIMELINE





EVALUATION PROCESS

UNDP Serbia shall perform an eligibility check upon receipt of the application. During the evaluation, an internal jury will assess each submitted application/idea against the selection criteria (table below) and grade all competing participants based on the agreement reached by consensus. Up to three applications/ideas scoring the highest points (top 3 per challenge) are selected to pitch to the jury for each challenge. Both “idea” and “solution” applications will be assessed against the same selection criteria.

| Selection criteria | Maximum number of points |
|--|--------------------------|
| Relevance to the selected challenge <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relevance to a specific economic and social problem or need in the Members• Scalability - assess the potential for scalability to other economies• Sustainability - the long-term sustainability of the project beyond the competition | 20 |
| Relevance to a specific problem or need <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Problem definition and proposed solution clearly identified• Maturity of the proposed idea (readiness of the application and usability)• Impact of the proposed idea on the economy and/or everyday life | 20 |
| Relevance of proposed data sources <ul style="list-style-type: none">• (Open) data which is proposed for the development of the solution is relevant and accessible• Interoperability with other data sources (linking potential) | 20 |
| Effective/usable and impactful relevance: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identification and mapping of the beneficiaries and other stakeholders is relevant for the idea• The initiative should make a positive impact on a group(s) of the population and/or address an issue of public concern within the context of a given economy(s)• Public concern - citizens and/or businesses must benefit from the added value of the case, thus it must be visible and distinctive at least in the region of the users. | 20 |
| Potential and creativity of the proposed idea <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creativity and innovativeness of the proposed idea and harnessing emerging technologies (the Wow-effect)• The initiative can become a flagship example in the field | 20 |



PRIZES

UNDP Serbia shall fund the prizes.

The total award fund for the competition amounts to **USD 20 000** and will be split in the following order.



In the category of “solution”, the prize shall be disbursed upon signing of the contract and submission of the final solutions. In the category of the “idea”, the prize shall be disbursed upon selection of the winners and signing of the contract.

TIPS FOR THE APPLICANTS

- Choose a short, meaningful, and catchy name for your team.
- The organisers can support participants in choosing the proper challenge.
- Reserve the time to attend the info session and find all the relevant information regarding the public call (recording will be available on the [UNDP YouTube](#) and [ReSPA YouTube](#) channels after the info session).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Clarifications

Participants may request any clarification up to three (3) working days before the closing date for submitting proposals. Requests for clarification should be submitted in writing to the following email address: datachallenge.rs@undp.org

Payment of awards

The payments of awards are subject to submitting the agreed deliverables. All awarded applicants will sign an agreement with UNDP. Templates of the agreements are available [on this link](#) for company (to be applied to companies, civil society organisation/foundations, science and research facilities) and [on this link](#) for individual.

Cancellation of the competition

UNDP and ReSPA reserve the right to cancel the competition before the competition finals without any obligation to indemnify the applicants.

Intellectual property and copyright

Winners of the RODC 2024 will sign an agreement with UNDP, which shall be entitled to all intellectual property and other proprietary rights including, but not limited to, patents, copyrights, and trademarks, concerning products, processes, inventions, ideas, know-how, or documents and other materials which the winner has developed for UNDP under the agreement and which bear a direct relation to or are produced or prepared or collected in consequence of, or during the course of, the performance of the agreement.

UNDP will grant all winners a world-wide, non-exclusive, non-transferable, and royalty-free license to use the intellectual property or other proprietary rights arising from the activities under the Project. "Use" shall mean the ability to use, reproduce, sub-license, distribute and communicate products incorporating said proprietary rights for non-commercial purposes and exclusively on a non-profit basis.

Applicants are encouraged to consult the agreement template [on this link](#) (company) and [on this link](#) (individual), for all other intellectual property and copyright-related details.

Participants acknowledge and agree that the judges may review, evaluate, and test their submissions to select winners and assess compliance with the RODC 2024 rules.

Participants are responsible for ensuring their submissions do not infringe on third parties' intellectual property rights and copyrights. Any third-party content included in a submission must be properly attributed, and participants must have the necessary permissions to use such content.



PUBLICITY

Consent for Publicity

By participating in RODC 2024 participants grant the hosts of the RODC 2024, the right to use their names, likenesses, images, and biographical information for promotional and publicity purposes related to the RODC 2024. This includes, but is not limited to, announcements, press releases, social media posts, and promotional materials.

Participants acknowledge that their submissions, including project names, descriptions, and visuals, may be featured on the ReSPA and UNDP websites, social media accounts, newsletters, and other promotional channels to showcase the RODC 2024 and its outcomes.

The media may contact participants for interviews, quotes, or other requests related to their participation in the RODC 2024. ReSPA and UNDP may facilitate and coordinate media requests on behalf of the participants, but it is ultimately the participant's decision to participate in such media activities.

Participants should avoid including confidential or sensitive information in their submissions.

ReSPA and UNDP will collaborate with third parties for promotional activities related to the WBODC 2024. Participants understand and agree that their information and submissions may be shared with such third parties for promotional purposes.

Processing of personal data

By participating in RODC 2024, participants acknowledge and consent to the collection, processing, and use of their personal data by the hosts of the RODC 2024. Personal data may include, but is not limited to, names, email addresses, affiliations, and other information provided during the application process.

Personal data will be processed to administer and organise the RODC 2024, including participant communication, judging, and awarding prizes. ReSPA and UNDP will not use personal data for any purpose beyond the scope of the RODC 2024 without explicit consent.

ReSPA and UNDP will take reasonable measures to ensure the security and confidentiality of personal data. Access to personal data will be restricted to authorized personnel administering the RODC 2024.

Personal data may be shared solely with third parties involved in the RODC 2024, such as judges, mentors, or collaborators, to organize and promote the RODC 2024.

