

Terms of participation for the Smart City Idea Competition Digitale Brückenbauer 2026

Preliminary Note

For the sake of readability and accessibility, the masculine form is used in this document. Of course, all references apply to people of all genders.

1. Competition Organiser

The idea competition „Digitale Brückenbauer“ is organized by the non-profit organisation science2public – Gesellschaft für Wissenschaftskommunikation e. V. on behalf of Smart City Halle (Saale) and funded by the City of Halle (Saale) as part of the Model Projects for Smart Cities (MPSC).

2. Eligibility for participation

- (1) Eligible to participate are individuals, clubs, associations, schools, colleges, companies, and other institutions that wish to implement an idea to foster digital education in Halle-Neustadt.
- (2) Participants must be **at least 18 years of age**. Minors may participate only with the consent of a parent or legal guardian and with the assistance of an adult representative.
- (3) Excluded from participation are individuals, organizations, or groups that have demonstrably violated the free and democratic basic order, or whose goals and activities are incompatible with the values of human dignity, equality, and non-discrimination. This includes those who advocate or propagate racist, extremist, anti-semitic, or other inhuman ideologies.

3. Purpose of the Competition

- (1) The competition seeks projects that **promote digital literacy and digital participation** among **residents of Halle-Neustadt**.
- (2) Submitted projects must be **oriented toward the public good** and **offer concrete added value** for the community in the area of **digital education**.
- (3) A maximum of **5,000 euros** will be awarded per project. The total funding pool is **20,000 euros**.
- (4) The competition entries submitted must be **realised in the Halle-Neustadt district of the city of Halle (Saale)**. The primary residence of the participating individual or the headquarters of the participating organisation may be located outside of Halle-Neustadt.
- (5) Implementation of the project must not have begun at the time of submission.
- (6) The project must be a new or significantly advanced, non-commercial idea (with the exception of innovative start-ups).
- (7) Implementation may begin no earlier than after the award ceremony, starting on July 10, 2026.

4. Participation & Submission

- (1) Registration is done via the online registration form on the website of the organizer, science2public e.V.
- (2) Submissions may be made via the online registration form from **April 15, 2026**, through **May 15, 2026**, until 11:59 p.m. Applications submitted after this deadline will not be considered.
- (3) Corrections or objections to the submission must be made in writing within 3 days of the deadline.
- (4) Each person or organization may submit multiple projects, provided that the projects differ significantly in content.

5. Selection & Evaluation

- (1) A jury composed of experts in the fields of digitalization, education, and urban development, as well as young people from Halle (Saale), will select the projects eligible for funding and decide on the allocation of the total funding pool of €20,000.

(2) Evaluation will be based on the following criteria:

- Creativity and originality
- Promotion of digital literacy
- Target audience (inclusion)
- Practical feasibility
- Realistic funding and sustainability
- Social value

(3) Multiple wins are not permitted. Each person, group, or organization may win only once in the competition. If a subsequent submission by a person, group, or organization that has already received an award also wins, the prize will be awarded to the next-ranked submission.

(4) The jury's decision is final and cannot be contested.

6. Award Ceremony & Implementation

(1) The winning projects will be announced at a public award ceremony in **early July 2026**.

(2) The prize money will be paid out in full. A form is required for payment, specifying the implementation period, bank details, and communication measures.

(3) The prize money must be used exclusively for the purpose specified in the online form. Any use of the funds for purposes other than those specified is prohibited. The organizer may request proof of how the funds were used.

(4) The pilot phase of the funded projects **must begin in the third quarter of 2026** (July through September 2026) and **end no later than December 31, 2026, ideally by November 30, 2026**.

(5) If the project idea cannot be realised, the participant must repay the prize money to the project organiser. The prize money will be disbursed through the association science2public – Gesellschaft für Wissenschaftskommunikation e.V.

(6) In the event of misuse of the funds or false statements regarding implementation, the organizer may demand repayment.

7. Rights & Obligations of Participants

- (1) Participants certify that they are the creators of their idea and do not infringe upon the rights of third parties. Participants retain the copyright to their project idea.
- (2) Participation in the competition does not confer any legal entitlement to funding.
- (3) There are generally no entry fees. Any costs incurred in connection with the application must be paid by the participants themselves.
- (4) By submitting their project idea, participants agree that the project organizers may contact them for public relations purposes and jury questions.
- (5) Participants agree to present their project as part of the competition's public relations efforts (e.g., on websites, social media, in the press) and to actively contribute to the creation of promotional materials.
- (6) The implementation of the project must be documented through visual materials and, where applicable, contributions in the press and on social media, and made available to the organizer throughout the project.
- (7) Funding must be acknowledged in project communications on the participating individual's or organization's own channels (logos of science2public, Smart City Halle, City of Halle, KFW, BMWBSB in accordance with the PR guidelines).
- (8) Participants consent to the creation and use of video, audio, and visual recordings by the project organiser and their partners within the scope of the competition and project implementation.
- (9) Participants grant the organizer and the client a non-exclusive right to reproduce and publish the submitted projects for competition and promotional purposes. They consent to the publication of their name, institution, project idea, prize money, and implementation location in the event that they win a prize.
- (10) The prize winners must provide the project organiser with truthful information regarding the progress of the project at all times.

8. Grounds for Disqualification

- (1) The project is to be executed outside of Halle-Neustadt
- (2) Exceeding the maximum possible grant amount of 5,000 euros
- (3) Commercial activities or the intent to make a profit
- (4) Incomplete or incorrect information provided in the submission
- (5) Multiple submissions of the same idea or identical ideas from different individuals
- (6) The project cannot begin in the third quarter of 2026 (July through September)
- (7) Follow-up or subsequent projects to existing projects without significant changes or improvements
- (8) Project implementation began before July 10, 2026
- (9) Lack of a clear focus on promoting digital education and digital participation in the project implementation
- (10) Failure to meet formal and/or technical requirements
- (11) Submission of discriminatory content

9. Privacy Policy

- (1) The personal data collected as part of the application will be processed exclusively for the purpose of conducting the competition. The processing is based on Article 6(1)(b) of the DSGVO (performance of a contract) and, where necessary, on Article 6(1)(f) of the DSGVO (legitimate interests).
- (2) Data will only be disclosed to third parties to the extent necessary for the conduct of the competition (e.g., to contracted service providers). Data will not be transferred to third countries unless this is permitted by law or appropriate safeguards are in place in accordance with Art. 44 et seq. of the DSGVO.
- (3) Participants have the right to access, rectify, erase, restrict the processing of, object to the processing of, and request the portability of their data in accordance with applicable data protection regulations. If there is a legal obligation to retain data, the data will be stored solely for that purpose and subsequently deleted.
- (4) Participants also have the right to file a complaint with the competent data protection authority.

- (5) Further information regarding the processing of personal data can be found in our Privacy Policy.

10. Disclaimer

- (1) The organizer assumes no liability for technical issues or data loss in connection with the application.
- (2) The organizer is liable only for intentional acts and gross negligence.

11. Final Provisions

- (1) The organizer reserves the right to amend the terms and conditions of participation as necessary. Any changes will be announced in a timely manner.
- (2) By submitting their application materials, applicants accept the terms and conditions of participation as well as the privacy policy.
- (3) The terms and conditions of participation are valid for the 2026 competition year (April 15, 2026 – December 31, 2026)