



AI-BOOST

Delivering the next level of European
AI Open competitions

AI-BOOST EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR CHALLENGE OWNERS

GUIDELINES FOR CHALLENGE OWNERS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	WHAT IS AI-BOOST?	3
2	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR CHALLENGE OWNERS	3
2.1	Context and Objectives	3
2.2	Benefits for challenge owners	4
3	ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS	4
4	WHAT CHALLENGE OWNERS PROVIDE?	5
5	HOW TO APPLY?	5
6	SELECTION PROCESS.....	5
7	COMMUNICATION FLOW WITH CHALLENGE OWNERS.....	6
8	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	6
9	ANNEX 1: COMPANY DESCRIPTION.....	7
10	ANNEX 2: CHALLENGE DESCRIPTION.....	8

1 WHAT IS AI-BOOST?

AI-BOOST is an **EU-funded prominent open challenge prize program** that will serve as a benchmark for the European artificial intelligence (AI) community.

The overall objective of the project is to create and run highly replicable **open AI innovation competition** that attracts outstanding talent all over EU and Associated Countries **to drive scientific progress in the major AI Areas**. The project will foster collaboration between the key stakeholders in AI community to define attractive AI challenges with the potential to lead trustworthy and human-centric real-world solutions.

- A **unique sound methodology** capable of defining high social impact AI challenges.
- A highly **replicable and attractive AI open innovation competition** capable of leading breakthroughs in technologies and solutions with substantial scientific progress.
- Provide **access to infrastructure and expert knowledge** and promote its adoption through effective training and troubleshooting during the challenges implementation.
- **Attract outstanding talent** and the best research teams to tackle AI challenges.
- An **AI community** to foster interaction among all relevant stakeholders.

To see a real example of a previous open competition, please visit: [Large AI Grand Challenge – The winners are out! – AI-BOOST](#)

2 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR CHALLENGE OWNERS

2.1 CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The AI-BOOST project invites organizations from the private and public sectors to become **challenge owners** of the *AI-BOOST Gen AI Innovation Challenges*.

Challenge owners are encouraged to propose **real-world, high-impact challenges** that can be tackled by European innovators, researchers, and start-ups through the application of **Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI)**.

This **Expression of Interest (Eoi)** aims to **identify and select relevant, ambitious, and feasible challenges** to be solved in the AI-BOOST competition and serve as the foundation for upcoming open innovation competitions across Europe.

The competition will be open to all sectors and application domains, while prioritising those strategically aligned with the EU's Apply AI Strategy and the GenAI4EU initiative (notably healthcare and pharma, manufacturing, mobility, energy, telecommunications, and public services).

2.2 BENEFITS FOR CHALLENGE OWNERS

By joining AI-BOOST as **challenge owners**, organisations will become strategic actors in shaping the next generation of European AI innovation.

Participation offers both **visibility** and **strategic advantages**, including opportunities for innovation, collaboration, and talent engagement.



3 ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

Eligible challenge owners include:

- **Private companies** of any size, such as large enterprises or corporates;
- **Public organisations**, such as agencies, utilities, or local authorities;
- **Non-profit or research entities** with relevant expertise.

Collaborative challenges are also eligible — for example, a setup where one entity defines the challenge while another provides the data.

To be eligible, challenge owners must:

- Be legally established in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country;
- Propose a real, well-defined problem that can benefit from a GenAI-based solution;
- Demonstrate commitment to supporting the challenge by providing relevant data, mentoring, infrastructure, or other in-kind resources during the competition phases.

4 WHAT CHALLENGE OWNERS PROVIDE?

Challenge owners are expected to:

- **Submit a Challenge Description** using the official *AI-BOOST Challenge Template*;
- Provide access to data or test environments, where relevant;
- Participate in co-creation and mentoring during the competition phases;
- **Contribute monetary or non-monetary** prizes (e.g. hosting demonstrations, offering internships, or access to facilities). See more information regarding non-monetary prizes in the following link: [Non-monetary Prizes – AI-BOOST](#)

5 HOW TO APPLY?

Challenge owners are invited to send the required documentation via email to the following address: info@aiboost-project.eu

Challenge owners need to send the following documents:

- **Annex 1 – Company description (1 page max):** an overview of the applicant organisation, including its main activities and relevance to the proposed challenge, and the reasons for its interest in submitting this challenge.
- **Annex 2 – Challenge description (1 page):** a brief description of the proposed challenge, completed using the official template provided at the end of these guidelines.

Both documents must be sent in PDF format within a single email message with email subject line: Challenge Owners EOI – [Name of Organisation].

An acknowledgement of receipt will be sent to each applicant.

English is the official language, submissions done in any other language will not be taken into account.

6 SELECTION PROCESS

Challenges will be accepted and reviewed on a first come, first served basis, until the available slots in the AI-BOOST Challenge are filled.

Submissions will be assessed by the project consortium to ensure relevance, feasibility, and alignment with the objectives of AI-BOOST and [Apply AI Strategy](#).

Results will be communicated by the official email of the AI-BOOST project.

7 COMMUNICATION FLOW WITH CHALLENGE OWNERS

For more information about the EOI for Challenge owners, please check the AI-BOOST website: [Expression of Interest for Challenge Owners – AI-BOOST](#)

For additional details concerning the EOI for Challenge owners or any questions about the required information in the EOI, please reach out to the AI-BOOST Technical Helpdesk via email at: info@aiboost-project.eu

We also recommend following us on LinkedIn to stay updated on the latest news and events: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/aiboost-project/>.

8 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Selected challenge owners, will be required to sign a Declaration of Honour (DoH) and a Challenge Owner Agreement to formalise their participation.

The Challenge Owner Agreement will define the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), confidentiality rules regarding data and proposed solutions, and other relevant terms and conditions.

9 ANNEX 1: COMPANY DESCRIPTION

(1 page maximum)

GENERAL INFORMATION

- *Organisation name:*
- *Contact person:*
- *Email:*
- *Website:*
- *Country:*
- *Sector / Industry:*

COMPANY DESCRIPTION

A concise overview of the applicant organisation, including its main activities.

WHY YOU ARE IN

Explanation of the relevance to the proposed challenge and the reasons for its interest in submitting this challenge (e.g. strategic importance, innovation potential, or expected sectoral impact).

10 ANNEX 2: CHALLENGE DESCRIPTION

(1 page maximum, in English)

Challenge	
<u>Title:</u> <u>Challenge Description:</u> Explain the problem or unmet need that motivates this challenge. Describe how artificial intelligence (AI) could contribute to solving this challenge and what kind of innovation is expected.	
<u>Objectives:</u> List 3–5 main objectives you aim to achieve through this challenge.	<u>Expected Outcomes and TRL level:</u> What results or outputs (e.g. prototype, model, algorithm, proof of concept, raise TRL) do you expect from the solution providers?
<u>Datasets provided:</u> Specify the type, quantity, and accessibility of data you can provide. Where and how will the developed solution be tested or deployed?	
<u>Expected EU Impact:</u> Describe the potential impact on your organisation, sector, or society if the challenge is successfully solved.	
<u>Additional support offered by the challenge owner:</u> Specify any financial contribution, mentorship, infrastructure, or other type of support (monetary or non-monetary¹).	

¹ Non-monetary Prizes – AI-BOOST