



GLOBAL CITIZENS OPEN INNOVATION SDGs CHALLENGE

2026

Registration Instructions & Challenge FAQ

Rolling participation means ANYTIME between April 22-July 31

We use **SLACK** to share ideas, connect, find like minds/teams, work and communicate!

If you haven't used Slack before, not to worry, it's easy to get the hang of!

- **Join/Register ANYTIME April 22-July 31** via form on: www.SDGsChallenge.org
- Team **leads** must also register their team members (up to 6 max) as soon as known
- Upon registration you'll be invited to join www.SLACK.com. Follow link for log in
- **Check out Rules, Overview, and FAQ to get familiar with the Challenge logistics**
- **SELECT ONE (1) SDG and TARGET/INDICATOR that your team will aim to solve**
- **Share your skills and SDGs of interest** on Slack's #i_want_to_join_team channel **OR**
- **Share your SDG solution idea and skills needed** on Slack's #need_team_members
- **Submission instructions for completed Solutions will be provided to all teams.**

ALL ABOUT SLACK HERE >>> <https://slack.com/resources/slack-101>

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q What is ‘SDGs Challenge’?

A SDGSC is a usually a 100 (one hundred)-day ROLLING contest (meaning you can jump in to start and finish WHENEVER you want! between April 22 and July 31). *THE TENTH YEAR means we are 2/3 of the way to 2030!*. It’s “**the world’s most massive Challenge for the world’s most massive challenges!**” where concerned and creative minds are put to task to proactively ideate on solutions to the U.N. member nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 and come up with TANGIBLE solutions (created or to be created)!

Q What special skills do I need? What if I don’t have them all? Will I learn anything?

A Imagination and a sense of purpose to help solve the world’s critical problems is a good start. You’ll need motivation to undertake research, hone critical thinking, ideation and problem solving, teamwork, consensus building, and communication/video presentation production. General skills in design, technology and business are helpful. Specific skills like coding, prototyping, marketing that help move toward a **tangible output** are highly beneficial –you can also augment your team!

Q Will anyone help us? Will we get any support during the Challenge?

A You will have access to Mentors (subject matter experts), Minders (those who can help keep your team project on track, and Muses (those who can help with ideation and inspiration) but you DO have to ask for the help, it’s not automatic. Also, Workshops will be run free, throughout with a Schedule posted on www.SDGsChallenge.org and also pushed to your email addresses.

Q Who is eligible to participate? Do I have to apply?

A No need to “apply” as **everyone’s accepted**, but **you do need to register yourself and BRING or JOIN a team**. PLEASE NOTE: The Challenge is **NOT** for **INDIVIDUALS**. It’s for **TEAMS**.

Q How many mates are allowed per team?

A Up to 6 per team MAXIMUM.

Q Is there a deadline to register?

A Nov. 20, 2026 is latest as the Challenge ENDS on July 31. You can start anytime from April 22 onward so register and get solving whenever you’re ready!

Q Who will we be competing against exactly?

A A variety of participants of all ages, socio-economic-ethnic backgrounds from around the world! Though it's really not a competition, it's more a mass collaboration, simply winners will have a strong chance of implementing their Solutions and will get help in doing so after Challenge ends.

Q When and where will we present our ideas, solutions?

A Solutions will be submitted by video. **Videos will be 8 minutes max** and you will be pitching your solution in digital form. Submissions can be made once they are ready with THREE intake or cutoff periods to choose from: MAY 31, JUNE 30, and JULY 31. ONCE YOU SUBMIT though you cannot re-submit the same solution so make sure you're ready when you hit send (and most teams opt simply to submit by July 31, no matter when they actually finish).

Q Do I have to be a Student?

A No! Although approx.. 70% of our participants are students, The Challenge welcomes those of ALL ages, genders, nationalities, simply ANYONE on the Planet is invited to participate.

Q Can my team come from different countries?

A Yes! The internet makes this possible and we encourage the diversity in ideas and culture.

Q Why should I join a team and undertake the Challenge? What will I gain?

A The Challenge will provide invaluable experience (incl. **'good works' that have purpose and create positive change and impact**). You will learn design-thinking, deadline based creative problem solving, working group/team diversity, and presentation skills. **Adding the Challenge is great for your CV and Uni applications as Universities and employers value such experiences.**

Q Are there gender or language requirements?

A No. All are welcome to apply although a strong level of English proficiency is required for the Video in either direct presentation format OR English subtitles can simply be added.

Q Who owns the intellectual property of the solutions/project?

A IP always stays with the team that creates the project – so in this case, DISCUSS internally with your team members who owns what so that in the future you don't hit any bumps when your solution becomes a big success! This is very important!

Q Is there a cost for participation?

A No. Never. You can opt to build a prototype however and create marketing and promotional materials (both of which we suggest as they are great competitive differentiators! That show you've got what it takes to go the extra mile! You can fundraise for this purpose or utilize your own pooled funds). And, from time to time we offer funds to the Semi-finalists for this purpose!

Q How many teams can participate? How many Winners?

A **No limit** to number of teams, yet **in any given year and via Public Voting, Semi-Finalists will emerge from which up to 34 Finalists will be selected** (aiming for up to 2 for each SDG). The global Judging panels and Juries will select up to 17 Winners by AUGUST 15 (1 per SDG, ideally, when possible).

Q What will I get!?

A The chance to cultivate a habit of giving, not getting! ☺ As such, satisfaction of knowing you are part of The global Solution! And, all team members will receive a personalized Challenge Certificate (provided your team submits a solution.) Your ideas will be seen by incubators, accelerators, companies, and multinationals and this may open opportunities (NO guarantee) for moving forward your solution or recruitment offers or more! Keep an open mind and good luck!

Q We lost a team member, can we add team members during the Challenge?

A Yes. As long as you do not exceed the maximum number of team members of 6. New members must accept the Rules.

Q Can our team use a private Slack channel?

A Yes, but we ALSO ask that you use the Challenge's slack account so you benefit from community and collaborative opportunities that may arise (you can also still send private messages).

Q Can I submit already existing projects?

A Yes. But have in mind the judges' assessment rubric. We have immense respect for your work, so please feel free to submit your existing solution and the team working to improve it, like every other team.

Q What if I have more Qs!?

Simply email us on 17@SDGsChallenge.org

Welcome aboard & GOOD LUCK!