

Civic Tech UK-Portugal Exchange Programme



**Guidelines for Applicants
2026**

INTRODUCTION UK-PORTUGAL CIVIC TECH EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

The Civic Tech Exchange Programme aims to promote sharing of experiences and the creation of networks, collaborations and new approaches that can strengthen the Portuguese ecosystem of democratic innovation using technology.

The programme will bring together researchers, civil society organisations, technologists, civic innovators, public institutions, journalists, philanthropic actors and private organisations working in Portugal and the UK at the intersection of democracy, citizenship, and technology.

The exchange trip will take place in London between 6-8 July 2026. The programme will be conducted entirely in English.

The initiative is jointly led by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation's UK Branch and Democracy and Civil Society grant-making units, in partnership with Nesta, the UK's innovation agency for social good.

ELIGIBILITY

The programme is exclusively for individuals working in Portugal for independent organisations and initiatives, without political party affiliation, focused on promoting citizenship, democratic participation and civic innovation.

Eligible applicants include:

- Civil society organisations;
- Researchers and academic institutions;
- Civic and democratic innovation initiatives;
- Technology organisations and developers;
- Public entities;
- Organisations linked to media literacy and fact-checking;
- Philanthropic actors with relevant work in this area.

Participants must be able to travel to the United Kingdom and are responsible for ensuring they possess all necessary documentation appropriate to their legal and administrative situation.

FUNDING

Travel (including international travel between Portugal and London, and travel within London), accommodation and participation expenses will be fully covered by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

The Foundation will organise travel and accommodation, according to the parameters defined by the organisation.

HOW TO APPLY

Individuals should send a brief Expression of Interest of no more than two pages to info@gulbenkian.org.uk with the email title 'Civic Tech Exchange Application' before **12pm BST on Thursday 28 May**.

Applicants should include the following:

- Their work in the area of citizenship, democracy, and technology;
- How contact with the British ecosystem could add value to their work;
- How participation in the exchange could contribute to strengthening practices, projects or partnerships in Portugal;
- How they intend to disseminate or apply the acquired knowledge.

TIMELINE

- Submission deadline: May 28, 2026
- Participant places confirmed: June 2, 2026
- Exchange visit to the United Kingdom: July 6-8, 2026

Contact

UK Branch of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation
info@gulbenkian.org.uk