

Participant Guide

24–25 September 2026 | Tallinn, Estonia

Welcome to Tallinn. City Resilience Hack brings together teams, startups, city representatives, mentors and experts to develop practical solutions that help cities prepare better, respond faster and support people in times of disruption. The hackathon is organised by the City of Tallinn and Tehnopol in collaboration with Valencia, Helsinki, Dnipro and Lviv.

Hackathon at a glance

Dates	24–25 September 2026
Venue	Energy Discovery Centre, Põhja pst 29, Tallinn, Estonia
Language	English
Format	On-site, two intensive hackathon days
Prize fund	€75,000 total (will be divided among 3–4 winners) + piloting in Helsinki, Valencia and with a good match in other cities

Challenge areas

- Smart & connected digital platforms – awareness, risk mapping, decision support and integrated operational pictures.
- Resilient critical systems & response – infrastructure resilience, monitoring and emerging threats.
- Crisis readiness & communication – trusted, targeted, two-way communication and actionable preparedness.
- Integrated health & social resilience – health/social coordination, medical logistics and civilian–military healthcare.

What you should aim to leave with

A clearly validated problem–solution fit, a pilot-ready prototype/MVP or service concept, a practical implementation approach, a credible business or sustainability logic, and a persuasive final pitch. By the end of the hackathon, the solution should be ready to move into a real-world pilot with a city or relevant stakeholder.

Before you arrive

- Bring a laptop, charger and any required plug adapter.
- **Prepare one opening slide for a 1-minute opening pitch:** As part of your opening pitch, please include one slide describing your team's baseline at the start of the hackathon. Briefly show:
 - The problem you are addressing and for whom.
 - Your proposed solution at the start of the hackathon.
 - Current maturity – what you already have (e.g. concept, prototype, existing product, technology or previous validation).
 - What needs to be validated or developed during the hackathon, what concrete progress you aim to achieve by the end of the event.

This baseline will help mentors understand where your team is starting from and will be used to assess the progress made during the hackathon.

Submission of this slide is latest on Monday 21.09 to tiiu.treier@tehnopol.ee

- Prepare demo materials, test data and access credentials in advance where relevant.
- Plan for long working days. The programme lists independent work after 21:00 on Day 1 (venue is open until 3am)
- An information session will be held for participants on 17th of September, where we will go over all organizational details. The invitation to the information session will be sent by email.

Arrival & registration

Doors and registration open **45 minutes** before the programme starts. Please use the main entrance of the Energy Discovery Centre and arrive in good time for check-in. The hackathon venue is reserved for registered participants; access is not open to the general public. Organisers will use Discord for operational updates, announcements and communication with teams, including any changes or issues during the event.

Programme

Please note that the programme is subject to minor changes

Day 1 — Thursday, 24 September | 09:00–21:00+

Time	Session
09:00–09:45	Introduction to the day and expectations
09:45–10:30	Idea pitching — all teams. 1 minute, 1 slide, no Q&A.
10:30–12:30	Sprint 1: Solution development and validation. Validate the potential solution with relevant stakeholders.
12:30–13:30	Lunch break
13:30–19:00	Sprint 2: Solution development. Develop the initial solution, MVP or service concept.
19:00–21:00	Mentor checkpoint
21:00–...	Independent work, venue is open until 3 am

Day 2 — Friday, 25 September | 09:00–19:00+

Time	Session
09:00–09:30	Introduction to the day and expectations
09:30–12:30	Sprint 3: Continue MVP development/refinement; work on financial plan, ROI and potential business model for scaling; mentor checkpoint.
12:30–13:30	Lunch break
13:30–14:30	Startup pitch training
14:30–15:30	Sprint 4: Pitch preparation. Prepare a detailed implementation plan and final pitch; team leads practise presenting.
15:30–17:30	Final presentations — up to 17 selected teams; maximum 7 minutes per team including Q&A.
17:30–18:30	Jury deciding winners and award ceremony
18:30–...	Networking

Final presentation selection

Up to 17 teams will advance to the final presentations. The selection will be made by the mentors together with city representatives. The decision will consider each team's progress during the hackathon, including how close the solution is to pilot-ready implementation, and the following criteria: Relevance & Challenge Fit; Impact & Value Creation; Feasibility & Implementation Capacity; Innovation & Technological Value; Business & Sustainability Potential; and Team & Presentation. The selected teams will be announced after the pitch-preparation period. Each final presentation may take a maximum of 7 minutes including Q&A. Instructions on when and where to submit the final presentation will be provided on site.

Mentor tip: Be active throughout the hackathon and use the mentoring opportunities strategically. Talk to city mentors to validate the relevance, real-life need and feasibility of your solution, and ask expert mentors for additional advice on technology, business model, UX, implementation, financials and pitching. Come to each conversation with a specific question, assumption or decision you want to test.

Communication during the hackathon

Discord will be the main communication channel between organisers and teams during the hackathon. Follow the announcements there and use it if you need operational guidance. Mentor interactions will take place throughout the working sprints and checkpoints; be proactive and approach city and expert mentors with specific questions.

Arriving in Tallinn

Tallinn is compact, and the airport is only about 4 km from the city centre. For most international participants, public transport or a taxi/rideshare are the simplest options.

Tallinn Airport → city centre

- By tram: T2 and T4 connect Lennart Meri Tallinn Airport with central Tallinn. Useful central stops include Hobujaama (T2) and A. Laikmaa, Viru and Vabaduse väljak (T4). The airport tram stop is called Lennujaam.
- Public transport ticket: a 1-hour ticket costs €2 and can be purchased by tapping a contactless bank card at a validator on board. Keep using the same card for validation.
- By taxi / rideshare: the official taxi rank is outside the arrivals area. Bolt and Uber are widely used in Tallinn. A taxi ride to the city centre is typically around €15, depending on traffic and destination.
- Travel time: the tram journey to the city centre is approximately 15 minutes; allow additional time for walking to your hotel.

For the venue

The Energy Discovery Centre is close to the Old Town, the harbour and Kalamaja. From the Old Town or harbour area it is usually easiest to walk. The venue is around a 10-minute walk from Town Hall Square or Terminal A, and about 15 minutes on foot from Balti Jaam railway station.

Getting around Tallinn

- Tallinn's buses, trams and trolleybuses generally operate from around 05:00 until midnight; Friday and Saturday night buses run later on selected routes.
- The city centre, Old Town, Rotermann, harbour and Kalamaja areas are highly walkable.
- For live routes and timetable changes, use the official Tallinn journey planner at transport.tallinn.ee.

Recommended areas to stay

For the easiest hackathon commute, choose accommodation in the Old Town, harbour/Rotermann or northern city-centre/Kalamaja area. The following options are just examples of hotels that are all within a convenient walking or short-ride distance of the venue:

Hotel	Address	Why it works
Hestia Hotel Ilmarine	Põhja pst 21b	Closest option; very easy walk.
Tallink Express Hotel	Sadama 9	Good-value harbour option.
Tallink Spa & Conference Hotel	Sadama 11a	Full-service harbour option.
Citybox Tallinn	Laeva 1	Modern Rotermann/harbour option.
Metropol Spa Hotel	Roseni 9	Central Rotermann location.

Food & refreshments

Light snacks and refreshments will be available during the hackathon. For a more substantial lunch or dinner, participants can purchase food from food trucks available at the hackathon venue. Please plan meal breaks around the programme so you can make the most of the working sprints and mentoring sessions.

Practical information for international participants

Currency & payments	Euro (€). Card and contactless payments are widely accepted; carrying large amounts of cash is unnecessary.
Time zone	Eastern European Summer Time (EEST), UTC+3 during the hackathon.
Language	Estonian is the official language. English is widely spoken and understood in Tallinn.
Electricity	230 V / 50 Hz, European-style two-pin plugs (Type C/F). Bring an adapter if your devices use another plug type.
Emergency number	112 for ambulance, police or rescue services. Calls are free.
Tap water	Safe to drink in Tallinn.
Internet	Wi-Fi is widely available in hotels, cafés and public spaces. Estonia has strong mobile data coverage.
Weather	Late September is autumn: expect cool, changeable weather, wind and possible rain. Bring layers and a waterproof outer layer.
Phone code	Estonia country calling code: +372.
Visa / Schengen	Estonia is in the EU and Schengen Area. Entry requirements depend on nationality; non-EU/EEA participants should verify passport and visa requirements before travel.

Confidentiality & media

All participants, mentors and jury members will sign a non-disclosure agreement (NDA). Participants should also be prepared for photography and video recording during the event. Any additional award, presentation-submission or event-specific instructions will be communicated by the organisers on site and via Discord.

Useful links

- [City Resilience Hack – official page](#)
- [Energy Discovery Centre – location and access](#)
- [Visit Tallinn – arrival information](#)
- [Visit Tallinn – practical information](#)

Code of Conduct

We expect all participants to contribute to a respectful, professional and collaborative hackathon environment. Please treat fellow participants, mentors, city representatives, jury members and organisers with courtesy and respect, be open to different perspectives, and give others space to contribute. Harassment, discrimination, intimidation or inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated. Participants should also respect confidentiality, intellectual property and any information shared under the NDA, and use the venue, equipment and shared working areas responsibly. If any issue arises during the hackathon, please contact the organisers via Discord.

Hackathon contact

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Final reminder: Please arrive in good time, follow Discord for organiser updates, bring your laptop and charger, and use city and expert mentors actively. By the end of the hackathon, your solution should be pilot-ready and ready to move into a real-world pilot.