



# #ACKCORRUPTION

## Official Terms and Rules

**By registering for HackCorruption, each participant agrees to abide by these Terms and Rules (the “Rules”).**

### Organizers<sup>1</sup>

HackCorruption is organized and conducted by the U.S. Department of State and Accountability Lab in conjunction with a diverse array of partners around the world (collectively, the “Organizers”).

### Objectives

HackCorruption is a tech4good<sup>2</sup> hackathon bringing people across Southeast Asia together to cocreate anti-corruption solutions through emerging technologies. The U.S. Department of State, through its Bureau of International Anti-Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) and Accountability Lab (the Organizers), are hosting a 72-hour hackathon competition with youth and young professionals across four Balkan countries, including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, and North Macedonia, and may include a global audience of observers. HackCorruption, through its Organizers, aims to promote innovative technological solutions that can eventually be used to fight back against corruption.

### Publicity and Promotion

HackCorruption may be announced and promoted on social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube, but HackCorruption registration and administration will occur through the HackCorruption platform as explained in these Rules. Private social media companies whose platforms are utilized by Organizers in carrying out such publicity and promotional activities are not thereby also considered to be Organizers. Participants are reminded that they are subject to the terms of service and any agreement contained therein of any private platform with which they might engage throughout the course of participating in HackCorruption.

### Eligibility

Individuals must be at least 18 years old on the date of their HackCorruption registration. There is no upper age limit for participating in HackCorruption. Participants must reside outside of the United States and may not be U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents of the United States.

Applications are encouraged from people with experience working in diverse sectors and who are

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<sup>1</sup> Throughout these Rules, the term “Organizers” refers to either single or multiple organizers, as applicable.

<sup>2</sup> Tech4Good refers to individuals or organizations using technological innovation to create positive social impact.

passionate about fighting corruption and strengthening transparency and integrity using emerging technology solutions. Applicants should be a citizen of one of the target countries of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and North Macedonia. Teams and individuals are invited to apply. Participation in HackCorruption will be automatically deemed as acceptance of these Rules. The following individuals are not eligible to participate in HackCorruption: Employees, interns, directors, and officers of the Accountability Lab, The Center for International Private Enterprise, Development Gateway (who serves as a research partner packaging resources and data related to the hackathon problem sets for participants) or any employees, interns, directors, or officers of any agencies, companies, or entities involved in the administration, advertising, judging, creation, development, execution, and/or fulfillment of HackCorruption, and the immediate family members (defined as spouse, recognized partner, parent, child, sibling, and spouse or 'step' of each) and those living in the same household of each such individual.

### **Registration**

A group of 75 participants will be selected for in-person attendance in Tirana, Albania. The in-person participants will receive flights, hotel accommodation, airport transfers and meals in Tirania. The organizers will select these participants based on their scores according to the criteria below with consideration given to demographic diversity and the participants' experience and interest in anti-corruption efforts to establish well-rounded teams. They will also be required to indicate their interest and availability for in-person participation during the registration process. Furthermore, their interest in and ability to participate will be taken into account. Participants wishing to attend from outside Albania need to be in possession of a valid passport when they submit their application. Hotel and flight accommodations will be at the discretion of the organizers. In addition to a valid passport, the organizers take no responsibility if participants are not permitted to enter Albania under Albanian immigration authorities.

All individuals wishing to participate in HackCorruption must register by RSVPing through the HackCorruption webpage by the deadline announced by organizers. Applications will be assessed using the following criteria:

#### ***Disqualifying criteria***

Not a citizen of one of the target countries; US citizen, or lawful permanent resident of the US
Does not meet eligibility requirements
Does not agree to terms & conditions

**Technical Experience**

Points Scoring scale	
1	Student
2	Junior
3	Mid-Level
4	Senior Level

**Motivation for wanting to participate**

Points Scoring scale	
1	Incomplete and poorly defined
2	Unclear what the motivation is when it comes to using tech to solve anti-corruption challenges
3	Defined in a broad manner without specific examples of tech or anti-corruption references
4	Defined in a detailed manner with relevant experience in either anti-corruption or tech
5	Inspiring & defined in a detailed manner with deeply relevant experience in both anti-corruption & tech

**Motivation for fighting against corruption**

Points Scoring scale	
1	Incomplete and poorly defined
2	Unclear what the motivation is when it comes to fighting back against corruption
3	Defined in a broad manner without specific examples of what kinds of corruption activities would be relevant in his/her/their community
4	Defined in a detailed manner with relevant ideas or activities he/she/they would like to change or tackle that relate to the problem statements.
5	Inspiring & defined in a detailed manner with deeply relevant ideas about how anti-corruption activities, solutions, and problems relate to his/her/their life, community, or those around the applicant.

Participants can register as an individual to be placed in a team by the organizers. Alternatively, if they

wish to participate as a member of a particular or pre-organized team, they should indicate the name of the team on their registration form and identify team members with whom they wish to participate. All team members must register as individuals to participate. Teams of 2 to 5 members with a combination of technology and governance skills will work together throughout the hackathon. If at the time of registration, a participant does not indicate membership in a team, s/he will subsequently be assigned/placed into one. Additionally, each participant must register in her/his personal/private capacity (*i.e.*, representing only her/himself and not an employer). Please contact the HackCorruption team for further information.

**Please Note:** All participants must provide a digital, electronic, or written agreement to the HackCorruption Official Terms and Rules, Statement of Eligibility, and Liability/Publicity Release. Any individual declining to do so will not be permitted to participate in HackCorruption.

The start and end times for each HackCorruption event will be determined by the HackCorruption organizers. The HackCorruption webpage will be updated periodically, and organizers will reach out to participants with further details. Only solutions developed between the start and end time of HackCorruption will be eligible to receive a sub grant to support the further development of their tools. Subgrantees retain no rights to intellectual property developed during the HackCorruption event.

### **Problem Statements**

Problem statements will be noted on the HackCorruption webpage. From the list of released problem statements, each applicant will rank the project's problem statements in order of their preference and expertise, and teams will be assigned accordingly by the HackCorruption team. Participating teams will work to develop solutions that can help solve the problems indicated in the statement in which each team has been assigned.

### **Developing Your Solution**

Participants may code in any language without restriction while developing a solution to the problem statement to which each team has been assigned. It is recommended that a solution run on one of the following platforms:

- Android devices (such as a smartphone, tablet, Google Glass, etc.)
- iOS devices (such as a smartphone, tablet, etc.)
- SMS
- Windows Phone devices (such as a smartphone, tablet, etc.)
- Web or mobile web (Ionic, PhoneGap also acceptable)
- Windows desktop computer
- Mac desktop computer
- Kindle

- Other hardware that includes a software component developed by the Maker (including but not limited to wearable technology, open-source hardware, etc.)

**Solutions developed by HackCorruption participants must conform to the following terms:**

- Solutions must reflect the original work of the participants. Leveraging open-source data and code are permitted, but participants must develop original solutions and, if any third-party material is used, be transparent about what elements are original vs. leveraged.
- Participants whose solutions include any third-party material (such as open-source data and code) must be able to provide, upon request by Organizers, documentation of all appropriate licenses/permissions/consents and releases for having used such third-party material. If a team cannot provide such documentation, Organizers reserve the right, at their sole discretion, to disqualify that team and its solution.
- Solutions may not contain any harmful computer code (sometimes referred to as “malware,” “viruses,” or “worms”).
- Solutions must not violate or infringe upon the intellectual property, privacy, publicity, or other legal rights of any third party.
- Solutions must not contain any advertisements or solicitation.
- Solutions must not contain anything that, in the judgment of Organizers, is or may be construed as: (i) threatening, harassing, degrading or hateful; (ii) defamatory; (iii) fraudulent or tortious; (iv) obscene, indecent, sexually explicit, disrespectful, or otherwise objectionable; or (v) protected by an intellectual property or other proprietary right without the express prior consent of the owner of such right.
- Solutions must conform to U.S. law and other applicable laws and in accordance with norms of civil discourse. The content of a solution must be suitable for a global, public audience.
- Solutions may not contain any material that would give rise to criminal or civil liability or that encourages conduct constituting a criminal offense.
- Solutions may not be the subjects of any actual or threatened litigation or claim.
- Solutions must otherwise comply in all respects with these Rules.

## Presenting Your Solution

Prior to the conclusion of HackCorruption, each team will present their solution before a panel of judges. These presentations are intended to help teams develop a sense of camaraderie, disseminate information about the solutions they developed, and allow them to discuss the creative approach they took to develop their solutions. Each team must utilize a digital visual aid (*e.g.*, a video, a slide deck in Microsoft PowerPoint, Canva, or the like) when virtually presenting its solution. The presentation aid must be 5 minutes in length.

Each team should be ready for at least 2 minutes of Q&A by the judging panel.

**Please Note:** Prior to presenting, each team must have submitted its visual aid to be used in its presentation in the HackCorruption portal. All submissions will subsequently be made publicly available on the HackCorruption website. All submission artifacts noted herein must be submitted to HackCorruption team by the due date to be eligible for judging.

## Judging of Solutions

The panel of judges will use the criteria below as a framework for judging participant solutions and selecting a winning team. A typical judging panel will be 3-4 individuals, who collectively possess anti-corruption, startup ecosystem, and/or technological expertise. The judging panel will evaluate each solution as presented in the associated team's presentation, submitted visual presentation aid, Q&A, and other submission artifacts submitted in writing.

The 5 teams with the highest scores based on scoring criteria may be eligible to receive sub-grants of up to \$10,000 to further develop their solutions. Applicants will need to apply for the money through a process that will include a narrative and a budget, as well as a nominal monitoring and evaluation plan. Subgrantees retain no rights to intellectual property developed during the HackCorruption event. The organizers retain the right to determine which teams will receive a sub-grant; should the judges feel that the solutions are not feasible based on the criteria outlined above, a sub-grant may not be offered. In the interest of transparency, the organizers are committed to making scores available should they be requested. Each team will also receive their own score sheet and feedback from the judges no later than 5 business days after the conclusion of the hackathon.

Groups receiving financial support will be required to complete additional steps before sub-grant funding is disbursed. They must pursue further development of their solution with the guidance of mentors (assigned by the organizers), participate in a follow-up bootcamp training aimed at further capacity building (arranged by the organizers), and present their further developed solutions to organizers by November 10, 2024. Organizers will have bi-weekly check-ins with the assigned mentors to receive updates on teams' progress.

## SUBMISSION ARTIFACTS

By the defined due date designated by the HackCorruption team, participants will be asked to submit their code via link to the sandbox platform where the code will be made publicly available. The HackCorruption sandbox platform has been designed and built specifically for this project, and all code generated during the event will be freely available for use by any individuals or organizations who wish to

use the solutions in their anti-corruption efforts. Doing so is consistent with the objectives of HackCorruption, which aims to build broadly accessible solutions in the global fight against anti-corruption and as a competition supported by public funding. At the same time, participants are free to promote their participation in HackCorruption and any original code they may have developed as part of their solutions to gain access to private funding for advancing those solutions. Participants do not retain exclusive rights to any intellectual property submitted for judges' consideration during the HackCorruption event.

#### **ADDITIONAL TERMS**

- During HackCorruption (to include the judging and award phases), Organizers and individuals involved in judging may not hold proprietary rights in any intellectual property created as part of a participant's solution and associated submission.
- In the event of any question, difference of views, or dispute regarding compliance with, interpretation, or application of these Rules, Organizers reserve the right to resolve such questions, differences of views, and disputes in their sole discretion.
- Organizers do not endorse any solutions or submissions, or messages expressed in any solutions or submissions, and expressly disclaim any and all liability in connection with solutions and submissions, to include any disputes between collaborators/team members related to a solution or submission.
- Organizers reserve the right at any time to verify the validity of participant solutions and submissions, and to disqualify any participant, solution, or submission they deem, in their sole and absolute discretion, to be non-compliant with these Rules. Organizers also reserve the right to request further documentation, in their sole and absolute discretion, to verify eligibility and compliance with these Rules.
- Organizers reserve the right, at any time and in their sole discretion, to disqualify and/or deem ineligible any participant who they reasonably believe has violated the terms of use of a platform or is acting in bad faith; in an unsportsmanlike or disruptive manner; or with intent to annoy, abuse, threaten, or harass any other person.
- Organizers reserve the right to modify, suspend, terminate, or cancel HackCorruption or any HackCorruption event or other component of HackCorruption at their sole discretion for any reason.
- The conduct of a HackCorruption event, to include the judging of participant solutions and awarding of sub-grants, will be carried out in full compliance with applicable U.S. law and the laws of the US State Department rules and regulations. In the event of a conflict between applicable U.S. law and event host country laws, U.S. law will apply.

- Organizers will take reasonable measures to protect privacy data, personally identifiable information, and other sensitive data of participants. Contact information provided by participants may be stored by Organizers and may be used to contact participants for other purposes in the future. Such information may be made available to third parties, to the extent permitted by applicable law.
- Organizers assume no liability or responsibility for any loss or harm resulting from any individual's participation in or attempt to participate in HackCorruption or ability or inability to upload, download, or otherwise access any information in connection with participating in HackCorruption.
- Organizers assume no responsibility or liability for technical problems, or technical malfunctions arising in connection with the operation of HackCorruption, including: hardware or software errors; faulty computer, telephone, cable, satellite, network, electronic, wireless or Internet connectivity, or other online communication problems; errors or limitations of any Internet service providers, servers, hosts or providers; garbled, jumbled, or faulty data transmissions; failure of any e-mail transmissions to be sent or received; lost, late, delayed, or intercepted e-mail transmissions; inaccessibility of a HackCorruption-related site in whole or in part for any reason; traffic congestion on the Internet or specifically on a HackCorruption-related site; unauthorized human or non human intervention in the operation of HackCorruption, including without limitation, unauthorized tampering, hacking, theft, virus, bugs, or worms; or destruction of any aspect of HackCorruption, or loss, miscount, misdirection, inaccessibility, or unavailability of an email account used in connection with HackCorruption.
- Organizers bear no responsibility for, and have the right to refuse at their sole and absolute discretion, any submissions that have been altered or tampered with, or are otherwise misdirected, incomplete, non-conforming, corrupt, lost, late, or ineligible, whether due to Internet or e-mail server failure or otherwise. Proof of transmission of a submission will not constitute proof of receipt.
- Participants are responsible for keeping their event organizers informed of any changes to their contact or other pertinent information during HackCorruption.
- Use of a HackCorruption-related site is at an individual's own risk. Organizers are not responsible for any personal injury, property damage, or losses of any kind which may be sustained to computer equipment resulting from participation in HackCorruption, use of a HackCorruption-related site or the downloading of information from such a site.
- Organizers are not liable in the event that any portion of HackCorruption is canceled or delayed due to weather, fire, strike, acts of war or terrorism, or any other reason.