Challenge@PoliTo_*By Students*

Overcoming Digital Divide

September 2021 – January 2022

CALL for IDEAS

In recent years, digitalization has expanded its reach like never before.

The pandemic has accelerated an already ongoing transition to digital services, but has also highlighted and worsened the problem of the digital divide. By definition, the digital divide is the gap between those who have access to the Internet and other ICT technologies and the skills to use them, and those who do not use them or are unable to use them. However, in the current times the digital divide also extends to social rights and citizenship, insofar as those citizens cannot exploit digital services, due to lack of equipment, connectivity, or skills. Such gap is even wider for persons with disabilities, if the digital services do not offer full accessibility of their interfaces. The combination of these factors causes exclusion from the advantages of digital citizenship, from the rights of citizens and causes socio-economic gaps.

The goal of the challenge is to reduce the digital divide by focusing on citizens and their needs, creating simple, transparent, dynamic and inclusive digital services.

CHALLENGE

The objective of the challenge is to reduce the digital divide and allow easier and immediate access to the digital services of Italian municipalities and the Public Administration in general.

Taking as a reference the Italian context and the various target groups of citizens, each with their own needs and responsibilities, the objective of the Challenge is to identify solutions that guarantee the possibility for all individuals to express digital citizenship, overcoming possible barriers, such as, for example: connectivity, skills, disability.

The solutions must, as much as possible, take into account the variety of digital rights and duties, and contain:

- innovative interaction methods, extending and complementing current technologies, also in a multi-channel and multi-device setting
- enabling factors,
- contextual innovation of the administrative processes,
- management of secure authentication in compliance with privacy legislation

This challenge is carried out in the context of the CTE Next initiative, funded by the MISE.
Challenge@PoliTo are worth 8 curricular or extracurricular credits. Check the curriculum of your degree programme to verify if you can choose a Challenge in substitution of for your free choice credits.
Check your institutional email and read the regulation carefully, then apply at www.challengeatpolito.it.
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