

CALL FOR PROPOSALS · 2026 EDITION

# Fair Tech Summit Europe

A one-day European conference on open, ethical and independent technologies.

**Luxembourg · Tuesday 06 October 2026**

## 2026 CONFERENCE THEME

### **Together towards digital sovereignty.**

How ethical tech organizations in Europe can collaborate to help Europe achieve sovereignty. The Fair Tech Summit Europe brings together those already building open, ethical and independent technologies — to make collaboration easier, scale up impact, and shape Europe's digital future together.

This is the Call for Proposals for the inaugural Fair Tech Summit Europe: a curated one-day conference for businesses, non-profits, public organizations and civil society who are actively building the technologies Europe needs. We are inviting contributors who would like to share their expertise and real-world experience of how collaborations on fair tech can help Europe achieve digital sovereignty.

The Summit will be a space to meet, share knowledge, and foster meaningful connections and collaborations between people and organizations who are already building ethical tech and supporting sovereignty today.

## WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

We invite contributions from people and organisations who are:

- › Building or deploying ethical technologies that help Europe achieve digital sovereignty
- › Exploring new models for developing or integrating such technologies (technical, economic, governance)
- › Navigating constraints and challenges in real contexts
- › Contributing to open source, pro-privacy tech, or more sustainable IT
- › Working on innovative ways to collaborate across organizations

Contributions can take many forms — we welcome:

- › Feedback from real projects, with lessons learned (including difficulties and limits) and perspectives on choices and trade-offs
- › Emerging practices or ongoing experiments
- › Plans, ideas, proposals
- › Combined proposals from partnering organizations — since the theme is collaboration, joint proposals are particularly welcome
- › Proposals for roundtable discussions
- › Digital poster wall submissions (a lighter-weight path)

Full technical disclosure is not expected. What matters is what others can understand, question, learn from, and reach out to collaborate on.

## FOUR WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE

### Pick the format that fits.

We're building the program through both targeted invitations and this open call. Either way, the same basic question applies: what helps others understand, connect and move forward?

#### 01 · PRESENTATION

A focused talk on your work, lessons learned, or a provocation worth discussing.

#### 02 · LIGHTNING TALK

A short, punchy session — perfect for sharing concrete work or a single sharp idea.

#### 03 · ROUNDTABLE

Propose a discussion topic and moderate it — convene the conversation you want to have.

#### 04 · DIGITAL POSTER

Present your project, product or research on our digital poster wall.

## TOPICS OF INTEREST

Rather than strict categories, here are open areas of exploration we expect to surface across the day:

- › Reducing technological dependencies and lock-in
- › Building infrastructures that support sovereignty
- › Open source as a foundation
- › Privacy-respecting services
- › Sustainability and fair labour practices
- › Open standards and interoperability
- › Decentralisation and federation
- › Collaboration across the European ecosystem

## FORMAT OF THE DAY

The summit is designed to remain simple and useful — two rooms, a common area with posters and networking, and around 90 curated participants:

- › Presentations, lightning talks and a digital poster wall — a few longer presentations on key issues, lightning talks to share concrete work, and a digital poster wall in the common area for projects, products and provocations
- › Roundtable discussions — moderated discussions around topics of concern and interest regarding digital sovereignty collaboration
- › Dedicated networking — generous time built into the day for informal exchange
- › Conference dinner — held on the evening of 6 October, to which all participants are warmly invited

## WHO SHOULD SUBMIT

The summit's curated audience includes:

- › Ethical tech founders and product teams
- › Privacy advocates and digital-rights organisations
- › Open-source contributors and maintainers
- › Sustainability transformers in hardware and software
- › EU institutions, regulators, public buyers
- › Investors backing ethical and sovereign tech
- › Civil society and user communities
- › Media interested in ethical and fair technology

## SELECTION APPROACH

Submissions will be reviewed by the Programme Committee with one simple test in mind:

*Does this contribution help others understand, connect and move forward?*

We particularly welcome contributions that bring honesty about what's hard, generosity with lessons learned, and a willingness to invite others into the work.

## HOW TO SUBMIT

|                     |                                                             |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| LANGUAGE            | English                                                     |
| FORMAT              | Presentation · Lightning talk · Roundtable · Digital poster |
| SUBMISSION DEADLINE | TBD · Summer 2026                                           |
| NOTIFICATION        | TBD · Confirmed via fairtechsummit.org                      |
| SUBMIT PROPOSALS TO | submitatalk2026@fairtechsummit.org                          |
| GENERAL ENQUIRIES   | questions2026@fairtechsummit.org                            |
| MAILING LIST        | keepmeposted2026@fairtechsummit.org                         |

## WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR SUBMISSION

- › Title of the presentation / lightning talk / roundtable / poster
- › Format type (one of the four above)
- › Speaker(s) or proposer(s), with affiliation(s)
- › Abstract: 150–300 words for presentations and lightning talks, 100–200 for roundtables and posters
- › Why this matters for the 2026 theme: digital sovereignty
- › Short bio of each contributor (1–2 sentences)
- › Optional: links to prior work, products or projects

## A FIRST STEP

This summit is intended as a starting point. Its ambition is simple: connect people, make initiatives visible, and open paths for collaboration across Europe. If your work belongs in this conversation — please send us a proposal.

The Fair Tech Summit Europe is co-organized by Mobifree (mobifree.org) and FairTEC (fairtec.io), and is held in Luxembourg the day before the Open Source Conference Luxembourg (conference.opensource.lu), which takes place in Belval on 7 October 2026 with the theme "Leading by example in Digital Sovereignty".