



IIAS2026 CONFERENCE

Seoul, South Korea

November 17-20

Growth for Society: Collaborative
Governance, Social Innovation, and Public Value



iias-iisa.org/iias-2026-conference/

Civic Tech and Collaborative Governance for Social Innovation and Public Value

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Sustainability and societal resilience are being re-centered in a world facing persistent crises such as demographic shifts and digital transformation. Addressing these complex challenges requires "Collaborative Governance" and "Social Innovation" that go beyond traditional government-only responses. This panel examines the critical role of Civic Tech in driving collaborative governance, fostering social innovation, and creating public value in the digitized society.

Civic Tech involves citizen-driven activities and technologies designed to shape society and solve local public issues. While digitization provides a powerful foundation for civil society engagement—enabling real-time, location-independent information exchange and idea refinement—its real-world implications for public value creation require deeper exploration.

Building on the highly successful Civic Tech panel at the IIAS-DARPG India Conference 2025, which featured diverse empirical studies ranging from AI for the SDGs, inclusive digital ID authentication, and citizen-led eco-activity platforms to remote sensing for agricultural insurance, this panel seeks to further explore the transformative impact of Civic Tech. We invite papers that examine how Civic Tech and digital platforms can serve as policy-market linkages to co-design and co-implement solutions to complex societal problems.



Topics of interest

We are particularly interested in trends, practices, and implications of Civic Tech for democratic participation and problem-solving. Submissions may relate to the following themes (but are not limited to):

- Civic Tech practices and their implications for collaborative governance and social innovation.
- The relationship between e-Government, digital public goods, and citizen participation.
- Inclusive design in digital platforms to overcome the digital divide and prevent unintended exclusions.
- Civic Tech's contribution to public value, sustainability, and societal resilience.
- The impact of emerging technologies (such as AI) on citizen engagement, community formation, and administrative reform.

Submissions employing qualitative, quantitative, or mixed-methods approaches are welcome. In addition, papers addressing both empirical and normative questions are highly encouraged.

References

- Ayre, L. B., & Craner, J. (2017). Technology column: public libraries as civic technology hubs. *Public Library Quarterly*, 36(4), 367–374.
- Buell, R. W., Porter, E., & Norton, M. I. (2021). Surfacing the Submerged State: Operational Transparency Increases Trust in and Engagement with Government. *Manufacturing & Service Operations Management*, 23(4), 781-802.
- Hamm, A., Shibuya, Y., Pargman, T. C., et al. (2024). What Does 'Failure' Mean in Civic Tech? We Need Continued Conversations About Discontinuation. *Interactions*, 31(2), 34–38.
- OECD. (2025). *Governing with artificial intelligence: The state of play and way forward in core government functions*. OECD Publishing.
- Raetzsch, C., Hamm, A., & Shibuya, Y. (2023). Mainstreaming civic tech and citizen sensing: a research agenda on co-creation methods, data interfaces, and impact pathways. *Frontiers in Environmental Science*, 11.
- Tai, K. T., Porumbescu, G., & Shon, J. (2019). Can e-participation stimulate offline citizen participation: an empirical test with practical implications. *Public Management Review*, 22(2), 278–296.



Practicalities

Key Links

- Conference website: <https://www.iias-iisa.org/iias-2026-conference/>
- Submission system: <https://www.conftool.org/iias2026/>
- Contact: iias-conference@iias-iisa.org

Important Dates

- Abstract / Panel submission deadline: **30 August 2026**
- Notification of acceptance and opening of registration: **30 August 2026**
- Full paper submission and registration deadline: **4 October 2026**

Submission Guidelines

- Unless otherwise specified in the track call, abstracts are limited to **500 words**. They should clearly outline the research question, theoretical framework, methodology, main findings (or expected findings), and implications.
- Accepted abstracts are expected to be developed into full papers.
- **Panels** are session proposals submitted under the main conference theme. A panel proposal includes a title, abstract, proposed chairperson(s), and a list of expected presentations. Panels are not required to produce full papers.

Evaluation

Proposals (papers and panels) are evaluated by the chair(s) (or co-chairs) of the track to which they are submitted. Evaluation criteria include:

- Academic quality and rigour
- Relevance to the track theme and overall conference theme
- Thematic fit and originality
- Clarity and quality of presentation

Paper Requirements

- Maximum length: **6,000 words** (all inclusive, including references).
- Structure: abstract, introduction, main body (developing the research question, theoretical framework, methodology, findings, and implications), conclusion, and references.

