



## Country case: Scotland's CivTech



Public Procurement Principle: **Balance, Participation**



Procurement Stage: **Pre-tendering, Tendering**



Audience: **Procuring entity, Private sector**

### Description

---

CivTech is the Scottish Government's challenge programme for innovation. Based on leading technology incubators, CivTech offers entrepreneurs the chance to compete in open challenges designed to identify new companies and increase innovation. By bringing together public sector expertise and private sector creativity, the programme pioneers a smarter, faster approach to public procurement. The objective is to harness entrepreneurial tech innovation and citizen engagement, improve public service delivery, create economic development opportunities and foster an entrepreneurial mindset within government.

CivTech sponsors define specific challenges and then invite the private sector to propose solutions. A handful of proposing teams are selected and given a small amount of funding (GBP 3 000) for threeweek exploration sessions. One teams is then selected for a 15-week accelerator, which involves GBP 20 000 in funding and interaction with innovation centres and citizens. After the accelerator phase, minimum viable products (MVPs) are presented at a demo day, and the resulting product(s) are prepared to scale. Because CivTech is oriented around solving challenges, the process allows for the creation of solutions that the government was not aware existed.

With CivTech, Scotland aims to shift from closed prescriptive tendering to open challenge-based questions. In so doing, the government seeks to move away from traditional methods of procurement that favour larger supplier companies able to afford the time and money to navigate their way through the complex public procurement process, and open itself up to small, talented tech companies who are rarely engaged by the public sector.

The government has also launched the CivTech Academy, a structured, comprehensive programme designed to pass on the overall methodology and ethos of the CivTech Programme to partner organisations. The methodology includes the infrastructure, systems and operating principles that need to be put in place, and the knowledge and knowhow required to successfully operate them.

Source: OECD (2020), [System Change in Slovenia: Making Public Procurement More Effective](#), OECD Publishing, Paris

