

TERMS & CONDITIONS

CALL FOR SOLUTIONS

How can technology optimise fact-checking processes and help the fight against disinformation?

These terms & conditions regulate the participation in the Call for Solutions within the challenge “*How can technology optimise fact-checking processes and help the fight against disinformation?*” launched by Digital Future Society (hereinafter “**DFS**”), a programme of Fundació Barcelona Mobile World Capital Foundation (hereinafter, “**MWCapital**”). Participation in this Call for Solutions implies the complete acceptance and compliance with these terms & conditions.

Consequently, the organizer of this Call for Solutions is Fundació Barcelona Mobile World Capital Foundation, with address in Barcelona (08039), Pau Vila Square, 1, sector 2-C, Palau de Mar building, with the CIF G-65760431.

1. Introduction

MWCapital is a non-profit entity that aims to promote the digital transformation of society, helping to improve people's lives globally. With public and private support, MWCapital focuses its activity in four (4) areas: the acceleration of **innovation** through digital entrepreneurship; the transformation of the industry through digital **technology**; the growth of digital **talent** among new generations and professionals; and reflection on the impact of technology on our **society**.

In the framework of its initiatives, MWCapital promotes the DFS programme with the objective to build an inclusive, equitable and sustainable future in the digital era. DFS engages technology experts and social scientists to explore, experiment, and exchange knowledge in four (4) verticals: public innovation; digital trust and security; inclusion and citizen empowerment; and sustainable growth.

The DFS Think Tank is the research and deliberation body of the DFS programme, the purpose of which is to foster a greater understanding of the impact on society of digital technologies through research and discussions focused on four verticals.

Throughout the year, the DFS transforms global reflections into local actions and creates solutions that seek to respond to the most urgent challenges of technological disruption through the DFS Lab. In this context, the DFS Lab is responsible for validating the recommendations of the DFS Think Tank and for identifying and testing solutions in response to the challenges defined within the four above-mentioned verticals.

Through its collaborative approach, DFS Lab launches calls to identify, share and scale ideas and solutions that aim at overcoming social challenges.

2. Objective

Disinformation is classed as any dissemination of false or inaccurate content, data, and information aimed at misleading or confusing the audience, or both. It is a practice that has been carried out throughout history to influence and position public opinion. However, in recent years, technological advances, the widespread use of the internet and social networks, the precariousness of journalism and the mass media model crisis have generated a new dimension to the problem. This new dimension stems from different factors, such as the speed at which content is disseminated or the scope and segmentation of the audience.

In this context, fact-checking has become essential to combatting and limiting the spread of disinformation. However, it is a slow and manual process that requires time and resources. The digitisation of information and the greater speeds content is disseminated across the internet require faster responses and new tools that can help detect falsehoods and reduce the impact disinformation can have.

This call for solutions seeks to identify and test innovative technology solutions that will help optimise and automate the fact-checking process and help reduce the spread and impact of disinformation.

The current Call for Solutions will achieve its objectives by selecting a maximum of two (2) winning proposals that will lead to the setting up of a maximum of two (2) partnerships. The partnership framework will support the implementation of a maximum of two (2) pilots where both the technology and its impact are validated in a real-life context. As a result of the summing up of capabilities between the partners, the aim is to work together to achieve the global and common objective of solving the aforementioned challenge.

The current Call for Solutions seeks proposals that bring different perspectives and experiences from organisations that can contribute to solving the described challenge. It especially looks for collaborations across the different sectors and fields that are already tackling the described challenge.

3. What DFS Lab offers

The Winning proposal(s) will benefit from:

- A. Partnership setting up.** MWCcapital will assume the responsibility of bringing together the different stakeholders into a partnership agreement that will enable the implementation of the winning proposal(s).
- B. Project execution.** MWCcapital will lead the project execution by assuring the coordination among all partners and defining the project calendar, its objectives, and key milestones.

- C. Project funding.** The winning proposal(s) will be supported financially on a case-by-case basis, being the winning proposal(s) responsible for a minimum of 20% of the total project budget. Financial support is only available for activities and aspects directly related to the pilot implementation and it cannot include personnel, travelling and diet costs. MWCcapital may fund each winning proposal with a maximum of 40.000€, VAT excluded.
- D. Testing ground.** The winning proposal(s) will be delivered as a pilot validated in a real-life context, coordinated by MWCcapital and carried out in Spain in collaboration with other relevant organisations.
- E. Communication and dissemination.** MWCcapital will lead communication activities throughout the project life cycle, highlighting major milestones and by positioning the project in the field.

4. Key dates

Submissions can be made at the DFS Lab webpage <https://digitalfuturesociety.com/registration-tech-against-disinformation/> from **25th of May 2021 at 12:00 PM (CEST)** until the **9th of July 2021 at 12:00 PM (CEST)**. Winner(s) will be announced in **September 2021**.

MWCcapital reserves the right to extend the deadline for submission of proposals.

5. Language of participation

This is an international Call for Solutions so submissions should be made in English. However, submissions in Catalan & Spanish will also be accepted.

6. Eligibility criteria

Participation in the Call for Solutions is free and open to any legal organisation, with no size or geographical restriction.

In addition to this, submitted proposals need to comply with the two following criteria:

- Answer to the challenge launched by the Call for Solutions.
- Deliverance of concrete and measurable results and to be ready for pilot implementation. The technologic elements of the solution also need to be ready for the pilot implementation (TRL>5).

Proposals that are submitted after the deadline of the Call, as well as those that do not include the characteristics and requirements requested, will be considered void.

The organization reserves the right to consider void those proposals that are considered not adequate for the brand image and / or may violate physical or moral integrity.

7. How to participate

The submission process is split into three (3) rounds of evaluation. Only proposals that meet the Eligibility Criteria will be considered for evaluation.

7.1. Round one – Evaluation of all eligible proposals

Participants can send their proposals by filling the application form available in DFS Lab webpage <https://digitalfuturesociety.com/registration-tech-against-disinformation/>. In this round, all eligible proposals will be evaluated by a panel of judges consisting of DFS Lab members and independent experts.

The maximum score in this round is **46 points**, according to the following criteria:

- **Degree of relevance** - how effectively does the proposal answer the challenge's defined problem? **(8 points)**
- **Fact-checking phases** – which phase of the fact-checking process does the proposal address? **(2 points)**
- **Benefits** – what benefits and improvements will implementing the proposal generate? **(8 points)**
- **Degree of disruption and innovation** - how innovative and disruptive is the proposal compared to solutions that already exist? **(8 points)**
- **TRL (Technology Readiness Level)** – How mature is the solution? Is it ready to be piloted and implemented in a real-life context? **(4 points)**
- **Scalability** – can the proposal be replicated in other contexts and geographical areas? **(5 points)**
- **Prior experience in similar projects** - the level of proven experience in the fact-checking sector. **(3 points)**
- **Technical feasibility of pilot implementation plan** – from a technical perspective, how feasible is the plan to pilot the solution in Spain? **(8 points)**

7.2. Round two – Evaluation of the (maximum) fifteen highest scored proposals

The top fifteen (15) proposals, based on the highest combined scores from round one, will move on to the second round. These will be considered semi-finalist proposals. Semi-finalist proposals will then be required to complete and submit the additional information form. This additional information will include questions regarding the pilot implementation plan, the budget, the sustainability of the proposal and other information. Based on the submitted additional information, MWCcapital will carry out a further round of evaluation. In this second round, the DFS programme team and independent experts will re-evaluate the semi-finalist proposals.

The maximum score in this round is **54 points**, according to the criteria mentioned below:

- **How clear is the pilot?** – is the piloting proposal clear and easy to understand? **(3 points)**
- **How detailed is the pilot?** – what is the overall level of detail of the objectives, tasks and timing of the pilot? **(3 points)**
- **Planning feasibility of the pilot** – how feasible is the implementation of the pilot according to the pilot implementation plan? **(8 points)**
- **Impact assessment** – how detailed is the evaluation plan and are there impact indicators? **(3 points)**
- **Context of the pilot** – is the pilot adaptable to the Spanish fact-checking context? **(3 points)**
- **Technical feasibility of the pilot** – how feasible is the plan to implement the pilot with regards to its technical requirements? **(5 points)**
- **Implementing context** – how many contexts will the pilot be tested in simultaneously? **(1 points)**
- **Economic feasibility of the pilot (pilot budget)** – how feasible is the plan to implement the pilot with regards to the proposed budget and available resources? **(8 points)**
- **Co-financing** – what percentage of the pilot’s budget will be covered by the applicant? **(3 points)**
- **Partners** – has the proposal identified the partners needed to implement the pilot? **(3 points)**
- **Previous experience with partners** – do the applicants have demonstrable previous experience with the identified partners. **(3 points)**
- **Business model** – is the business model clear and feasibly sustainable beyond the pilot? **(5 points)**
- **Profile and experience of the team** – does the team’s level of experience fit the needs of the pilot? **(3 points)**
- **Suitability of team** – is the team suitably organised to handle the division of tasks and responsibilities? **(3 points)**

7.3. **Round three – Selection of the winners**

The finalists will be the six (6) proposals with the highest combined scores from the first and second rounds. A jury composed of experts from MWCcapital, academics, journalists and technologists will evaluate the finalists’ proposals based on all the information provided in the first and second round.

Finally, a maximum of two (2) proposals will be selected as the winner of the Call, which will eventually lead to two (2) future collaborations to carry out the corresponding pilots.

In order to select the six (6) proposals that will be considered finalists, if there are several proposals that obtain the same score in the second round, the tie-break criterion will be the number of women included in the pilot implementation team.

Finally, it is reported that during the different phases of evaluation each of the sections will be evaluated in a range from 0 to 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 8 points.

8. Intellectual property & use of image

By submitting to the Call for Solutions participants agree to grant rights to use the proposal outputs for non-commercial objectives in accordance with the current Terms & Conditions. Participants also agree that MWCcapital will be entitled to use the organisation name, a summary of its submission and any photos and biographies supplied in any publicity or promotional material for the initiative.

MWCcapital will retain the right to communicate the results and outcomes of the Call for Solutions through any media (Internet, media, TV, radio, etc) with prior knowledge of the participants.

9. Limitation of Liability

MWCcapital reserves the right to reject any submission or withdraw a place on the Call for Solutions if a Participant breaches the Terms & Conditions or in the event of an actual or potential conflict of interest. If any Participant subsequently withdraws or is withdrawn from the Call for Solutions during the various rounds of evaluation, MWCcapital may select a replacement applicant, but will not be obliged to do so.

MWCcapital will not be responsible for and will not reimburse any costs incurred in submitting materials or information pursuant to the Call for Solutions, including but not limited to evaluating, responding, providing follow up, negotiating, and otherwise complying with the Call for Solutions requirements together with the implementation of the Proposal.

Participants must have access to the Internet as the Call for Solutions can only be accessed online. Participants must provide a valid e-mail address and contact number that will be used to request any necessary additional information and communicate results.

By entering the Call for Solutions the Participants warrant that the information contained in the Proposal is accurate and complete, and that by submitting the Proposal, the Participant is not and will not be violating any contract or third party rights including any patents, copyrights, trade secrets, proprietary or confidential information, trademarks, or rights to privacy including personal data.

The evaluation results of each round are final and binding. MWCcapital is exempt from all liability, penalty, claim, demand or civil, commercial, criminal, administrative proceedings, including compensation of any kind and/or nature, expenses, costs (expressly including attorneys' fees

and solicitors). The decision of the jury members during the three rounds of evaluation is final and MWCcapital will not enter into any dispute about the results.

10. Data Use and Protection

Use of participant's data will be used as described in our Privacy Policy. Participants agree to inform MWCcapital of any change to the corporate contact details information submitted to the Call for Solutions in order to keep such information current at all times and free of errors. In addition, participants declare that the information provided is true and correct. By providing corporate contact details, each participant agrees to receive email correspondence regarding the current Call for Solutions.

11. Applicable law and jurisdiction

The applicable law to this Call shall be Spanish law. By submitting a Proposal, Participants irrevocably agree that the courts located in Barcelona shall have personal jurisdiction over any dispute or litigation arising from or relating to these Terms & Conditions.