

ICEGOV

2026 RIYADH
SAUDI ARABIA

19th International Conference
on Theory and Practice of
Electronic Governance

28 September–1 October 2026

www.icegov.org

2nd CALL FOR PAPERS & WORKSHOPS

EXTENDED
DEADLINE
8 MAY 2026

***Strengthening Digital Governance through
Innovation, Human-Centered and
Trustworthy Services***

ORGANISERS



جامعة الامير سلطان
PRINCE SULTAN
UNIVERSITY

PATRON



هيئة الحكومة الرقمية
Digital Government Authority

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction

2. Important dates

3. Submission tracks (papers)

4. Paper categories

- 4.1. Research papers
- 4.2. Ongoing research papers
- 4.3. Short papers

5. Workshops

6. Publications and Awards

- 6.1. Conference proceedings
- 6.2. Best Paper Awards

7. UNU-EGOV Scholarships

8. Programme & Registration

1. INTRODUCTION

With digitalization accelerating across government, society, and the economy, and intelligent systems and large-scale data infrastructures increasingly shaping public sector environments, ICEGOV 2026 focuses on discussing **“Strengthening Digital Governance through Innovation, Human-Centered and Trustworthy Services”** highlighting the need to advance governance approaches that are grounded in real institutional practice and attentive to societal expectations. Digital transformation places increasing demands on governments to enhance effectiveness, transparency, and responsiveness while operating in complex socio-technical environments. As data-driven systems, automation, and responsible Artificial Intelligence (AI) become embedded in governance arrangements, public institutions are expected not only to innovate but to do so in ways that support public trust, ensure accountability, and deliver tangible value for citizens and businesses. Strengthening digital governance requires placing humans at the centre of policy design and service delivery, reinforcing trust through transparent and ethical decision-making, and translating innovation into measurable outcomes. This involves structured engagement with citizens and stakeholders, the use of co-creation mechanisms across policy and service lifecycles, and the responsible deployment of AI and data-driven tools supported by appropriate regulatory and organizational frameworks. The conference places particular emphasis on impact and real-world experiences, encouraging contributions that demonstrate how digital governance principles are operationalized across different institutional, cultural, and regional contexts. Through the exchange of ideas, the presentation of evidence-based research, and collaboration across academia, government, and practice, ICEGOV 2026 seeks to strengthen digital governance in fair, just, and ultimately trustworthy ways.

Following 18 previous editions¹, the conference has established itself a significant and structured source of in-depth, rich research, policy insight, and networking that reaches audiences on a national and international scale. It is ranked as one of the leading conferences in Digital Governance. Coordinated by the United Nations University (UNU-EGOV), ICEGOV brings a state-of-the-art programme where international organisations and the United Nations system are a major driving force. The conference also makes a significant contribution towards the 2030 SDGs.

¹ Macau (2007), Cairo (2008), Bogotá (2009), Beijing (2010), Tallinn (2011), Albany (2012), Seoul (2013), Guimarães (2014, 2022), Montevideo (2016), New Delhi (2017), Galway (2018), Melbourne (2019), Online (2020), Athens (2021), Belo Horizonte (2023), Pretoria (2024) and Abuja (2025)



NOTE:

This document has important clickable links. Please use them.

In general figures, the conference community includes more than **2400** authors from **105** countries, who together have contributed towards **1578** published papers covering a vast majority of topics, regions, and people of the world. On average, every edition attracts around **180** paper submissions and is attended by representatives from academia (60%), government (20%), industry and international organisations (15%), and civil society (5%), with over **7500** people having attended the conference thus far.

2. IMPORTANT DATES

Paper submission deadline	8 May 2026
Workshop submission deadline	8 May 2026
Paper decision notification	14 July 2026
Workshop decision notification	14 July 2026
Scholarship application period	15 – 22 July 2026
Scholarship decision notification	24 July 2026
Authors' registration deadline	13 August 2026
A1-posters submission deadline	18 September 2026
Doctoral Colloquium	28 September 2026
Workshops	28 September 2026

3. SUBMISSION TRACKS (PAPERS)

Papers can be submitted to various Tracks (12) or to the Doctoral Colloquium, all of which are described in more detail below. Paper categories are tied to the different Tracks (see 4. Paper Categories). All papers are submitted through **EDAS - Conference and Journal Management System** via its submission page:



A tutorial is available to assist you in preparing and submitting your paper for ICEGOV 2026. A detailed publication workflow detailing the whole process, from preparing the paper to its publication in ACM's Digital Library, is also available. You may consult it to understand the several stages your paper will go through, if accepted.



TRACK 1 | Building Trust through Inclusive and Ethical Digital Governance

The rapidly changing technological landscape, driven by advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Generative AI (GenAI), continues to disrupt traditional systems and create innovative opportunities. The rapid adoption of these technologies without careful design and governance principles that ensure ethical and human rights considerations can significantly erode trust in both digital and physical societies. This Track invites papers that focus on building trust through inclusive governance models and ethical digital practices. Topics include advancing transparency, accountability, and the ethical use of technologies while ensuring inclusivity in digital governance. Additionally, papers should explore strategies to engage all stakeholders, particularly underrepresented and marginalized groups, in shaping governance policies and decision-making processes. Track welcomes empirical studies and innovative approaches that highlight how government organizations embed and sustain digital participation, inclusiveness, and public trust in digital governance systems. Particular emphasis is placed on real-world experiences, impact-driven initiatives, and institutional practices that sustain trust and inclusion over time. This Track focuses specifically on governance models and participatory methods rather than technical privacy and security measures. Examples may include participatory and co-creation approaches, e-participation mechanisms, and creative initiatives that enable stakeholder collaboration across diverse contexts. Human-centric, proactive governance approaches tailored to diverse societal and cultural settings are of particular interest to this Track. Specific attention is given to methods that ensure digital equity, such as participatory approaches tailored to marginalized communities and diverse perspectives. Additionally, this Track encourages submissions focused on alternative methods for advancing trust and inclusion, including crowdsourcing, collaborative online initiatives, and public value co-creation with citizens and businesses. Papers analyzing the potential of these approaches to reflect citizens' voices and strengthen trust in governance processes are highly encouraged.

TRACK 2 | Securing Digital Governance: Privacy, Cybersecurity, and Sovereignty for the Future

Privacy, cybersecurity, and digital sovereignty are increasingly important topics in digital governance. With more affordable technologies for handling significant volumes of data being available, government organisations worldwide are striving for more data-driven operations. Data from various types of digital infrastructure (such as IoTs), as well as data on citizens and their behaviours, is sometimes described as the “new oil” in society. With this kind of data, new and improved public services can potentially be created. However, increased use and manipulation of various data types also bring critical challenges, including ethics-related questions regarding citizens’ right to privacy, national and regional control over critical data infrastructure, systems resilience, and information security, as well as governance mechanisms for operational resilience, crisis response, and continuity of digital public services. This Track invites empirical studies, conceptual papers, and case-based evidence that address privacy, sovereignty, security, and digital governance. Contributions may examine the ethical use and safeguarding of data, as well as technical and operational approaches to protecting privacy and ensuring cyber resilience. We encourage submissions that explore cybersecurity issues, such as protecting critical infrastructure, mitigating data breach risks, and addressing vulnerabilities in IoT systems. Additionally, papers investigating how privacy, cybersecurity, and/or digital sovereignty considerations can be embedded into operational digital governance frameworks and translated into real-world regulatory and institutional practices are particularly welcome.

TRACK 3 | Harnessing AI for Public Good: Balancing Innovation and Responsibility

Artificial Intelligence (AI) holds transformative potential for addressing global challenges ranging from climate change and public health to education and disaster response. This Track focuses on broad societal applications of AI for public benefit, including examining how AI can be harnessed ethically and responsibly to improve community well-being and promote equitable development. Contributions are invited that explore cross-sectoral applications of AI to advance societal goals, such as reducing inequality, improving governance systems, combating misinformation, and enhancing resilience against crises. Particular attention is given to AI governance, ethical frameworks, and data governance approaches that ensure responsible deployment in public sector contexts. Papers may address frameworks for ensuring fairness, transparency, and accountability in AI design and use, emphasizing public trust, ethical AI deployment, and regulatory frameworks to mitigate risks. Submissions presenting real-world applications, case studies, and measurable impacts of AI-enabled public services are especially encouraged. Track also encourages submissions that analyze the global implications of AI, including international cooperation, AI literacy, and strategies to reduce the digital divide, ensuring that the benefits of AI are accessible to all. This Track aims to foster a holistic dialogue on how governments and organizations can harness AI’s potential to advance societal objectives while upholding ethical and human rights principles.

TRACK 4 | Digital Transformation and Innovation in the Public Sector

The need for innovation in the public sector extends beyond adopting emerging technologies; it also involves reimagining traditional processes and frameworks to enhance efficiency and effectiveness. This Track addresses digital transformation efforts and innovations that improve public sector operations, focusing on conventional approaches and proven strategies. Discussions will explore the drivers and motivations behind digital transformation initiatives at various levels of government, their technical and non-technical enablers, and the processes and strategies adopted. Contributions analysing process re-engineering, the application of “once-only” principles, the establishment of paperless workflows, and the adoption of “beyond bureaucracy” practices are especially welcome. Papers can also focus on creating innovative service-delivery ecosystems, regulatory frameworks, cross-border services, new approaches to collaborative governance, and frameworks to improve access to public services. Additionally, this Track considers case studies and analyses of organisational innovations, civic-tech-driven governance models, and public-private collaborations in areas such as Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) strategies. Contributions examining digital capacity building, workforce upskilling, youth empowerment, productivity enhancement, and skills development within public sector organizations are particularly encouraged. Papers highlighting real-world experiences, institutional reforms, and the demonstrable impacts of digital transformation initiatives are especially welcome, as are studies that identify replicable success factors in public sector innovation and citizen engagement.

TRACK 5 | Harnessing Emerging Technologies for Smarter and More Efficient Public Services

Emerging and disruptive technologies, particularly Artificial Intelligence (AI), reshape how public services are delivered and managed. This Track focuses on the operational and administrative uses of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Robotics, Blockchain, Additive Manufacturing, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), the Internet of Things (IoT), and next-generation connectivity such as 5G within the public sector to enhance efficiency, effectiveness, and citizen satisfaction. Contributions are invited to examine the design, deployment, and outcomes of technology-driven innovations in public administration. Topics include leveraging AI, blockchain, and IoT for automation, integrating UAVs for service delivery, and exploring additive manufacturing in public infrastructure. 5G-enabled innovations, such as real-time data processing, edge computing, and ultra-reliable low-latency communication (URLLC) for smart public services, are also welcomed. Papers addressing practical challenges, such as overcoming organizational barriers, fostering the adoption of multi-technology among public servants, and managing change within government systems, are particularly encouraged. Additionally, submissions exploring how different emerging technologies interact to develop smart and adaptive public service ecosystems are welcome. The Track also highlights the need for ethical, secure governance in public administration by examining issues such as algorithmic accountability, data security, autonomous decision-making, and privacy protection in AI systems used by government. Case studies illustrating real-world

deployments and implementation experiences, including 5G-powered public service solutions, multi-technology implementations in the public sector, and discussions on co-design approaches with citizens and stakeholders, are also encouraged.

TRACK 6 | New Metrics and Approaches for Measuring Digital Governance Success

The existence and application of assessment instruments are essential for enhancing the success of digital governance and digital transformation initiatives at local, regional, national, and international levels. These tools and methods play a key role in monitoring progress across various domains such as healthcare, education, justice, security, environmental planning, and more. Within this context, this Track examines new metrics, innovative frameworks, methodologies, and tools designed for gauging, evaluating, and overseeing multiple facets of digital governance and transformational progress. These facets encompass a broad spectrum, including but not limited to service delivery, the interoperability of legal-organisational semantic technologies, data quality, maturity in digital skills, citizen engagement, infrastructure readiness and resilience, the impact of digital governance on citizens and societies, the adoption of online services, digital inclusivity, the accessibility of government data, the execution of digital governance strategies, and subsequent action plans. Furthermore, this Track invites submissions offering reflections and innovative enhancements to, or transformations of, the prevailing assessment methodologies currently employed by nations or international organisations. Papers focusing on the development of advanced indicators, global benchmarks, and the effectiveness and outcomes of e-government policies over the past decades are particularly encouraged. Contributions emphasising the Global South perspective in measuring digital governance, including applied assessments, comparative analyses, and real-world measurement challenges, and addressing regional disparities, are highly welcome.

TRACK 7 | Building Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for Scalable and Inclusive Digital Service Delivery

The digital transformation of governance relies on a well-designed Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), which serves as the backbone for scalable, inclusive, and efficient public services. The development of interoperable digital ID systems, secure payment platforms, and data exchange mechanisms enables governments to enhance service delivery, promote economic participation, and strengthen digital trust. Ensuring resilient, universally accessible DPI is essential to fostering digital inclusion and supporting future-ready societies. This Track invites discussions on DPI as a fundamental enabler of digital governance, exploring policy frameworks, regulatory models, and implementation strategies that ensure secure, adaptable, and interoperable infrastructure. Contributions may examine how DPI supports large-scale public service innovation, enhances cross-border collaboration, and facilitates private-sector engagement. Additionally, the Track addresses the evolving role of the workforce in DPI-driven ecosystems, including capacity-building efforts, digital skills development, and strategies to bridge the digital divide. Contributions examining co-creation practices in the development and implementation of DPI, particularly those involving users and

stakeholders, are welcome where relevant. Regional differences in DPI adoption and governance will also be explored, alongside comparative studies on how countries design and implement DPI to meet scalability challenges and ensure inclusive digital service access. This Track also welcomes empirical and conceptual papers that present implementation experiences and real-world deployments of DPI, examining its role in unlocking the transformative potential of digital technologies, fostering sustainable development, and delivering accessible, citizen-centric digital services.

TRACK 8 | Smart, Sustainable and Resilient Communities, Cities and Regions

The term ‘smart city’ has become synonymous with innovation in urban areas. Over the past decades, scholars, the private sector, and international institutions have explored the potential of implementing digital technologies in urban spaces to deliver services, boost the economy, and make cities better places to work and live. Despite significant developments, many implemented solutions are technology-driven, while the human-centric approach continues to receive insufficient attention. In this regard, some challenges must be overcome to put the people at the centre of smart city development, prioritising humanity, inclusivity, resilience, and sustainability to leave no one behind in the digital transformation. It is also necessary to connect the smart cities’ approach to the New Urban Agenda and the climate emergency to develop concrete recommendations for regional and local governments. Moreover, contextualised and adaptive solutions must be created, as cities vary significantly across countries and regions. This Track calls for papers that discuss how human-centric, secure, and resilient solutions can be integrated into smart city efforts, including local e-governance, digital infrastructure, local innovation systems, rural domains, traditional governance, and indigenous knowledge systems. Contributions examining sustainability-oriented and environmentally responsible digital solutions are particularly welcome. Furthermore, it addresses the development of smart city and regional policy models and technological innovations in energy, transportation, health, education, public safety, infrastructure, the natural environment, business, and community-based infrastructure resilience, as well as urban informatics. This Track includes smart grids, sensors, the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Big Data Analytics, as well as smart devices, and their novel use in public management and cybersecurity measures to protect critical infrastructure and ensure safe and reliable urban management. Papers presenting real-world implementations, applied case studies, and governance lessons learned from smart and sustainable urban and regional initiatives are encouraged.

TRACK 9 | Stakeholder Engagement, Beneficiary-Centrism and Public Participation through Digital Platforms

The massive adoption of social media and digital platforms by organizations and citizens has affected many social activities and the relationship between government and society. This widespread adoption increased information spread and interaction, facilitating governmental communication and service delivery. At the same time, potential negative impacts on the population heightened the government’s concerns

about the challenges of monitoring, algorithm transparency, content moderation, and the regulation of such platforms. In this context, the Track accepts papers that make theoretical and practical contributions, present innovative approaches, include case studies, and offer other perspectives on the use of digital media by governments and society. It welcomes papers investigating the role of social media and digital platforms in enhancing and promoting government activities, including communication and engagement strategies, and using social media data. Track particularly welcomes studies on co-creation through digital platforms, including collaborative policy design, co-delivery of services, feedback-driven governance models, and beneficiary-centric participation mechanisms. It also invites studies on the operation of social media and digital platforms, including algorithmic mechanisms, content moderation practices, efforts to combat illegal or harmful content, the risks of filter bubbles, and their influence on democracy, social movements, and trust in governments. Submissions addressing platform governance and accountability mechanisms are particularly welcome. Topics of interest include but are not limited to the use of social media and digital platforms in public policies, such as education and health policies; adoption of social media and digital platforms to communicate and engage with society; regulation and initiatives to fight against misinformation, disinformation, hate speech, fake news and deep fakes; impacts of digital media on democracy, trust and citizens' rights; the role of transparency and accountability in platform governance, and the use of digital media data for crisis and emergency management, such as geolocation and AI-based interventions. Papers presenting real-world experiences, regulatory responses, and applied governance challenges related to digital platforms are encouraged.

TRACK 10 | Governing Digital Economies: Public-Private Sector Perspectives

This Track focuses on the governance, regulation, and public-private dynamics of the digital economy. It welcomes contributions from industry and the public sector that present recent trends and developments, innovative solutions, practical experiences, or research and development efforts related to the conference theme. Moreover, in this edition, the Track speaks to new economic models and industry developments and their implications for governance. As the digital economy evolves, it creates opportunities for socio-economic growth but also raises new policy and regulatory issues, such as new forms of competition and inequality. This Track addresses explicitly the governance of digital markets, innovation ecosystems, and public-private interactions, rather than the internal operational deployment of technologies within public administrations. This Track welcomes policy and practice papers designed to enable outreach and impact, stemming from case studies, research projects, or other significant digital governance initiatives by the public or private sector, and written for non-academic audiences. Submitted papers should be structured to facilitate policymaking and industry consideration and should present relevant findings and recommendations for theory and practice in digital governance. Papers should provide sufficient background for readers to understand the problem and to appreciate the importance of the topic. Contributions presenting regulatory approaches, governance frameworks, and real-

world public-private collaboration experiences are particularly encouraged. At least one of the authors of a paper submitted to this Track must be from the respective fields: industry or public sector.

TRACK 11 | Accelerating Digital Transformation in the Global South

This Track creates space for dedicated conversations that focus on the unique challenges and opportunities faced by nations and actors in and of the Global South relating to digital transformation. Consideration in these contexts is often framed in terms of what is wrong or missing, and the list is long: issues of digital inclusion and access for marginalised populations; challenges in implementing effective basic e-government services, which is further deferred by the general lack of formal digital identities; lack of robust regulations and enforcement mechanisms for data governance, including inadequate data protection frameworks; digital literacy and skills gap in policy, administration, and also amongst populations; limited resources for implementing robust cybersecurity measures and responding to cyber incidents; inadequate regulatory frameworks leading ethical and governance concerns; limited preparedness and infrastructure for mainstreamed digital trade and e-commerce; digital geopolitics and digital sovereignty concerns; etc. However, some positive aspects and opportunities may be considered, such as growing youthful populations, cultural diversities and indigenous knowledge systems that may be harnessed for creativity and innovation, digital leapfrogging opportunities as has been seen in examples of the rapid uptake of mobile and fintech technologies; locational advantages such as natural resource endowments and renewable energy resources; South-South cooperation such as the BRICS which can lead to mutually beneficial partnerships and collective solutions to developmental challenges; and so forth. The Track invites innovative papers, theoretical or practical, that offer developmental, political economy, socio-technical, social justice, anthropological, decolonial, and other perspectives and analyses – including from the humanities, arts, and social sciences – on accelerating digital transformation, addressing current challenges, and exploring novel potentialities in the Global South. Contributions presenting applied experiences, successful initiatives, and transferable lessons from diverse regional and national contexts are particularly welcome.

TRACK 12 | Early Research Track

The conference welcomes submissions of short papers describing early research or ongoing work, presenting new project ideas, initial results, open questions, and development plans, among others. The paper should address emerging challenges, innovative methodologies, or critical gaps in Digital Governance research and practice. Papers accepted for this Track will be presented at Paper Sessions and published in the conference proceedings. Additionally, the authors will be invited to develop an A1-sized poster to be displayed permanently during the conference for all participants. This will stimulate discussion, create connections between research and practice, and research and policy, provide feedback to the authors, and nourish opportunities for international, multidisciplinary, and cross-sectoral collaboration. Submissions presenting pilot

studies, initial empirical findings, or early real-world applications are particularly welcome, as they can help stimulate discussion and support collaboration across disciplines and sectors.

Doctoral Colloquium

The Doctoral Colloquium is a full-day event on **28 September 2026**. Submissions to this Track are exclusive to PhD students currently working on their doctoral thesis who would like to present their ongoing research paper on any topic related to the conference theme or tracks. The paper should explain the research problem, the motivation behind it, the research questions, and the research methodology. It should also include the scientific and technical challenges, the respective research results obtained so far, and any planned developments. Although the PhD supervisor can co-author the paper, the student must be the first author. When submitting the paper, a letter of endorsement from the supervisor(s) is mandatory (it can be in the last page of the document and must include the name and affiliation of the student). Papers are reviewed by the respective Chairs, leading Professors in the field with vast experience in accompanying doctoral students. The session is chaired by them and aims at improving the students' peer-to-peer and professional networks. At the same time, students will obtain useful feedback regarding their ongoing doctoral work and research.

4. PAPER CATEGORIES

The conference welcomes paper submissions in three categories: **RESEARCH**, **ONGOING RESEARCH**, and **SHORT**. Each paper category is described in more detail below, including recommended sections and structure. Additionally, each paper category is linked to a set of conference Tracks (see table below). **Note that the Programme Committee Chairs can downgrade a paper after the review process if it is found that the paper does not fit the category chosen by the author(s) during submission.**

All accepted papers will be presented at designated Paper Sessions during the conference. Papers submitted to the Doctoral Colloquium by PhD students will be presented during a special, all-day long session one day before the conference itself. The presentation time varies depending on the paper category, but always including an additional 5 minutes for questions by the audience (Q&A).

- Research: 15 minutes + Q&A
- Ongoing Research: 15 minutes + Q&A
- Short: 10 minutes + Q&A
- Doctoral Colloquium: 20 minutes + Q&A

Additionally, all authors of short papers will be invited to create an A1-size poster presenting their work. Each poster will be printed by the organisers for free and will be in a permanent exhibition during the conference. The Poster Exhibition's inauguration will occur at the same time as the Welcome Reception. Authors of short papers will be requested to be next to their poster for Q&A and further networking during this period.

CATEGORY	PAGES MIN - MAX	THEMATIC TRACKS (T1-T9, T11)	PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR (T10)	EARLY RESEARCH TRACK (T12)	DOCTORAL COLLOQUIUM
RESEARCH	12	✓			
ONGOING RESEARCH	8-10	✓			✓
SHORT	6		✓	✓	

4.1. Research papers

These are papers that document complete research in one or more aspects of Digital Government, with proven or potential capability to advance the state of research in the field. Research papers should be similar to journal submissions, albeit shorter, and feature completed analysis and documentation of achieved results. Research papers must address topics listed in the Tracks 1-9 and 11 and should, indicatively, include the following sections (more as a reference than as exact titles):

- Title
- Abstract (up to 300 words)
- Introduction
- Background / Literature Review
- Methodology / Research Framework / Design Approach
- Results / Findings / Developments / Applications
- Discussion
- Conclusions / Further Work
- References

4.2. Ongoing research papers

These are papers that describe ongoing research work that is yet to be completed, in one or more aspects of Digital Government, with proven or potential capability to advance the state of research in the field. Ongoing research papers could take various forms: for example, they can be theoretical (presenting promising frameworks), empirical (with some preliminary results), or present a design of novel and useful concepts and/or artefacts (no testing required). Ongoing research papers must address topics listed in the Tracks 1-9, 11 and Doctoral Colloquium and should, indicatively, include the following sections (more as a reference than as exact titles):

- Title
- Abstract (up to 300 words)
- Introduction

- Background / Literature Review / Methodology / Research Framework
- Results / Findings / Developments / Applications
- Discussion / Conclusions / Further Work
- References

4.3. Short papers

These are papers mostly composed of work in progress, recent developments or presentations of new ideas and initiatives with the potential to contribute to Digital Government research and practice. Short papers must address topics listed in the Tracks 10 and 12 and should, indicatively, include the following sections (more as a reference than as exact titles):

- Title
- Abstract (up to 150 words)
- Introduction / Background / Aims and Objectives of the study
- Approach / Results
- Conclusions / Further Work
- References

5. WORKSHOPS

The conference welcomes the submission of Workshop proposals, which may take different formats, including Expert Group Meetings (EGMs) or focus group sessions. The accepted workshops will take place on **28 September 2026** and are planned as 2-hours long sessions, either in the morning or in the afternoon. Submissions shall be made through the dedicated form available on the conference website. Workshops aim to explore topics that, while not explicitly covered in the main conference sessions, align with the overarching conference theme and tracks. These sessions should go beyond the traditional presentation of research findings, such as reports or academic papers. Organisers are strongly encouraged to design sessions that prioritise interaction, such as group activities, collaborative exercises, or dynamic discussions, ensuring active participation from all attendees. Key outcomes intended by the workshops include:

Rigorous Analysis: providing a platform for the thorough examination of emerging or pertinent issues within the scope of the conference.

Networking and Knowledge Exchange: facilitating the exchange of knowledge and networking among a diverse audience, including global experts, researchers, practitioners, government officials, and policymakers.

Thought-Provoking Discussion: encouraging meaningful discussion and the exchanging of ideas through participatory methods.

Workshops



6. PUBLICATIONS AND AWARDS

6.1. Conference Proceedings

All accepted papers will be published in the conference proceedings on the condition that at least one author attends the conference and presents the paper. Currently, the ICEGOV acceptance rate is 41%.

6.2. Best Paper Awards

The goal of the ICEGOV Best Paper Awards is to acknowledge excellent research performed by the authors whose papers have been accepted and presented at the conference. The winners in the different categories are announced during the closing ceremony by the Awards Committee Chair. For more information regarding the eligibility criteria and selection process, download the ICEGOV Best Paper Awards Policy.

Best Paper
Awards Policy



7. UNU-EGOV SCHOLARSHIPS

As part of its mission, the United Nations University (UNU-EGOV) provides a number of Scholarships for attending ICEGOV. These scholarships are aimed mostly at students, especially those originating from low-income, lower-middle-income, and upper middleincome economies (emerging countries). The goal is to facilitate their attendance at the conference, allow them to present their research work, and help grow their academic and professional networks. However, any author of an accepted paper can apply. Since 2014, a total of 330 Scholarships have been awarded to authors of accepted papers originating from 63 countries. Of all scholarships, 85% were awarded to authors from emerging countries. More information about the UNU-EGOV Scholarships is available on the conference website.

Scholarships



8. PROGRAMME & REGISTRATION

The complete conference programme, including speakers, panellists, organisations, accepted papers, etc., will be gradually announced in the upcoming months on the [conference website](#) and UNU-EGOV's social media channels - [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#).

We look forward to meeting you in Riyadh in September 2026!

The ICEGOV 2026 Programme Committee Chairs



Mohammed Ali Alshara
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