

Title of the Challenge

STEM for the Public: A Career with Impact

What is the main issue the challenge addresses?

For this challenge, we want you to address the negative perception of the public sector among young talent, particularly university students. Often viewed as bureaucratic, outdated, and resistant to change, the public sector receives limited engagement from potential candidates compared to the private sector, which is much more present in university life and actively interacts with and recruits students (for TUM, think about IKOM or hackaTUM). This perception overlooks the significant impact of public sector work on society and our democracy, the stability and benefits it offers to employees, and the opportunity for transformation as a new generation opens the door for a wide range of innovations.

Call to Action

- 1. Investigate Barriers:** Identify and analyze a subproblem in the public sector and the key obstacles that prevent STEM students and young professionals from pursuing careers in or linked to the public sector.
- 2. Create Participation Mechanisms:** Develop an innovative and actionable strategy, platform, or tool that facilitates greater participation of STEM graduates & young professionals in the public sector. This could range from planning a workshop, building a platform to improve visibility of actors in the public sector among job-seekers or organizing an event (series) that tackles the subproblem your team focuses on. For the best proposals, Public Makers will support you in implementing your ideas and make them come to fruition.

Note that, while our focus is attracting STEM students to the public sector, we encourage everyone interested to apply and bring their perspective to the table!

What is the desired impact of the challenge?

The overarching goal is to inspire a cultural and structural shift in how STEM graduates and young professionals perceive, engage with, and contribute to the public sector in Germany.

- 1. Increased awareness:** equip STEM students with a deeper understanding of the public sector's functions, opportunities, and potential for impact, breaking down stereotypes and misconceptions.
- 2. Broader participation:** encourage more STEM graduates and young professionals to see themselves as key players in the public sector, contributing their expertise to drive the needed innovation, efficiency, and progress in public services.
- 3. Empowered students:** enable students to develop skills in problem-solving, policy innovation, and cross-sector collaboration, empowering them to take ownership of societal challenges and see themselves as part of the solution.
- 4. Innovative solutions:** generate actionable, creative mechanisms or tools that address the barriers preventing STEM professionals – particularly young professionals and recent graduates – from engaging with the public sector.

Related SDGs



Category for the challenge

- People
- Nature
- Economy

Who is behind this challenge?

Public Makers is a TUM student initiative equipping students to explore and advance the public sector.