

GenAI Zürich

Hackathon 2026



Driving real-world
impact with applied
GenAI

From Prompt to Product.
Build Real-World GenAI Solutions.

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GenAI Zürich Hackathon 2026



The GenAI Zürich Hackathon 2026 is an applied Generative AI hackathon focused on solving real-world industry and impact-focused challenges provided by partner organizations.

Teams collaborate during a multi-week remote preparation phase. Selected teams will be invited to participate in the final on-site phase at the GenAI Zürich 2026 conference on 1–2 April 2026.

Key Facts

Dates

2–18 March

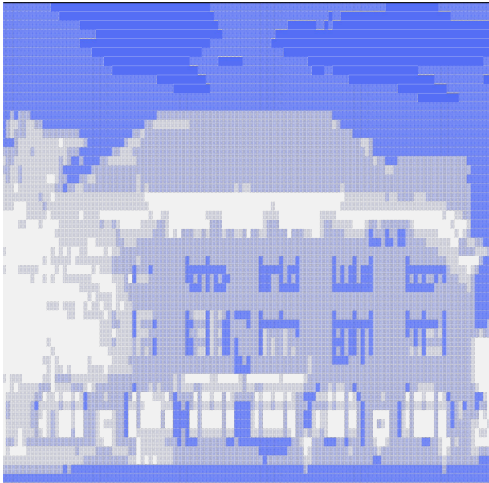
Online Hack Period

1–2 April	On-site Judging & Feedback from the Community, Jury, and Mentors	1 April
	Final Solution Refinement	1–2 April
	Final On-site Judging	2 April Morning
	Top 10 Projects Pitch on the Main Stage	2 April Afternoon
	Hackathon Winners Ceremony & Prize Giving on the Main Stage	2 April Afternoon
On-site Hack Period		

Venues

Online

Volkshaus Zürich



2–5 Team Size



On-site Requirement


At least one member per team must be physically present during pre-defined hours at the GenAI Zürich 2026 conference on 1–2 April.

Cash Prizes

Total prize pool: CHF 10,000

1 st Place	CHF 5,000
2 nd Place	CHF 3,500
3 rd Place	CHF 1,500

Cash prizes will be complemented by attractive non-cash prizes (e.g., software credits)





For Partners

Challenge Format

Partner organizations submit problem statements to be solved using Generative AI.

Each challenge shall include:

- Brief including success criteria (one-pager)
- Sample data (optional)
- Allowed/required tools
- Expected output (e.g., prototype, demo, repo, short pitch deck)

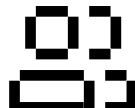
Deadline – 25 February

Hackathon challenges may be submitted until 25 February via the respective submission form.

Optional – prizes

Partner organizations may, via the challenge submission form, express interest in contributing or sponsoring prizes for winning teams, as well as indicate their interest and availability to participate in the hackathon jury and to support the hackathon participant teams as mentors.

Submit challenge



For Teams

Hackathon Format

Teams collaborate online from 2–18 March. The most promising projects join the conference to finalize their solutions in person on 1–2 April.

Phase 1: Online Build

- Challenges are released at the start of the remote build phase
- Teams work remotely on their solutions, and a prototype is submitted two weeks before the conference
- A jury reviews all submissions and shortlists teams to advance to the on-site hack phase

Phase 2: On-site Hack

- Shortlisted teams receive full Conference Passes for all team members
- Day 1: Science-fair-style judging + jury and community feedback
- Day 2: Final project submissions and judging, top teams pitch on the Main Stage, winners ceremony and prize giving

Join Discord community



Submissions and Evaluation



Submissions	Evaluation Criteria	
18 March, 12:00 Online Hack Phase	Prototype (Repo, Source Code) ✓ Required	Innovation and technical quality ✓
	Slide Deck ✱ Optional	Practical relevance and demonstrated business or societal value ✓
	Demo Video (1 min) ✱ Optional	Feasibility and scalability of the solution ✓
	Team Photo on Devpost ✱ Optional	Appropriate and effective use of Generative AI techniques ✓
2 April On-site Hack Phase	Prototype (Repo, source code) ✓ Required	All above criteria + ✓
	Project Landing Page ✓ Required	Iteration and improvement based on Day 1 feedback ✓
	Slide Deck ✓ Required	Overall quality of the final pitch, if applicable ✓
	Demo Video ✓ Required	
	Team Photo on Devpost ✓ Required	

Timeline

3 February	GenAI Zürich Hackathon 2026 announcement goes live.
3 February – 1 March	Partner organizations submit their hackathon challenges. Hackathon participant channel open to connect and mingle virtually.
2 March	Challenge release, hackathon participants finalize team formation & begin work remotely.
18 March	Deadline to submit a prototype. The jury will have one week to evaluate all projects.
25 March	Announcement of the shortlisted teams for the on-site hack phase during the GenAI Zürich 2026 conference.
1 April – 2 April	On-site hackathon phase at GenAI Zürich 2026, community / jury / mentor feedback, final project submissions, finalist pitches, and prize-giving ceremony.

IP Ownership

Hackathon participating teams retain full ownership of their submitted projects.

Hackathon partners and jury members are granted a non-exclusive right to review and discuss the projects. Any potential commercial follow-up is separate and must be discussed directly with the respective teams.





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Get in touch:
contact@genaizurich.com
www.genaizurich.com

Co-organizers

