

Apps4greece: contest run by citizens, for citizens, starts in Thessaloniki

Submitted on 22 Nov 2013 by Charalambos Bratsas

Apps4Greece, an Open Knowledge Foundation Greece initiative, has started in Thessaloniki. [Apps4Thessaloniki](#) is organized by the [Municipality of Thessaloniki](#), [Aristotle University of Thessaloniki](#), [Open Knowledge Foundation Greece](#) and [Urenio Research Unit](#). It also supported by the [Semantic Web Unit](#) and [madfordesign](#).

It is connected with the associated European project [Apps4Europe](#) in which the Open Knowledge Foundation is involved.

The main aspiration of Apps4thessaloniki is to stimulate the citizens of the city to create web and mobile applications, which will improve the life of the city by providing the residents, visitors and businesses with new and innovative services aimed at development, entrepreneurship and innovation.

It also aims at creating open data, either through official organizations or through crowdsourcing from the citizens. The ultimate goal is to **create a community with the participation of the municipality, organizations, institutions, companies and citizens, which will find new solutions to existing problems, by exploiting the potential of new technologies.**

These solutions can be used in other cities, thus promoting the image of Thessaloniki and offer new business opportunities to those who distinguished themselves in the competition.

The project is based on two current trends of smart cities:

- The Crowdsourcing, where the basic idea is the assignment of a task traditionally performed by an employee or contractor, to a large group of people or community through an open call.
- Open data, where public bodies and organizations provide access to data of cultural, economic research and other areas of interest so as to be re-used and create added value to applications.

The most striking example of this form of competition is that of New York (<http://nycbigapps.com/>). Since 2009, thanks to this contest, at least three hundred applications have been developed, facilitating the lives of residents, visitors and businesses in the city. There have been at least 1,000 datasets opened to developers from around the world.

The contest takes place in Greece for the first time, starting from Thessaloniki. This will lead to the publicity and visibility of the city and the winning application, both in Greece and abroad.

Entrants can participate in one of the following three categories:

1. Development of a new application that will make use of open data from the Municipality of Thessaloniki and other organizations in the city.
2. Adapting existing open source applications to the needs of Thessaloniki.
3. Create open data by citizens of Thessaloniki.

In each category there will be three awards; **the prize of 3000€, 2000€ and 1000€.**

The competition started on 14th November and citizens have already started to submit their own ideas for applications and until **31st of December**, developers can apply for participation of the contest. All the participants have a deadline to submit their own projects until **25th January** where a

final event will take place on **5th of February 2014**.

What is important and remarkable about this contest is that citizens are at the center of the whole development process as the target of their participation is to improve their own city. Therefore, this is a contest run by citizens for citizens.

More Info:

Site <http://thessaloniki.appsforgreece.eu/>

Presentation <http://www.slideshare.net/patsar/apps4thess-1st>.

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/appsforgreece>

Twitter <https://twitter.com/apps4thessaloni>