GovTech.Pioneers News: Workshops & 70 Startups Confirmed!

Vienna, April 20th, 2018 – With just over a month to go until GovTech.Pioneers in Vienna on May 23rd, we're announcing details of 7 workshop sessions at the event. Partners include the *European Commission*, *Austrian Federal Ministries*, and the *Cities of Amsterdam and Vienna*. We're also revealing some of the 100 startups we'll have at the event, as well as details of the pitching sessions that will form part of a packed schedule at Europe's first full-day GovTech event.

Starting from the top of the tree at European level, the *European Commission* and ConsenSys will stage a headlining, invite-only workshop on behalf of the recently-launched *EU Blockchain Observatory & Forum*. Set to run on May 22nd, a day ahead of GovTech.Pioneers, and hosted by the *City of Vienna*, this will see experts build a diagnostic of the current Blockchain innovation landscape in Europe. It will also lay the foundations of the *Observatory & Forum* for the next 2 years.

The remainder of the workshops will take place at Palais Wertheim on event day, May 23rd, including a workshop hosted by the *European Innovation Council*, which is funded by the *European Commission*. This will showcase and develop opportunities startup founders can enjoy when they work with these two bodies.

A leading national government will also be represented on the workshop agenda. The *Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance* will, together with selected startups, stage one about its mission to automate employee tax assessment. For several years they have been looking for a solution to increase efficiency for the taxpayer and create an ongoing refund process throughout the year.

Austria's Federal Ministry of the Interior, *Federal Ministry of Digitization and Economy*, and *Federal Computing Center* will also host workshops on event day, focusing on the enhancement of the Austrian digital state and Blockchain in the public sector.

Two of Europe's most forward-thinking cities will also be a part of the workshop program. *City of Vienna* CIO Ulrike Hümer and her team will host an Open Innovation workshop on the topic of citizen collaboration, specifically geared towards startups working in this area. Meanwhile the *City of Amsterdam's* CTO Ger Baron and the *Amsterdam Innovation Exchange Lab* will run a workshop to learn and share best practice with public servants from other countries and cities.

On the startup front, we're excited to have 70 out of 100 top GovTech entrepreneurs confirmed for the event. Not only will there be plenty from Europe, but we're also welcoming startups from the USA, Canada, Singapore, Japan and Thailand.

24 of the startups will be selected to pitch their concepts in the competition. The pitching will be divided into 4 pitching tracks, with 6 startups taking part in each track session before the winner advances to pitch against the 3 other track winners on the main stage at the end of the day. The overall winning startup will be fast-tracked into the Pioneers Challenge Top 50, giving them an automatic pitching slot at Pioneers'18 the very next day.

The pitching tracks are *Citizen Collaboration*, *Blockchain*, *Public Safety & Security* and a general *GovTech* track.

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Note to the Editors
<u>Media Contact:</u> For further information contact: <u>media@pioneers.io</u>. For more news from the world of Pioneers, visit our blog (http://pioneers.io/blog) or follow us on social media:

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<u>About Pioneers:</u>
Founded in 2009 in Vienna, Pioneers establishes and facilitates direct, meaningful business relationships between startups, corporate executives, and investors to foster growth and innovation. It is the ultimate One-Stop-Hub for global tech innovators to access high-value, curated and qualified data of early and Series A European startups. Pioneers offers various platforms to help redefine industries, develop future technologies and introduce cutting-edge solutions. Its services include digital services, consultancy, ventures services, events and inspirational, tailor-made offline experiences. Its flagship event takes place annually in the 500-year-old Hofburg Imperial Palace in Vienna and brings together a community of 2,500 founders, investors, executives and public sector representatives from over 100 nations. Of all future tech events globally, Pioneers has unparalleled access to European tech leaders. The 2017 edition was awarded with the bea World 'Best Conference/Congress' Award.