

GovStack trademark policy

GovStack is committed to promoting open source projects. While open source projects are generally free to download and modify subject to certain restrictions, the right to use open source does not include related rights or project names and logos. Therefore, GovStack provides this policy to provide guidance to third parties on how GovStack open source projects, project names and logos may be used.

GovStack project which is an international cooperation initiative of the following entities: a. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH (commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development); b. the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia; c. the International Telecommunication Union ("ITU"); and d. the United Nations Foundation, on behalf of the Digital Impact Alliance ("**We**", "**Us**", "**Our**"). Each GovStack partner reserves its rights to its own marks based on its intellectual property policies.

This document regulates the use of the GovStack brand. For the purposes of this document, references to trademarks include all logos owned by GovStack.

Rules and Policies Applicable to GovStack-Owned Marks

- GovStack promotes open source projects to make it easier for governments to implement digital services. When using the GovStack logo you must comply with these guidelines.
- Brand protection is used to assure the community of consistency with the quality of the products or services with which the brand is associated.
- This policy attempts to strike the proper balance between two competing interests: (i) the need to protect the rights to Govstack's brand and logos, as well as each of its partners, and (ii) the need to ensure that Govstack members the open source community can discuss the projects available on GovStack that facilitate the design and implementation of digital services for the benefit of people and in compliance with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- A copyright license, including an open source copyright license, does not include an implied right or license to use a trademark or logo that may be associated with the project developing the licensed software or other materials.
- Because open source licenses allow for unrestricted modification of copyrighted software, and GovStack has no intention of interfering with that right, your right to use any specific GovStack and partner trademarks or logos is not determined. for your use of software resources available under an open source license.
- Proper use of the GovStack brand by following these brand usage guidelines protects the value of the GovStack logos.
- Any use of or reference to GovStack and each of its partners' trademarks inconsistent with this Trademark Policy, or use of trademarks that are confusingly similar to GovStack's trademarks, is prohibited.

- Project trademarks or logos must not be used in a way that creates confusion about the origin or official version of a project. For example, don't use someone else's logo to make people think GovStack supports your project.
- If you wish to use GovStack's logos or marks, or report misuse of the GovStack mark or logo, please contact us by email at info@govstack.global.

GovStack Logo Usage Guidelines

In addition to the generally applicable rules discussed above, there are some specific rules we ask everyone to follow when using GovStack-owned marks:

- Use the full form of any mark (eg., "GovStack") at the first reference in all mass communication documents, including any documents and web pages.
- Use the GovStack markup in a way that distinguishes it from the surrounding text, such as capitalization, bold or italics, or quotation marks. Any use of trademarks must include the TM immediately after first use (eg, "GovStackTM develop open source....").
- Do not use the GovStack Marks in a way that disparages GovStack or its projects (for example, misleading advertising, false or misleading promotional materials, etc.).
- Do not modify the GovStack trademarks, abbreviate or combine them with any other symbol, word or image, or incorporate them into a tagline or slogan.
- Do not use the GovStack logo on the cover of a book or magazine without GovStack's written permission.
- Do not use the GovStack logo more prominently than your own company, product, or service name.
- Do not use a GovStack logo on posters, brochures, signs, websites, or other materials to promote your events, products, or services without GovStack's written permission.
- Do not refer to a product or service as certified under any GovStack brand unless your company has successfully passed the required compliance tests and is explicitly authorized to use such GovStack terms.
- Do not attempt to claim or assert any ownership rights in any GovStack Mark and do not attempt to register any GovStack Mark as a trademark, trade name, domain name, or "trading" name.
- Please do not use GovStack logos in the name of your company, institution, product, service, application, domain name, publication or other document or website.
- Do not use trademarks, logos, company names, slogans, domain names, or designs that are confusingly similar to GovStack trademarks.
- The GovStack trademark has been created and its use is expressly permitted for a specific purpose. Do not use GovStack names or logos in any commercial or marketing context other than as expressly permitted in

this policy, unless you have obtained explicit written permission from GovStack to do so.

- GovStack allows the use of its trademarks for private and personal use to make t-shirts, stickers, and hats for you and your friends (i.e., people from whom you receive nothing of value in return) in a manner that is consistent with the preservation of goodwill and brand value.
- You are also permitted to use a GovStack trademark or logo as a link to the applicable project home page or to a web page on the GovStack website that is relevant to the reference, provided the link is in a manner that is consistent with the preservation of goodwill and brand value. Linking and any other use of a GovStack logo will be made using the official versions of the GovStack logos obtained from GovStack or its projects. For example, you may not name your account, page, or community "GovStack Representatives" or "GovStack Software." However, it would be acceptable to name your account, page, or community "About GovStack" as long as you do not use Govstack logos or suggest any affiliation with Govstack.
- If you have written authorization from GovStack to use your logo, you must: Use
 - the full brand and not truncate, abbreviate, create acronyms or shorten the brand.
 - Do not create products or merchandise with the GovStack trademarks.
 - Use the most current versions of GovStack product logos.
 - Do not use the same styles or design elements of the GovStack logos in your own logos.
 - Do not modify the color, background, rotation, angle, aspect ratio, or any other attribute of any logo.
 - Do not reduce below a size where the logo is easily identifiable.
 - When using GovStack marks, please use proper attribution and proprietary rights notice, such as: [Trademark] and [logo name] are marks of GovStack.
- You may not modify our marks (which would include logos, slogans, and taglines), or combine them with other marks, or use them as part of a larger brand, or adopt or use any mark that is confusingly similar, misleading, or applies any affiliation or endorsement by GovStack.
- The specific license for each of GovStack's products says what you can and cannot do with the work itself, but does not grant permission to use GovStack's trademarks or those of third parties who share their projects on GovStack. If you choose to develop or modify available on GovStack for your own project, you must:
 - Follow the terms of the Open Source License(s) for each product available on GovStack.
 - Choose brands, logos, and trademarks that denote your own unique identity to clearly indicate to users that there is no affiliation with or endorsement by GovStack.

- Follow the General Guidelines, above.
- Avoid using any GovStack brand or logo to incorrectly suggest or give the impression that your product or service is actually published, affiliated with, or endorsed by GovStack.
- Avoid stating in words (no logos or images) that your project is based on GovStack, if that is true, as long as you also include a statement that your project is notofficially associated with GovStack or its products. For example, you can state that your project: “is proudly built on the GovStack initiative”; or “adapted from open source “x” available on GovStack”.

MostFair Use and Unauthorized Uses of GovStack

- Open source licenses do not address the use of trademarks or logos. You may use project names or logos for discussion, comment, and even criticism. There are some basic rights that everyone has to use any mark that are often referred to as "fair use", and GovStack does not intend to restrict those rights [fair uses](#) classic. All other uses of the GovStack brand or logo require our prior written permission. This includes any use of a GovStack and its partners trademark in a domain name.
- You may make fair use of word marks to make true factual statements. But fair use does not allow you to state or imply that a trademark owner produces, endorses, or endorses your company, products, or services. Even when you make fair use of a mark, you must acknowledge the owner of the mark with a trademark notice such as the notice displayed on the GovStack websites.
- A registered trademark must not be used in a plural or possessive form.
- A registered trademark must not be altered or modified in any way.
- A brand must not be combined with any other brand, hyphenated, abbreviated or displayed in parts.
- A trademark that is represented as two or more words should not be compressed into a single word.
- A logo must not be displayed with color variations or other elements superimposed on the logo.
- No branding should be incorporated into your company logos or designs.
- A trademark notice must be used in the first or most prominent occurrence of each GovStack mark, and a trademark notice must not be changed. In particular, no one other than the owner should change a TM to a ® in a trademark notice.
- In addition to the general guidelines above, your social media account name and handle and each and every page may not begin with a GovStack brand name or logo. Additionally, GovStack logos may not be used in a manner that could suggest an affiliation with Govstack, including but not limited to account, profile, or header images. The only exception to these requirements is if you have received prior permission from GovStack.
- If you are unsure whether a GovStack trademark is registered in your country, please contact us for further guidance on which trademark symbol to use.

Questions, Comments, Concerns

We hope our community will help us retain the value of the GovStack brand and service. For questions regarding these guidelines or to report concerns about the use or misuse of a GovStack trademark, or to obtain written permission for a proposed use of the GovStack mark, please contact: info@govstack.global

Disclaimer

GovStack and its partners make no express or implied warranties, including, without limitation, warranties of non-infringement of third party intellectual property rights. GovStack makes no representation that any pending trademark applications for GovStack trademarks will result in trademark protection being granted. GovStack shall not be liable for any claims related to user activities that fall within the scope of permission, and user hereby agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless GovStack and its partners from any such claims.

Updates

GovStack may post new versions of GovStack's Trademark Policy or statements of permitted use of GovStack's trademarks without notice.