



2026

Submission Template

OpenAIRE AI Hackathon

Powered by Alien Intelligence and the OpenAIRE Graph

How to use this template

Fill in what applies to your submission. Word counts are suggested maximums, not minimums. Sections marked (optional) can be left empty if there is nothing to be filled from your side.

All submitted materials must be available under a CC-BY 4.0 licence.

How submissions will be judged

All submissions - code or not - are judged on the same six criteria. An artifact is not worth more than a methodology paper.

- 1. Use of AI MCP connector that uses the OpenAIRE Graph API**
- 2. Usefulness and value** - solves a real problem, unlocks a clear use case.
- 3. Originality** - fresh approach, thoughtful design, unexpected combinations of sources or tools.
- 4. Responsible use of data-** respects rights, provenance, source policies.
- 5. Reproducibility and interoperability** - others can re-run, re-apply, re-extend it.
- 6. Clarity** - simple story, clear demo, documented choices.

FAIRness is a running theme across all five criteria - favour submissions that are Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable.

How it's judged.

Two panels review each theme in parallel:

Technical panel - assesses technical merit: how it's built, whether it works, code/methodology quality (criteria 1,4,5,6)

Strategic panel - assesses value: fit with OpenAIRE and Open Science priorities, innovation, reuse potential, impact (criteria 2,3,5,6)

Both panels score independently before results are combined - a submission needs a reasonable bar on both scores, not just a high overall average, to be shortlisted. The scores are ranked from 1 (not good) - 5 (excellent) scale per criterion, reaching a maximum 6x5=30 points, and the best applications will be selected.

Minimum bar to be shortlisted.

A submission must score adequately across all five criteria above. A poor score on even one - no story, no licence declared, broken links, undocumented provenance - can keep an otherwise strong artifact out of the shortlist, regardless of how high it scores on the rest. Score well everywhere, not brilliantly on one axis.

0. Submission details

Submission title	[Add a title]
Theme	☐ A - Explore & Narrate ☐ B - Build ☐ C - Analyse ☐ D - Wildcard
Applicant / team name	[Solo/Team]
Type	☐ Individual ☐ Team ☐ Startup / SME ☐ Company ☐ Research group ☐ Other:
Country / base of operations	[Country]
Contact person	[Full Name]
Contact email	[Email]

Team members (if any)

Name	Affiliation	Role in the submission	ORCID / GitHub (optional)

1. The solution

1.1 Overall

What did you build, produce or discover? What does it do, who is it for, and what problem does it address? Write for a reader who knows Open Science but not your specific field.

Suggested maximum: 400 words

1.2 Quick SWOT (optional)

Bullets, not paragraphs. Honest weaknesses read better than none.

	Helpful to achieving the objective	Harmful to achieving the objective
Internal (your solution)	Strengths	Weaknesses
External (the environment)	Opportunities	Threats

1.3 The story - use case

This is the 1-2 page write-up required for every submission.

The question

What did you set out to find out or solve, and why does it matter?

The journey

What you actually did: the steps, the dead ends, what you changed course on, lessons learnt. A flow diagram or screenshot is welcome.

The insight

What you found, built or proved. Be specific - numbers, examples, a concrete before/after.

What others can reuse

The single most important part. What can another participant, researcher, user pick up and run tomorrow?

Suggested maximum: 1–2 pages, plus visuals

2. Technical & scientific

2.1 How it works

Architecture, method or workflow. One diagram plus a short description is usually enough. For non-code submissions (Themes A and C), describe the method or analytical workflow instead.

Suggested maximum: 300 words + one visual

2.2 OpenAIRE Graph elements used

What you used	Details
OpenAIRE Graph API	
MCP tool powered by Alien Intelligence	
Entity types (publications, datasets, software, projects, organisations, persons...)	
Fields, indicators or vocabularies relied on	
Other (external) data sources combined with OpenAIRE	
Approximate scale (records queried / processed)	

Be concrete. "Used the OpenAIRE Graph" tells an evaluator nothing; "queried research products filtered by rel_organization_id, ~40k records" tells them everything.

2.3 Documentation & reproducibility

How does someone else run this? README quality, dependencies, setup and configuration steps, environment requirements. For methodology or case-study submissions: what would someone need to repeat your analysis?

Suggested maximum: 250 words

3. Innovation & risks

What is new here

What does this do that existing tools or approaches don't?

Limitations and known failure modes

Where does it break, what did you not have time to solve, what should a user not trust it for? Stating this openly counts in your favour.

Use of AI

Apart from the Alien AI MCP Connector and its agent, which AI models, agents or assistants you used and for what - code generation, analysis, writing, all of it. Disclosure is expected, not penalised.

Data protection & third-party content

Confirm no personal data was processed without a lawful basis, and that any third-party data, code or content is used within its licence.

Suggested maximum: 400 words in total

4. Links & artifacts

Every link must be publicly accessible, or reachable without a personal account (i.e. a Google Drive link, a Dropbox, etc.). If a login is unavoidable, provide test credentials under "Notes". Broken or private links are the single most common reason a good submission scores badly.

Item	Link	Status	Notes
Code repository (GitHub / GitLab)		☐ Public	
Live demo / deployed app		☐ Public	
Video walkthrough (max 3 min)		☐ Public	
Main artifact (notebook, dashboard, dataset, methodology doc, case study)		☐ Public	
Documentation / README		☐ Public	
Write-up from section 1.3 (PDF or in-repo)		☐ Public	
Archived version with DOI (Zenodo - optional, recommended)			
Other			

Repository checklist (if you submitted code)

- ☐ README explains what it is and how to run it
- ☐ LICENSE file present
- ☐ Dependencies listed (requirements.txt, package.json, environment file...)
- ☐ Commit history visible
- ☐ No credentials, API keys or personal data committed

5. Openness & licensing

Licence for written materials, documentation and media	CC-BY 4.0 (required) - ☐ confirmed
Licence for code (if applicable)	e.g. Apache-2.0, MIT, EUPL, GPLv3:
Licence for data / outputs produced (if applicable)	e.g. CC-BY 4.0, CC0:
The submission may be published on OpenAIRE channels	☐ confirmed
The submission may be included in community voting (21–29 August 2026)	☐ confirmed
I have the right to submit all included material	☐ confirmed

6. Feedback (optional)

Please note any issues you encountered on OpenAIRE Graph or on Alien MCP connector during the hackathon. Any gaps you spotted, anything to help us improve!

7. Before you submit - final check

- ☐ Theme selected
- ☐ Story (section 1.3) written and readable by a non-specialist
- ☐ Every link in section 4 opened in a private browser window and worked
- ☐ Video under 3 minutes and audible
- ☐ CC-BY 4.0 applied and stated
- ☐ Contact email correct and monitored through September 2026
- ☐ Submitted before 20 August 2026, 23:59 CET

Key dates

Submissions close	20 August 2026, 23:59 CET
Community voting	21-29 August 2026
Evaluation & finalist announcement	20 August -5 September 2026

Useful links

- OpenAIRE Graph Forum - <https://openaire.flarum.cloud/t/ai-hackathon>
- Alien AI demo - <https://demo.alien.club/openaire>
- Hackathon page - <https://innovation.openaire.eu/component/content/article/openaire-ai-hackathon.html?catid=8>
- Sign-up - <https://innovation.openaire.eu/component/content/article/hackathon-signup.html?catid=8>
- OpenAIRE Graph website - <https://graph.openaire.eu/>
- OpenAIRE API documentation - <https://api.openaire.eu/>
- About CC-BY 4.0 - <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

Questions: contact the OpenAIRE Innovation team via <https://innovation.openaire.eu/contact.html>