

## **Description of your work**

g0v.tw is an online community that pushes information transparency, focusing on developing information platform and tools for the citizens to participate in society. Substituting the “o” with “0” in gov, the new “g0v” not only stands for rethinking the role that the government plays from the bottom up, but also represents the world view of 0 and 1 in the digital natives generation. Based on the spirit of open source, g0v cares about freedom of speech and open data, writing code to provide citizens the easy-to-use information service. The transparency of information can help citizens to have a better understanding on how the government works, to understand the issues faster and to avoid media monopoly, so they can monitor the government more efficiently, and become involved in actions and finally deepen the quality of democracy.

In 2012, when the government released an advertisement of its Economic Power-Up Plan. Unsatisfied with government’s asymmetrical and non-transparent attitude, Wu became skeptical about its policy executing efficiency and direction. As a result, he and his friends together founded g0v.tw, and in December of the same year, the organization launched its first event, named “g0v.tw hackath0n” which attracted more than expected number of participants, and this online community officially started.

g0v.tw has a great variety of contributors, including web developers, high-classed programmers from famous corporation (like Google, Apple, Yahoo, HTC, Canonical, Mediatek, Trend and etc.), elite hackers, professors, NGO/NPO activist, students, writers, artist, designers and other professionals from every aspect. People gather here to share his or hers expertise, learn together and generate meaningful results. Everyone is always welcomed to join g0v.tw with passion and a devoted attitude.

## **Project History**

With the co-creation from the government and civic tech communities, Taiwan is one of the pioneers in open government. In 2015, Taiwan was ranked No.1 in open data by Open Knowledge Foundation. From the government side, the former prime minister, San-Cheng Chang, emphatically led government departments and civil servants to open data since 2012. From the civil society side, a Taiwan civic tech community “g0v” (pronounced gov-zero) is known as one of important contributors to the global open government advocacy movement. g0v is a product of Taiwan’s bustling open-source and civic tech community, and brings together a diverse cast of engineers, designers, coders and political activists to come together and solve issues of common concern. Formed in 2012, the g0v community gained large-scale attention for some of its heralding civic tech projects that brought social and political change during the 2014 Taiwan Occupy Movement (or the Sunflower Movement) and the 2014 and 2016 Taiwan election cycles. After the rotation of political parties in 2016, Taiwan has the first Digital Minister, Audrey Tang, the world famous open-source programmer from g0v community. Under the wave of civic tech and energetic open-source activities, Open Culture Foundation(OCF) was formed by those open-source communities as a supporting legal union.

Since g0v formed in 2012, it routinely hold bi-monthly hackathon (hack+marathon) by gathering engineers, designers, journalists and government officers, to propose their projects in collaboration with other professions. With 3000 people on the Slack and 130k subscriber on Facebook nowadays. Many influential civic tech projects has been delivered such as visualization of central government's budget, crowdsourcing digitization of political donations and vTaiwan, an online policy-making discussion platform.

### **Funding of this project**

1. Around 6k USD for bi-monthly hackathon per year, by crowdfunding or monthly donation.
2. Around 166k to 250k per year for Civic Tech Grant project and 1.5 staff from 2016 to 2018, funded by private sectors (CSR sections of Telecom, Media and Tech companies)

### **Objectives**

g0v.tw is a community that advocates transparency of information, also known as open data. We are passionate coders, designers, activists, educators, writers and citizens from across Taiwan. Through working together to bring data into the open, we hope to build a better Taiwan for its citizens. To join g0v, all you need is to be ready and willing to use your expertise or energy for our cause.

#### Freedom of Speech and Information Transparency

Built on the spirit of the open-source community, g0v stands for freedom of speech and information transparency. We aim to use technology in the interest of the public good, allowing citizens easy access to vital information. Opening up and making data public allows the people of Taiwan to take a closer look at politics and important issues. This gives them the tools needed to evaluate their government and exert their democratic right to decide how politicians act.

#### Independent and Transparent

We cooperate through our website, g0v.tw, and through open platforms, such as IRC, hackpad and github, among others. Our work is also done through open events, such as our "hackathons". Everything we produce — source code, documents, formulas, analyses and processes — is made available for anyone to view, react to, use and improve.

#### Sanguine on Fostering Change

At g0v, we love to seek out problems and explore solutions. Further, we are willing to take action to implement these solutions. Through various types of cooperation, we multiply the

impact and creativity of our ideas. We aim to bring about change and are not willing to resort to cynicism or apathy.

## Liquid Democracy

g0v doesn't have a leader or spokesperson. We are a liquid democracy. Participants decide what to work on and are at the heart of our communal culture. Using Liquid Democracy techniques, our community makes decisions on important issues and strategic direction.

## People

*What is the core team carrying the project? How many (groups of) individuals are currently involved as members or users? How would you characterize the people participating in the project? Is access to the project open or restricted?*

g0v hackathon organizers "jothon" is the executive team of g0v.tw bi-monthly hackathons. There are 8 persons in the team with different types of profession, like elite hackers, lawyer, NGO/NPO activist, writers, filmmakers and arts administrator. The team also work on g0v community infrastructure and launched g0v Civic Tech Prototype Grant.

## Learned

*What has worked / what has not worked in the process of realization of your project?*

g0v bi-monthly hackathon gathering engineers, designers, journalists and government officers, to propose their projects in collaboration with other professions, meanwhile, g0v Civic Tech Prototype Grant encouraging NGO/NPO activist, especially people who don't use civil tech very well. Through the g0v Civic Tech Prototype Grant, we know there are a lot of people who can realize the problem in the society but can't use technical tool to help themselves, even if entire society. We need to put more focus on eliminating the problems generated by digital differences in the society, or encouraging more creative ways to make things easy. The best civil tech is let every civilizations know how to use it to solve the problem for better future.

## Solution

*If your submission is a software, please describe the problem it is answering to, what solutions and most important features it offers.*

Not Applicable. Although there are many software projects in the g0v community, the nominee is the community itself.

## Statement of Reasons

*why the submitted project is deserved to win a price*

The g0v community is unique in similar civic tech efforts around the world, in the way that the multi-centralized community organizes itself in extremely transparent and inclusive ways, attracting contributors from not just open source software developers.

### **Planned Use of Prize Money**

80%, bi-monthly hackathon

20%, operation costs

## **Work Technical Details**

Development Team

Not applicable.

## **STARTS Prize**

- Do you want to submit your project additionally to prize consideration for the STARTS Prize ([starts-prize.aec.at](https://starts-prize.aec.at))?
- The jury preferentially select projects with a European dimension and/or a clear reference to one of the European priorities such as innovation, education, inclusion or sustainability. Please indicate, if applicable, the core European aspects of the submitted project:

## **Materials**

Submitted material

<https://g0v.tw/en-US/>

<https://grants.g0v.tw/power/en>