EUROPEAN AI AWARDS 2026

Awards Rules | Terms and Conditions

§ 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. These T&C set out the rules for the organisation of and participation in the "European AI Awards 2026" (hereinafter referred to as the "Awards") organised by the European AI Forum (Forme juridique: Association internationale sans but lucratif) with its registered office in Belgium.
2. The organiser of the Awards is European AI Forum AISBL with its HQ in BeCentral SA, Rue Cantersteen, 12 – 1000, Brussels, Belgium, registered in the Register of legal Entities of Brussels under number 0803922637 (hereinafter: "Organiser").
3. The Awards are not a game, lottery, pari-mutuel betting, promotional lottery, game whose result depends on chance or any other game.
4. The duration of the Awards is from 01.07.2026 to 15.10.2026. The winners will be announced in December 2026.
5. Awards T&C is available on eaiforum.org website.

§ 2 PRINCIPLES OF THE COMPETITION

1. The objective of the Awards is to support the development of AI in Europe, including:
    a. supporting the development of innovation in Europe by promoting AI organisations, companies, AI leaders and activities from Europe;
    b. presenting the ecosystem - showcasing the best entities from the AI ecosystem;
    c. stimulating discussion on the state of AI development in Europe;
    d. promoting best practices in AI;
    e. promoting Europe as a place where interesting initiatives are emerging;
    f. promoting cooperation within Europe;
    g. promotion of R&D and cooperation between science and business;
    h. promoting the financing of innovation in Europe;
    i. Promoting best AI policies that support development of the AI ecosystem and European society.
2. The Organiser offer five competition categories:

a. AI Investor – The winners in this category have carried out significant investment rounds or transactions in the AI market, raising capital for companies they own (or manage), providing capital to such companies, or through acquisitions of companies in that market. They could also have done transactions involving smaller amounts, provided they were material or otherwise valuable to the market. Transactions may involve organisations at any stage of development. The winners can be both providers of capital (investors - individuals, or key persons in organisations, responsible for the investments in question, in the case of legal entities) and persons supporting such processes (in particular - advisors). "Business angels" can be nominated, in case of confirmed involvement in more than 2 transactions in and providing ongoing support to companies. Individuals associated with accelerator programmes may be nominated in case of confirmed funding of further rounds of companies supported under these programmes. This category includes Business angels, VC, PE and CVC.

b. AI Business - The winners in this category have achieved outstanding success in implementing AI in organisations. This category is for representatives of companies and startups that offer AI products and services

c. Spinoff & Applied AI Science - The winners in this category have commercialised AI discoveries, made spinoffs of discoveries from academia

d. AI Ecosystem Enabler - Entities and individuals who support the development of the European ecosystem are nominated in this category. These could be organisations that, for example, develop open-source, communities or educational initiatives. This category includes eg opensource initiative, NGO activities, Municipality, Clusters, think tanks

e. AI Policy Shaper - In this category, MEPs, commissioners, officials, local parliamentarians and all those who support beneficial AI policies that support the European AI ecosystem are nominated.

3. Any entity - organisation, company, fund, business angel, professionals, researchers, politicians and state entities, AI think tanks.
4. The Awards are open to any enitities with full legal status, age (in case of persons) and with full legal capacity (minors and persons with limited legal capacity may participate with the prior consent of their legal guardian) (hereinafter "Participants"). Participants can be both individuals, teams of people or orgnaisations.
5. The Awards are organised on the territory of the Europe (the organisation must be based in Europe, have operations there, must have been a funding transaction for an AI company in Europe or AI implementations have been made here in Europe. Any non-European entities and additionally Russia and Belarus are excluded from the competition), taking into account the cross-border nature of the Internet.
6. Participation in the Awards is voluntary.
7. Participation in the Awards is free of charge.
8. Participants in the Awards cannot be employees of the Organiser or the Organiser's contractor.
9. For the purposes of this Awards, the Organiser will appoint a jury, announced by the Organiser (hereinafter: the "Jury"), which will evaluate the Awards entries. The Jury will be announced no later than 16.10.2026.

§ 3 CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE AWARDS

1. To participate in the Awards, an Awards application must be made using the form available on the eaiforum.org website
2. The application consists of:
    a. filling in the available form with personal data such as name, surname of the entrant

b. a statement of consent for the Organiser to process the contents of the Application in connection with participation in the competition and for the purposes of the Awards (including personal data);

c. a statement that he/she has read and accepts the content of these T&C and that he/she is entering the Awards under the terms and conditions specified herein;

d. choice of Awards category and submission of a justification;

e. optional upload of additional material via the Dropbox platform.

3. The data provided in the application must be true and up-to-date, comply with general provision (§1) and principles of the competition (§2) and conditions (§3)

4. A participant may make a maximum of 5 entries to the Awards, one in each category.

5. Entries shall be accepted by the deadlines specified on the Awards site.

6. Any application failing to comply with any of the above conditions or made after the deadline will be rejected and will not be taken into consideration.

7. The application may be in English.

§ 4 COMPETITION RULES

1. It is the participant's task to send a correct application via the application form in accordance with the provisions contained in these rules.

2. The Awards provide for the selection of the winners as follows:

a. In each of the Awards categories referred to in §2(2) of the regulations, the Jury, after careful analysis of the material submitted, its own knowledge and experience, will select a maximum of 3 winners, with a possible ex aequo option.

b. Participants, at the optional request of the Organiser, may take part in a video interview with the Jury via instant messenger in order to discuss the reasons for winning the competition.

3. The final decision as to the selection of the Awards winners shall be made by the Jury.

4. The results of the Awards shall be announced on the Awards/Organiser site and by informing the winners by email to the email address indicated in the application.

5. The Jury reserves the right to contact the entrants before the results of the Awards are announced.

6. The Organiser has the right to eliminate at any stage any entrant whom the Organiser has a reasonable suspicion of: providing false or out-of-date data, infringing the copyrights of third parties, violating the law, using any form of unfair competition or violating or attempting to circumvent these rules. In such case, his/her application will be subject to rejection.

7. Each application will be reviewed by the Jury. The application may not contain phrases deemed to be unserious or in any way harmful to the feelings of others. The Organizer has the right to eliminate an entrant at any stage if the application contains any of the above. In such a case, his/her application will be subject to rejection.

§ 5 PRIZES

1. The winners of the Awards will receive the following prizes:

a. all winners (place 1-3) in each of the competition categories will receive a special title for official use in public space depending on the place taken and the category

b. All winners (place 1-3) in each category will receive a special certificate in PDF for official use in public space depending on their place and category.

c. All winners (place 1-3) in each category will be briefly presented depending on their place and category on the eaiforum.org website

d. All winners (place 1-3) in each category will appear in aggregate communication on eaiforum.org social media

e. The winners (1st place) in each category will be interviewed on the eaiforum.org website

f. The winners (1st place) in each category will be given the opportunity to briefly present on the social media channels of the European AI Forum

g. Additional prizes are provided and may be announced by the Organiser at any time during the competition.

2. The results of the Awards will be announced on the Awards/Organiser site by the end of December 2026.
3. The Organiser will contact the winners of the Awards and arrange the details of the issue of the prizes to them.
4. Each of the winners shall, within 20 working days from the date of receiving information about winning, send back to the Organiser a completed statement of winning, together with the complete data necessary to realise the prize. In the case of minors and persons without full legal capacity, the winner will be obliged to enclose a statement of consent to participate in the competition and receive the prize, signed by his/her legal guardian. Failure to send back the completed statements or sending them after the deadline referred to in this paragraph shall result in forfeiture of the right to the prize. In such an event, the selection committee shall select a new winner.
5. The winners shall not have the right to claim any special features of the prize, exchange the prize for cash, transfer the right to obtain the prize to any third party or report any change in the conditions of prize collection.
6. The Organiser shall not be liable for the impossibility of transferring the Prize for reasons attributable to the winner of the competition, and in particular in the event of a change in their details of which the Organiser has not been notified. In such a case, the prize shall be forfeited and the competition committee shall select a new winner designated by the Jury.

§ 6 COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

1. All Participants' complaints regarding the Awards must be submitted in writing or digitally by e-mail within 14 days from the end of the Awards to the address of the Organizer's registered office or by e-mail to: info in the domain eaiforum.org.
2. The complaint should contain information that it concerns the "European AI Awards 2026" Awards, Participant's data: name, surname, address of residence, e-mail address and the reason for the complaint along with its justification.
3. Complaints submitted after the deadline and complaints not meeting the conditions referred to above shall not be considered.
4. The Organiser will consider the complaint within 14 (fourteen) days of its entry. The Participant will be notified of the consideration of the complaint immediately by e-mail to the e-mail address provided in the complaint application or by post to the address provided.
5. The Organiser's decision on the complaint is final, which does not preclude the Participant from pursuing his/her claims through court proceedings.

§ 7 PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA | INFORMATION CLAUSE

1. The Organiser is the administrator of the Participants' personal data. Contact to the Organiser is provided by e-mail.
2. The personal data provided to the Organiser by the Participants will be processed for the purpose of fulfilling the agreement concluded with the Participant for the purposes of the competition, as well as for the purpose of fulfilling legal obligations and for the purpose of popularising the Contest and AI.
3. In accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data and the repeal of Directive 95/46/EC (hereinafter: GDPR), personal data will be processed on the basis of legal provisions and for the purposes of the competition, as well as for the purposes of sending marketing information. The basis for the processing of the personal data contained in the application is the consent given by the Participant and the legitimate interest of the administrator to promote its own brand and send marketing information within the limits of the consent given
4. Personal data will be processed for the organisation and conduct of the competition and for tax purposes - if there are tax obligations
5. Participants' personal data may be made available to entities and authorities authorised to process such data by law.
6. Participants' personal data may be transferred to entities assisting in the organisation of the competition, suppliers of IT tools for the operation of the competition, the competition website and data storage, and suppliers of tools for sending e-mails, as well as other entities which, on the basis of relevant agreements signed with the data Administrator, process personal data for which the administrator is the Organiser - to the necessary extent.
7. Personal data shall not be processed in a manner leading to automated decision-making without human participation, including profiling.
8. Personal data will not be transferred to so-called third countries (i.e. outside the European Economic Area comprising the European Union, Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland).
9. The provision of personal data is voluntary but necessary to participate in the Competition and to issue the Prize.
10. Persons whose data will be processed have the right at any time to access such data, to request rectification, erasure, restriction of data processing, data portability, to object to processing and, to withdraw consent at any time. To the extent that processing is based on consent, the withdrawal of consent shall not affect the lawfulness of processing carried out on the basis of consent before its withdrawal.
11. Personal data will be stored for the period necessary for the execution of the competition, but not longer than the statute of limitations for any claims related to the execution of the competition. For the purposes of popularising the contest and AI, personal data will be kept until you revoke your consent to be processed for marketing purposes or object to such processing.
12. The participant also has the right to lodge a complaint with the supervisory authority dealing with data protection in Belgium.

§ 8 FINAL PROVISIONS

1. By submitting an application to the Awards, the entity agrees to have some of his/her data included in all materials related to the Awards, regardless of their form of expression, aimed at promoting the Awards and reporting on its progress, on the eaiforum.org website, for the duration of the Awards.
2. The Organiser shall not be legally responsible for any infringement of third parties' copyrights by the application obtained from the entrants.

3. In the event that any claims are made by third parties against the Organiser on account of the Organiser's use of the application, in particular claims relating to copyright, the Participant undertakes to assume responsibility for the aforementioned claims and to take all legal steps at his/her own expense and risk to ensure that the Organiser is duly protected against third party claims. In particular, the Participant undertakes to replace the Organiser or, if this is not possible, to join on the side of the Organiser in any proceedings against the Organiser. The Participant also undertakes to indemnify the Organiser against any costs that the Organiser may incur or that the Organiser will be obliged to pay to a third party in connection with a claim or lawsuit within the scope of the above that the third party makes. The Participant will be fully responsible for any property damage that the Organiser suffers from third party claims arising from the Participant's breach of these Terms and Conditions.
4. These rules shall come into force on 1.07.2026 and shall remain in force until the end of the Awards activities.
5. The Organiser has the right to change the provisions of these regulations for the duration of the Awards, without giving any reason, provided that the changes do not affect the rights and obligations acquired by the Participants before the change of the regulations. In the event of any change to the regulations, the Organiser shall post the information in question, together with the current content of the regulations, on the Awards website and send the information to the participants electronically to the email addresses indicated by them. The amendments come into force as of the date of their announcement on the Awards/Organiser website.
6. The Organiser does not bear any responsibility for delivery and timeliness of correspondence sent by post/courier company or by e-mail, as well as for the operation of the Internet and any related irregularities in the course of the Awards, including delays in delivery of the entries.
7. In all matters relating to the Awards which are not specified in these rules, the final decision shall be made by the Organiser.
8. In all matters not covered by these T&C the provisions of the Civil Code shall apply.
9. The Organiser reserves the right to extend, shorten, suspend, discontinue or cancel the Awards. The Organiser also reserves the right not to decide on the Awards if the number of entries received is insufficient or if the level of entrants' entries is unsatisfactory.