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European Institute of Innovation & Technology

EIT PUBLIC Award 2026: Online voting terms and conditions

CAST YOUR VOTE for the EIT PUBLIC Award 2026!

The 2026 PUBLIC Award will be awarded to one of the finalists of the 2026 VENTURE Award, CHANGEMAKER Award, or the INNOVATION TEAM Award.

1. Voting

1.1 Online voting

The 2026 EIT Awards online voting website can be accessed at the following link: https://www.eit.europa.eu/minisite/22231/nominees

Online votes for the 2026 EIT PUBLIC Award are tallied by total e-mail verified clicks on the "vote" button for each 2026 Award Finalist during the open online voting period.

There is a limit of **one vote per person** and each vote has to be confirmed by e-mail by the online voter.

The EIT PUBLIC Award 2026 online voting website collects your e-mail address and IP address; the EIT does so to prevent more than one vote per person. The retention period for this data is three months after the end of the EIT Awards ceremony on 2 December 2026[1]. The personal data is stored in a server based in the European Union. For more information, you may consult the privacy statement regarding the 2026 EIT Awards on the EIT website[2].

Following the opening of online voting, anyone may vote, except for EIT Governing Board members, the appointed jury members for the 2026 EIT Awards, and EIT staff. For that reason, all e-mail addresses with the ending @eit.europa.eu are restricted from online voting.

Please note that the online votes only determine the winner of the 2026 EIT PUBLIC Award and do not determine the winners of the other three categories. These Awards will be awarded separately following an evaluation by independent external jury members, and will be announced on 2 December 2026 during the EIT Awards ceremony.

1.1.1 Online voting period

Online voting is open from 17 November 2026, 10:00 CET, until 2 December 2026, 16:00 CET.

[1] The retention period may be extended in the event of a complaint regarding the voting procedure.
[2] https://www.eit.europa.eu/about-us/legal-framework/data-protection

1.1.2 Website security

The EIT Public Award 2026 voting website uses Hyper Text Transfer Protocol Secure (HTTPS). This is the secure version of HTTP, the protocol over which data is sent between web browsers and websites. The "S" at the end of HTTPS stands for "Secure". It means all communications between your browser and the website are encrypted.

Due to the encryption process, information, such as personal data, is protected. Encryption guarantees the confidentiality of personal data, even if it is intercepted.

Web browsers such as Internet Explorer, Edge, Firefox, Opera, Safari and Chrome, also display a padlock icon in the address bar to visually indicate that an HTTPS connection has been established.

1.1.3 Cookie policy

A cookie is a small text file placed on a computer, browser or server.

The EIT PUBLIC Award 2026 voting website does not use cookies or similar technology and does not retain browsing data related to the behaviour of visitors for statistical use.

The EIT PUBLIC Award 2026 voting website does not permit third parties, including LinkedIn, Facebook, and X (Twitter), to install cookies on your computer or browser, and does not permit third parties to access your personal data.

2. Result and announcement of the public vote

At the end of the voting period, the finalist who received the greatest number of online votes will be declared the 2026 EIT PUBLIC Award winner during the 2026 EIT Awards ceremony.

If two finalists receive the same number of votes, the declared winner of the 2026 EIT PUBLIC Award will be both finalists.

3. Prize

There will be no financial prize awarded for the 2026 EIT PUBLIC Award winner.

The winner of the 2026 EIT PUBLIC Award will have the right to use the title "2026 EIT PUBLIC Award winner", and may be involved in activities related to the EIT Awards, such as communication activities.

4. Complaints regarding the voting procedure

Complaints regarding the voting procedure may be addressed to the EIT-Awards@eit.europa.eu email address within 15 days after the 2026 EIT Awards event (2 December 2026).

5. Protection of personal data

All personal data regarding 2026 EIT Awards procedure, including the EIT PUBLIC Award 2026 voting, are processed by the EIT in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons concerning the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data.

For more information concerning the processing of personal data within the framework of the EIT PUBLIC Award 2026, you may refer to the privacy statement available on the EIT website – HERE.

6. Miscellaneous

Neither the 2026 EIT Awards Nominees nor any third person may use external tools or services to artificially inflate the online vote counts. In such a case, the EIT will first investigate the alleged incident as soon as possible. As a result of this, the EIT may disqualify the concerned Nominee(s) from the EIT PUBLIC Award process, if the manipulation or an attempt at manipulation is confirmed by respective evidence.

The EIT cannot be held liable for any malfunctions that prevent the vote from proceeding, particularly due to outside malicious acts. Each person is solely responsible for their own visit to the website and participation in the online vote.

The EIT also cannot be held liable if one or more voters cannot connect to the website due to technical failures or problems with network traffic.

In all cases, if the proper administrative and/or technical operation of the online vote is disrupted by a virus, computer bug, unauthorised human intervention, or any other cause beyond the EIT's control, the EIT reserves the right to suspend or interrupt the online voting part of the 2026 EIT PUBLIC Award.

7. Contact

If you encounter technical difficulties in voting online, please contact EIT-Awards@eit.europa.eu for support.

Electronically signed on 16/11/2026 12:23 (UTC+01) in accordance with Article 11 of Commission Decision (EU) 2021/2121