

CNIL-Inria Privacy Protection Award 2026

January 2026- Competition Rules

English translation for information purposes - Only the French version is binding

Article 1 Organisation

Inria, a public technological and scientific establishment (EPST), headquartered at Domaine de Voluceau Rocquencourt – B.P. 105 – 78153 Le Chesnay cedex, France, and the CNIL, an independent administrative authority, headquartered at 3 Place de Fontenoy-UNESCO – TSA 80715 – 75334 PARIS CEDEX 07, France, hereafter referred to as the "Organisers", are organising a competition to reward a scientific article that contributes to the improvement of the protection of privacy (hereafter the "Competition"), which is open for applications between January 26th and February 20th 2026.

Article 2 Purpose of the Competition

The purpose of the Competition is to reward a computer or information science paper (hereinafter, an "Article") published or accepted for publication in a scientific journal or in the proceedings of a national or international conference after 1 January 2023 and that meets the criteria defined in this document (hereinafter, "the Rules").

This Article must be the result of work done, at least in part, in a research center in one of the 27 countries of the **European Union (therefore not including the UK and Switzerland)**, and must necessarily address the improvement of the protection of personal data or privacy.

The Article, in English or in French, may describe a research result, a technical innovation, a didactic presentation of the state of the art or an initiative to promote interdisciplinarity. It should be possible to convey the substance of the contribution of Article in terms accessible to non-experts.

Examples of possible topics include (without limitation):

- Artificial intelligence, algorithm transparency and explainability,
- New opportunities and risks of GenAI (e.g. deepfakes)
- Privacy usability,
- User perspective,
- New types of tracking and protections,
- Privacy-enhancing technologies (PETs),
- Anonymization and reidentification,
- Applied cryptography,
- Challenges and solutions to implement the GDPR.

Article 3 Timetable of the Competition

The Competition is open for applications from 26th January until 20th February 2026 (midnight), inclusive.

The results will be announced on 1st July 2026 at the latest, the awarded authors will be informed at least a month before.

Article 4 Applications

The Competition is open to all adults of any gender or nationality, with the exception of the chairs of the jury, their spouses and direct ascendants or descendants.

Applications authored or co-authored by an agent or member of the CNIL or by the chairs will not be considered.

Applications must be submitted by the author of the Article. If the Article has several co-authors, the application is submitted by one of them, subject to the information and consent of all co-authors. In that particular case, it is the responsibility of the co-author submitting the article to make sure he obtained the prior consent of all its co-authors.

Participation in the Competition implies express and unconditional acceptance of the Rules, as well as the laws and regulations applying to competitions in France.

In their capacity of Organisers, Inria and the CNIL reserve the right to ask the candidates to provide a proof of their identity.

Article 5 Taking part in the Competition

Applications should be submitted on the Easychair Conference ([link](#)) and must include the following information:

- The title of the Article,
- The name(s) of the author(s),
- The postal and e-mail addresses of the author(s),
- The date and place of publication and the reviews by the reviewers of the journal or the conference where the Article was published. Responses to the reviews and rebuttals can also be submitted.

Submissions with no attached reviewed will not be considered.

- The text of the Article in French or English, or a link to a publicly available online version of the Article,
- A presentation of the application in French or English (of no more than 4,000 characters including spaces), that highlights the potential follow-up of the work and its impact (hereinafter ‘Presentation’).

The CNIL and Inria will jointly publish and distribute the Rules, the timetable, the results and the date and venue of the Award ceremony, in particular on their respective web sites.

The CNIL acts as the Secretariat of the jury (hereafter, the “Secretariat”).

Article 6 The jury

The members of the jury and the chairs are appointed by the CNIL and Inria.

If the members of the jury do not have the expertise required to assess an Article, then they can call on an external expert, provided that this expert does not have any conflict of interest and he commits to guarantee the confidentiality of the process.

The jury is free to independently organize its work and deliberations.

No member of the jury shall partake in the assessment or the discussions of Articles with which they may find themselves in a situation of conflict of interests (in particular for Articles involving researchers from their own organisation or laboratory).

Article 7 Criteria for the selection of the winner(s) of the Competition

The Secretariat of the Jury studies all the applications and makes a pre-selection of eligible articles.

The Secretariat distributes the admissible Articles for assessment by the members of the jury.

The Articles are assessed according to the following criteria:

- its relevance for the Award,
- its innovative character,
- its editorial and scientific qualities,
- its potential impact on the scientific community, the general public or industry,
- its accessibility to non-scientists.

Article 8 Selection of the winner(s) by the jury and notification of the award(s)

Conflict of interest is considered when a member of the jury had the same affiliation or co-authored a paper with at least one of the application authors within the last 5 years.

The selection process will take place in two phases. In the first phase, each paper will be reviewed by three members of the jury. Conflicts of interest in this phase will be dealt with as usual: members of the jury will not be able to access any information related to the review process of papers with which they have a conflict.

Up to five papers will be selected for the second phase. Members of the jury who have a conflict of interest with any of the papers selected for the second phase will have to leave the jury. In the second phase, the remaining Jury members will discuss the remaining papers and establish a ranked list of a selection of Articles in order to anticipate the possible refusal of the author(s) of the Article ranked first. Each member has one vote. In the event of a draw, each chair's vote counts double. Members of the jury in a situation of conflict of interest for an Article cannot take part in discussions or votes on this Article. They choose the first prize, and if appropriate, a second prize (or a special prize).

The jury is sovereign. No claim shall be admitted.

The procedure for the awarding of the prize and any potential rewards, is jointly defined by the CNIL and Inria and will be published, in particular on the Organisers web sites. The winner(s) are informed that they may be filmed and/or interviewed as part of the promotion of the Award. They will not be entitled to any remuneration, compensation, right or advantage of any kind in return.

The prize-winner(s) agree to attend the Award ceremony if their Article is rewarded, unless exceptional circumstances, left to the jury's appraisal, prevent them from doing so. The CNIL and Inria will take charge for travel expenses, accommodation and any registration fee within the limit of 2.000€. If so required by the Organisers, the prize-winner(s) agrees to present their results at the Award ceremony. If the prize-winner(s) refuse(s), the second rank candidate will be contacted, and so on, until the end of the list drawn up by the jury is reached.

Article 9 The Award

The winning Article will be announced on the Inria and CNIL web sites: the authors first and last names, Article's references, a link to the online version of the Article (if available), as well as the Article title will be reproduced. The Article will be presented at the award winning ceremony. A symbolic prize, such as a medal or a trophy, will also be awarded.

The awarded author will be invited to present his or her paper at the following CNIL Privacy Research Day (or another CNIL research event taking place after the award).

The above conditions are not contractual and may vary as the result of unforeseen events affecting the Organisers of the Competition and any partners.

Article 10 Privacy and data protection

In order to organise the CNIL-Inria award, to ensure your registration and to assess your application, the CNIL will process your personal data using the [easychair platform](#). The processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the exercise of official authority vested in the CNIL. The authorized personnel of the CNIL and the jury members will be able to access this data. It will be stored for three months after the end of the competition.

According to the General Data Protection Regulation and the French law Act 78-17 of 6 January 1978 on Information Technology, Data Files and Civil Liberty amended, the Authors have a right to access, oppose, correct and delete any data about them and to ask for a restriction of processing. For any information or to exercise your data protection rights concerning the award data processing, you can send an email to [prix.cnil-inria\[at\]cnil.fr](mailto:prix.cnil-inria[at]cnil.fr) or [contact the CNIL Data Protection Officer](#).

Article 11 Liability

The liability of the Organisers is strictly limited to the awarding of the prize, as effectively and duly won.

The internet is not a secure network. Therefore, the Organisers shall not be held liable for contamination by virus or the intrusion of a third party into the terminal system of the candidates for the Competition, and decline any liability for the consequences of their connections to the network via the web site and to the web pages containing the Rules.

The Organisers decline any liability due to the malfunction of the internet, phone lines or receiving equipment that interferes with the smooth running of the Competition.

The Organisers shall not be held liable if one or more candidates are unable to connect to or use the web page containing the Rules due to a technical problem or fault, due in particular to heavy network traffic.

The Organisers are entitled to cancel or postpone, all or part of the Competition, for any valid reason, and in particular if fraud, in any form, has been committed, and in particular by computerized means, by the participants in the Competition or in the designation of the winner(s). In this case, they reserve the right to withhold the prizes from the fraudsters and/or to prosecute them before the competent jurisdictions.

The Rules can be consulted at any time during the competition, except in the event of cases of force majeure affecting the web sites of the CNIL and Inria. The Organisers can, at any time, interrupt access to the site or the application and the Competition, in particular for technical reasons, upgrades and maintenance. The Organisers shall not be held liable for such interruptions and their consequences under any circumstances, and in particular if a candidate does not have the latest version of the Rules or of another associated document, if the said documents are updated or modified.

Article 12 Changes to the Rules

The Organisers reserve the right to cancel, postpone, extend, curtail or modify the Competition in part or in full in the event of force majeure or if the number of applications is not sufficient. In this case, the Organisers shall not be held liable.

Every change to the Rules will be announced on the respective Competition pages of the CNIL and Inria.

Article 13 Applicable law and jurisdiction

The Rules and, in more general terms, the Competition are governed by French law, to the exclusion of all other laws. In the event of persistent disagreement over the application or the interpretation of the Rules, and if no amicable agreement can be reached, any disputes will be referred to the competent courts of law.

Article 14 Intellectual property and guarantees

The candidates declare to be authors of any contents which they present within the framework of the Competition, and to hold all the rights and necessary authorisations to make a commitment in conformance with the present Rules.

The candidates authorize the Organisers to reproduce, present or forward the whole Article presented in the Competition for free, on the chosen support they are sent to the jury, for the purpose of the organisation of the Competition.

Regarding the winning Article, the candidates give advance authorisation to the Organisers to reproduce, represent, translate into any language and distribute the Article title and the links to the online version of the Article, where necessary, as well as the full Article, all free of charge, subject to publishers' rights, on any medium, in particular:

- the Organisers' websites,
- the Organisers' publications related to the Competition and/or its themes,
- media such as social networks, for communications around the Competition and/or its themes.

This authorization is granted worldwide and for the legal copyright duration, for a non-commercial use, within the framework of the mission of the Organisers and subject to the mention of the name of the author and the references of the Article.

The candidates guarantee that the contents transmitted within the framework of the Competition respect rights of the third parties, in particular authors' patrimonial and moral rights (images, texts, logos, etc.), the trade mark law, and the personal rights such as the rights to the name and the image. In particular, the candidates declare that they do not reproduce any text without the author's authorisation. The candidates guarantee to the Organisers that the use of the Article presented within the framework of the Competition will not affect the rights of any third party and agree to deal personally with any complaint and\or procedure whatever the form, the object and the nature, which would be formed against the Organisers and which would be, connected directly or indirectly, with the realization and\or the exploitation of any contents which they presented. The candidates guarantee the Organisers of all the damage and expenses which could result from a possible dispute with a third in this respect.

Article 15 The Rules

Entering the Competition implies the acceptance in full of the Rules, which can be accessed on the web sites at www.cnil.fr and www.inria.fr (in French and English).

Any questions about the Competition must be sent by e-mail to [prix.cnil-inria\[at\]cnil.fr](mailto:prix.cnil-inria[at]cnil.fr).