



European
Open Source
Academy

Info Session

Open Call for Nominations | European Open Source Awards

European Open Source Academy

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Overview of the Awards

- The European Open Source Awards **recognise exceptional contributions to the European Open Source ecosystem**, including Open Source Software, Open Source Hardware, and other Open Technology.
- The 3rd Annual European Open Source Awards will **take place at the historic Théâtre du Vaudeville in Brussels on 28 January 2026**.
- The event **honours those whose work has strengthened Europe's open source ecosystem** through innovation, collaboration, education, advocacy, business leadership, and community impact.
- The event is a new celebration that **provides another cornerstone of the EU Open Source Week**, alongside the EU Open Source Policy Summit and FOSDEM.





Award Categories



1. Prize for Excellence in Open Source

Honours lifetime or fundamental, long-term contributions and maintenance of core infrastructure upon which global and European technology depends.

1. Special Recognition for Business and Impact

Recognises business leaders, entrepreneurs, and projects that build thriving commercial open-source ecosystems or sovereign European digital platforms.

1. Special Recognition for Advocacy and Awareness

Celebrates champions of open-source outreach, public knowledge, open science, and community visibility.

1. Special Recognition for Skills and Education

Honors initiatives and teachers democratizing technical knowledge, such as hardware and semiconductor design literacy

1. Special Recognition for Community Impact

Acknowledges foundational community-driven projects and collaborative archives that preserve and safeguard open-source history globally.



Eligibility Criteria

- **European Citizenship or Long-Term Residency:** Citizenship or at a minimum long-term residency in Europe, particularly in the present day, is critical for consideration of ties to Europe and eligibility for an award.
- **European Connections and/or Contributions:** Significant contributions to open source projects with European origins or substantial European user bases, or with demonstrable impact in Europe.
- **Employment or Affiliations in Europe:** Employment with European organisations making significant open source contributions and/or educational and community affiliations with European institutions advancing open source knowledge.
- **Must Be an Individual (Except for Community Impact):** Unless being recognised for the Special Recognition for Community Impact, only individual nominations will be accepted.





What Makes a Strong Nomination



- **Strong and demonstrable connections to one of the specific Awards categories**, even if their work is cross-cutting, with a concrete explanation.
- Identification of someone with **large and transformational impact or innovation in a specific domain** of OSS or OSH (e.g., standards, community, policy, software engineering) with **additional contributions in other areas of community**.
- **Direct and observable contribution to the Open Source ecosystem in Europe**, but need not necessarily have European nationality or have been born in Europe.
 - Would ideally have spent a good amount of time working in Europe or for European organisations.
- **Consistent and measurable contribution to Open Source or Open Technology over a period time**, with openness being a defining feature of their work and not an afterthought.



Timeline and Submission Process

The nomination window opened on 1 September 2026 and will remain open for two months, ending at EOD on 1 November.

- You need to **fill out a simple survey**, which should take 5-10 minutes. You can find the survey form [here](#).
- You can **download the information from the website as a questionnaire** to help prepare your nomination information before entry.
- Awardees will be selected in December and contacted then, with awards decisions announced in January.
- If you have any questions, please contact ceremony@europeanopensource.academy.





Nomination Evaluation Process

- **Secretariat (OSAwards.eu, 2025–27) builds a longlist for the Main Prize and each Special Recognition.** There is no detailed scoring at this stage, but instead the data is compiled from the community contributions.
 - **Each Section develops a shortlist of candidates, which is evaluated through a subsequent meetings.**
 - For the Prize for Excellence in Open Source, the Excellence and Achievement Section drafts a shortlist from the longlist and then the full Academy votes.
 - For the Special Recognitions, the Section Member committees evaluate and decide on a shortlist of candidates, which is then decided on by consensus.
 - **Lightweight scoring is implemented to support the shortlisting of longlisted candidates, while final decisions happen based on votes (Prize for Excellence in Open Source) or discussion and consensus (Special Recognitions).** Beginning in 2026, the results will be evaluated by an independent review committee, which will ensure the removal of bias in the selection process.
 - **Conflicts of Interest:** Conflicted members recuse themselves; substitutes are drawn from a pre-approved pool for multi-category conflicts. Academy Members can be nominated but are recused from judging their own nomination; if one wins, the Head of Section provides written rationale.
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Frequently Asked Questions

Does a self-nomination carry less weight than a nomination submitted by a colleague or community member?

A self-nomination carries the same weight as any other nomination. Nominations are compiled together, if there are multiple, and then identifying information from the nominees is removed for evaluation by the review committee.

How many candidates can you nominate?

You can nominate as many candidates as you think are worthy of recognition.

Can the same nominee be submitted under multiple categories?

An entity can be entered into more than one category, but nominations will be evaluated principally based on their connection to a specific category, and the nomination should make the case for relevance to one specific category in particular.

... others?



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