

# Rules of the FARI Brussels Local Impact Award

## Article 1 — Purpose

The **FARI Brussels Local Impact Award** is an award organised as part of the **FARI Brussels Conference 2026**.

It recognizes outstanding projects, research, prototypes, educational initiatives, citizen-led initiatives or interdisciplinary collaborations using artificial intelligence, data, robotics or digital technologies to generate meaningful public value for Brussels and its communities.

The award highlights initiatives that contribute to the common good, address local challenges, and demonstrate actual or potential impact for the Brussels-Capital Region.

## Article 2 — Organisation

The award is organised by **FARI – AI for the Common Good Institute**, an interuniversity institute of the **Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)** and the **Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB)**.

FARI is responsible for the overall organisation of the award, including the coordination of the call, the collection of applications, the appointment of the jury, communication with applicants, and the award ceremony during the FARI Brussels Conference 2026.

FARI reserves the right to adapt the timeline, practical arrangements or organisation of the award if exceptional circumstances require it.

## Article 3 — Participants

The award is open to individuals, teams and local organisations leading a project related to artificial intelligence, data, robotics, and demonstrating clear relevance for the Brussels-Capital Region, its municipalities, communities or residents.

Eligible candidates may include, but are not limited to:

- researchers and research teams;
- PhD candidates and postdoctoral researchers;
- universities, higher education institutions and research centres;
- educational initiatives;
- citizen science projects;
- civil society organisations;
- public institutions;
- interdisciplinary teams;
- collaborations involving academia, public authorities, civil society, citizens or the private sector.

The project does not need to be exclusively based in Brussels, but Brussels must be directly involved or clearly concerned by the project. Applicants must demonstrate a clear connection to the Brussels-Capital Region, whether through the challenge addressed, the partners involved, the target beneficiaries, the implementation context, or the project's potential impact for Brussels and its communities.

## Article 4 — Participation Conditions

To be eligible, the submitted project must meet the following conditions:

1. relate to artificial intelligence, data, robotics;

2. demonstrate clear relevance for the Brussels-Capital Region, its municipalities, communities or residents;
3. contribute, or have the potential to contribute, to the common good or public value;
4. fall within at least one of the following thematic areas described in the call
5. show a sufficient level of maturity to be assessed, whether as an implemented project, pilot, prototype, applied research project or initiative with strong implementation potential;
6. be submitted by a person or organisation with the necessary rights and permissions to present the project.

Submitted projects must respect principles of ethics, responsibility, inclusion, transparency and privacy.

FARI reserves the right to reject any application that is incomplete, out of scope, contrary to the values of the award, or does not comply with these rules.

## Article 5 — Participation Procedure

Participation in the FARI Brussels Local Impact Award is free of charge.

Applications must be submitted through the official application form made available by FARI, within the deadline indicated in the call for applications.

The information provided must be accurate and complete. Applicants are responsible for the content of their application and any documents submitted.

## Article 6 — Evaluation Criteria and Jury

Eligible applications will be reviewed by a jury composed of representatives from academia, FARI, public institutions, civil society and/or the innovation ecosystem.

The exact composition of the jury will be determined by FARI. The jury might include:

- academic experts from ULB and/or VUB;
- representatives of FARI;
- a representative of a Brussels-based company;
- a representative of a Brussels public institution;
- a representative from civil society or social innovation;
- an expert in innovation, implementation or transfer.

Projects will be assessed according to the following criteria:

1. **Local relevance**

Does the project address a challenge, need or issue relevant to Brussels?

2. **Societal impact**

Does the project generate, or could it generate, a concrete benefit for citizens, communities, public services or local stakeholders?

3. **Innovation and overall quality**

Does the project present an original, credible, rigorous or distinctive approach?

4. **Feasibility and transferability**

Can the project be implemented, continued, adapted, replicated or scaled?

5. **Ethics and responsibility**

Does the project take into account transparency, inclusion, data protection, accountability, fairness and risk prevention?

6. **Collaboration and interdisciplinarity**

Does the project involve meaningful collaboration across disciplines, sectors, institutions, citizens or communities?

The jury may establish a shortlist of finalist projects before selecting the winner. The decisions of the jury are final and cannot be appealed.

FARI reserves the right not to award the prize if no application sufficiently meets the objectives and criteria of the award.

## Article 7 — Award Ceremony

The award will be presented during the **FARI Brussels Conference 2026**.

The winner needs to attend the conference and will be asked to present their project in a format determined by FARI, such as an on-stage presentation, spotlight session, exhibition format or dedicated communication feature.

The award includes, in particular:

- official recognition during the FARI Brussels Conference;
- the presentation of a trophy or symbolic distinction;
- visibility through FARI's communication channels;
- the opportunity to present the project to an audience composed of researchers, public decision-makers, innovation actors, civil society organisations, companies and citizens.

Unless otherwise stated, the award does not include financial support. Its purpose is primarily to provide recognition, visibility and public valorisation of the selected project.

FARI reserves the right to communicate publicly about the winning project and, where applicable, about shortlisted projects, based on the information provided by applicants and the consents collected.

## Article 8 — Management of Personal Data

Personal data collected in the context of the FARI Brussels Local Impact Award will be processed by the FARI institute (legally represented by

Université Libre de Bruxelles and Vrije Universiteit Brussel) solely for the purpose of organising, managing and communicating about the award.

These data may be used to:

- verify the eligibility of applications;
- contact applicants;
- organise the jury evaluation process;
- manage the selection of finalists and the winner;
- organise the award ceremony;
- communicate about the award, finalists or winner, where applicable.

The data collected may include names, email addresses, affiliations, roles, project-related information and any documents or links submitted by applicants.

FARI undertakes to process these data in accordance with applicable data protection regulations, including the General Data Protection Regulation, known as GDPR.

The data will only be retained for as long as necessary for the management of the award and any related administrative, communication or archiving obligations.

In accordance with applicable regulations, applicants have the right to access, rectify, object to, restrict and, where applicable, request deletion of their personal data. Any request relating to personal data may be addressed to FARI via the contact address indicated in the call for applications.

## Article 9 — Acceptance of the Rules

Submission of an application to the FARI Brussels Local Impact Award implies full acceptance of these rules.

By submitting an application, participants confirm that:

- the information provided is accurate to the best of their knowledge;
- they have the necessary rights and permissions to submit the project;
- they agree to be contacted by FARI in relation to the award process;
- they understand that the information submitted will be used for the management, evaluation and communication related to the award;
- they accept the jury's decisions and the selection procedures defined by FARI.

Any application that is incomplete, inaccurate, fraudulent or does not comply with these rules may be rejected by FARI.