GenAI Zürich

Award 2026
Application Guide

Driving real-world impact with applied GenAI

GenAI Zürich Award 2026 Application Guide

Why?

The GenAI Zürich Award recognizes and celebrates outstanding contributions in the field of generative artificial intelligence. Our goal is to inspire innovation, foster collaboration, and drive meaningful societal impact across industry and beyond.

Who?

We welcome submissions from teams and organizations that have achieved exceptional innovation in GenAI – whether through transformative business applications, or impactful societal use cases.

Corporates | SMEs | Startups | Nonprofits | Innovators | Thought Leaders

How?

Submit your application through the Typeform before **25 January 2026**. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at: award@genaizurich.com

Dates & Deadlines

Application period

Start of submissions:	**15 October 2025**
End of submissions:	**8 February 2026**

Evaluation period

Start of evaluation:	**9 February 2026**
End of evaluation:	**23 February 2026**

Jury Day

Semi-finals	**6 March 2026**

Finals & Award Ceremony

Finals & Winner announcement:	**1–2 April 2026**

All applicants, both successful and unsuccessful, will be notified at the end of each stage.

Application Timeline Explained

We receive your application, the evaluation process begins.

All applications are sent to the jury members for an initial evaluation.

If your application is selected for the Semi-final, you will be invited to attend the Jury Day at Prime Tower in Zürich on **6 March, 2026**.

The winners in each award track will be announced during the **GenAI Zürich 2026** conference on **1–2 April 2026**.

Nominee passes and discounts

All Semi-Finalists will be invited to attend the conference in person to present their projects. A complimentary ticket will be awarded to the team presenting their project. Additional tickets can be purchased at a discounted rate.

How is the jury composed?

The award jury composition aims to ensure independence and breadth of perspective:

- **Invited experts** with proven impact in AI and digital innovation.
- **Partner representatives** from GenAI Zürich 2026 collaborating organizations.
- **Community-nominated** jury members.

Nominate Jury Member

Explore Jury Members

Which tracks are part of the awards?

Rising Innovators

Recognizing bold pioneers who harness GenAI to reshape tomorrow – early and fast-growing teams pushing the boundaries of what's possible with generative AI.

Who it's for: Startups and scale-ups building GenAI products, tooling, or infrastructure.

Evaluation focus: Breakthrough innovation, clear problem-solution fit, early traction, technical excellence, and responsible AI practices.

Evaluated by: Jury Panel

Community Spotlight

The voice of the community – the conference attendees vote for the GenAI projects that resonate most with the ecosystem's interests and values.

Who it's for: Any finalist across all tracks seeking community recognition.

Evaluation focus: Community resonance, clarity of value, openness, and real-world usefulness as perceived by attendees.

Evaluated by: Community

Impact Achievers

Celebrating GenAI projects that advance sustainability and deliver meaningful societal benefits.

Who it's for: NGOs, public/academic institutions, mission-driven teams, and social enterprises.

Evaluation focus: Demonstrable ESGs (social/environmental impact), equity & accessibility, ethical design, feasibility, and partnerships with communities.

Evaluated by: Jury Panel

Enterprise Transformers

Honoring GenAI adoption that drives significant business and process transformations in complex enterprise environments at scale.

Who it's for: Mid- to large enterprises deploying GenAI in workflows, products, services, or platforms running in production.

Evaluation focus: Measurable business outcomes (KPIs), scalable architecture, governance & security, change management, and repeatability across units.

Evaluated by: Jury Panel

AI's Choice

Leading LLMs act as AI judges, reviewing all finalist submissions and giving AI a decisive voice – setting an alternative benchmark for recognition

Who it's for: Any finalist across all tracks eligible for AI-driven evaluation.

Evaluation focus: Innovation and originality, demonstrated or potential impact, scalability & sustainability, ethical & responsible AI, and production readiness.

Evaluated by: Foundational AI models

What are the evaluation criteria?

Below is the list of criteria along with their respective weightings. Each factor will be rated on a **scale from 1 to 10**, with its score adjusted based on the assigned weight.

Innovation 35%

- How original or groundbreaking is the solution?
- Does it leverage new AI models, architectures, or methods?

Impact 35%

- Are there clear metrics or case studies demonstrating success (e.g. revenue, social benefits)?
- How does the solution create business value or tangible societal benefit?

Scalability & Sustainability 10%

- How well can the solution be maintained and improved over time?
- Can it be easily replicated or expanded to different markets or user groups?

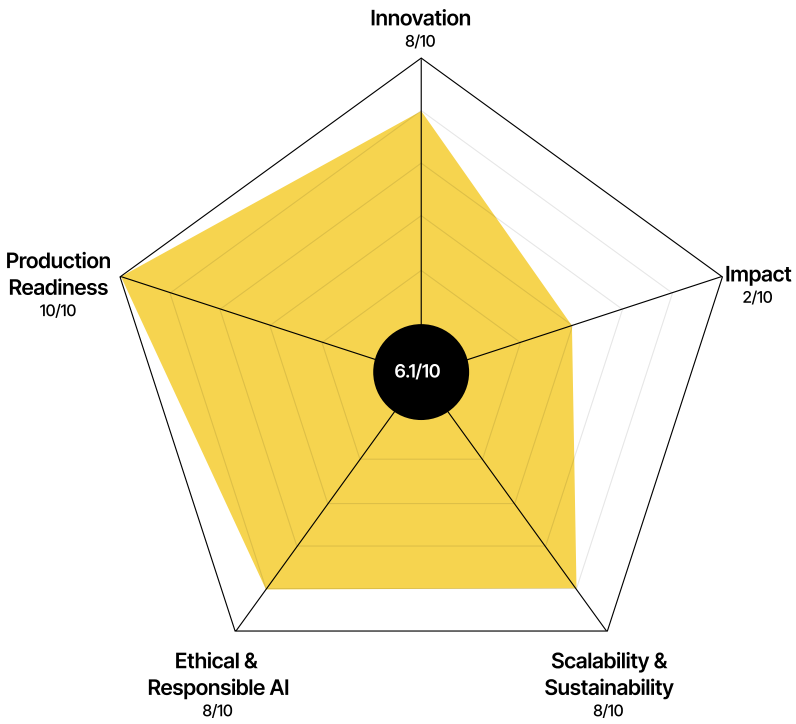
Ethical & Responsible AI 10%

- Are potential biases in data or models identified and mitigated?
- Does the project comply with privacy regulations and ensure responsible data usage?

Production Readiness 10%

- At what stage is the project (from concept to a proven production deployment)?
- Is it currently being used by real users or stakeholders, and for how long?

Example project evaluation



$$\underset{\text{Innovation}}{\underline{8 \cdot 35\%}} + \underset{\text{Impact}}{\underline{2 \cdot 35\%}} + \underset{\text{Scalability \& Sustainability}}{\underline{8 \cdot 10\%}} + \underset{\text{Ethical \& Responsible AI}}{\underline{8 \cdot 10\%}} + \underset{\text{Production Readiness}}{\underline{10 \cdot 10\%}} = \underset{\text{Final Score}}{\underline{6.1}}$$

Application form questions

To help you prepare your submission, here's a breakdown of all Typeform questions with explanations.

Primary contact information & company information First Name, Last Name, Phone Number, Email, LinkedIn Profile URL, Job Title, Company Name, Company Website, Company LinkedIn URL.	Please share with us contact details of a person to coordinate the award application process and clarify any follow-up questions.

Nominee/Project Information

One-pager submission Max size: 10mb	You're free to choose the content and format of your one-pager. The only requirement is that it fits on a single A4 page and remains legible when printed.
Video submission Max length: 3min	Submit a link to a pitch of your GenAI-driven project. The video must be downloadable – preferably Google Drive. Maximum 3 minutes.
Supporting presentation or other materials	Submit a link to other materials that could be valuable for evaluating your project, e.g. Google Drive, OneDrive, or similar.
Your motivation statement Motivation Quote, Quote Author, Sharing for advertising purposes permission.	Tell us why you're applying and what success looks like for you. For example: "we've built something cool and want to showcase it", "we'd like expert feedback", "we want to connect with peers." Help us understand your needs so we can make the award a win for you.
Team picture Max size: 10mb	If you agreed to marketing, may we also use a team picture on our website and LinkedIn page?

Availability

Semi-final Participation Checkbox	If your application is selected for the Semi-final, will you be able to attend the Jury Day at Prime Tower in Zürich on March 6th, 2026?
Award Ceremony Participation Checkbox	If your application is selected for the Final, will you be able to attend GenAI Zürich 2026 on March 12-13th, 2026?

Data Privacy

Privacy consent Checkbox	By selecting Yes, you agree to the following regarding confidentiality, the protection of your personal data and IP, and our use of your data solely for the award evaluation process: - Your personal data, IP, and confidential information remain your own and will not be publicly disclosed without your permission. - You consent to our limited use of your submitted application and associated data for the sole purpose of reviewing and judging your submission for the GenAI Zürich Award 2026. - You acknowledge that we will protect your information to the best of our ability and will not share it with any third parties beyond the designated judges.

Submit your application before 25 January 2026

Start application

GenAI Zürich

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with applied GenAI

Get in touch:
contact@genaizurich.com
www.genaizurich.com