

# Swiss Future Award - Data Privacy Policy & Conditions of Participation

Last updated: March 2025

## Data Privacy Policy

This Privacy Policy explains how B Lab Switzerland Foundation (Rue de Lyon 77, 1203 Geneva, Switzerland, [support@blab-switzerland.ch](mailto:support@blab-switzerland.ch)), as the data controller, collects, processes, and protects personal data in the context of the application to the Swiss Future Award.

We are committed to safeguarding privacy and ensuring the responsible handling of data, in compliance with the Swiss Federal Act on Data Protection (FADP) and the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). By applying to the Swiss Future Award, applicants expressly agree that B Lab Switzerland collects and processes personal and business data pursuant to the provisions of this Privacy Policy.

This Privacy Policy applies to all individuals submitting an application to the Swiss Future Award, including company representatives acting on behalf of legal entities.

For any inquiries, contact: [support@blab-switzerland.ch](mailto:support@blab-switzerland.ch).

### 1. What Data We Collect

When applying for the Swiss Future Award, we may collect and process various categories of personal data provided through the application form or related communication. This includes identification data such as the name of the company, the email address, website, or LinkedIn profile. We also collect project-related information, including descriptions of the innovation or solution and any additional content submitted to support the evaluation of the application. Furthermore, we may request or receive sustainability-related data such as carbon footprint assessments, impact metrics, certifications, or other ESG-related materials. In some cases, financial information may also be collected, including details about funding, revenue figures, and financial projections. This type of information may include what we refer to as strategic data—meaning non-public, commercially sensitive information that reflects internal business operations, financial performance, or impact measurement frameworks. Strategic data will be treated with strict confidentiality and will not be disclosed or used for any public communication without your explicit written consent. The data will be retained for a period of three months following the conclusion of the current edition of the Swiss Future Award. After this period, the data will be securely deleted from our systems unless we are legally required to retain certain information for compliance purposes.

## **2. Purpose of Data Collection**

Data is collected and processed exclusively for purposes directly related to the Swiss Future Award. Specifically, we use the data to assess applications, evaluate eligibility, and determine candidacy's ranking. If a participant is selected as a finalist, we may publish a short profile of the company or innovation on our website and in related materials for the Public Award vote. Only publicly shareable content will be included, **explicitly excluding any strategic data**. Additionally, we may use selected public information to promote the winners of the Swiss Future Award in our communication channels and to contact the participants throughout the award process. At no point will strategic data be disclosed publicly without explicit prior consent from the applicant.

## **3. Legal Basis for Processing**

The legal basis for processing personal and strategic data includes the applicant's explicit consent, which is granted when the applicant submits their application through our designated form. In addition, the processing is necessary for the performance of a quasi-contractual relationship, as we require this information to assess and process your application.

We process your data based on the following legal grounds under GDPR: Article 6(1)(b): processing is necessary for the performance of a contract or to take steps at the participant's request prior to entering into a contract (i.e., participation in the Award) ; article 6(1)(f): Processing is necessary for the legitimate interests of B Lab Switzerland in managing a fair and effective award process.

## **4. Data Security**

The applicant's personal data is stored in B Lab Switzerland's secure electronic systems and, where applicable, in physical files. We implement appropriate administrative, technical, and physical safeguards in line with industry standards to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the data. In the specific context of the Swiss Future Award, access to strategic data is strictly limited to members of the evaluation committee and specifically authorized staff. While we take every reasonable step to secure your data, we acknowledge that no method of transmission over the Internet or of electronic storage can be entirely secure, and therefore we cannot guarantee absolute protection.

## **5. Data Sharing with Third Parties**

We only share the personal data when necessary and in a manner consistent with this Privacy Policy. The data may be disclosed to members of the Swiss Future Award jury for the purpose of evaluating your application. Some elements of publicly shareable data (such as company name and project summary) may also be shared with the communication team of B Lab

Switzerland to facilitate promotional activities related to finalists and winners. However, no personal or strategic data will be shared without your explicit prior consent.

## **6. Data Retention**

The data will be retained for a period of three months following the conclusion of the current edition of the Swiss Future Award. After this period, the data will be securely deleted from our systems unless we are legally required to retain certain information for compliance purposes.

## **7. Your Rights**

In accordance with the FADP and GDPR, applicants have the right to access the personal data we hold about them, to request its correction if it is inaccurate, and to request its deletion or restriction under certain conditions. Applicants may also object to the processing of their data and, where applicable, request the portability of their information. If an applicant believes that their rights have been infringed, they have the right to submit a complaint to the competent data protection authority. They may withdraw their consent to data processing at any time by contacting us at [support@blab-switzerland.ch](mailto:support@blab-switzerland.ch). Please note that such withdrawal applies only to future data processing and does not affect any lawful processing carried out prior to the withdrawal. However, the withdrawal of consent may affect participation in the award process or our ability to communicate with the applicant.

## Conditions of Participation

By participating in the Swiss Future Award 2025, the applicant agrees to these terms and conditions.

Participation in the Swiss Future Award 2025 is free of charge and does not require any purchase. The prize awarded to the winning organisation for the Innovation Award and for the Environment Award consists respectively of one grant of CHF25'000 and six months of sustainability coaching under B Lab Switzerland's leadership. The prize awarded to the winning organisation for the Public Choice Award consists of twelve months of sustainability coaching under B Lab Switzerland's leadership (i.e. no cash prize).

Any person residing in Switzerland and aged 18 or over may participate. Applications are open to Swiss startups and SMEs that meet the following criteria:

- **For-profit** entities, namely SA/GA, Sàrl/GmbH, Coopérative/Cooperative.
- **At minimum:** More than one year “in operations” (as defined by B Lab’s “in operations” definition, [accessible here](#) and defined below). The “operational date” is the initial date in which can be either of the following options:
  - Had at least one individual contributing greater than 35 hours per week to the company (including working owners).
  - Was formally engaged with a supplier or client.
- **At maximum:** SMEs employing up to 250 workers (full time equivalent).

B Lab Switzerland invites candidates to submit a single application online for the Swiss Future Award 2025. To do so, they must complete the “Swiss Future Award 2025 - Application” form via Zoho Form. Applications are open from Thursday, April 3rd Monday June 30th 11:59 PM at the latest. For the first round, between July 15th and July 28th, a jury appointed by the senior leadership team of B Lab Switzerland and the Petram Foundation will select up to thirty applicants for each category. For the second round, at the end of July, fourteen finalists (seven finalists for the Innovation Award and seven finalists for the the Environment Award) will be selected by the jury. B Lab Switzerland will inform them by email by mid-August. Between mid-August and the week of September 15th, the fourteen finalists will be required to produce a short 90-seconds pitch video to present their solution to the jury. The video will also be used for the Public Choice Award.

During the week of September 22nd, the seven participants for each award category will be invited at B Lab Switzerland office in Lausanne to pitch their solution live to the jury. By the end of September, the jury will inform by email the two winners, respectively for the Innovation Award and the Environment Awards. From October 1st until October 31st, the Public Choice Award campaign will be open for the fourteen finalists. The winner of the Public Choice will be informed by email during the week of November 3rd.

The fourteen finalists authorize B Lab Switzerland and Petram Foundation to use the videos and any other images produced, without compensation or restriction, on its platforms. Applicants agree that their name, first name, place of residence, age, and the contact details of the organisation may be published.

For the Public Choice Award, Internet users will vote for the organisation they believe best meets the criteria for the Swiss Future Award 2025. The organisation receiving the highest number of votes at the end of the voting phase will be declared the winner. Each internet user has one vote. In the event of a tie, the jury will decide the winner. The winning organisation will be announced during the award ceremony on November 12th 2025 during the Swiss Impact Forum.

Manipulated or multiple entries will be excluded from the Swiss Future Award 2025. Each person may vote only once. Employees of B Lab Switzerland and Petram Foundation and partner organisations, their family members, and jury members are excluded from participation.

No correspondence will be entered into regarding the Swiss Future Award 2025. Legal recourse is excluded. The prize cannot be exchanged for cash for the sustainability coaching.

Applicants authorize B Lab Switzerland to use certain data provided (company name, finalist videos, name and surname of the project lead) for promotional purposes and to send them information about competitions and products by mail or telemarketing. Other data will remain strictly confidential within the scope of administering the Swiss Future Award 2025. Applicants may inform B Lab Switzerland at any time if they do not wish their data to be used or transmitted for these purposes, via an email to [support@blab-switzerland.ch](mailto:support@blab-switzerland.ch). Data will not be shared with third parties, except with persons and companies involved in awarding the Swiss Future Award 2025. By ticking the second checkbox, applicants agree that B Lab Switzerland and Petram Foundation may send them information about other offers by email. For additional information on Data Privacy, please refer to the Data Privacy Policy at the top of the document.

Regardless of the legal basis, B Lab Switzerland and Petram Foundation is only liable for direct damages resulting from gross negligence or willful misconduct. Any other liability, in particular for indirect or consequential damages and for the actions of auxiliary persons, is excluded to the extent permitted by law. B Lab Switzerland and Petram Foundation accept no liability for accidents or other harm caused to applicants through their own fault, the fault of other applicants, or third parties. B Lab Switzerland and Petram Foundation are not jointly or severally liable.

B Lab Switzerland and Petram Foundation reserve the right to cancel or terminate the Swiss Future Award 2025 at any time, without prior notice or justification, and to exclude participants from the competition without explanation. Applicants may not claim any rights, in particular any claim for damages.

If any provision of these conditions of participation is or becomes invalid, the validity of the remaining provisions shall not be affected.

These conditions of participation are governed by Swiss law, excluding the Federal Act on Private International Law (LDIP).

The place of jurisdiction is Geneva, Switzerland.