

PRIVACY POLICY

**SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION
SCIENCE 2026**



Adopted: September 1, 2025

I. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This Privacy Policy (hereinafter referred to as the "Policy") governs the collection, processing, storage, and protection of personal data of users of the website <https://science2026.org> (hereinafter referred to as the "Website"), operated by Vladislav V. Ivanov, Individual Entrepreneur (hereinafter referred to as the "Operator," "Data Controller," "Management Company," or "We").
- 1.2. This Policy is publicly accessible and published on the official website of the Science 2026 project.
- 1.3. The Operator is committed to protecting the privacy rights and personal data of all users in accordance with applicable data protection laws and regulations, including but not limited to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and other relevant legislation.
- 1.4. This Policy applies to all information that the Operator may collect about Website users at <https://science2026.org>, including when submitting applications for participation in the Science 2026 Awards, registering in personal accounts, obtaining certificates, receiving awards, subscribing to newsletters, and any other forms of interaction with the Operator.
- 1.5. By using the Website, the User consents to this Policy and agrees to the processing of their personal data as described herein. If the User does not agree with this Policy, they must refrain from using the Website.

II. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Policy, the following terms shall have the meanings set forth below:

- 2.1. **Automated Processing** – processing of personal data using computer systems and software.
- 2.2. **Blocking** – temporary suspension of processing operations (except where processing is necessary for data correction or verification).
- 2.3. **Website** – a collection of graphical and informational materials, as well as computer programs and databases, accessible at <https://science2026.org>.
- 2.4. **Data Subject** – any identified or identifiable natural person whose personal data is processed by the Operator.
- 2.5. **Anonymization** – the process of rendering personal data in such a manner that the Data Subject can no longer be identified without additional information.
- 2.6. **Personal Data** – any information relating directly or indirectly to an identified or identifiable natural person (Website User).
- 2.7. **Processing** – any operation or set of operations performed on personal data, including collection, recording, organization, structuring, storage, adaptation, alteration, retrieval, consultation, use, disclosure by transmission,

dissemination, making available, alignment, combination, restriction, erasure, or destruction.

- 2.8. **Data Controller/Operator** – Vladislav V. Ivanov, Individual Entrepreneur, who independently organizes and carries out the processing of personal data.
- 2.9. **User** – any natural person who visits the Website or submits personal data through web forms.
- 2.10. **Cookies** – small data files stored by the User's browser to ensure proper functioning of the Website.
- 2.11. **Cross-Border Data Transfer** – the transfer of personal data to a jurisdiction outside the primary operational territory. The Science 2026 project does not engage in cross-border data transfers.
- 2.12. **Third Party** – any natural or legal person, public authority, agency, or body other than the Data Subject, the Data Controller, processors, and persons authorized to process personal data under the direct authority of the Data Controller.

III. DATA CONTROLLER RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

- 3.1. The Data Controller has the right to:
 - Request accurate information and documents from Data Subjects;
 - Continue processing data on legitimate grounds even after withdrawal of consent, where permitted by applicable law;
 - Independently determine the list of security measures to protect personal data, unless otherwise required by law;
 - Engage third-party processors to perform technical, organizational, or administrative functions related to data processing;
 - Refuse requests that are manifestly unfounded, excessive, or contrary to applicable law.
- 3.2. The Data Controller is obligated to:
 - Organize data processing in compliance with applicable data protection legislation;
 - Ensure confidentiality and security of personal data through appropriate technical and organizational measures;
 - Publish and maintain this Policy in the public domain;
 - Implement organizational and technical measures to prevent unauthorized access, modification, destruction, copying, or distribution of personal data;
 - Cease processing and destroy or anonymize data in cases prescribed by law or upon legitimate request by the Data Subject;
 - Respond to Data Subject requests within the timeframes established by applicable law;
 - Notify Data Subjects and relevant authorities of data breaches where required by law;
 - Maintain records of processing activities;

- Conduct data protection impact assessments where required;
- Appoint a Data Protection Officer (DPO) if required by applicable legislation.

IV. DATA SUBJECT RIGHTS

- 4.1. In order to ensure legal, organizational, financial, and operational sustainability of the Science 2026 Association, the founding decision provides for the appointment of a guarantor of legal relations and obligations, namely the Management Company – Vladislav Vyacheslavovich Ivanov, Individual Entrepreneur (hereinafter referred to as "the Management Company").
- 4.2. Data Subjects have the right to:
- Right of Access: Obtain confirmation as to whether their personal data is being processed, and access to such data and information about the processing;
 - Right to Rectification: Request correction of inaccurate, incomplete, or outdated personal data;
 - Right to Erasure ("Right to be Forgotten"): Request deletion of personal data where there is no legal basis for continued processing;
 - Right to Restriction of Processing: Request limitation of processing under certain circumstances;
 - Right to Data Portability: Receive personal data in a structured, commonly used, and machine-readable format and transmit it to another controller;
 - Right to Object: Object to processing based on legitimate interests, direct marketing, or automated decision-making;
 - Right to Withdraw Consent: Withdraw consent at any time without affecting the lawfulness of processing based on consent before its withdrawal;
 - Right to Lodge a Complaint: File a complaint with the competent supervisory authority if they believe their rights have been violated;
 - Right to Prior Notice: Be informed before their data is used for marketing communications or newsletters, with the ability to opt-out.
- 4.3. Data Subjects are obligated to:
- Provide accurate and truthful personal data;
 - Notify the Operator of any changes to their personal data in a timely manner.
- 4.4. Liability for False Information:
- Individuals who provide false information or data of other persons without their consent shall bear responsibility in accordance with applicable law.

V. PRINCIPLES OF DATA PROCESSING

The Operator processes personal data in accordance with the following principles:

- 5.1. Lawfulness, Fairness, and Transparency: Processing is conducted lawfully, fairly, and in a transparent manner.
- 5.2. Purpose Limitation: Data is collected for specified, explicit, and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner incompatible with those purposes.
- 5.3. Data Minimization: Only personal data that is adequate, relevant, and limited to what is necessary for the stated purposes is processed.
- 5.4. Accuracy: The Operator takes reasonable steps to ensure personal data is accurate and kept up to date.
- 5.5. Storage Limitation: Personal data is kept in a form that permits identification of Data Subjects for no longer than necessary for the purposes of processing, unless longer retention is required by law.
- 5.6. Integrity and Confidentiality: Data is processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security, including protection against unauthorized or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction, or damage.
- 5.7. Accountability: The Operator is responsible for and able to demonstrate compliance with these principles.

VI. PURPOSES OF DATA PROCESSING

- 6.1. Personal data is processed for the following purposes:
 - Registration and participation in the Science 2026 Awards;
 - Sending notifications, informational, and marketing communications (with prior consent);
 - Creating and maintaining a database of participants, laureates, and winners;
 - Fulfilling contractual obligations and providing services;
 - Providing customer support and feedback mechanisms;
 - Compliance with legal obligations under applicable legislation;
 - Website administration, security, and improvement;
 - Statistical analysis and research (using anonymized data where possible);
 - Protection of the Operator's legal interests and rights;
 - Prevention of fraud and abuse.
- 6.2. Automated Decision-Making:
 - Personal data is not used for automated decision-making, including profiling, that produces legal effects or similarly significantly affects the Data Subject, unless explicit consent has been obtained or such processing is authorized by law.

VII. LEGAL BASIS FOR PROCESSING

- 7.1. The visual, textual, and ideological identity of the Science 2026 Association is a collective representation reflected in its name, reputation, and principles, combined into a single image of public recognition. The Association's branding reflects its mission, values, and principles, uniting the scientific community and contributing to public recognition.
- 7.2. The Operator processes personal data on the following legal bases:
- **Consent:** The Data Subject has given explicit consent for processing their personal data for one or more specific purposes;
 - **Contractual Necessity:** Processing is necessary for the performance of a contract to which the Data Subject is party, or to take steps at the request of the Data Subject prior to entering into a contract;
 - **Legal Obligation:** Processing is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation to which the Operator is subject;
 - **Legitimate Interests:** Processing is necessary for the purposes of legitimate interests pursued by the Operator or a third party, except where such interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the Data Subject;
 - **Public Interest:** Processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest.
- 7.3. Withdrawal of Consent:
- Where processing is based on consent, the Data Subject has the right to withdraw consent at any time. Withdrawal does not affect the lawfulness of processing based on consent before its withdrawal.

VIII. COLLECTION, STORAGE, TRANSFER, AND PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA

- 8.1. The security of personal data is ensured through the implementation of appropriate legal, organizational, and technical security measures, including:
- Encryption of data in transit and at rest where appropriate;
 - Access controls and authentication mechanisms;
 - Regular security assessments and audits;
 - Employee training on data protection;
 - Incident response and breach notification procedures;
 - Physical security measures for data storage facilities;
 - Secure backup and disaster recovery procedures.
- 8.2. Data Storage:

- Personal data is stored in a form that permits identification of Data Subjects for no longer than necessary for the purposes of processing;
 - Data is stored on secure servers with restricted access;
 - Retention periods are determined based on the purpose of processing and legal requirements;
 - Data that is no longer necessary is securely deleted or anonymized.
- 8.3. Data Retention Periods:
- Participation data: Retained for the duration of the Science 2026 project (2025-2026) and up to 3 years thereafter for archival and historical purposes, unless longer retention is required by law;
 - Marketing communications: Retained until consent is withdrawn or the purpose is fulfilled;
 - Legal compliance data: Retained as required by applicable law;
 - Technical logs: Retained for up to 12 months for security purposes.
- 8.4. Third-Party Data Sharing:
- **Project Partners:** Such as evaluation centers and organizations involved in award administration (e.g., "Knowledge and Competence Assessment Center," "NGK CIS"), to facilitate award processes;
 - **Service Providers:** Technical service providers, hosting companies, email service providers, and other contractors providing website maintenance, analytics, and communication services;
 - **Professional Advisors:** Legal, accounting, and other professional advisors where necessary for the Operator's legitimate business interests;
 - **Government Authorities:** When required by law, court order, or legal process;
 - **Successors:** In the event of a merger, acquisition, or sale of assets, provided the recipient agrees to protect personal data in accordance with this Policy.

All third parties are contractually obligated to maintain the confidentiality and security of personal data and are prohibited from using it for purposes other than those specified.

8.5. Confidentiality Obligations:

- The Operator and any persons granted access to personal data are obligated not to disclose or distribute personal data without the consent of the Data Subject, except as required by law.

8.6. Data Breach Notification:

In the event of a personal data breach that is likely to result in a risk to the rights and freedoms of Data Subjects, the Operator will:

- Notify the relevant supervisory authority within 72 hours of becoming aware of the breach, where required by law;
- Notify affected Data Subjects without undue delay where the breach is likely to result in a high risk to their rights and freedoms;

- Document all data breaches, including facts, effects, and remedial actions taken.
- 8.7. International Data Transfers:
 - The Operator does not engage in cross-border data transfers. All personal data is processed and stored within the operational jurisdiction of the Website. Should international transfers become necessary in the future, appropriate safeguards will be implemented in accordance with applicable data protection laws (such as Standard Contractual Clauses, adequacy decisions, or other approved mechanisms).
- 8.8. Analytics and Tracking:
 - The Operator uses privacy-respecting analytics tools that do not engage in cross-border data transfers. Technical data and usage statistics are collected in anonymized or pseudonymized form where possible.

IX. CATEGORIES OF PERSONAL DATA PROCESSED

- 9.1. The Operator may process the following categories of personal data:
 - **Identification Data:** Full name, date of birth, gender, nationality (optional);
 - **Contact Information:** Email address, telephone number, postal address;
 - **Professional Information:** Academic degree, professional title, affiliation, place of work or study, research interests;
 - **Account Information:** Username, password (encrypted), account settings, preferences;
 - **Participation Data:** Application materials, submitted works, research projects, publications, achievements, awards;
 - **Communication Data:** Correspondence with the Operator, feedback, inquiries;
 - **Technical Data:** IP address, browser type, device information, operating system, cookies, usage data, access logs;
 - **Payment Information:** If applicable, payment transaction details (processed by third-party payment processors in accordance with PCI DSS standards);
 - **Consent Records:** Records of consents given for specific processing purposes.
- 9.2. Sensitive Personal Data:
 - The Operator does not intentionally collect or process sensitive personal data (special categories of data such as racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious beliefs, health data, biometric data, or data concerning sex life or sexual orientation) unless explicitly required for the stated purposes and with explicit consent.

X. COOKIES AND TRACKING TECHNOLOGIES

- 10.1. The Website uses cookies and similar tracking technologies to:
 - Ensure proper functionality and user authentication;
 - Remember user preferences and settings;
 - Collect statistical data and analyze website usage;
 - Improve user experience and website performance;
 - Deliver relevant content and communications.
- 10.2. Types of Cookies:
 - **Essential Cookies:** Necessary for the Website to function properly (e.g., session management, security);
 - **Functional Cookies:** Enable enhanced functionality and personalization;
 - **Analytics Cookies:** Used to understand how visitors interact with the Website through anonymized statistical data;
 - **Marketing Cookies:** Used to deliver relevant advertisements and track campaign effectiveness (only with explicit consent).
- 10.3. Users may disable cookies through their browser settings. However, disabling essential cookies may limit Website functionality. Instructions for managing cookies are available in the user's browser help documentation.
- 10.4. Upon first visit, users are presented with a cookie banner allowing them to accept or decline non-essential cookies. Consent can be withdrawn at any time through cookie settings on the Website.

XI. DATA SUBJECT REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- 11.1. Data Subjects may submit requests regarding their personal data by contacting the Operator at **Email:** info@science2026.org
- 11.2. Request Requirements must include
 - Full name of the Data Subject;
 - Contact information (email address or postal address);
 - Clear description of the request and the right being exercised;
 - Proof of identity (where necessary to verify the identity of the requestor).
- 11.3. The Operator will respond to requests without undue delay and within one month of receipt. This period may be extended by two additional months where necessary, taking into account the complexity and number of requests. The Data Subject will be informed of any such extension within one month of receipt of the request, together with the reasons for the delay.
- 11.4. To protect against unauthorized disclosure of personal data, the Operator may request additional information to verify the identity of the requestor before responding to a request.
- 11.5. Requests are processed free of charge. However, the Operator may charge a reasonable fee based on administrative costs for manifestly unfounded or

excessive requests, particularly for repetitive requests. Alternatively, the Operator may refuse to act on such requests.

- 11.6. The Operator may refuse a request where:
 - The request is manifestly unfounded or excessive;
 - The request would adversely affect the rights and freedoms of others;
 - Processing is required by law;
 - The Operator can demonstrate compelling legitimate grounds that override the interests, rights, and freedoms of the Data Subject.
- 11.7. In such cases, the Operator will inform the Data Subject of the reasons for refusal and their right to lodge a complaint with a supervisory authority.

XII. DATA PROTECTION OFFICER (DPO)

- 12.1. Where required by applicable law, the Operator will appoint a Data Protection Officer. The contact details of the DPO (if appointed) will be published on the Website.
- 12.2. The DPO is responsible for:
 - Monitoring compliance with data protection laws;
 - Providing advice on data protection impact assessments;
 - Cooperating with supervisory authorities;
 - Serving as a point of contact for Data Subjects and supervisory authorities.

XIII. CHILDREN'S PRIVACY

- 13.1. The Website and services are not directed to children under the age of 16 (or the applicable age of consent in the relevant jurisdiction). The Operator does not knowingly collect personal data from children without verifiable parental consent.
- 13.2. If processing of a child's personal data is necessary, the Operator will obtain verifiable consent from the holder of parental responsibility before processing.
- 13.3. If the Operator becomes aware that personal data of a child has been collected without appropriate consent, such data will be deleted as soon as reasonably possible.

XIV. LIABILITY AND LIMITATIONS

- 14.1. The Operator is liable for compliance with applicable data protection laws within the scope of its responsibilities as Data Controller. The Operator will take all reasonable measures to protect personal data but cannot guarantee absolute security.

- 14.2. Data Subjects are responsible for the accuracy of the personal data they provide. Providing false or misleading information may result in suspension or termination of services.
- 14.3. The Operator is not liable for:
- Actions of third parties who gain unauthorized access to personal data due to the Data Subject's failure to protect their account credentials;
 - Security breaches resulting from circumstances beyond the Operator's reasonable control, including force majeure events;
 - Third-party websites or services linked from the Website (users access such sites at their own risk);
 - Data breaches caused by internet infrastructure failures, cyber-attacks, or other technical issues beyond the Operator's control, provided the Operator has implemented appropriate security measures.
- 14.4. Data Subjects agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Operator from any claims, losses, or damages arising from their violation of this Policy, provision of false information, or infringement of third-party rights.

XV. SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY AND COMPLAINTS

- 15.1. Data Subjects have the right to lodge a complaint with a competent data protection supervisory authority if they believe their rights under applicable data protection laws have been violated.
- 15.2. Before lodging a formal complaint, Data Subjects are encouraged to contact the Operator directly to resolve any concerns.
- 15.3. The Operator commits to cooperating fully with supervisory authorities and implementing any corrective measures required by such authorities.

XVI. CHANGES TO THIS POLICY

- 16.1. The Operator reserves the right to modify, update, or replace this Policy at any time without prior notice to Users. Material changes will be communicated through the Website or via email where appropriate.
- 16.2. Any revised version of this Policy becomes effective upon publication on the Website. The "Last Updated" date at the top of this Policy indicates when the most recent changes were made.
- 16.3. Continued use of the Website after changes to this Policy constitutes acceptance of the revised Policy. Users are responsible for regularly reviewing this Policy to stay informed of any updates.
- 16.4. In the event of material changes that significantly affect Data Subject rights, the Operator will provide prominent notice on the Website and, where feasible, via email to registered users.

XVII. GOVERNING LAW AND JURISDICTION

- 17.1. This Policy and all matters relating to the processing of personal data shall be governed by and construed in accordance with applicable data protection laws, including but not limited to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and other relevant legislation in force in the jurisdictions where the Operator operates or where Data Subjects are located.
- 17.2. Any disputes arising out of or relating to this Policy shall be resolved through good faith negotiations between the parties. If a resolution cannot be reached, disputes may be submitted to the competent courts or supervisory authorities in accordance with applicable law.
- 17.3. If any provision of this Policy is found to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

XVIII. FINAL PROVISIONS

- 18.1. This Policy, together with the Website Terms of Use and any other legal notices published by the Operator, constitutes the entire agreement between the Operator and Data Subjects regarding the processing of personal data.
- 18.2. This Policy is drafted in English. In the event of translation into other languages, the English version shall prevail in case of any discrepancies or interpretation disputes.
- 18.3. This Policy remains in effect indefinitely until replaced by a new version or until the Website ceases operations.
- 18.4. By using the Website, Data Subjects acknowledge that they have read, understood, and agree to be bound by this Privacy Policy.