Open Call: Organizing European Conference on Algorithmic Fairness ECAF'28

Each year, the European Association of Algorithmic Fairness (EAAF) launches an open call for organizing future editions of the European Conference on Algorithmic Fairness (ECAF).

This document is the call for ECAF 2028.

The application deadline is Dec 15, 2026.

Your benefit: Why should you become organizer of ECAF'28

The European Workshop on Algorithmic Fairness (EWAF), established in 2022, was renamed in 2026 as the European Conference on Algorithmic Fairness (ECAF). Over the years, the conference has expanded significantly and has become a well-recognized interdisciplinary meeting point for Responsible AI in Europe.

Hosting and organizing ECAF offers an excellent opportunity: it enables you to build connections with leading researchers and practitioners in algorithmic fairness, increase your visibility within the field, and strengthen the positioning of your work within your institution.

Moreover, by taking on this role, you actively contribute to advancing both the state of the art and the community as a whole, helping to move Responsible AI forward across Europe.

Who we're looking for

We are seeking organizers who are already active members of the European algorithmic fairness community, with a solid professional network and prior participation in EWAF/ECAF. We expect candidates to be deeply committed to an interdisciplinary approach to fair and responsible AI and bring a vision for further strengthening the conference as a space where philosophers, computer scientists, legal scholars, and social scientists can meaningfully engage and learn from one another.

We especially encourage applications from interdisciplinary teams as well as from groups rooted in philosophy, law, or the social sciences.

Time investment

Organizing a conference is a rewarding team effort that benefits greatly from thoughtful planning and dedicated engagement. Based on our experience, general chairs typically invest around 220–330 hours over the course of 6–9 months, with the workload varying across phases. This commitment can, of course, be shared among several people, making it both manageable and enjoyable as a collaborative project.

Financial responsibility

The local host institution assumes full financial responsibility for the conference, including budgeting, securing funding, and managing all associated costs. EAAF does not provide financial support and does not take on any financial liability.

Keeping participant fees as low as reasonably possible is a core objective of ECAF, reflecting our commitment to accessibility and community-building. Careful budgeting and early exploration of funding opportunities are therefore essential.

Expenses:

The key items on the expense side are

- Conference rooms (if not free of charge, e.g. at university, townhall) – auditorium plus additional rooms for allowing poster sessions and parallel tracks, including technical equipment etc.
- Catering
- Social events
- Promotion costs
- Travel grants
- personnel costs for organizing and running the conference

The total amount of expenses is strongly dependent on the local situation.

Revenues:

The revenues consist of ticket revenues and additional sponsoring.

Ticket prices for 2025 and 2026 were €300 (Academia/ Government/ Non-Profit) and €450 (all others) – take this as a reference. Adaptations are possible, but should be moderate. For 2028, we anticipate around 200 participants, resulting in expected revenues of around 40 k€ from registrations[1]. Most probably, this will not be enough for covering the expenses. Institutional support from your home organization is therefore extremely helpful, and securing additional sponsorship may be necessary to cover the expenses.

Financial planning:

EAAF suggests planning for 20% profit not accounting for travel grants, and 0-10% profit after closing the books. Loss is to be covered by the organizers, profit stays with the organizer.

EAAF will support you throughout the planning process by sharing experience, templates, best practices, and strategic guidance to help you navigate financial decisions with confidence.

Application form and deadline

Please fill out the application form document (page 3-5) and send as pdf via email to christoph.heitz@zhaw.ch.

The application deadline is Dec 15, 2026.

[1] Most participants from academia, free tickets for organizers, selected contributors, invited persons, reduction through travel grants, ….

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Team Qualifications (25%)
    - Experience and recognition in the algorithmic fairness field
    - Active participation in ECAF and related communities
    - Diversity (e.g. gender, seniority) and interdisciplinarity of the organizing team
2. Vision and Innovation (20%)
    - Clear vision for ECAF '28
    - Innovative ideas to enhance the workshop/conference
    - Alignment with ECAF's goals and values (in particular ensuring interdisciplinarity)
3. Venue and Logistics (15%)
    - Suitability of the proposed location and venue
    - Capacity to accommodate expected attendance
    - Accessibility and attractiveness to potential attendees. Priority is given to venues that are easily reachable for the European community.
    - Novelty of location w.r.t. recent ECAF editions
4. Financial Planning (15%)
    - Realistic and well-thought-out budget
    - Strategies for financial risk management
    - Potential for sponsorships or institutional support
5. Community Impact (10%)
    - Potential to strengthen and grow the EWAF community
    - Plans for inclusivity and supporting diverse participation
6. Organizational Capacity (10%)
    - Demonstrated ability to organize events
    - Institutional support and local resources
7. Sustainability (5%)
    - Measures for environmental sustainability and CO2 footprint minimization (e.g. vegetarian food)

Application form

Name, institution and email of all co-applicants

The idea is that all co-applicants would be General Chairs or at least are committed to taking on an important role such as program chair or area chair.

As the main organizer(s) have you already identified additional people who would be willing to contribute in the other roles (e.g. program chair, social media management, etc.)? You can name them here.

This is not a requirement. The people you list also don't have to be committed yet. This is just an opportunity to share who you have talked to and what you have in mind for organizational roles (e.g. general, program, area chairs) and other contributions to the workshop program (e.g. invited speakers, interactive sessions).

Participation and leadership in the fairness community

This is an opportunity for co-applicants (and potential team members) to describe their ongoing contribution to the algorithmic fairness research community, including publications, talks, academic service (e.g. chairing, reviewing), and teaching.

What would you change compared to previous editions?

Describe 1-3 issues where you would suggest value-adding changes

What's important for you to keep compared to previous editions?

Describe the most important elements of earlier EWAF/ECAF editions that should be kept.

City / venue

You don't necessarily have to know yet, especially if you're an interdisciplinary group, but this is of course an advantage. If you're still discussing multiple options, feel free to list all.

What's good about this city / venue? E.g., located centrally, located in Eastern Europe (or a place with potential for further outreach), located close to EU institutions, etc.

Sustainability

How do you plan to address sustainability?

Financial plan

Provide a preliminary financial plan for 200 participants: (a) Revenues such as registration fees (possibly different categories), sponsorships, local support, etc., (b) Expenses such as venue, meals, social events, keynotes, management, promotion, etc.
Please provide your financial plan as a spreadsheet attached to this application form.

Experience with hosting workshops / conferences

Feel free to also list smaller workshops and day-long events.