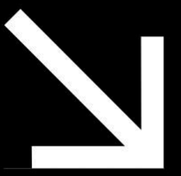
web3privacy now

2025

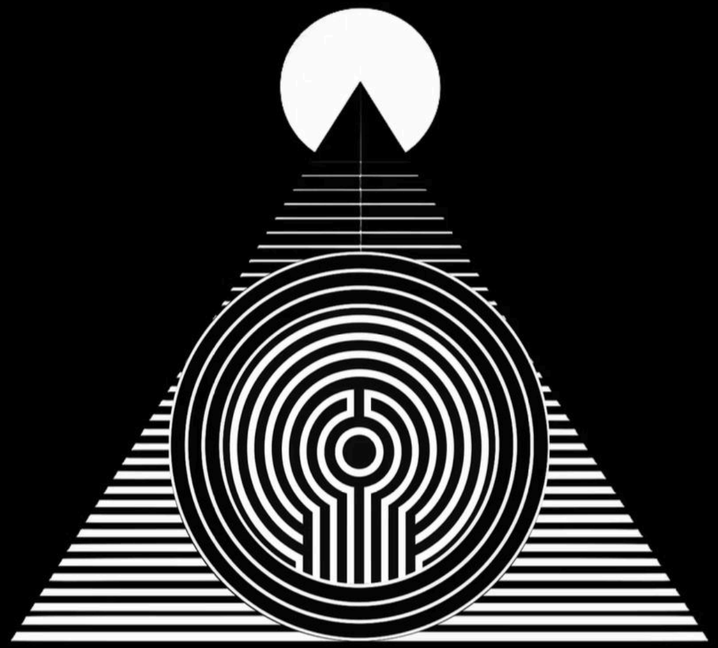
Ethereum Privacy Ecosystem Research



HACKATHONS

January - November

2025



Executive Summary

This report maps a growing Ethereum privacy ecosystem movement. Across 40 global hackathons in 2025, builders, researchers, and explorers co-created 416 privacy-first projects. These teams are manifesting a vision of digital sovereignty, agency, and dignity for all people.

In the following pages, we present the data plainly and use it as a call to action: we must fund, mentor, and scale the highest-impact opportunities so privacy becomes a conscious, everyday choice; not an afterthought.

Nearly 8 of every 100 projects in these hackathons put privacy first. This is a clear signal that privacy is moving from niche to mainstream. 31 of 40 hackathons produced privacy work, and flagship events consistently surface the most mature efforts.

Privacy is no longer a side project, it is a civic imperative. For privacy focused organizations and communities, the path is clear: shine light on under-resourced categories (governance, healthcare, education), expand IRL mentorship-rich gatherings, and invest in tooling and on-ramps so newcomers can build with privacy by default.

Contents

`Data-driven Analysis`

40	10,692	5,194
Hackathons	Hackers	Projects

31	$4.8M	417
Hackathons with Privacy	in prizes	Privacy Projects

Privacy-focused building is now mainstream in Ethereum hackathons.

TOP 3 Organizer Breakdown

ETHGlobal

11 Events
3,945 Submissions
216 Privacy Projects (5.5%)

Independent

25 Events
1,047 Submissions
154 Privacy Projects (14.7%)

ETHWarsaw

2 Events
50 Submissions
16 Privacy Projects (32%)

Niche and regional organizers drive higher privacy intensity.

13	313	130
Average Privacy Submissions	Average Hackers	Average Submissions

Smaller or targeted hackathons yield higher privacy signal-to-noise.

Prize Distribution

$32.5K	<$200K	$120K
Median Price	Bracket Maximizes Privacy Intensity	Average Price

Mid-sized, targeted events with specialist focus outperform mega-events for privacy innovation.

TOP 5 Domain Distribution

Category	Projects	%
Finance	153	36.7%
Social & Messaging	100	23.9%
AI & Data Privacy	51	12.2%
Auth & Identity	26	6.2%
Infrastructure	14	3.4%

Finance remains the single largest category, driven by confidential swaps, private payments, and lending primitives.

18 TEE	145 ZK (310 Total Mentions)	32 MPC

12
FHE

- Circom + snarkjs (28)
- Noir / Aztec (21)
- Polygon zkEVM (15)
- Cairo / Starknet (8)
- Halo2 / Plonky2 (6)
- Other / Custom (67)

210
Other

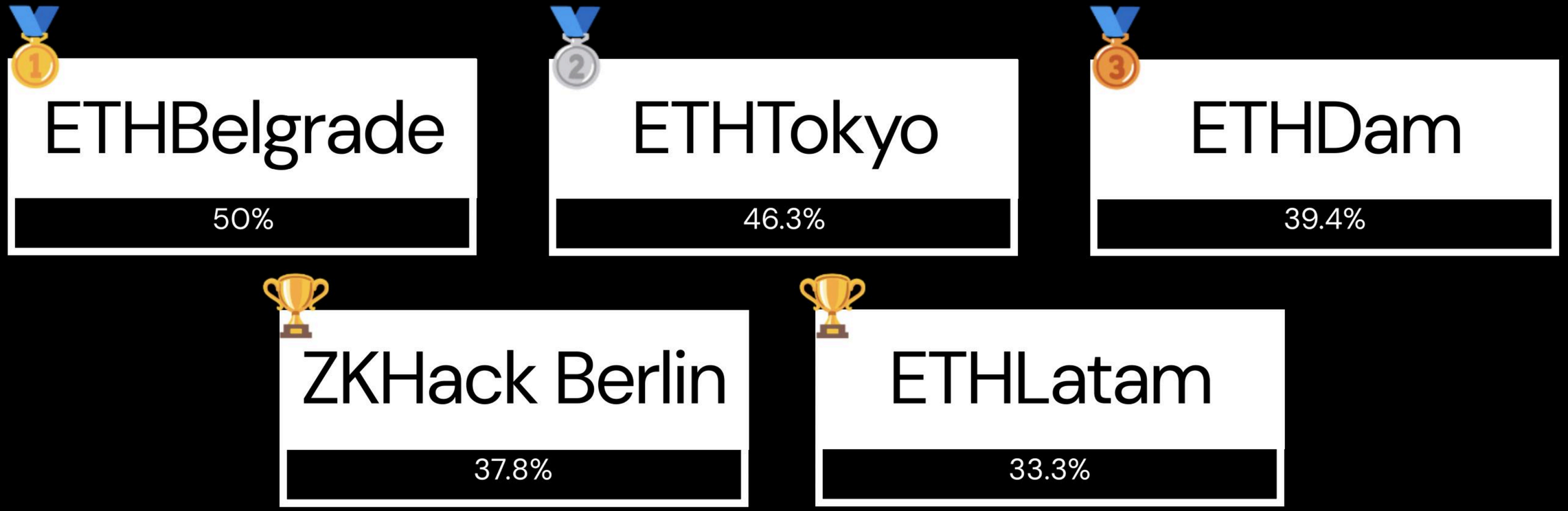
Privacy-focused building is now mainstream in Ethereum hackathons.

Geographic Distribution

Region	Events	Privacy Projects	Privacy %
Europe	17	145	13.1%
Latin America	8	88	12.3%
Asia	5	79	8.4%
Africa	2	5	6.5%
North America	2	20	3.9%
Virtual	6	80	4.3%

Latin America and Eastern Europe emerging as secondary hubs outside ETHGlobal dominance.

TOP 5 Hackathons by Privacy %



Specialized events and academic hubs drive peak intensity.

IRL vs. Virtual

34	3,355	337
IRL Events	Submissions	Privacy Projects (10.04%)
6	1,839	80
Virtual Events	Submissions	Privacy Projects (4.35%)

In-person hackathons produce 2x higher privacy intensity.

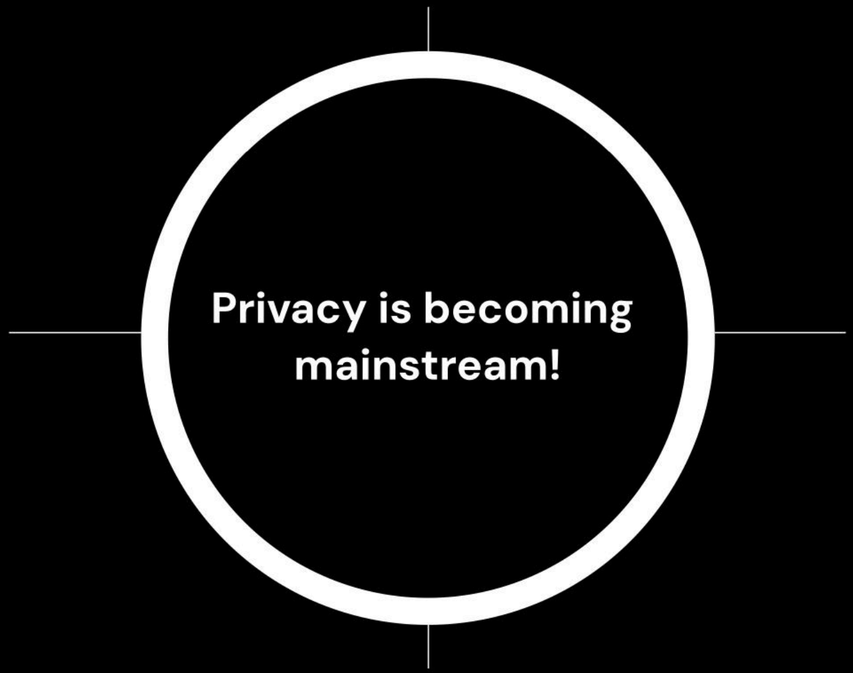
Underserved Categories & Market Potential

Category	Projects	Market Potential	Gap Size
Social	100	High (growing)	Small
AI & Data Privacy	51	Very High	Medium
Authentification & Identity	26	High	Medium
DAO / Governance	10	Very High	Large
Education & Onboarding	2	High	Very Large
Post-Quantum Crypto	1	High (emerging)	Massive

High-potential areas are under-resourced relative to their impact.

ZK dominates, AI-Privacy emerging; secondary primitives underutilized.

Europe leads; Latam emerging; IRL events drive higher privacy intensity.



Finance & Social anchor, critical gaps in Governance, Healthcare, Education.

Funding and mentorship should target underserved high-potential categories.

web3privacy now

@jensei_ jensei@web3privacy.info
@nicksvyaznoy mykola@web3privacy.info

build.web3privacy.info

github.com/web3privacy/research