Ethereum Privacy Ecosystem Research ↘

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HACKATHONS

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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

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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.

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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.

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13

Average Privacy Submissions

313

Average Hackers

130

Average Submissions

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

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$32.5K
Median Price

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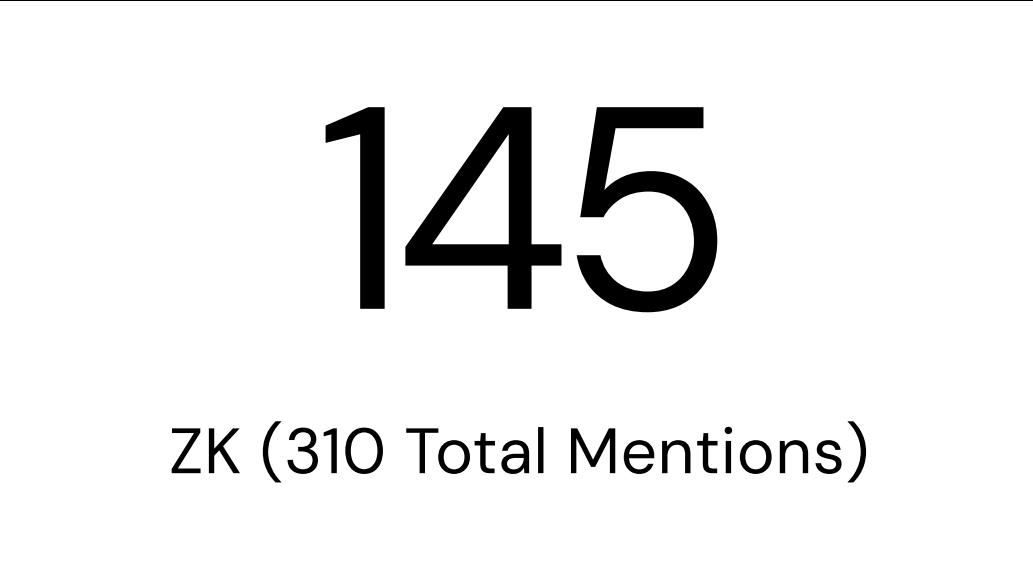
$120K
Average Price

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

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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.
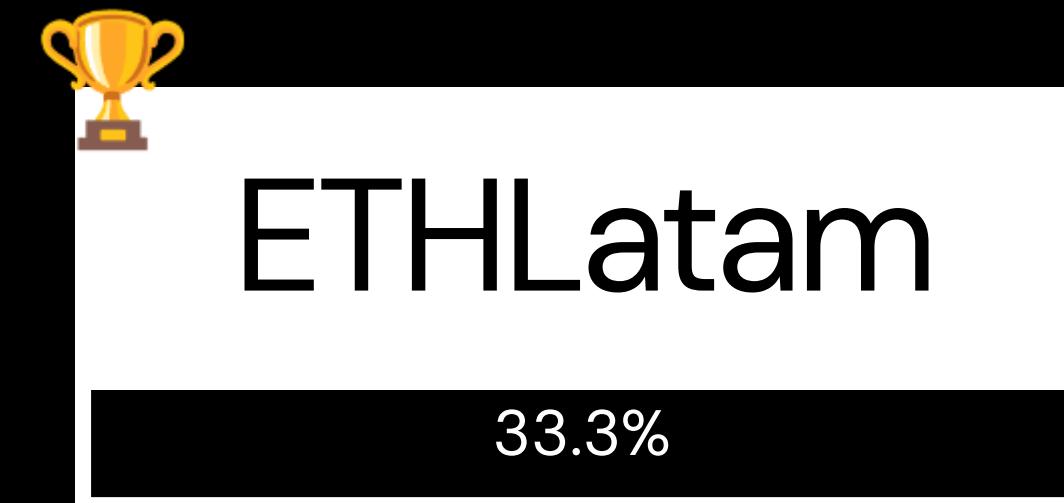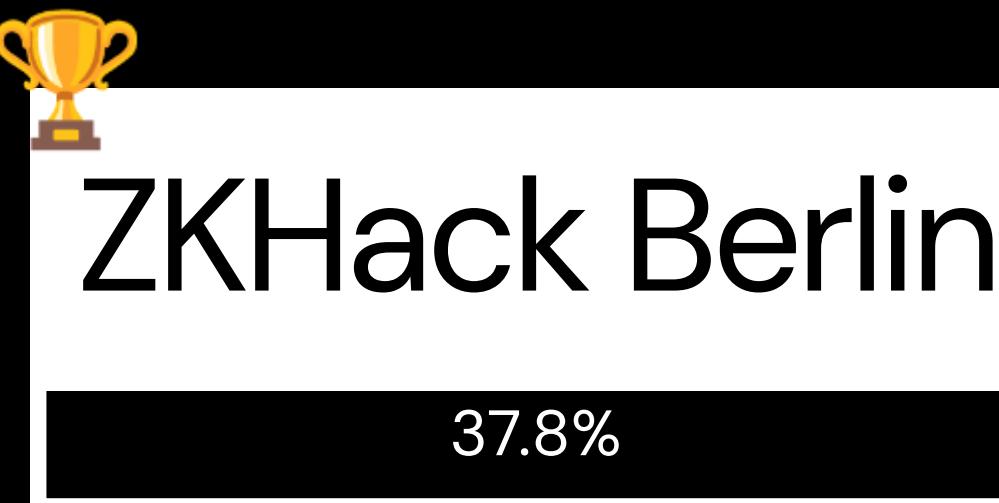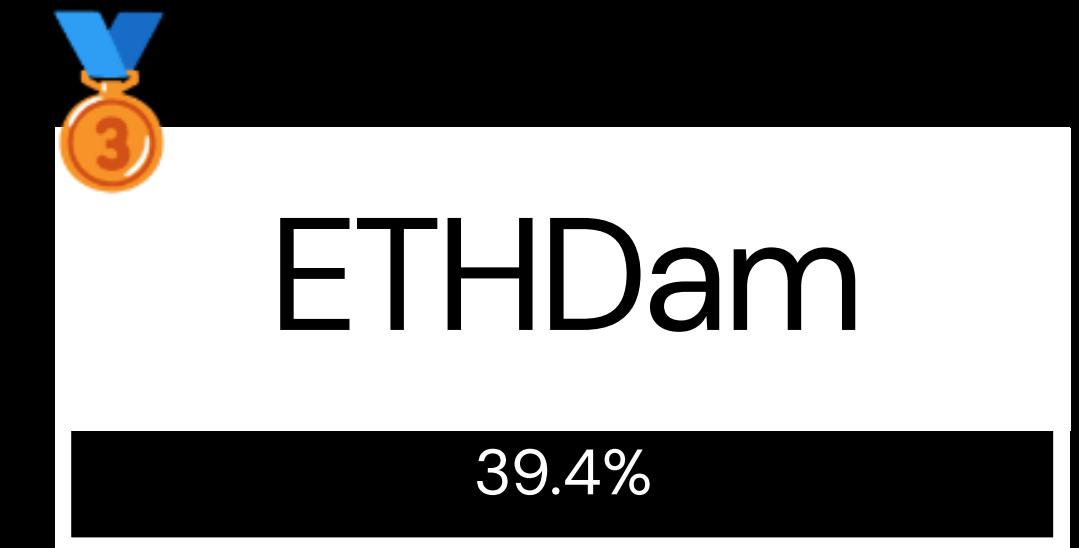
18

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.

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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.

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🥇 **ETHBelgrade**
50%

🥈 **ETHTokyo**
46.3%

🥉 **ETHDam**
39.4%

🏆 **ZKHack Berlin**
37.8%

🏆 **ETHLatam**
33.3%

Specialized events and academic hubs drive peak intensity.

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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.

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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.

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

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

**Privacy is becoming
mainstream!**

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

Funding and mentorship should target underserved
high-potential categories.

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