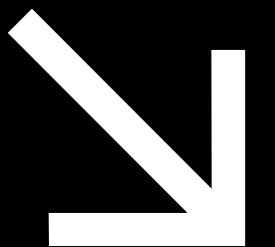


Ethereum Privacy Ecosystem Research



HACKATHONS

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

1. Headline Metrics
2. TOP 3 Organizer Breakdown
3. Participation & Submissions
4. Prize Distribution
5. TOP 5 Domain Distribution

6. Technology Landscape
7. Geographic Distribution
8. TOP 5 Hackathons by Privacy %
9. IRL vs. Virtual
10. Underserved Categories & Market Potential

40

Hackathons

10,692

Hackers

5,194

Projects

31

Hackathons with Privacy

\$4.8M

in prizes

417

Privacy Projects

Privacy-focused building is now mainstream in Ethereum hackathons.



Niche and regional organizers drive higher privacy intensity.

13

Average Privacy Submissions

313

Average Hackers

130

Average Submissions

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

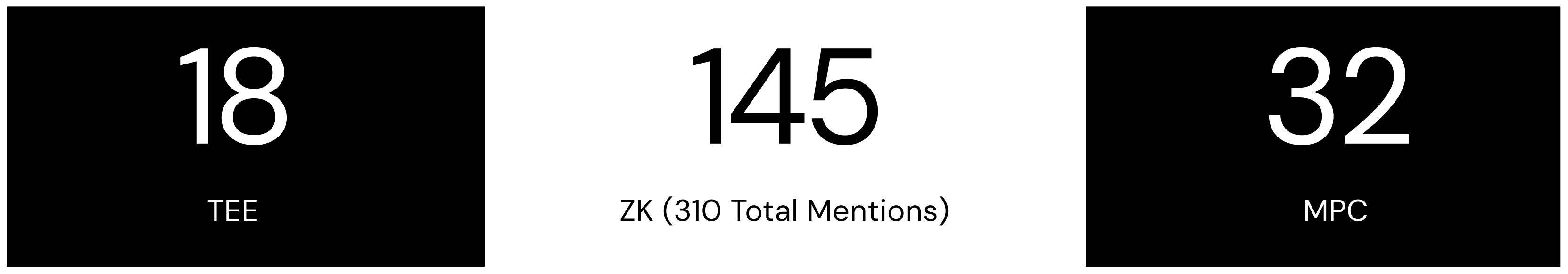


Mid-sized, targeted events with specialist focus outperform mega-events for privacy innovation.

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.

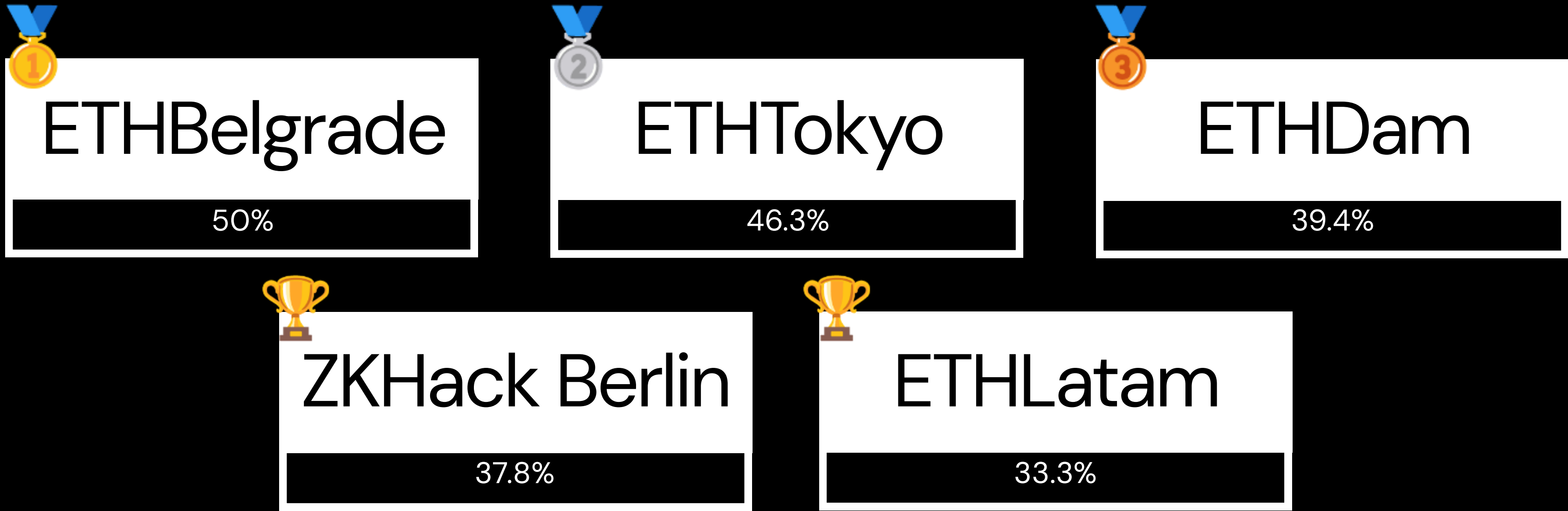


Privacy-focused building is now mainstream in Ethereum hackathons.

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.



Specialized events and academic hubs drive peak intensity.

34

IRL Events

3,355

Submissions

337

Privacy Projects (10.04%)

6

Virtual Events

1,839

Submissions

80

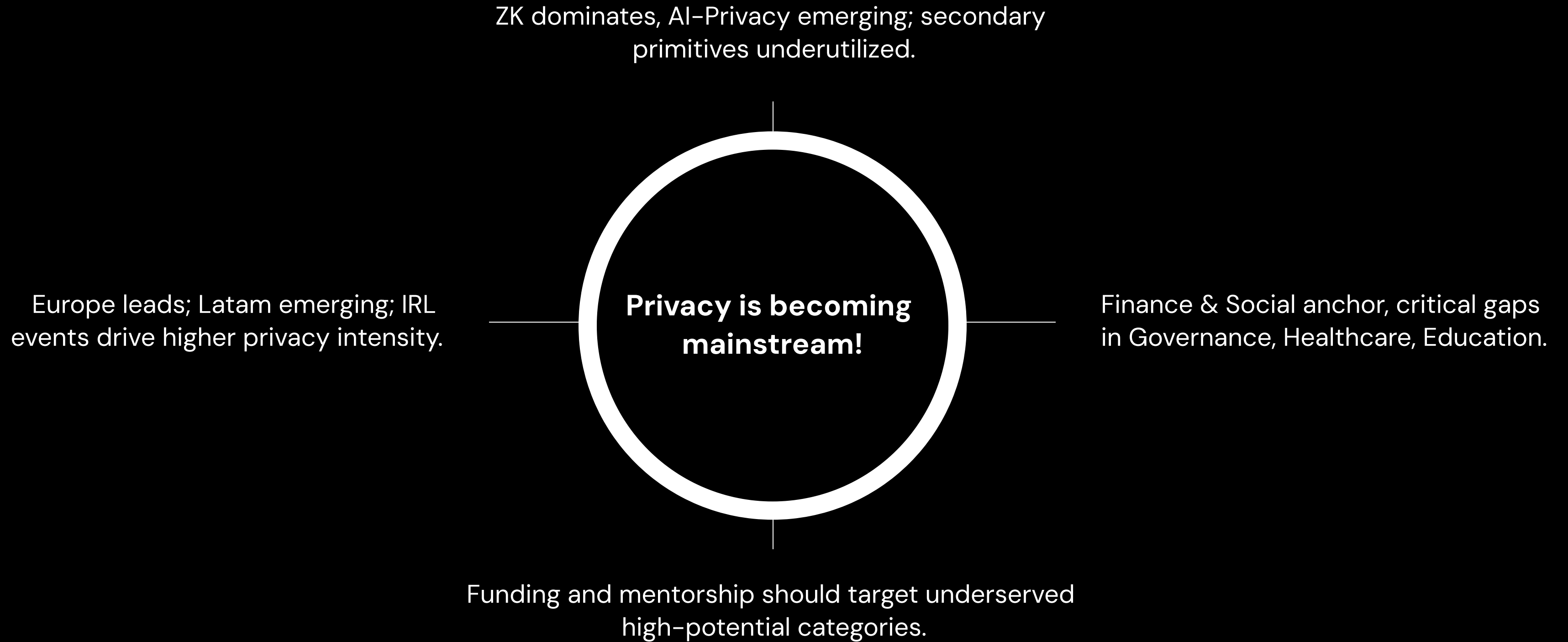
Privacy Projects (4.35%)

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
Authentication & Identity	26	High	Medium
DAO / Governance	10	Very High	Large
Education & Onboarding	2	High	Very Large
Post-Quantum Crypto	1	High (emerging)	Massive

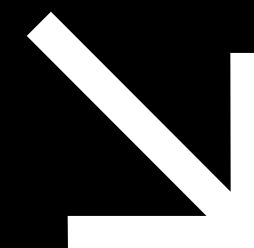
High-potential areas are under-resourced relative to their impact.



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