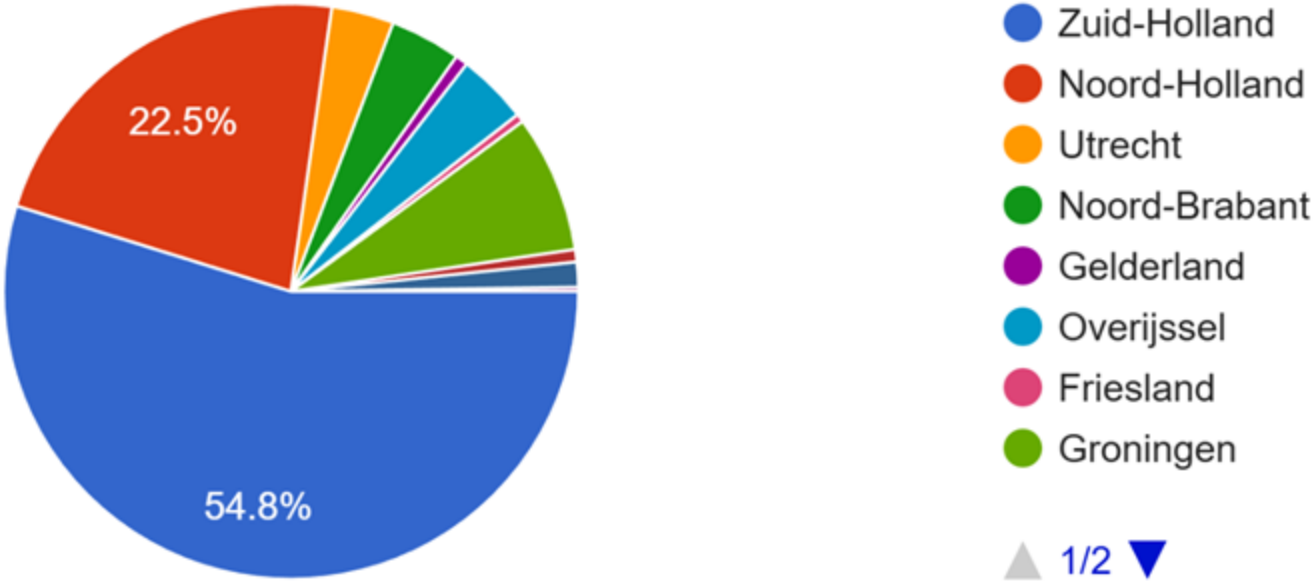
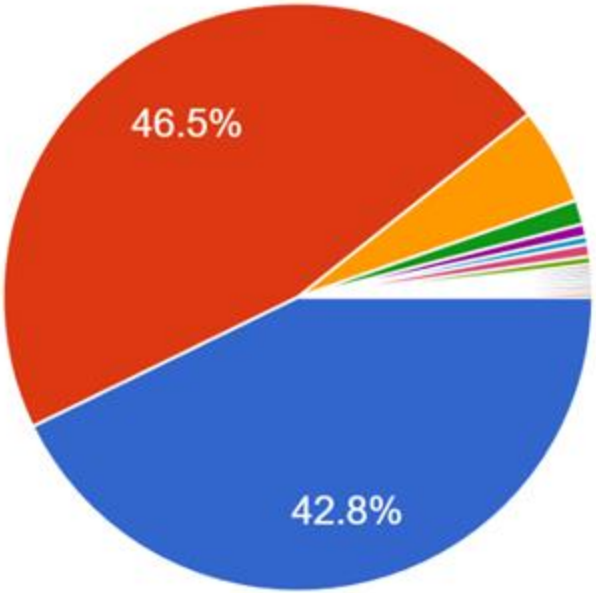
AI Cup
2026
Kick-off
POWERED BY
AIC4NL
Epoch

Thank you for making it!

Where do you live?



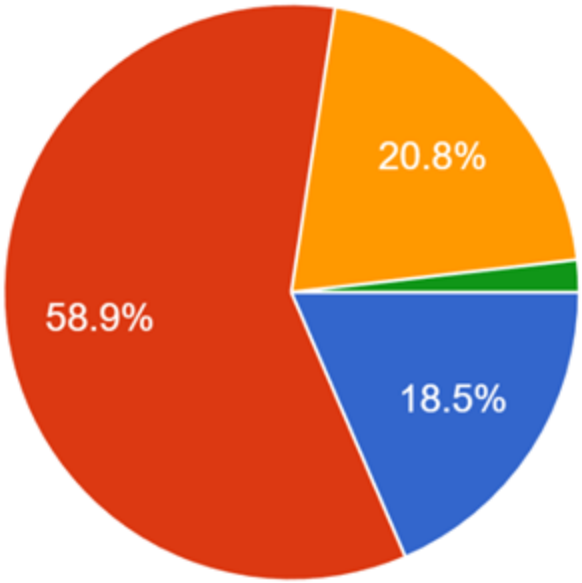
I am currently a:



- Bachelor student
- Master student
- Recent Graduate (within 1 year)
- Yes
- PhD
- Secondary School Student (Grade 8)
- PhD student
- PhD Student

1/2

How familiar are you with AI/ML?



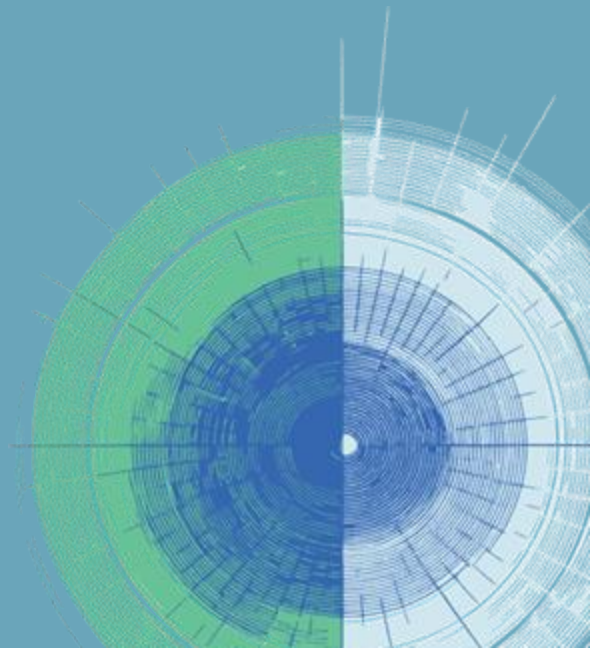
- Beginner (little/no ML experience)
- Intermediate (some ML courses/ projects)
- Advanced (trained complex models, participated competitions, etc.)
- Advanced (trained models, competitions, etc.)

468 signups!

And counting

Kick-off
Friday - 13/02/2026
mondai
10:00
Walk in
10:30
Warm welcome by Epoch
10:35
Wind Energy Uncertainties (Remco Verzijlbergh)
10:55
Radar and Bird Migration (Bart Kranstauber)
11:20
The Current Challenges in AI (Inald Lagendijk)
11:40
Break
12:00
Why AI Cup
12:15
Challenge introduction by challenge provider (TNO)
12:40
Challenge briefing
13:00
Free lunch & Team matching
14:00
Start AI Cup with a boost
Challenge Workshop
Kick-off coaching by Epoch and industry specialists
17:00

Who are we?



Epoch

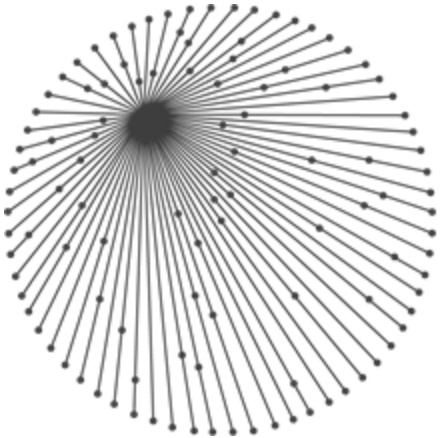
The AI Dream Team

Proving that student teams *can* compete on an international level

A big thank you to our collaborators!

"The Dutch AI Coalition"

The Netherlands' **largest AI network**, with over **400 organisations** and **7 regional hubs** working on responsible AI development and application.



mondai

House of AI

TU Delft's **AI Innovation Centre**, connecting **researchers**, **companies**, and **policymakers** to accelerate **impactful AI** collaboration in Zuid-Holland and beyond

Delft AI Safety Initiative (DAISI)

TU Delft | AI Initiative

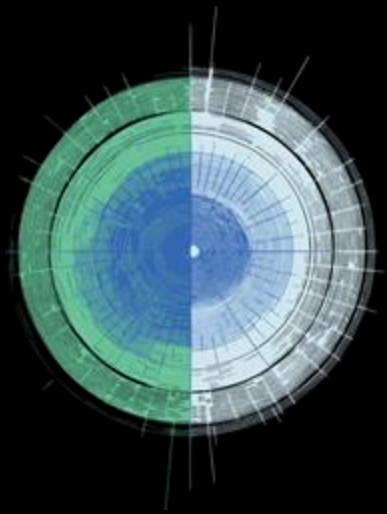
AI Initiative

TNO innovation for life

Challenge Provider

The Netherlands' independent **applied research** organisation turning scientific knowledge into **practical innovation** across **industry**, **government**, and **society**

The Challenge



“birds”

“radar data”

“wind turbines”

What's the connection?

Building **AI technology** that can **identify bird species** using **radar data** to **improve bird conservation** around **wind farms**

Dr.ir.

Remco Verzijlbergh

Dr.ir.

Remco Verzijlbergh

Dr.

Bart Kranstauber

Dr.

Bart Kranstauber

Prof.dr.ir.

Inald Lagendijk

Prof.dr.ir.

Inald Lagendijk

AI Cup 2026

POWERED BY

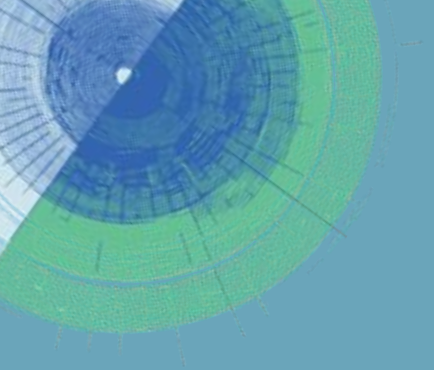
AIC4NL | Epoch

Coffee Break

Open Wi-fi:
Yes!DelftGuest

AI Cup
2026
POWERED BY
AIC4NL
Epoch

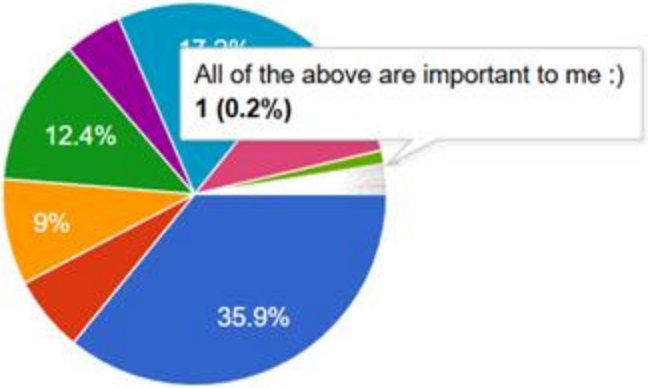
Why are you here?

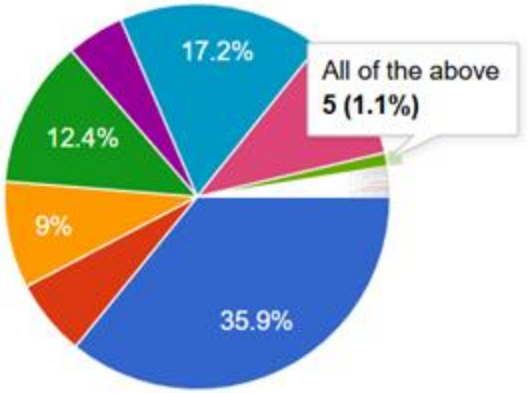


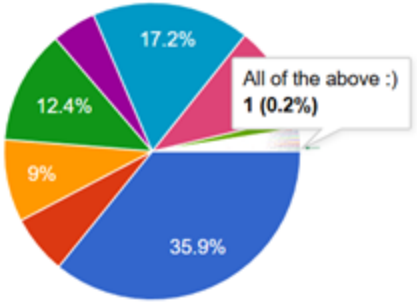
What would you most like to get out of AI Cup? *

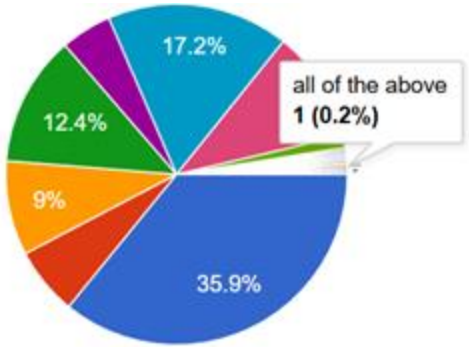
We're working on shaping the AI Cup to the participant's wishes

- ○ Gain experience training useful AI models
- ○ Benchmark yourself against other students
- ○ Win the (7k) prize
- ○ Network in the field of AI
- ○ Join a national community of AI-driven students
- ○ Build a real project for my CV / portfolio
- ○ Improve my skills with guidance from experienced mentors
- ○ Other: _____

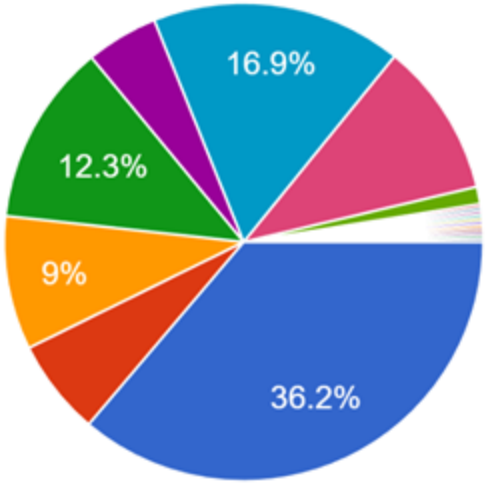

All of the above are important to me :)
1 (0.2%)
12.4%
9%
35.9%


17.2%
All of the above
5 (1.1%)
12.4%
9%
35.9%


17.2%
All of the above :)
1 (0.2%)
12.4%
9%
35.9%


17.2%
all of the above
1 (0.2%)
12.4%
9%
35.9%

What would you most like to get out of AI Cup?



- Gain experience training useful AI mo…
- Benchmark yourself against other stu…
- Win the (7k) prize
- Network in the field of AI
- Join a national community of AI-driven…
- Build a real project for my CV / portfolio
- Improve my skills with guidance from…
- All of the above

1/3

36.2%

“Gain **experience** training **useful** AI models”

16.9%

“Build a **real project** for **CV/portfolio**”

12.3%

“**Network** in the AI field”

9%

“Win the (7k) prize”

You want to

- Build **useful** AI
- Work with **real** data
- **Network** & **interact** with **industry**
- Compete against others

Where can you get this?

“Courses” “Projects”

“Hackathons”

“Kaggle Competitions”

International Kaggle Competitions

391 Grandmasters 2,263 Masters 11,334 Experts

Search by username

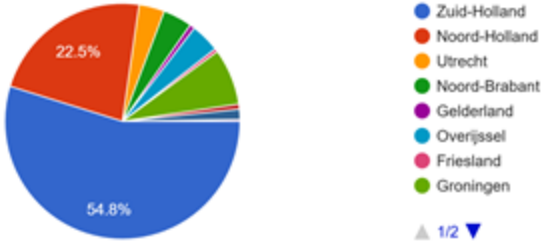
City Organization

Rank	Tier	User	Joined	Medals	Points
1		yuanzhe zhou	6 years ago	14 15 12	180,636
2		Jeroen Cottaar	3 years ago	5 2 0	161,102
3		c-number	5 years ago	13 5 0	134,973
4		tascj	11 years ago	20 11 3	130,532
5		Dieter	8 years ago	49 18 3	130,151
6		hyd	4 years ago	15 14 1	112,708
7		James Day	7 years ago	5 5 1	96,870

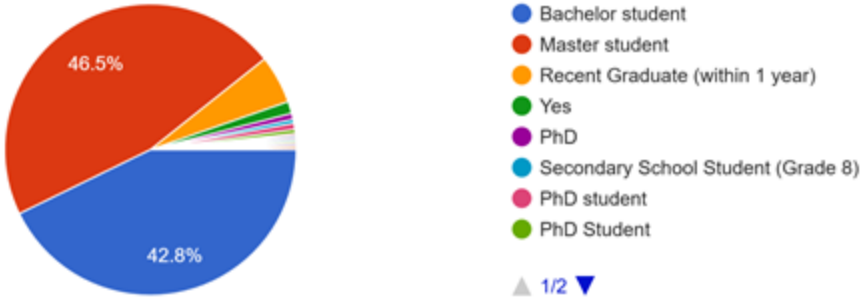
A gap still remains

AI Cup
2026
POWERED BY
AIC4NL
Epoch

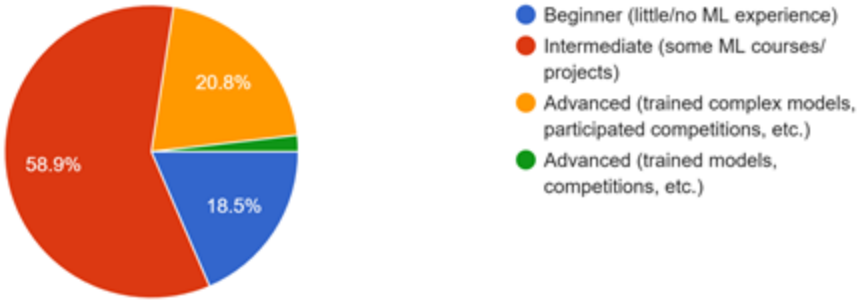
AI Cup



A **national** applied-AI **competition** built **for students**

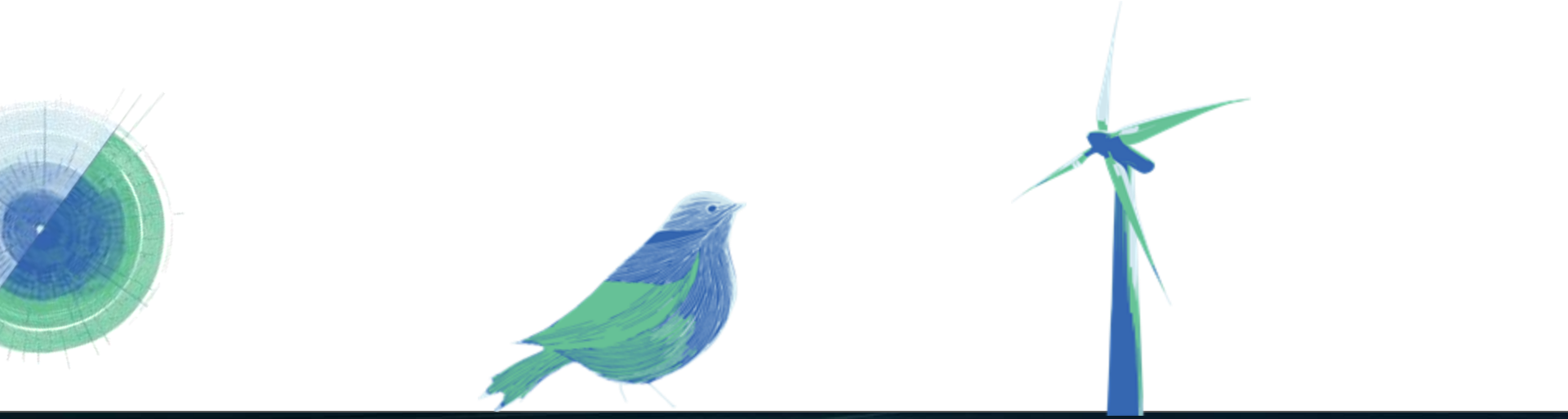


On a **level playing field**



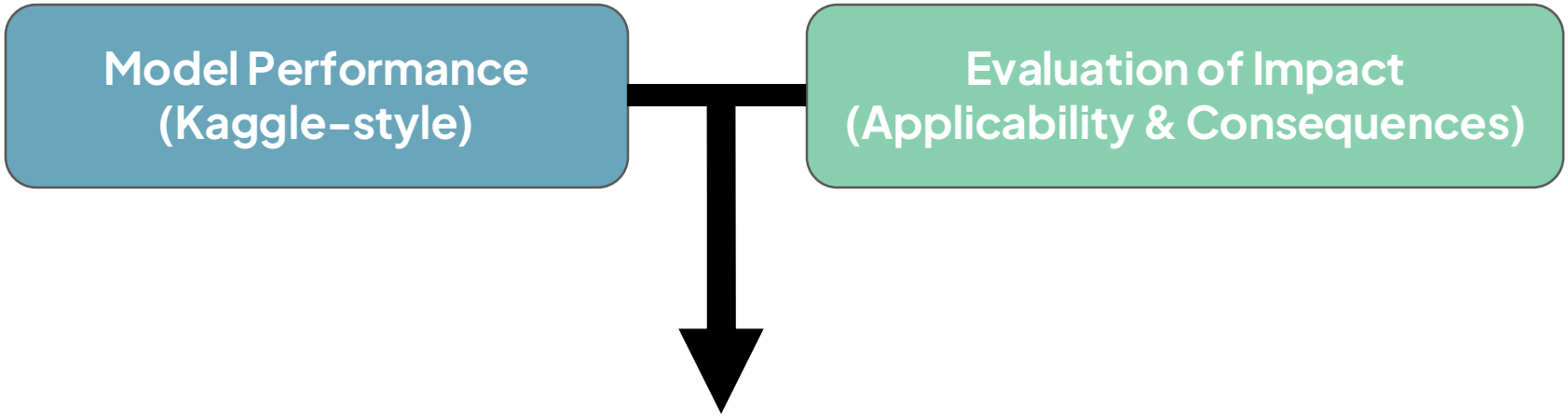
AI Cup

Build **real, impactful AI**



AI Cup

A competition **actually interesting** for **industry**



Models that both **perform well**, and are evaluated on **implementation & impact**

AI Cup

A competition for you to **build your** AI **ecosystem**

AI Cup

AIC4NL

400+ AI organizations

mondai
House of AI

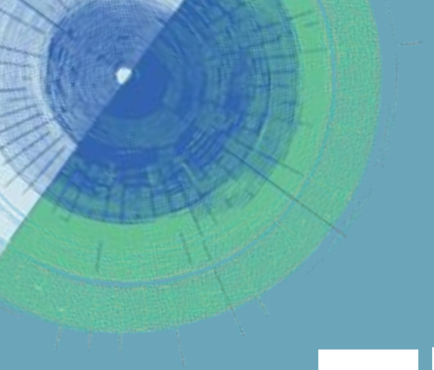
AI Hub, Innovation Center

TNO innovation for life

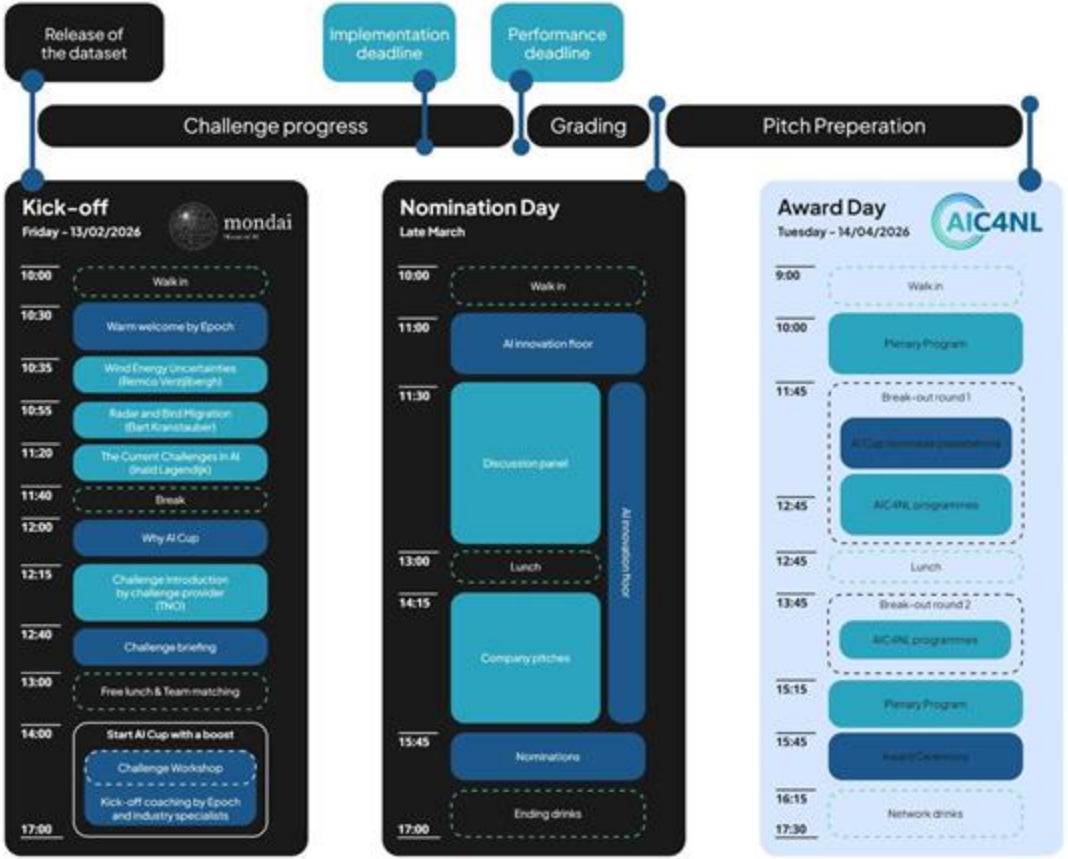
Real societal challenge

TU Delft | AI Initiative

The AI Cup Journey



An 8-week Journey



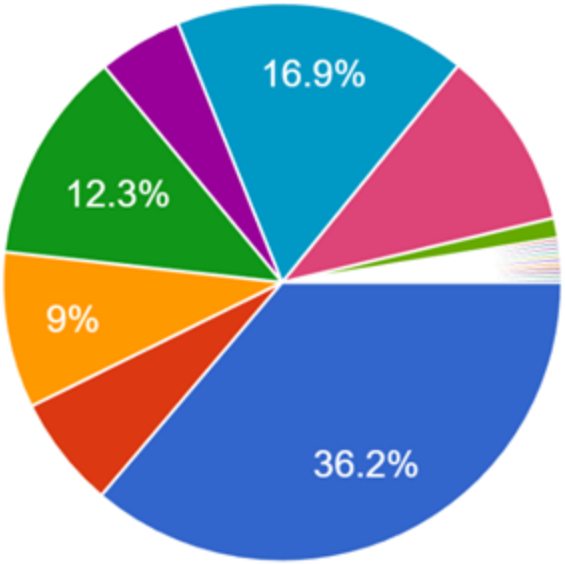
Kick-off Day

Problem introduction & context

Today

Get introduced to a **real societal problem**

Work with **real datasets**



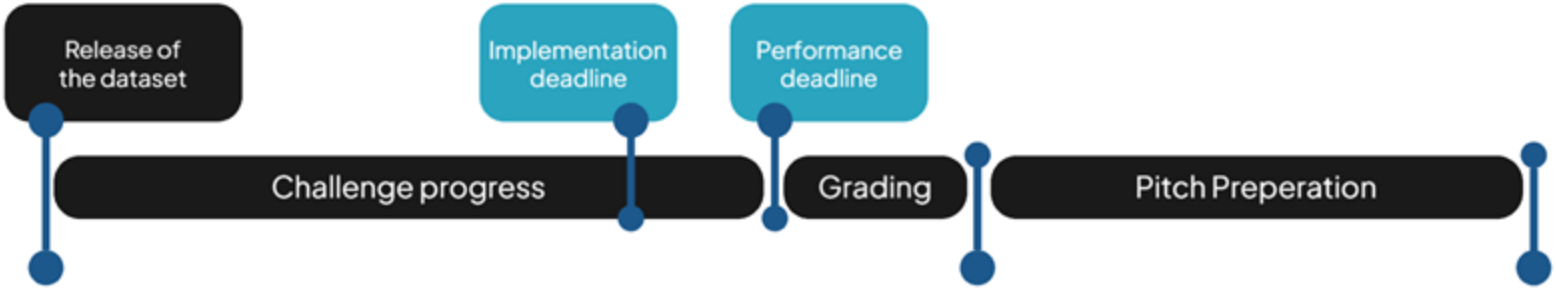
- Gain experience training useful AI mo…
- Benchmark yourself against other stu…
- Win the (7k) prize
- Network in the field of AI
- Join a national community of AI-driven…
- Build a real project for my CV / portfolio
- Improve my skills with guidance from…
- All of the above

1/3

10.4%

“Improve my skills with **guidance** from **experienced mentors**”

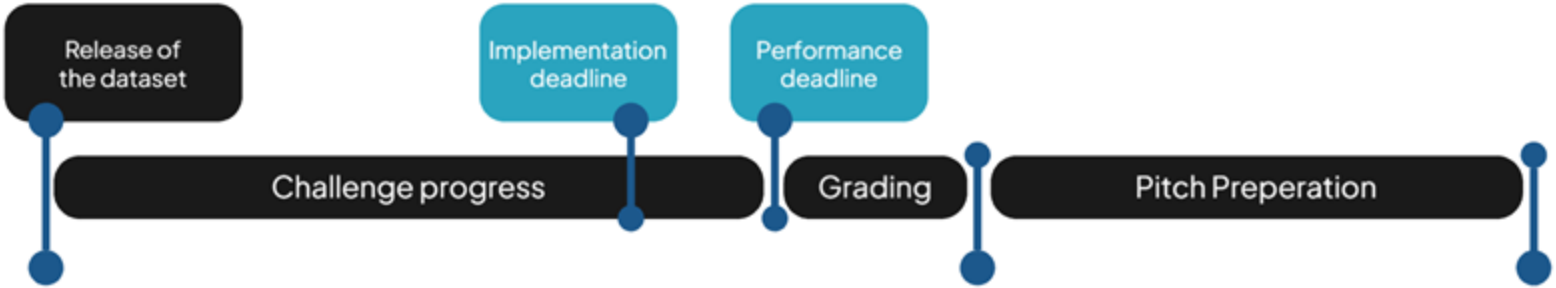
"Improve my skills with **guidance** from **experienced mentors**"



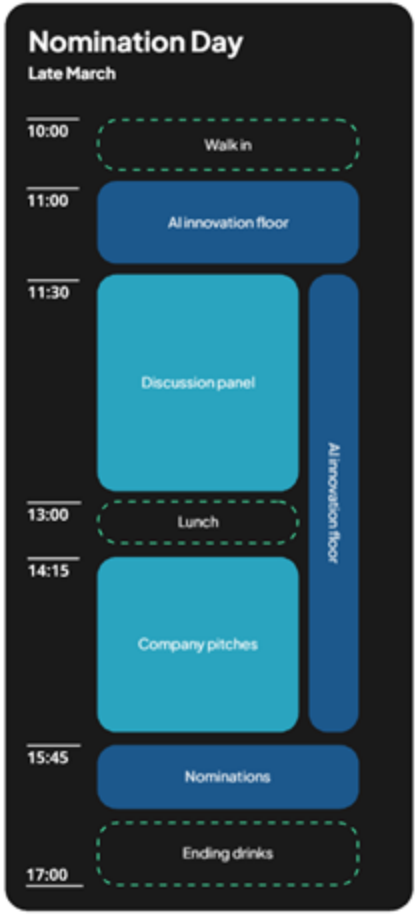
Competition Weeks

Build, iterate, improve

Today → Nomination Day



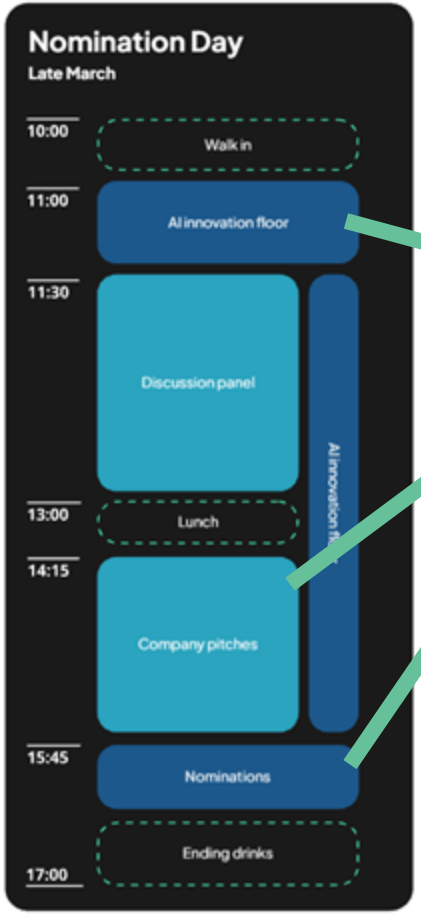
Apply your **AI skills** in a real-world context



Nomination Day

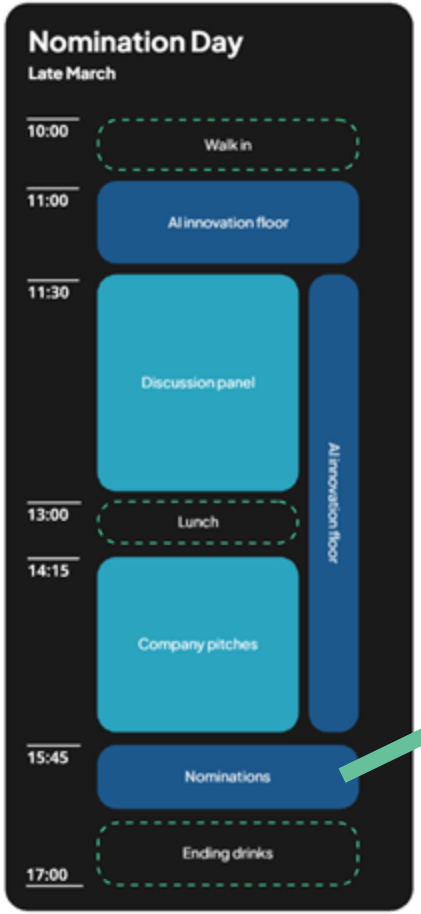
Network & celebrate

21 March

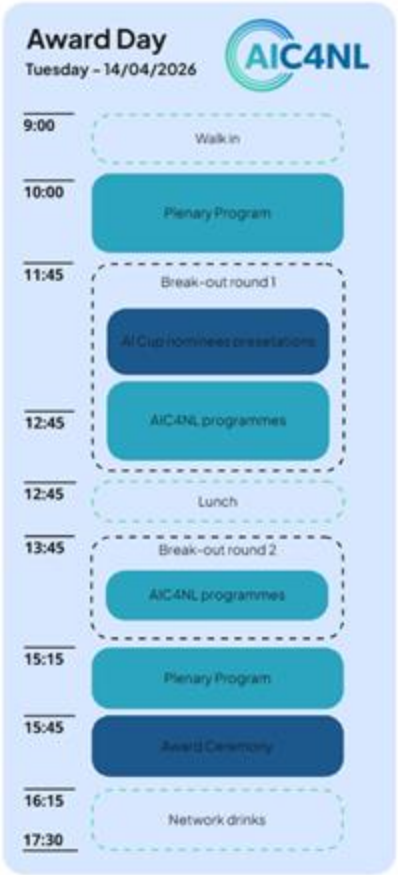


AI companies looking to recruit ***you***

“**Top AI talent** in the Netherlands”



Top 5 teams
nominated



Award Day

(Dutch AI Congress)

A national stage

14 April

NL's **most influential** speakers

Award Day
Tuesday - 14/04/2026

AIC4NL

9:00	Walk in
10:00	Plenary Program
11:45	Break-out round 1
	AI Cup nominees presentations
12:45	AIC4NL programmes
12:45	Lunch
13:45	Break-out round 2
	AIC4NL programmes
15:15	Plenary Program
15:45	Award Ceremony
16:15	Network drinks
17:30	

Willem Jonker
Bestuursvoorzitter
AIC4NL

Rinke Zonneveld
CEO
Invest-NL

Mietta Groeneveld
Directeur
NATO Command & Control Centre of Excellence

Alexander Zwart
Chief Innovation and Technology Officer
Rabobank

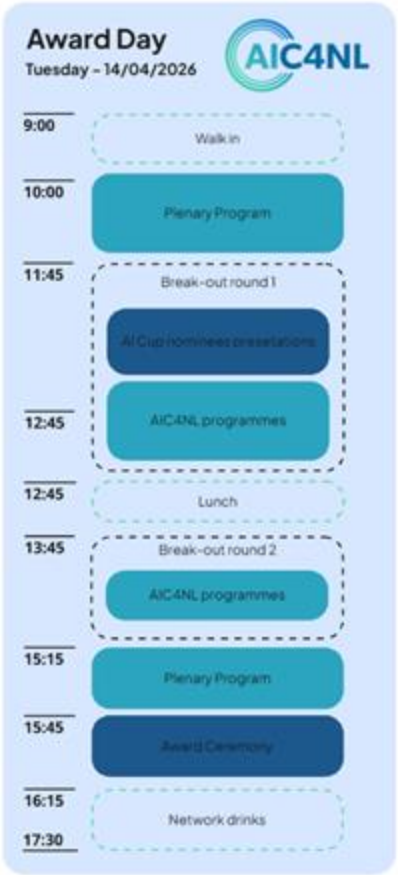
Irene Rompa
Dagvoorzitter

Carlo van de Weijer
Directeur EAISI
Technische Universiteit Eindhoven

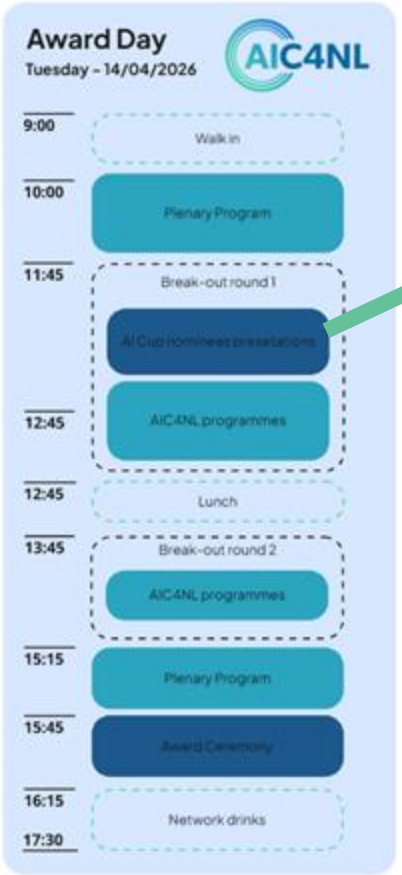
Haroon Sheikh
Senior onderzoeker
WRR

Saskia Vlaar
Bestuurslid
AIC4NL

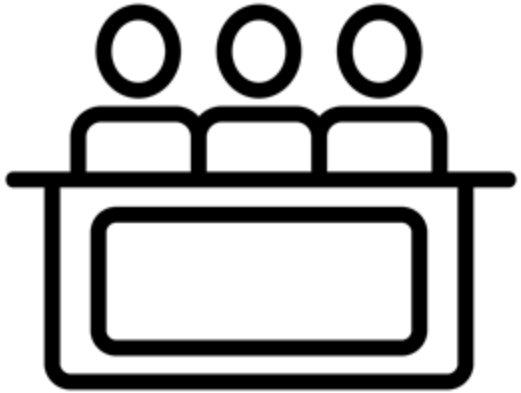
Jacob Groote
CEO
Althio

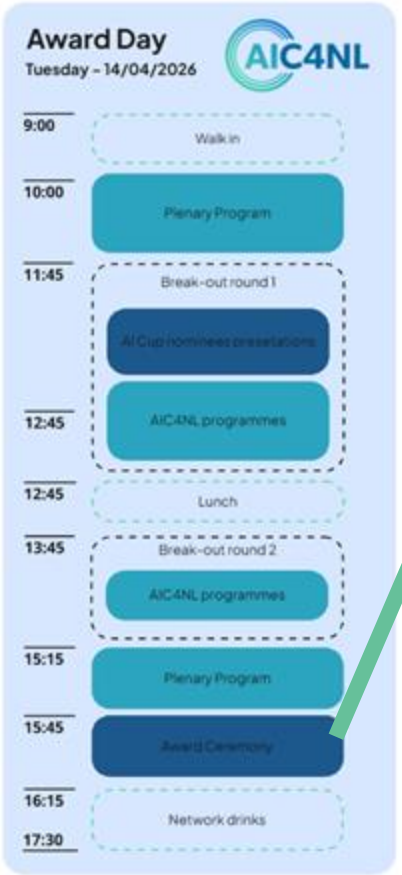


Interact with AIC4NL's **400+ AI-company** network



Present in front of a professional jury





Win from the **€7,000** prize pool on front of **CEOs**, **industry leaders** & policy-makers

Marvin van Haelen

Communication & Events @ AIC4NL

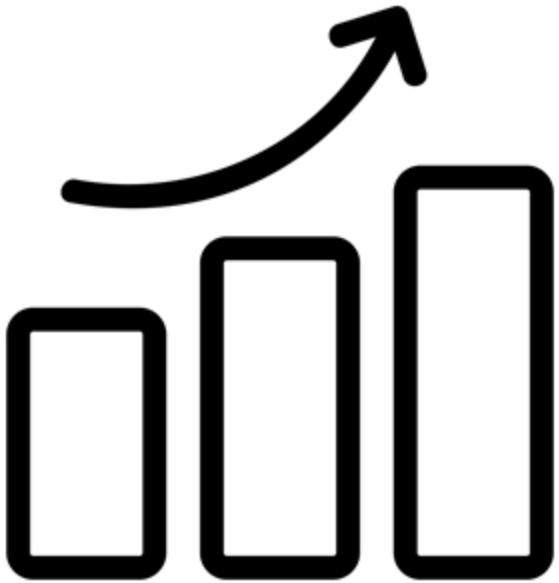
AI Cups' Journey

AI Cup 2027+

A European standard

A national benchmark

- 450+ students
- 7+ NL universities
- Gaining international traction



Operating at the frontier of applied AI

Now Recruiting!

Last Monday

Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken en Koninkrijksrelaties

Ministerie van Volkshuisvesting en Ruimtelijke Ordening

International Competitions

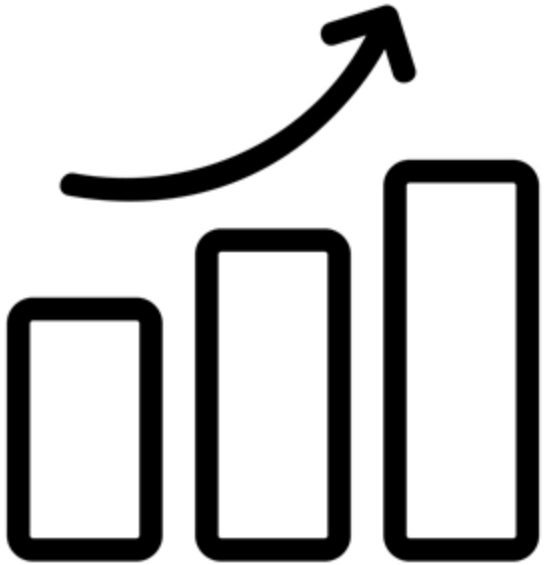
Finished top 6% against:

- Ivy-league PhDs
- Industry professionals

Lacuna Malaria Detection

- 100+ professional teams
- Won 1st place
- Improved early detection and response in malaria-endemic regions

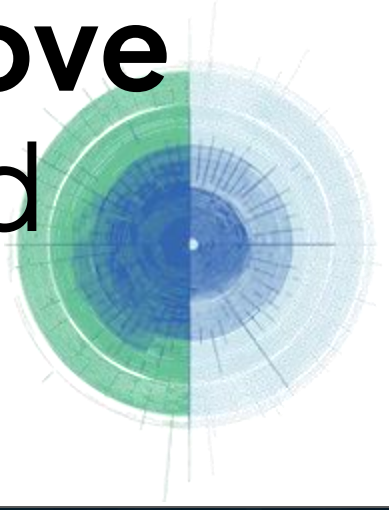
AI Cup



Building the competitive infrastructure to fuel frontier applied-AI development

AI Cup
2026
POWERED BY
AIC4NL
Epoch

Building **AI technology** that can **identify bird species** using **radar data** to **improve bird conservation** around **wind farms**



The Challenge

Challenge Provider

Joep Breuer

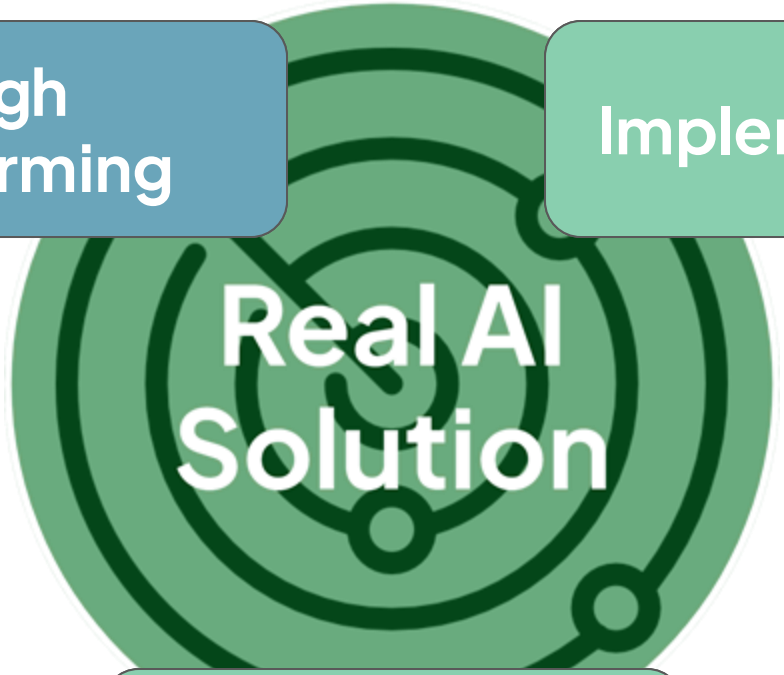
TNO innovation for life

Challenge Provider

Joep Breuer

TNO innovation for life

Competition Briefing



Performance Track

Implementation Track

Performance Track

60%
of your overall score

Goal: Prove that state of the art AI solutions are able to extract enough information from the radar tracks to reliably distinguish bird between their bird groups.

Method: Compete for the best score on the pre-defined metric.

Platform: Kaggle!

Implementation Track

40%
of your overall score

Goal: Convince that a responsible AI system for bird species classification is feasible and can effectively support mitigation and conservation strategies.

Method: Follow the guidelines and produce a implementation proposal of a maximum 2000 words that best achieves the goal.

Platform: Implementation page

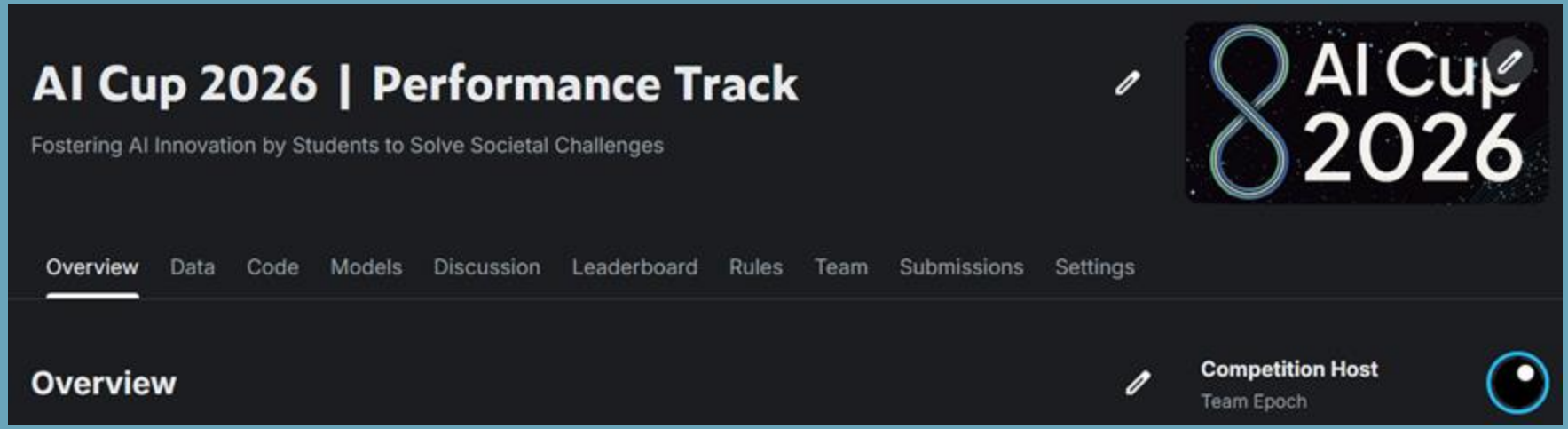
Performance Track

Prove that state of the art AI solutions are able to extract enough information from the radar tracks to reliably distinguish it between bird groups.

```
# --- 3. Print Summary ---
print(f"Total rows with a non-unique track_id: {total_dupli
print(f"Total unique track_ids that have duplicates: {uniqu
print(f"Number of track_ids with actual data conflicts: {co
print("-" * 40)

# --- 4. Print Detailed Conflicts ---
if conflicts.height > 0:
    # Join back to get the actual data for the conflicting
    conflict_details = (
        df_final_clean
        .join(conflicts.select("track_id"), on="track_id",
        .select(["track_id"] + check_cols)
        .sort("track_id")
    )

    print("--- Detailed Conflicting Rows ---")

    current_track = None
    for row in conflict_details.iter_rows(named=True):
        # Print Header for new Track ID
        if row['track_id'] != current_track:
            print(f"\nTrack ID: {row['track_id']}")
            current_track = row['track_id']

        # Print the data rows with all columns
        # Using a multi-line f-string for readability
        print(f"  > Species: {row['bird_species']} | Group:
        print(f"    Azimuth: {row['binoculars_azimuth']} |
        print("    " + "-"*10) # Small separator between ro
```

Performance track – Platform

The entire performance track is managed in Kaggle



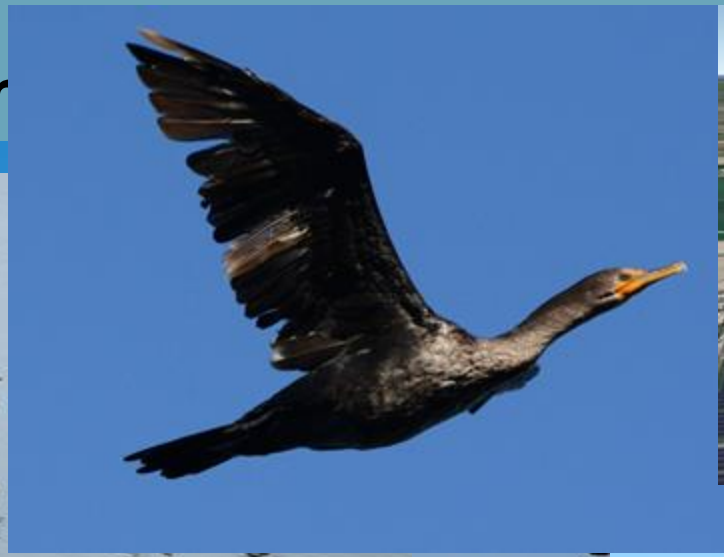
Performance track – The data

You will be given about 2600 training data points containing multiple features

- Track ID
- Time stamp
- Geolocation
- Radar trajectory

- Object type (Small, Large, Flock) + radar deflection
- And more…

Perform



Clutter

Waders

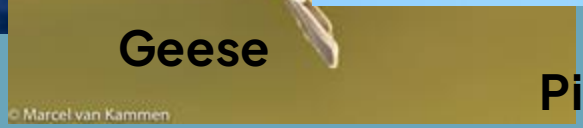
Cormorants

Birds of pray

Ducks

Geese

Pigeons



Gulls

Songbirds

Performance track – Evaluation

The evaluation metric is Mean Average Precision

For more info check out the workshop!!

average_precision_score

`sklearn.metrics.average_precision_score(y_true, y_score, *, average='macro', pos_label=1, sample_weight=None)` [source]

Compute average precision (AP) from prediction scores.

AP summarizes a precision-recall curve as the weighted mean of precisions achieved at each threshold, with the increase in recall from the previous threshold used as the weight:

$$\text{AP} = \sum_n (R_n - R_{n-1}) P_n$$

where P_n and R_n are the precision and recall at the nth threshold [1]. This implementation is not interpolated and is different from computing the area under the precision-recall curve with the trapezoidal rule, which uses linear interpolation and can be too optimistic.

Performance track – Evaluation

Mean Average Precision basically means you should submit the probability for each of the bird groups + clutter. Not the true target 1 and 0

```
track_id,Clutter,Cormorants,Pigeons,Ducks,Geese,Gulls,Birds of Prey, Waders, Songbirds
526781579,0.05,0.62,0.04,0.08,0.06,0.07,0.03,0.03,0.02
526782173,0.03,0.05,0.71,0.04,0.03,0.06,0.02,0.03,0.03
526782843,0.04,0.03,0.05,0.58,0.17,0.05,0.02,0.04,0.02
526786562,0.06,0.04,0.03,0.09,0.61,0.08,0.03,0.04,0.02
526787997,0.07,0.05,0.04,0.06,0.05,0.63,0.04,0.04,0.02
526788673,0.04,0.02,0.03,0.05,0.04,0.06,0.68,0.04,0.04
526788796,0.05,0.03,0.04,0.04,0.03,0.05,0.07,0.64,0.05
526788552,0.03,0.04,0.06,0.05,0.04,0.05,0.03,0.04,0.66
```

Performance track – Leaderboard

More info at the workshop

Once you submit your solution .CSV you will be placed in a public leaderboard that is a close indication of your performance in the private leaderboard.

Prize Contenders

#	Team	Members	Score	Entries	Last	Join
1	Rein mV		0.54	29	5h	
2	Maxim Cardenas		0.45	29	5h	
3	Aryaman Kusurkar		0.39	1	5h	
4	Pieter de la Court		0.34	1	7h	
	Intro workshop		0.26	1	11h	

Implementation Track

Convince that a responsible AI system for bird species classification is feasible and supports mitigation and conservation strategies.

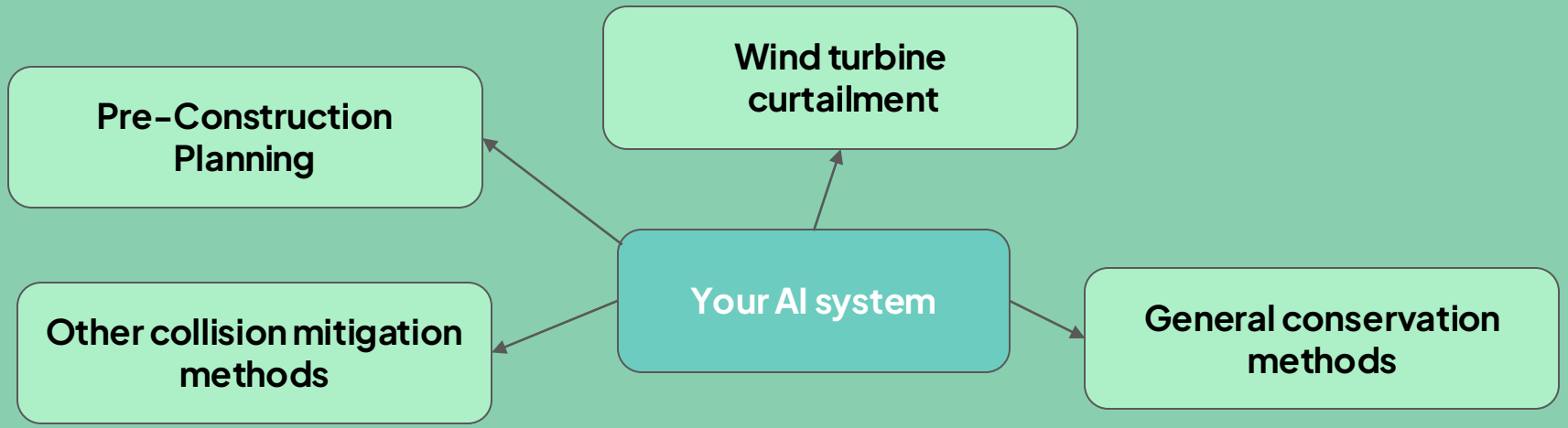
Implementation track – Platform

The implementation track is managed in our own website via the implementation track page

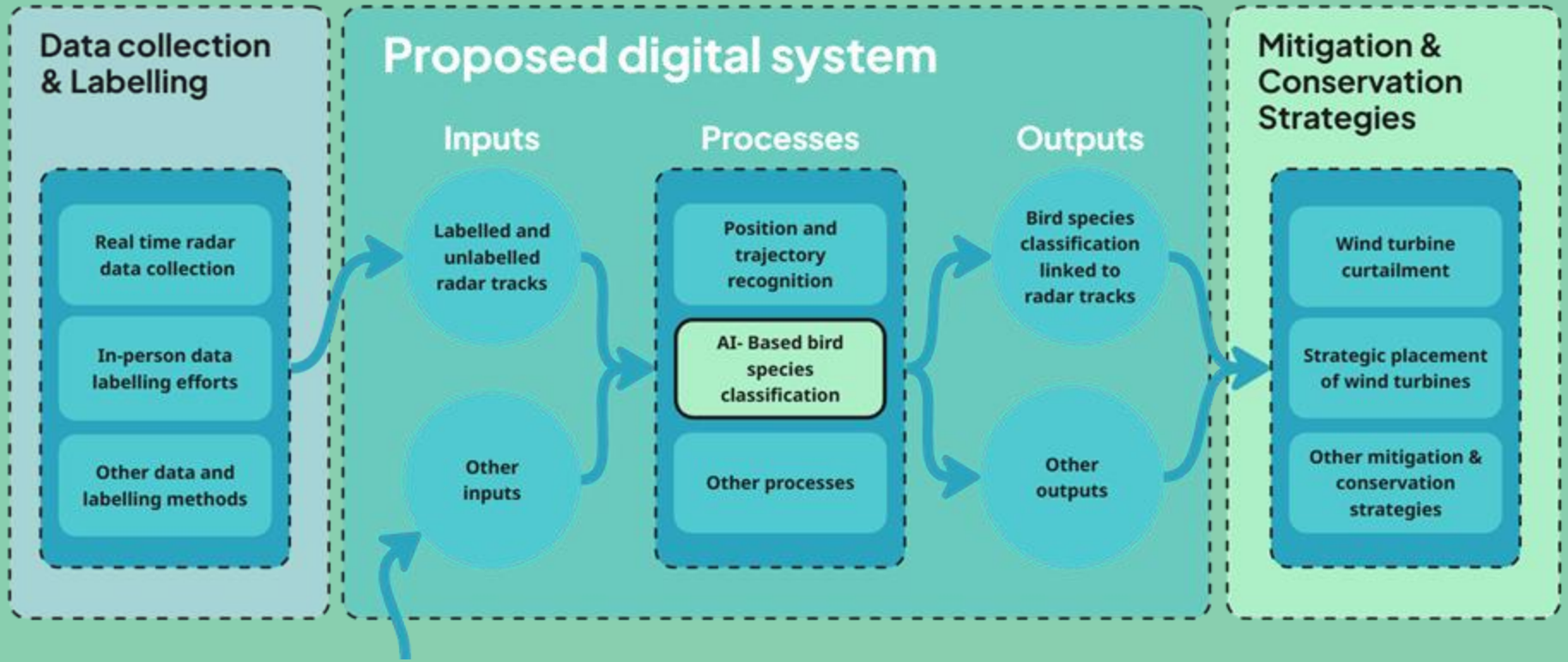
Submission will open next Friday via the implementation track page !

Implementation track – Problem statement

“Propose an AI-based bird species classification system that supports bird conservation methods within wind farm environments via the use of radar data.”



Implementation track – The system



Implementation track – Your work

2000 (max) words implementation proposal

To cover

- **Digital System Description**
- **Data collection & labelling methods**
- **Responsible usage/design**
- **Mitigation & conservation methods**

Qualities we are looking for

- **Feasible**
- **Effective**
- **Creative**
- **Simple**

Implementation track – Grading

- You will be evaluated on the points covered in the previous slide.
- Rubric used will be as objective and fair as possible, however not revealed.

Grading is collaborative effort between

Overall score

$$= 0.6 \times \left(\frac{N_{perf} - r_{Perf}}{N_{perf} - 1} \right) + 0.4 \times \left(\frac{N_{Impl} - r_{Impl}}{N_{Impl} - 1} \right)$$

It is rank-normalized !

- First place = 1.00
- Last place = 0.00

N_{perf} = Number of valid participants at the performance track
r_{perf} = Your final rank at the performance track
N_{impl} = Number of valid participants at the implementation track
r_{impl} = Your final rank at the implementation track

Important to note: You can still get to the finals without competing in both modalities.

Selection

4/5 weeks

≈ 100 teams

Selection

Report + Kaggle

Nomination

March 21

1st Best overall
2nd Best overall
3rd Best overall
Best Implementation
Best performance

2/3 weeks

AIC4NL

Re-Evaluation of implementation

(Old) Report +
(Old) Kaggle + Pitch

Congress

April 14

1st Congress score
2nd Congress score
3rd Congress score
4th Congress score
5th Congress score

Prizes

Spotlight at AIC4NL Congress

- 🥇 1st Best overall = €3,000 🏆
- 🥈 2nd Best overall = €2,000
- 🥉 3rd Best overall = €1,000
- 4th Best overall = €500
- 5th Best overall = €500

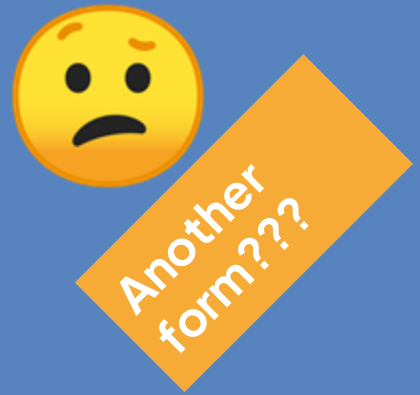
Prizes – Eligibility

To receive a prize must:

- Your entire team must consist of Bachelor, Master, Phd students or recent graduates
- Your entire team must fill the validation form individually !
- At least one person from the team must be present at the nomination day (21/03) !

Participants Validation

Fill the form on time (14/03) !



Participants Validation Form

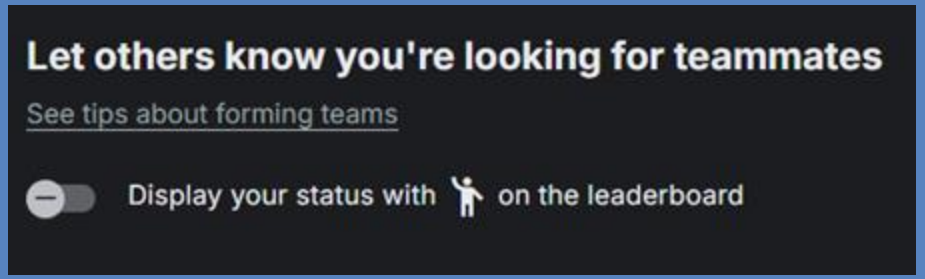
The validation of participants is necessary to make sure that this competition is a fair playground for all students involved. Participants that are not students/recent graduates may compete but they are not eligible for prizes.

All the members of your team must fill this form before the validation deadline otherwise you solution will not be considered and your team will be hidden in the Kaggle public leaderboard. Every week will update the "Challenge Center" with the verified teams, use it to check if your team validation was processed correctly.

If you have questions, or you believe something went wrong, feel free to contact us at aicup@teamepoch.net

1. Ensure participants are students
2. Safe way to match your implementation track submission with your performance in Kaggle

Team formation



- **Max of 5 people per team**
- **All the teams should be formed and managed in kaggle**
  - Looking for a teammate? 12:30 team matching exercise!
  - Still looking for a team? Indicate in Kaggle that you are looking for a team and make a post in kaggle discussion
- **Once you join a team in Kaggle, you cannot switch teams anymore**

This was all you need to know

All this information and more can be found via the challenge center.

Questions?

AI Cup
2026
POWERED BY
AIC4NL
Epoch
Thank
you

Now Recruiting!

AI Cup 2026

Lunch

Instagram

Website

LinkedIn

POWERED BY

AIC4NL | Epoch

Open Wi-fi:
Yes!DelftGuest

TU Delft
ROBO HOUSE
mondai