

Rules for open selection of scientific papers for the AI Journey Science track

1. General:

1.1. These rules govern the procedure for organizing and conducting a selection of scientific papers for the AI Journey Science track (hereinafter, the Rules).

1.2. The selection is organized by Sberbank (registered address: 117997, Moscow, 19 Vavilova Street. Details: INN 7707083893, KPP 773601001, OGRN 1027700132195, OKPO 00032537) (hereinafter, the Organizer).

1.3. The Organizer's Partner is V.P. Ivannikov System Programming Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences (registered address: 109004, Moscow, 25 Alexandra Solzhenitsyna Street. OKPO 34581057, OGRN 1037700067327, INN/KPP 7709006125/770901001) (hereinafter, the Partner).

1.4. Information support for the selection is provided on the <https://ai-journey.ru/> website (hereinafter referred to as the Website).

1.5. The selection is held in the territory of the Russian Federation using the Website in the manner prescribed by the Rules.

1.6. The Organizer provides information about the selection as follows: by posting advertising and information materials about it on the Website, or by any other means at the Organizer's discretion, including online without direct communications.

The Organizer reserves the right to unilaterally amend the Rules no later than 14 (fourteen) business days before the end of the submission period of paper acceptance applications. In case of any amendments being made to the Rules, the Organizer will post the amendments on the Website. In case of any disagreement with the amendments to the Rules, persons participating in the selection (hereinafter, the Participants) must refuse to participate in the selection by sending an email stating their refusal to participate at AIJ_Science@sberbank.ru. If they fail to send the notification indicated in this paragraph, the amendments to the Rules shall be deemed accepted by the Participants. The Participants undertake to keep themselves informed about the publication of a new version of the Rules.

1.7. The purpose of the selection is to create a peer-reviewed collection of scientific papers that will be published to support research in the areas of data analysis, artificial intelligence and machine learning, as well as exchange of opinions and practical experiences among young scientists (hereinafter, the Collection).

1.8. As part of the selection, the Organizer may engage various third parties (regardless of their legal form) to provide support to the Organizer (including in the form of charitable or any other activities), provide technical or other resources required for the selection and publication of the Collection, participate in the assessment of papers to determine the winner, i.e. a person or a group of persons, who are participants in the selection and the authors of the paper recognized as the best one in accordance with the Rules (hereinafter, the Winner), provide informational support, etc.

2. Timing:

2.1. The overall period of time for preparing materials, conducting the selection and publishing the Collection is from the release date of these Rules through 31.12.2023 inclusive and will include the following periods, subject to the provisions of the Rules:

2.1.1. The period for materials preparation by the Participants is from the release date of these Rules and until the end of the period for submitting papers acceptance applications.

2.1.2. The period for submitting papers acceptance applications is from 30.03.2023 to 31.08.2023 inclusive.

2.1.3. The period for peer review and preliminary selection of received scientific papers is until 11:59 p.m. (Moscow time) on 30.09.2023.

2.1.4. The period for the final selection and finalizing the list of papers to be included in the Collection, and for notifying the Participants is until 11:59 p.m. (Moscow time) on 31.10.2023.

2.1.5. The period for selecting and notifying the Winner is until 11:59 p.m. (Moscow time) on 30.11.2023.

2.1.6. The period for publishing the Collection containing scientific papers selected in accordance with the Rules is until 11:59 p.m. (Moscow time) on 31.12.2023.

2.1.7. The period for paying a monetary remuneration to the selection Winner is until 11:59 p.m. (Moscow time) on 29.02.2024.

2.2. The stages and related time periods may be changed by the Organizer by amending the Rules. Information about any changes in the selection stages and related time periods is posted on the Website.

3. General conditions for participation in the selection:

3.1. To participate in the selection, each applicant should go to the Website, <https://ai-journey.ru/>, fill in the registration form, read and agree to the Rules (by ticking the appropriate check box) and upload the manuscript of their paper accompanied by any additional materials (hereinafter, the Paper Acceptance Application).

3.2. A legally capable Russian or foreign individual of at least eighteen years of age, who is the author of a paper participating in the selection and who has performed the act described in paragraph 3.1 of the Rules, will be recognized as a Participant.

3.3. If a paper submitted for participation in the selection was written by several authors, all such authors are recognized as Participants, and the Participant who submitted the Paper Acceptance Application is deemed acting on behalf of all the other authors with their consent. The Participant who submitted the Paper Acceptance Application on behalf of other Participants (co-authors) guarantees to the Organizer that they have obtained the consent of such other Participants (co-authors) to participate in the selection by submitting the paper in accordance with the Rules.

3.4. Affiliates of the Organizer or any other persons directly or indirectly related to organization of the selection or the publication of the Collection, including employees of the Organizer or its affiliates, are allowed to participate in the selection, without the goal or possibility of obtaining a prize remuneration.

3.5. If there are persons specified in Cl. 3.4 of the Rules among the Participants, co-authors whose article was recognized as the best article of the Collection, then those Participants that are not specified in Cl. 3.4 of the Rules may only be paid a monetary remuneration subject to the following conditions:

- (1) Participants, co-authors of an article specified in Cl. 3.4 of the Rules have not taken part in organizing and selecting scientific articles for AI Journey Science track;
- (2) The monetary remuneration has been strictly distributed between the Participants not specified in Cl. 3.4 of the Rules which is evidenced by a respective written agreement.

If any of the conditions mentioned above is not met, the Participants' victory shall be deemed null and void, and a new article from the Collection will be selected as the best according to the Rules.

4. Requirements for participants and scientific papers:

4.1. Original unpublished articles in the Russian language¹ are acceptable for publication.

¹ Papers in English may also be accepted from international participants, with a subsequent translation into Russian for publication in the Russian version of the Collection (the translation is done by the Partner of the Organizer).

4.2. All authors of a submitted paper must be listed in the text of the paper. All communications with the Participants (author(s)) will be carried out using the electronic mailbox specified at the time of registration.

4.3. Types of scientific papers and materials that are acceptable for consideration are as follows:

- * **A scientific article.** A scientific publication containing a more detailed description of conducted research, its relevance and findings.

- * **An analytical article containing a review of SOTA² trends.** An analytical review of global trends and developments in the area of artificial intelligence and machine learning.

4.4. Papers containing or consisting of content delivered at any other conferences are acceptable for consideration provided they have not been previously published in any other English-language journals/collections.

4.5. The text of a paper must meet the following conditions:

- * The content of the material covers the topic of artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML).

- * The content of the material corresponds to the stated topic (the paper title).

- * The paper is relevant.

- * The paper has scientific, knowledge and/or practical importance.

4.6. No papers containing the following violations will be considered:

- * Data fabrication or falsification, i.e. data forgery or alteration.

- * Plagiarism or self-plagiarism³, i.e. copying, without proper citation, of even a single sentence from another or even the author's own previously published manuscript, including any diagrams or tables.

4.7. Submitted materials may not contain:

- * Any information constituting commercial secrets or any other secrets protected by law.

- * Any objects that constitute intellectual property of any third parties in violation of the existing legislation.

- * Any information and/or materials that violate the rights and interests of any individuals or legal entities, the requirements of the legislation of the Russian Federation, or public morals.

4.8. General recommendations for execution of papers:

- * Total size of the materials may not exceed 20 MB.

- * The electronic version must include the text of the paper in .tex and .pdf formats (.doc if the paper does not contain a complex mathematical typeset).

- * The paper should contain no more than 25,000 (twenty-five thousand) characters (including text, tables and references).

- * Diagrams have to be submitted in separate files in .jpeg or .tif format.

- * The number of diagrams may not exceed eight (any parts designated as 'a', 'b', etc. are considered to be different diagrams; the diagrams must be executed clearly and be in a format that ensures clarity of all details).

- * All authors must be listed on the submitted materials.

- * The text of the paper must contain the title of the paper, the full name of the author(s) of the paper, their affiliation, an annotation, keywords, the text of the paper, a list of references, any diagrams (in separate .jpeg or .tif files), as well as the following in English: the title of the paper, the full name of the author(s) of the paper, their affiliation, an annotation, and keywords.

- * Repetition of any data in the text, tables or graphs is not permitted.

² State-of-the-art.

³ Except for citations made in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation and use of materials published under an open source license, any material borrowed by the author from any works of others must be accompanied by a permission from the copyright owner attached to the paper.

* The text of the paper should be carefully edited and signed by all authors. Any abbreviations should be deciphered; please use generally accepted abbreviations and refrain from introducing new ones unless absolutely necessary.

* Any acknowledgements should be listed separately from funding sources.

* Paper funding. Information about grants and any other financial support for the research may be included.

* Any conflict of interest should be disclosed; this includes any relationship or area of interest that could directly or indirectly impact the paper or make it biased.

* The authors may attach their own version of the English translation of their paper or provide the necessary guidance for translators.

* Unwieldy symbols in formulas should be avoided. Numbered formulas should begin on a new line, with the formula number typeset flush right.

* Citations should be given in square brackets, for example [1]. All references should be listed in the citation order. Self-citation (i.e. references to any other papers by the manuscript authors) should be limited to no more than 30% of the total number of references to any sources.

For books: the author's surname and initials, full book title, place of publication, publishing house, year of publication, volume or issue, and total number of pages. References to any books translated into Russian must be accompanied by references to their original editions complete with publication data.

For periodicals: the author's surname and initials, article title, magazine title, year of publication, volume, number, and first and last page of the article. It is recommended to indicate the DOI index of any cited articles. No references to unpublished works are allowed.

* All citations used in the paper must be in the original language and accompanied by an appropriate reference.

4.8.1. Requirements for execution of sections:

The Annotation section. The annotation is a brief summary of a scientific paper and should be self-explanatory without having to refer to the full publication.

Recommendations for annotation content:

- o introductory remarks on the topic of the research;
- o purpose of the scientific research;
- o description of the scientific and practical importance of the paper;
- o description of the research methodology;
- o key findings and conclusions;
- o value and practical relevance of the research.

The Key Words section. Key words in a scientific paper or study (limited to no more than ten words or phrases) should:

- o reflect its essential content;
- o identify the field of research or study;
- o be found in the main body text.

4.9. By uploading the manuscript and any accompanying materials using the registration form on the Website and ticking the checkbox in the relevant section, the applicants consent to participating in the selection.

4.10. The Organizer may return a paper to a Participant for revision with comments and (or) recommendations of the Organizer during the period specified in paragraph 2.1.2 of the Rules. A return of a paper to a Participant for revision does not mean that it has been chosen as a paper that passed the selection in accordance with the Rules, including if it is revised by the Participant. Once the revised text has been received, the paper will be reviewed once again. The Participant must provide the revised text of the paper as soon as possible together with its original version and with a response to any comments no later than the deadline specified in paragraph 2.1.2 of the Rules.

4.11. Any additional materials submitted upon the Organizer's request or at the Participant's initiative should:

* be sent from an email address indicated in the registration form with correspondence history (if any) saved;

* the cover letter should include the full name of the author, the title of the paper, and the reason why the additional materials are being sent.

4.12. Materials received from the Participants will undergo a preliminary review for compliance with the selection criteria established herein, including whether the paper falls within the specialty field of the collection and meets the execution requirements.

4.13. Materials that have passed the preliminary review will be forwarded to the Partner for preliminary selection and peer review. The Partner may conduct editorial preparation of individual papers.

4.14. The Partner will evaluate scientific papers based on, but not limited to, the following criteria:

* The paper's content covers the topic of artificial intelligence and machine learning.

* The original findings have not been published anywhere before.

* The findings are valid.

* The presentation and execution requirements have been met.

* The paper's content corresponds to the declared topic (title of the paper).

* The paper is relevant and novel.

* The paper has scientific, knowledge and/or practical importance.

* The conclusions or recommendations are of practical value.

4.15. Papers undergo the anonymous external peer review procedure by leading Russian and international experts. The peer review is arranged by the Partner.

4.16. Based on the peer review results, the best scientific papers will be selected and recommended for inclusion in the scientific Collection on a competitive basis.

4.17. The final decision on the publication of papers in the Collection and the selection of the best paper among them will be made by a commission (of the Organizer's representatives together with the Partner and, if needed, by engaging experts specializing in the field). The decision is made (including but not limited to) with due regard for the relevance and novelty of a paper, its practical or academic value.

4.18. The Partner will conclude a license agreement with the Participants whose papers are selected for publication in the Collection, including the electronic version of the Collection, which can be posted on Internet platforms. If a Participant refuses to enter into the license agreement, they are deemed to have refused from the publication of their paper in the Collection and from continuing to participate in the selection. A license agreement concerning a paper written by a group of Participants (co-authors) is concluded in accordance with the rules established by Russian law and the agreement among the Participants (if any). If concluding a license agreement in the prescribed manner, including in connection with a refusal by one or several Participants (co-authors) from entering into such agreement, the paper is withdrawn from publication, and the Participants are deemed to have refused from continuing to participate in the selection.

4.19. A Participant (or a group of Participants) whose paper has been named the best among those included in the Collection will be declared the Winner(s).

4.20. Papers whose authors are affiliated with the Organizer or are otherwise directly or indirectly involved in the publication of the Collection, including employees of the Organizer or its affiliates, may not be declared the Winner.

4.21. The Selection Prize Fund is established at the expense of the Organizer.

4.22. The best paper will be determined and the Winner will be notified no later than 30.11.2023. The Organizer will announce the exact date on the Website at a later date.

4.23. The Winner will receive remuneration⁴ in the amount of RUB 1,000,000 (one million rubles) (the indicated amount is net of any personal income tax).

4.24. If the Winner is a group of Participants – authors of the best paper, the documents and information are provided with regard to each Participant (author) in accordance with paragraph 4.25 of the Rules; additionally, the Organizer shall be provided with a scanned copy of an agreement signed by all the Participants (authors) of the paper containing information about the understanding they have reached about the distribution of the remuneration among the Participants (authors), based on which the Organizer will pay the monetary prize.

4.25. The Winner (an author or a group of authors) must send the following information/documents to the Organizer's electronic mail AIJ_Science@sberbank.ru within three (3) business days upon receiving the request:

- a copy of a certificate of taxpayer registration at the place of residence (INN) (if any),
- bank details needed to pay the remuneration,
- a scanned copy of an agreement on the distribution of the remuneration signed by all the authors (for papers with two or more authors).

If the Selection Winner fails to provide these documents/information in the specified timeframe, the Selection Winner loses the right to receive the remuneration.

4.26. The Organizer pays the remuneration to the Winner by a wireless transfer of funds to the bank details provided by the Winner by the deadline indicated in clause 2 of the Rules, provided the requirements set out in paragraphs 4.24-4.25 hereof have been fulfilled by that time.

5. Obligations of the Participants:

5.1. The Participants undertake to:

5.1.1. Use the Website in accordance with its intended purpose and solely for the purpose of participation in the Selection.

5.1.2. Refrain from using the results of intellectual activity the rights to which belong to third parties in violation of copyright or any other IP rights in preparation of a scientific paper.

5.1.3. Refrain from using any software that is disruptive to the operation of the Website or any other automated systems and that makes it possible to alter selection results.

If the Organizer detects any attempts to disrupt the Website or other information systems, the Participant that made such attempts will be deprived of the right to participate in the selection and to receive remuneration.

5.1.4. Refrain from using any data, materials or information posted on the Website by way of reproduction, processing or otherwise for any purpose without a prior written permission of the Organizer.

5.1.5. Refrain from sending any manuscripts for participation in the selection on behalf of any person whom they are not or acting on behalf of any other person whose interests they are not authorized to represent. The Participants must provide only accurate information and data when submitting a Paper Acceptance Application.

5.1.6. Refrain from any actions that may result in any damage to the Organizer and from any actions involving a risk to life or health.

5.1.7. Refrain from using for personal or commercial purposes, publishing outside of the selection or transferring to any third parties any data or information received from the Organizer without obtaining a prior consent from the Selection Organizer.

⁴ Under the Russian tax legislation, the Organizer acts as a tax agent for calculation, withholding and transfer to the budget of personal income tax. The paragraph specifies the amount of the Remuneration to be paid to the Winner after withholding personal income tax at the rate established in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation.

5.1.8. If a Participant violates their obligations under paragraphs 5.1.1 – 5.1.7 of the Rules, the Participant will be held liable in accordance with the existing legislation of the Russian Federation and these Rules.

6. Obligations of the Organizer:

6.1. The Organizer undertakes to:

6.1.1. Conduct the Selection in the manner set forth in the Rules.

6.1.2. Arrange for the release of the Collection of papers together with the Partner.

6.1.3. Award the Selection Winner within the period of time and in the manner set forth in the Rules.

7. Limitation of liability:

7.1. The Participants use the Website "as is". The Organizer does not assume any liability, including any liability for conformance of this Website to the goals and expectations of any Participants.

7.2. The Organizer bears no liability to the Participants or any third parties for any violation of these Rules by any Participants and/or any third parties.

7.3. The Participants accept and agree that the Organizer bears no liability for any losses incurred by any Participant as a result of using the Website or any information posted on this Website.

7.4. Any Participant who believes that their rights or interests have been violated by any action by the Organizer may email a complaint at: AIJ_Science@sberbank.ru, an email address that is also indicated on the Website.

8. Personal data processing:

8.1. From the time of registration for participation in the selection and expression of acceptance of the terms and conditions of these Rules in accordance with Federal Law dated 27.07.2006 No. 152-FZ On Personal Data, the Organizer will process the following personal data of the Participants (as indicated in the registration form): surname, name, patronymic, phone number, e-mail address, employer, place of study, academic (or honorary) degrees or titles (if any), country and city of residence, the text of a scientific paper with accompanying materials – in order to enable participation in the selection (discharge of obligations arising from the Rules); and for the selected Winner, the following information will also have to be provided (upon request from the Organizer): information on registration of an individual with the tax authority at their place of residence (if any), information on their identity document, and bank details for the purpose of awarding the Prize; the following actions will be performed with the personal data: collection, recording, systematization, accumulation, storage, refining (updating or changing), retrieval, use, anonymization, deletion, or destruction. The Organizer may transfer the Participants' personal data, to the extent they are processed in order to enable participation in the selection, to the Organizer's Partner for the above purposes, as well as for the purpose of publishing papers submitted by the selection participants in the Collection.

8.2. Personal data will be processed during the entire period that is necessary for the selection and for discharge of all selection-related obligations of the Organizer. The Organizer guarantees that personal data processing will be limited to the purposes set forth in these Rules and that no personal data processing that is incompatible with the purposes of personal data collection will take place.

8.3. The Partner will publish the selected articles on its own. The Partner makes sure that there is a legal basis for processing of personal data of the Selection Participants in order to publish their papers and to include such papers in the Collection, and it processes these data in accordance with the Partner's local acts and policies, acting as an independent personal data operator within the meaning of Federal Law dated 27.07.2006 No. 152-FZ On Personal Data.

The Organizer does not process the Participants' personal data for the above purposes and disclaims any responsibility for it.

8.4. Information about the Selection Winner will be published subject to their consent to processing of personal data permitted by the personal data subject for distribution in an approved form. The composition of any processed and published personal data is determined by this consent. A refusal of the Selection Winner to give said consent or an imposition of any restrictions on the distribution of personal data will make the publication of information on the Selection Winner impossible.

8.5. A Participant may refuse to participate in the selection by emailing a notice to that effect at AIJ_Science@sberbank.ru. A refusal by any Participant to participate in the selection will automatically entail the removal of the Participant from the selection process and make it impossible for them to receive the award in case of winning.

8.6. The Organizer may initiate additional checks of authenticity of any incoming notices of refusal of participation, in particular to establish whether the person who consented to participation and the person who sent a notice of refusal are the same person. Additional information may be requested to conduct such a check.

8.7. The Selection Organizer guarantees that personal data are processed and confidentiality and protection of processed personal data are ensured in accordance with the requirements of Federal Law dated 27.07.2006 No. 152-FZ On Personal Data. In processing personal data, the Selection Organizer undertakes to take the necessary legal, organizational and technical measures to protect the personal data from unauthorized or accidental access, destruction, alteration, blocking, copying, provision, dissemination, or any other unlawful actions. The Organizer processes personal data in accordance with its Personal Data Processing Policy, as well as the data protection and information security standards adopted at the Bank. For more information on personal data processing by the Organizer, visit: https://sberbank.ru/ru/pol_pd. The Website processes personal data in accordance with the policies posted on this Website. The Partner processes personal data in accordance with its own policies and other documents.

8.8. The Participants agree that the Organizer may notify them by e-mail of the selection results and by e-mail and by posting information on the Website, of any changes in the Rules or changes in the operation of the Website.

9. Final provisions:

9.1. The publication of information about the Winner of the selection is carried out on the basis of his consent to the processing of personal data authorized by the subject of personal data for distribution in an approved form. The composition of the processed and published personal data is determined by this consent. The refusal of the Winner of the selection to give this consent, as well as the establishment of restrictions on the dissemination of personal data, entails the impossibility of publishing information about the Winner of the selection.

9.2. By submitting a Paper Acceptance Application as set forth in Section 3 of the Rules, a Participant expresses their unconditional acceptance of all selection terms and conditions and of these Rules.

9.3. The Organizer may unilaterally modify the terms and conditions of the Rules. The Organizer will post any such modifications on the Website. In addition, the Organizer may initiate the sending of notifications of modifications in the terms and conditions of the Rules to every Participant. Any modifications made by the Organizer to the Rules will come into force from the time they are posted on the Website.

9.4. The provisions of the Rules are governed by the existing legislation of the Russian Federation. Any matters that are not governed by the Rules will be resolved in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation.

9.5. If for any reason one or more provisions of the Rules are found to be invalid or unenforceable, this will not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provisions of the Rules.

9.6. Nothing in the Rules can be understood as establishing agency relations, partnership relations, joint activity relations, personal employment relations, or any other relations not expressly set forth in the Rules between the Participant and the Organizer. Any disputes or disagreements arising in connection with the organization or conduct of the selection shall be resolved by negotiations and by presenting an official (pre-trial) claim and shall be settled in court in the Organizer's jurisdiction.