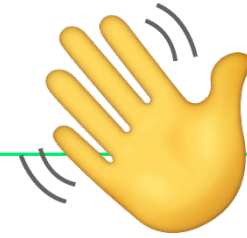


DIZH



Welcome!

DIZH – Innovation Program

Info-Session 3rd Founder-Call

**September 29th 2026, 4-5 pm
PHZH, Lagerstrasse 2, 8090 Zürich
Room: LAB-F055**

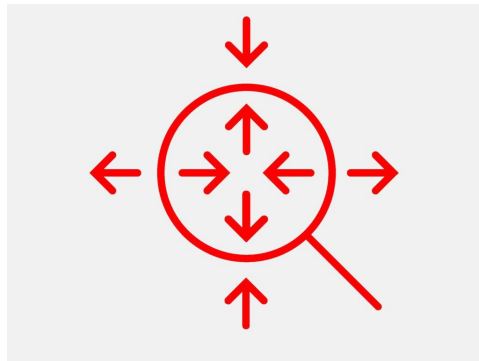
Apéro from 5pm onwards

The DIZH Innovation program

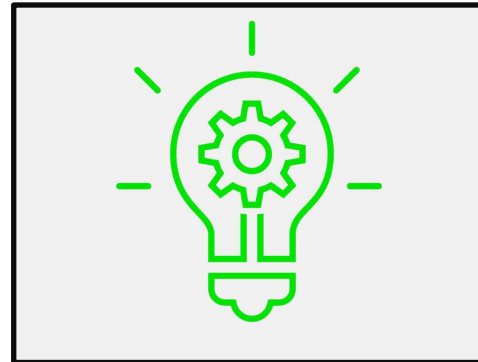
DIZH = Digitalization Initiative of the Zurich cantonal higher education institutions, together with the Hochschulamt



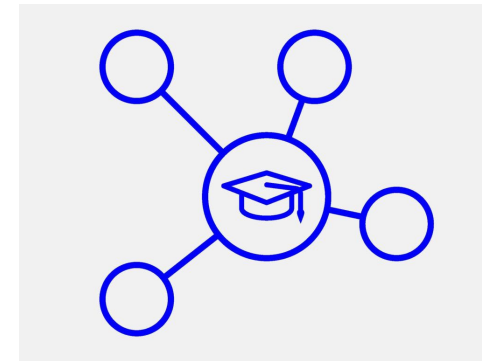
Research Cluster



Innovation Program



Education Program



Innovation Program: > 140 innovation projects funded across five different call types



3rd Founder Call

- ✓ **Scope:** Early-phase support for proof-of-concept-ideas with high innovation and market impact potential, with up to 75k CHF for a period of up to 12M
- ✓ Are you **eligible to apply**?
 - Are you and all co-applicants employed by one of the DIZH-institutions?
 - Is your proof-of-concept-idea in a state prior to founding?
 - Will you have all necessary resources confirmed and secured at the time of application?
- ✓ **Your proposal:** must not exceed 3 pages and must feature a link to a max. 3-minute pitch video
- ✓ **Important dates:**
 - Application Deadline **13th of January 2027 at 12pm** (noon)
 - Notification about admission to the 2nd round: beginning of May 2027
- ✓ **Intellectual Property:** IP-rights must be regulated in a case-specific agreement, prior to project start, in accordance with DIZH-rules and institution-specific transfer processes



What you need to submit: Selectus checklist

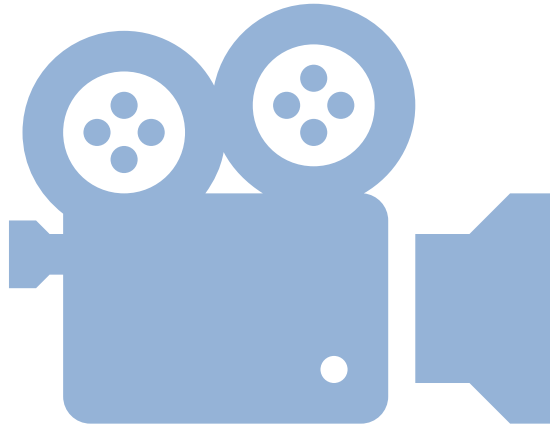
Important: We can only consider applications which are handed in by the deadline via the online portal «Selectus»

There is no possibility to save your application status in Selectus, so please make sure to have the following documents, all **prepared in PDF format as indicated below,** before starting to hand in your application:

- ✓ Proposal (max. 3 pages, including a link to the pitch video)
- ✓ CVs of all (Co-)applicants (as one PDF file)
- ✓ 3-minute pitch video
- ✓ Letters-of-Intent of Practice partners
- ✓ Budget-Template (worksheet tabs „DIZH Budget Calculation“ & „Personnel costs“ fully converted to one PDF)
- ✓ Confirmation of Matching Funds from all contributing partners (combined as one PDF)



What you need to submit: guide to the 3-minute pitch video



- ✓ make sure that the video does not contain any patent-relevant content, if applicable
- ✓ make sure that the video is made available on a data-secure platform/database (not YouTube etc.)
- ✓ make sure that the access to the video works for a sufficient time period



Project Financing

- Matching: DIZH funding and own contributions are provided on a 50/50 basis: the amount of DIZH funding requested must be matched by own contributions in the same amount.
- Valid contributions to matching:
 - Release of reserves
 - Reallocation of existing institutional revenues
 - Secured third-party funding
- Synergetic own contributions: a specific form of own contribution within the matching. They are contributions that provide a clearly distinguishable and substantively significant contribution to the proposed project and are not part of the planned project activities, but are based on pre-existing work or contributions from other contexts. **Preliminary work may date back no more than 12 months prior to the application date (*make sure to indicate the exact period in the personnel cost sheet of the budget*).**
- Reference in the budget: Synergetic own contributions must be shown in the relevant cost category in the budget and included in the matching. The budget must contain a clear reference to the detailed explanation and classification in the application form.

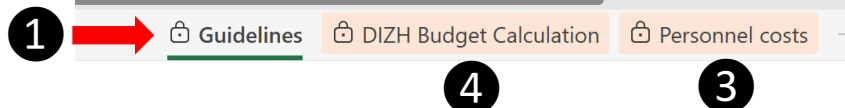
Budget Template

- The Excel tabs “DIZH Budget Calculation” and “Personnel Costs” must be completed; **detailed step-be-step-instructions are provided in the Guidelines.**
- Make sure to review the budget with the respective **Contact Points** of the participating universities before submission.
- The completed “DIZH Budget Calculation” and “Personnel Costs” tabs must be combined into **a single PDF for submission.**

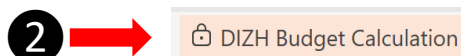
2 INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE BUDGET FILE

For efficient and correct completion, the following points should be observed:

1. Enter project information (tab “DIZH Budget Calculation”)
 2. Enter personnel costs (tab “Personnel Costs”)
 3. Complete additional cost categories in the budget tab
 4. Enter matching funds and complete required information
- After entering the project information, it is recommended to **complete the “Personnel Costs” worksheet**



PROJECT INFORMATION															LEGEND		
PROJECT TITLE															light blue = input fields / regular costs		
APPLICANT (NAME, UNIVERSITY)															light yellow = synergetic costs (own contributions)		
PARTICIPATING UNIVERSITIES															dark blue = totals		
PLANNED START DATE															input field cost type / own contribution		
DURATION IN MONTHS															Unprotect sheet: Review - Unprotect Sheet (no password required)		
CALCULATED END DATE			00.01.2000														
Technical note on use: Input is only permitted in the designated fields (see legend). Calculations are automatic and must not be overwritten.																	
DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL COSTS (IN %)			0%			0%			0%			0%			COMMENT / COST ALLOCATION For each synergetic cost, a clear and traceable reference mandatory. The reference must allow the specific cost item unambiguously. A general reference to the application form is not sufficient. Automatically transferred from the "Personnel Costs" sheet Automatically transferred from the "Personnel Costs" sheet		
			UZH		in %	ZHAW		in %	ZHdK		in %	PHZH		in %			
COST TYPE			TOTAL	in %													
PERSONNEL COSTS																	
Transferred personnel costs (regular)			-	0%	-	0%	-	0%	-	0%	-	0%	-	0%	Automatically transferred from the "Personnel Costs" sheet		
Transferred personnel costs (synergetic)			-	0%	-	0%	-	0%	-	0%	-	0%	-	0%	Automatically transferred from the "Personnel Costs" sheet		
Additional personnel costs																	
TOTAL PERSONNEL COSTS			0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
MATERIAL COSTS														Explanation / project relevance Explanation / project relevance Explanation / project relevance Explanation / project relevance			
---			-	0%	REG	SYN	REG	SYN	REG	SYN	REG	SYN					
---			-	0%													
---			-	0%													





Dos and Dont's

DO:

- ✓ Have the proposal and all necessary documents ready as PDFs
- ✓ Clarify the roles within the proposals and fill in the application form accordingly
- ✓ Convert all pages of the budget file into one merged PDF
- ✓ Allow sufficient time for handing in your application online (**Deadline: 13th of January 2027, 12pm**)

Don't:

- × Apply for the Founder-Call if the proof-of-concept is part of an already founded enterprise
- × Include applicants who are involved with a possible external or practice partner
- × Miss any of the DOs



Review process: steps and communication of outcomes

- Evaluation of **formal criteria** for all applications
- 1st Review stage: Review of all formally correct applications by members of the DIZH Innovation panel, according to the call-specific evaluation criteria
- Beginning of May 2027: communication of the 1st stage outcomes, possible invitation to the 2nd review stage
- 2nd review stage, on the 17th of June 2027: Live pitch-presentations, evaluated by mixed juries, comprising Innovation panel members and external experts
- Communication of funding decisions: July 2027, earliest possible start date of granted projects: as soon as the signed cooperation agreement is available; latest possible start by November 1st 2027
- **Important: The contact persons of the transfer offices of the respective DIZH universities must be contacted after the 1st review stage, at the latest**



Communication and Contacts

	Institution-specific questions	Agreements	All other general DIZH-queries
UZH	Gabriele Prohaska (dizh@dsi.uzh.ch)	Unitecra, Peter Loch (loch@unitecra.ch)	DIZH Program Office Innovation Program: innovation@dizh.uzh.ch Helge Johannssen (johs@zhaw.ch) Lisa Zahner (doee@zhaw.ch)
ZHAW	Navina Gupta (digital@zhaw.ch)	Rechtsdienst (rechtsdienst@zhaw.ch)	
ZHdK	Valérie Jetzer (contactpoint.dizh@zhdk.ch)	Rechtsdienst (info.rechtsdienst@zhdk.ch)	
PHZH	Raquel Delgado Moreira (r.delgadomoreira@phzh.ch)	R&D Office, Marcel Behn (marcel.behn@phzh.ch)	

Basic principle: *Get in touch – stay in touch*

Q1ZH



Questions?