Criteria for financing strategic projects of the DSI

Regarding this paper: This paper defines the criteria on the basis of which projects submitted to the DSI board of directors are financed by the strategic funds of the UZH Digital Society Initiative.

Guiding Principles

The following basic rules apply to the decision-making process for granting strategic DSI funds for submitted projects:

1) Every full member of the DSI is entitled to submit proposals for financing strategic projects. There is no key date for this. Project ideas are submitted to the DSI managing board.

2) The DSI board of directors makes a final decision regarding the financing of submitted projects from the strategic funds of the DSI. The decision shall be taken as soon as possible, but no later than three months after submission; there is no right of appeal.

3) The decision is based on the criteria below.

Decision Criteria

The Board of Directors decides on the support, using the DSI’s strategic funds, according to the following criteria.

A) Consistency with the DSI’s strategic objectives
   The project is in line with the DSI’s strategic priorities. These priorities are outlined in the document "DSI Roadmap" and are subject to periodic revision. The strategic priorities are proposed by the plenary assembly and determined by the DSI board of directors.
B) **Preference for interdisciplinary cooperation**
Interdisciplinary projects are given priority. The project proposal should explicitly show how the interdisciplinary cooperation will be structured.

C) **Counter-financing**
The financial contribution of the DSI to the project is to be supplemented by further financial contributions (e.g. from the involved faculties or third-party funds). As a rule, the DSI contribution should not exceed 50% of the project costs; exceptions are possible.

D) **Innovative content**
The innovative content of the project must be explicitly indicated. This can be demonstrated, for example, on the basis of the research question or the means, methods, or expected results.

E) **No perpetuity**
The projects submitted should extend over a defined period of time and have a clearly defined conclusion. The DSI does not make any financial contributions to projects that are already in progress or to those that require a permanent financial commitment of the DSI.

F) **Labelling as DSI project**
By accepting the DSI funds, the project becomes (also) a DSI project. The applicant must, therefore, state at the time of submission how the DSI’s support of the project will be made recognizable (e.g. by using the logo on presentations, flyers, websites, etc. and/or by corresponding references in publications). In addition, the DSI will promote and identify the project on its respective channels.