DSI Infrastructure & Lab Call

Commission for DSI Infrastructures & Labs[1]

Introduction

The research program of the «Digitalization Initiative of the Zurich Universities (DIZH)» finances the creation or promotion of infrastructures and labs. The terms «infrastructure» and «lab» are deliberately broadly defined. The focus is on the establishment of jointly usable infrastructures or structural vessels to promote collaborative settings for research that touches upon the idea of digital transformation. The bundling of existing competencies and persons should enable synergies and new forms of cooperation. Examples include regular, purpose-oriented meetings of researchers to jointly develop solutions, the combination of existing infrastructures or the development of new ones that are conducive to interdisciplinary cooperation. However, **the DSI Infrastructure & Lab Call is not aimed at supporting projects or careers.**

Applications for DSI Infrastructures & Labs are evaluated by a commission[1] that includes representatives of all University of Zurich faculties, a representative from the office for Strategic Research Platforms of the University of Zurich and a representative from the Central IT of University of Zurich. The decision of the commission is final. Further information can be found in the **Process** section below.

Applications for the DSI Infrastructure & Lab Call can be submitted by members of the Digital Society Initiative (DSI) at the University of Zurich (i.e., regular DSI members[2]). Applications with project partners from other DIZH institutions (PHZH, ZHAW, ZHdK) are welcomed, but this is not a mandatory criterion for an award. Applicants must be able to provide (at least) the same amount of co-financing to match the funds applied for in the application. The financing period for applications with DSI funds is usually 1 to 2 years, with the possibility of extension. However, long-term financing of infrastructures or labs with DIZH funds is excluded.

Call

Applicants: Full members of the Digital Society Initiative (DSI) are formally eligible to apply. Full members[2] of the DSI can be all members of the UZH who are actively involved in issues related to the digitalization of society.

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[1] Members of the commission (as of February 2024) are: Abraham Bernstein (WWF), Michael Coors (ThF), Thomas Friemel (PhF), Jean-Michel Hatt (Vetsuisse; Head of the commission), Titus Neupert (MNF), Marcel Riedi (Central IT), Sarah Summers (RWF), Thomas Trüb (Strategic Research Platforms), Claudia Witt (MeF); Gabriele Prohaska (DSI: secretary)

[2] If you are not a DSI member yet, but a student or an employee of UZH you can simply register here: https://www.dsi.uzh.ch/en/research/network/registration.html

Structure of the application: An application for the creation of a DSI infrastructure or a DSI lab comprises a maximum of 5 pages and must address the following points (a Word template for the submission is available on the DSI website[3]):

- *Content:* The application should outline the goal and purpose of the proposed infrastructure or lab. Those should be related to the applicants' previous or future research projects and to the roadmap[4] of the University of Zurich's Digital Society Initiative (DSI). It should be shown which advantages result from the proposed infrastructure or lab for the applicants as for other researchers at UZH. Please make sure that your application can be understood by reviewers of all disciplines.

- *Interdisciplinarity:* The application should provide a detailed outline of the interdisciplinary character of the proposed infrastructure or lab. The added value for the interdisciplinary and inter-faculty cooperation created by the infrastructure or the lab must be explicitly pointed out.

- *Budget and matching funds[5]:* DIZH's share of the financing must be matched by at least an equal share. Applicants must indicate this co-financing in the budget template and must confirm the sum in the submission template. The Commission for DSI Infrastructures & Labs expects the requested funds to range between CHF 20,000 and 100,000 (without possible prolongation applications), but lower or higher contributions are not excluded. Please note, that assets[6] cannot be funded by DIZH nor can assets be used as matching funds.

- *Applicants and co-applicants:* The application should make clear which person is the main applicant and which co-applicants from UZH will participate in the setup of the proposed infrastructure or lab.

- *Project partners:* The inclusion of project partners from e.g., DIZH universities, other universities, or companies is possible but not mandatory.

- *Measurement criteria and milestones*: The application should make clear which criteria are to be used to measure the success of the proposed infrastructure or lab. It should also be shown which conditions for the infrastructure or the lab are already in place. The relevant milestones for the development of the infrastructure or the lab should be presented with a timeline. It should be pointed out which resources are required to reach the different milestones.

- *Duration:* Applications should explain whether or not a long-term perspective is envisioned for the infrastructure or lab, and if so, provide details on how this can be secured. Applications have a maximum duration of 2 years. An annual extension is possible if the defined objectives are met, but this is also subject to a competitive procedure.

Additional documents: In addition to the application document, applicants must enclose their CV in accordance with SNSF guidelines[7]. Depending on the application, other documents (e.g., commitments to use certain infrastructures) may also be enclosed.

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[3] https://www.dsi.uzh.ch/en/research/funding/infrastructure-lab.html
[4] The roadmap is available at: https://www.dsi.uzh.ch/en/about/about-dsi.html (download in the bottom of the page).
[5] For further information see explanations in the budget template https://www.dsi.uzh.ch/en/research/funding/infrastructure-lab.html
[6] Equipment, installations and infrastructure with a useful life of at least one year and a value above CHF 10'000 are assets.
[7] Details available at: https://www.snf.ch/en/gKcnwW6aEft4bMPF/page/your-curriculum-vitae-all-about-the-cv-format

Process

Submissions for a DSI infrastructure or a DSI lab will be processed as follows:

1. On **March 14, 2023,** from **13:00 to 14:00** an online information event will take place: https://uzh.zoom.us/j/65650415698?pwd=VS9lYllHOVUwOU1QalExMWJnQUdXQT09

2. Applications are submitted by Selectus (https://www.apply.dsi.uzh.ch/position/23887873 , choose English as language) to the Commission for DSI Infrastructures & Labs by **April 28, 2024** (midnight). These applications will be formally reviewed by the DSI office and, if necessary, the applicants will be contacted.

3. In **June 2024** the Commission for DSI Infrastructure & Labs will award the grants. The Commission will make the final decision on the award. In case of outstanding applications that cannot be financed due to the annual budget, applicants can transfer their application to the next call for proposals and be evaluated again.

4. Approved projects must begin no later than **September 1, 2024**.

A new call for applications will be published each year until 2027.

Please contact us for questions: dsi-labs@dsi.uzh.ch