



Digital Society Initiative – August 2025



Dear interested parties, dear researchers,

No sooner have you taken your last vacation photos than it's time to head back to university for the new semester. To help you prepare, we have packed a suitcase full of news and information.

This time, we cover topics ranging from the future of quantum technology – with a column, position paper, and videos – to four new DSI Infrastructures & Labs that have been awarded funding. We show you where further funding opportunities await, look ahead to the upcoming DSI General Meeting, and invite you on a little trip around the world: on a new website, you can see how different countries are tackling the legal challenges of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Enjoy the reading.

The Digital Society Initiative team

News

DSI INSIGHTS

Are we ready for quantum computing?

In the fourth «DSI Insights» of 2025 (in German), Titus Neupert, Co-Director of the DSI, looks at **quantum computing** and explains why Switzerland should be at the forefront of this international **technology race**.

In the «DSI Insights» column series, the DSI demonstrates its **expertise** and **interdisciplinary approach** to topics related to **digital transformation**. The columns by authors from the DSI network are also published in the [industry magazine «Inside IT»](#).

[Click here for all DSI Insights](#)

Infrastructures & Labs

CONGRATULATIONS

Four new projects

DSI Infrastructures & Labs are collaborative infrastructures or structural vessels for the creation of collaborative research environments related to the **digital transformation**. Four new projects have been added to the existing ones and have **received funding commitments** as part of this year's call:

- [DAVALab – Digital Audio-Visual Annotation Lab](#)
- [ELIAS – an Agentic Interview Service](#)
- [OpenOSR – General-Purpose Open-Source Tools for Open-Set Recognition](#)
- [UHD Urban Data Hub](#)

We congratulate the project teams and wish them every success.

[Click here for all current projects](#)

SAVE THE DATE

DSI General Meeting

Mark noon on **October 22, 2025** in your calendar. Starting at 12, the **DSI General Meeting** will once again offer you the opportunity to have a say in the future of the DSI and to exchange ideas with other DSI members.

Immediately afterwards, starting at 13:00, several research infrastructures that can be used to generate, analyze, and handle data for the social sciences and humanities will be

presented at the DSI premises.

PS: Not yet a member of the DSI? [Register now.](#)



DSI STRATEGY LAB 2025

Quantum technology: position paper, videos, and events

The discovery of quantum mechanics dates back **100 years**. This prompted the DSI to address the **future of quantum technology** in its fifth Strategy Lab

The **results** of the Strategy Lab are now summarized in a **position paper**. It provides realistic assessments of expected **technical developments** and reflects on their potential **societal impact**. The position paper can be read [here](#). Our column on the topic (in German) can be found [here](#).

As part of this DSI Strategy Lab, **two videos from the «DSI Spotlights» series** were also produced, entitled «[Quantum computers explained in a nutshell](#)» and «[Quantum encryption](#)».

In addition, the Department of Physics at the University of Zurich (UZH) is hosting several [events](#) on the topic during the anniversary year of quantum mechanics, including an **exhibition** and an **escape room**.

[All information about the fifth DSI Strategy Lab](#)

DIZH

Calls, Calls, Calls

The Digitalization Initiative of the Zurich Higher Education Institutions (DIZH) is announcing its [third Structure Call](#). Funding will be awarded to agile projects that **overcome disciplinary and institutional boundaries**, enable socially relevant solutions, and sustainably strengthen **cooperation between universities and practice partners**. Funding of up to CHF 1.2 million per structure is possible. The deadline for submissions is January 28, 2026, 12:00 noon.

The following DIZH calls are also **still open**:

- [2nd Founder Call](#) until tomorrow, August 21, 2025, 12:00
- [5th Project Call](#) until October 1, 2025, 12:00
- [2nd Outreach Call](#) until November 5, 2025, 12:00

For **members of the University of Zurich**, the DSI will hold an [Info Event via Zoom](#) on August 28, 2025, to provide information about the fifth Project Call. This will also be an opportunity to ask questions about the second Outreach Call and the third Structure Call.



DSI EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

Celebration for 13 graduates

The **DSI Summer Party** has long been a fixture in the DSI calendar. The highlight of the event is always the **certificate award ceremony** for the graduates of the Excellence Program. This year, it was the [cohort 2023-2025](#) that celebrated their achievements. We congratulate the 13 graduates and wish them every success for the future.

As a **complementary curriculum** to a doctoral program, general doctorate or doctoral subject, the [DSI Excellence Program](#) prepares students from all disciplines for an environment in which **interdisciplinary collaboration on digitalization topics** is a top priority.

ITSL

AI Policy Observatory

The [Center for Information Technology, Society, and Law \(ITSL\)](#), a partner organization of the DSI, has published the website **AI Policy Observatory**, which was developed in **cooperation with Kyoto University** and with the contribution of numerous experts.

The website offers concise and well-structured information on how different countries are addressing the **legal challenges posed by Artificial Intelligence (AI)**. The platform is intended for researchers, experts, and decision-makers in politics, public administration, and business.

[Visit the website](#)

CITY AND CANTON OF ZURICH

Two workshops for researchers

Researchers associated with the DSI can look forward to two upcoming workshops that will provide resources and open up new opportunities for existing or future projects:

- The **Innovation Credit of the City of Zurich** is funding innovative ideas for a sustainable city at a low threshold level. To generate new ideas, the DSI is organizing a [workshop](#) in collaboration with Smart City Zurich.
- The **Digital Innovation Hub of the Canton of Zurich** is looking for researchers who are interested in Agentic AI in the context of public administration and is holding an [online Q&A workshop](#) for this purpose.



MORE NEWS IN BRIEF

DSI Shorts

In this section, we highlight further news from the DSI universe:

- The **paper «A consensus statement on the use of digital twins in medicine»** by several DSI members has been [published in Nature Portfolio](#).
- The **«Apéro Digital»** event series has published the results of its third and fourth events in [infographic form](#).
- **DSI Professor Nadine Zurkinden** has launched a new podcast with her colleague Dr. Claude Eric Bertschinger. The first season, **«Fokus: Strafrecht»**, focuses on digitalization and AI.
- **DSI Professor Karin Schwiter** has been awarded one of the coveted [ERC Advanced Grants by the European Research Council](#) – congratulations!
- The start of the semester is always the time for [Inaugural Lectures](#). This year's speakers include DSI Professor **Johanna Nordlander** and DIZH Bridge Professor **Joshua Weidlich**.

Events

28.08.

Info Event on DIZH Project Call

Via Zoom, the DSI will inform interested members of the UZH community about the DIZH Project Call. UZH-specific questions about the DIZH Outreach Call and the DIZH Structure Call will also be answered.

[More information](#)

04.09.

Innovation focus: Agentic AI – Online Q&A Workshop

The Digital Innovation Hub of the Canton of Zurich is looking for researchers who are interested in Agentic AI

in the context of public administration and is organizing an online Q&A Workshop for this purpose.

[More information](#)

**10. -
13.09.**

International Conference on Inferentialism

The first international conference on inferentialism, organized by the DSI, the Department of Philosophy, and the Department of Computational Linguistics at UZH, as well as the Institute of Law and Economics at the University of St. Gallen.

[More information](#)

**11.09. -
03.10.**

UZH Innovathon: The Digitalization of Mobility

Students work in interdisciplinary groups on the topic of digitization in mobility. Applications can be submitted until August 26, 2025.

[More information](#)

29.09.

«Interdisziplinarität an der UZH – mit, durch oder trotz Digitalisierung»

Panel discussion on opportunities, challenges, and future prospects for interdisciplinary collaboration in the digital age – organized by DSI Community Education.

[More information](#)

**15. -
16.10**

EdTech Hackathon: Focusing on Adaptive Self-Regulated Learning

The EdTech Hackathon brings together experts and students from various disciplines to develop practical solutions for adaptive, self-regulated learning using

educational technologies.

Registration deadline: September 22, 2025

[More information](#)

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