Universität Zürich[UZH]

Digital Society Initiative



Welcome to the DSI General Meeting 2026

Noah Bubenhofer

28. October 2026


We shape the digital future
The UZH Digital Society Initiative

Agenda

— Introductory Formalities

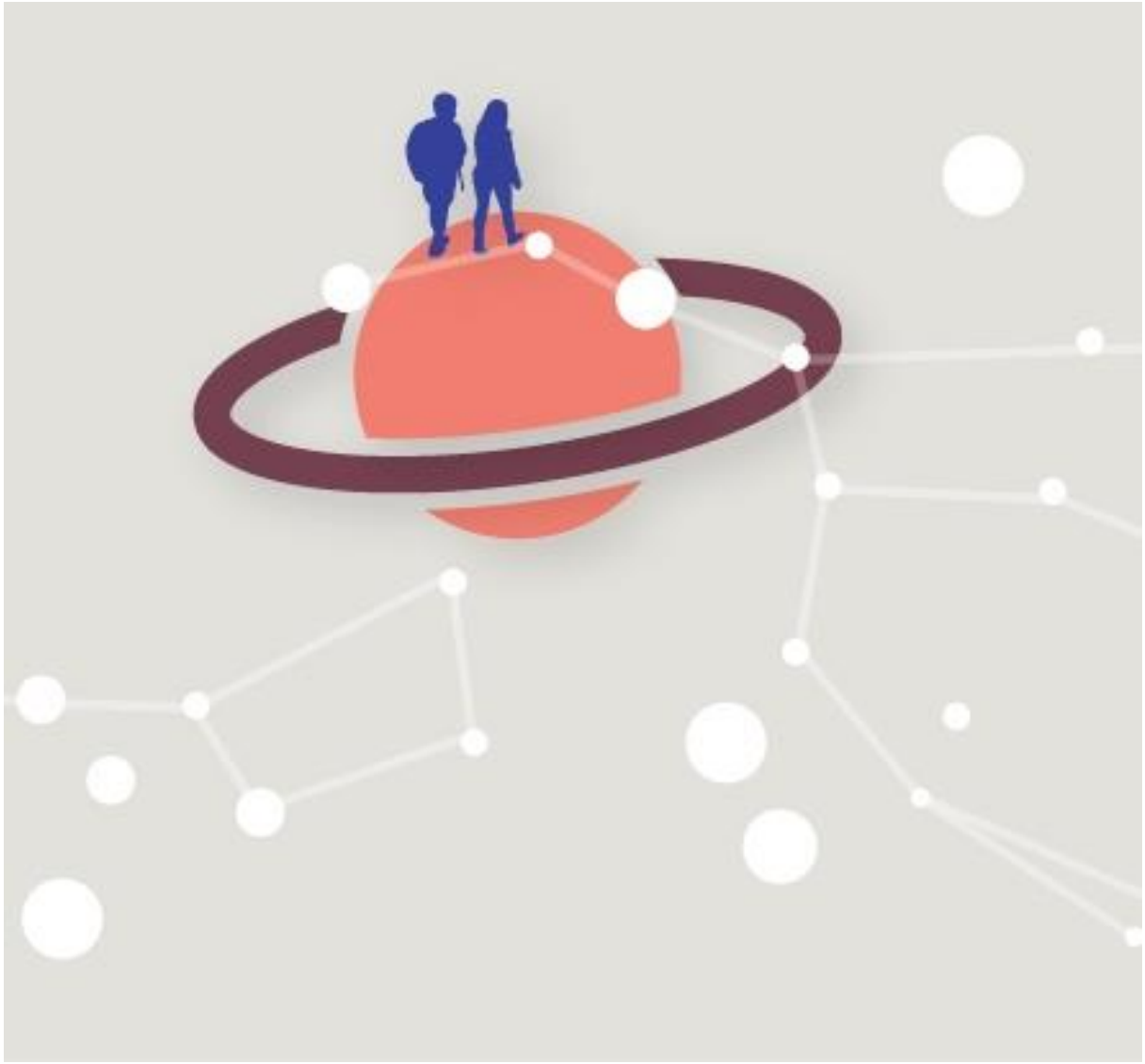
— 10 Years DSI – Decade of Impact

— DSI Update 2026

— Voting (New Members)

— Playtime

— Q&A



Introductory Formalities

Introductory Formalities – Minutes of last year's meeting

General Meeting «Digital Society Initiative» – Meeting minutes

Date/time: Wednesday, 22 October 2025, 12:15-13:00

Place: University of Zurich, Digital Society Initiative, SOC-010, Rämistrasse 69, 8001 Zurich

Presenter/host: Abraham Bernstein, Director Digital Society Initiative (DSI)

Topic	Content
Input UZH.ai	Presented by Ruben Kranendonk (UZH.ai); for questions, please contact Ruben Kranendonk (ruben.kranendonk@uzh.ch).
Introductory Formalities	Welcome and Introduction by Abraham Bernstein (AB), Director of the DSI and presentation of the agenda for the General Meeting 2025. Introductory Formalities: ▪ Minutes of last year's meeting: no feedback, no question ▪ Unanimous acceptance of last year's minutes
DSI Update 2025	Presentation about the following topics (AB): ▪ DSI Research ▪ Overview of the 32 current professorships (existing and new ones) ▪ Overview of the 14 DSI Communities. New community: AI, Culture & Society ▪ DSI Strategy Labs overview 2021: A legal framework for Artificial Intelligence 2022: Artificial Intelligence in medicine – where do we want to go? 2023: AI in education, research and innovation 2024: Disinformation 2025: Quantum Computing ▪ DSI Educational programs ▪ Update Studium Digitale (for BA-students) ▪ Update Minor «Digital Skills» (for MA-students) ▪ Update Excellence Program (for PhD students) ▪ Digital MasterClass (for politicians) ▪ Public Relations ▪ Update on communication highlights: Supporting UZH.ai, new funding for Digital MasterClass & DSI Media Workshop, second season of DSI spotlights ▪ Overview of all communication channels
Voting	**Election of new network members (since 10.10.2024 to 21.10.2025) (AB)** ▪ Full members (103 new members): unanimous approval ▪ Associated members (132 new members): unanimous approval ▪ In total, the DSI network now consists of 1431 members **Approval of DSI Roadmap 2026/27 (AB)** ▪ Updating process has been explained ▪ Unanimous approval of the new roadmap
Feedback and Questions	▪ No questions were asked by the audience.

MC, 22.10.2025

— Do you have any feedback? Questions?

10 Years DSI – Decade of Impact

How everything started …



2016

On September 14, more than 300 people attend the ↓ **launch** of the UZH Digital Society Initiative. **President of the Swiss Confederation Johann Schneider-Ammann** praises the broad interdisciplinary focus of the project and wishes it every success in his ↗ opening speech.

On October 11, the DSI sends out its **first** → **newsletter**.

At the DSI's **first internal event**, 42 researchers from the University of Zurich express their willingness to collaborate on scientific issues related to digitalization.

By the end of the year, the DSI already has **90 members**.

… and how it took shape

2026

The DSI is celebrating its tenth anniversary under the theme → **«Decade of Impact»**: with its own communications series and an anniversary event featuring distinguished guests.

On ↗ **LinkedIn**, the DSI community grows to more than 7,000 followers.

In its anniversary year, the DSI has more **members** than ever before: over **1600 people** are now part of the network, including more than 300 professors.

The → sixth DSI Strategy Lab examines the conditions under which **interdisciplinary research units** like the DSI can succeed and achieve measurable impact – on research, teaching, and university structures.

The **50th edition** of the column series

2025

Four new projects are approved in the last call for → **DSI Infrastructures & Labs**.

14 → **DSI Communities** are active at the same time – a new record.

The → **DSI Postdoc** team is complete: twelve young researchers are working at the DSI at the same time.

Two → **Digital MasterClasses** are successfully completed: one at the → **Zurich** Cantonal Council and the second at the → **Federal Parliament** in Bern.

The → **fifth DSI Strategy Lab** is entitled **«A Future with Quantum Computing»** and addresses the question of what decisions need to be made in order to be optimally prepared for future scenarios in connection with quantum technology.

34 → DSI Professorships are filled by the end of

2024

The first → **postdoc** leaves her «nest» at the DSI and becomes a professor at the University of Lausanne.

After a one-year pilot phase, the → **DSI Minor/LAO Digital Skills** master's program officially launches.

The first season of → DSI Spotlights is produced and released. The short explanatory videos are viewed around 95'000 times between the end of 2024 and the beginning of 2025.

→ **Studium Digitale** reaches a new high with almost 2000 participants.

«Disinformation» is the topic of the → **fourth DSI Strategy Lab**. As part of the → **«Disinformation Month»** series, the DSI holds several events in the fall.

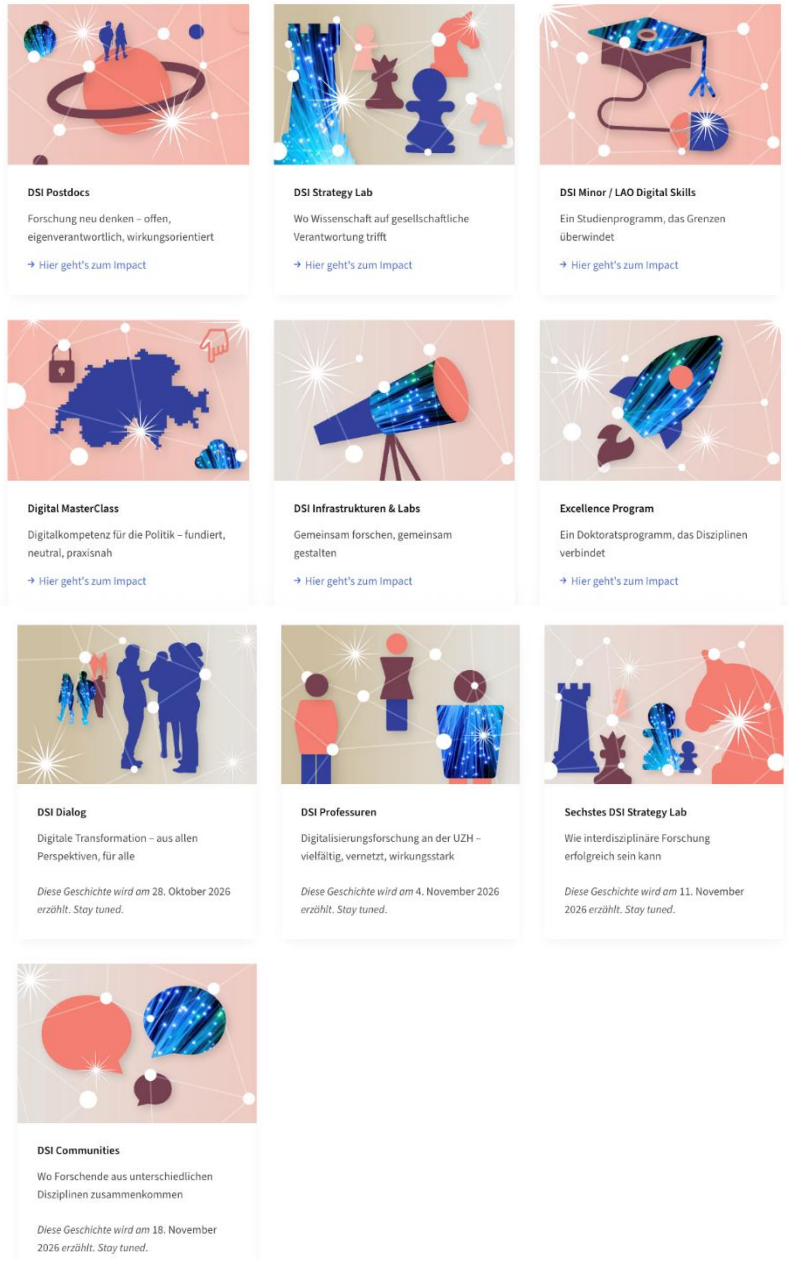


Find out more about the DSI's **activities and milestones** since 2016:


Decade
of Impact
10 years
DSI

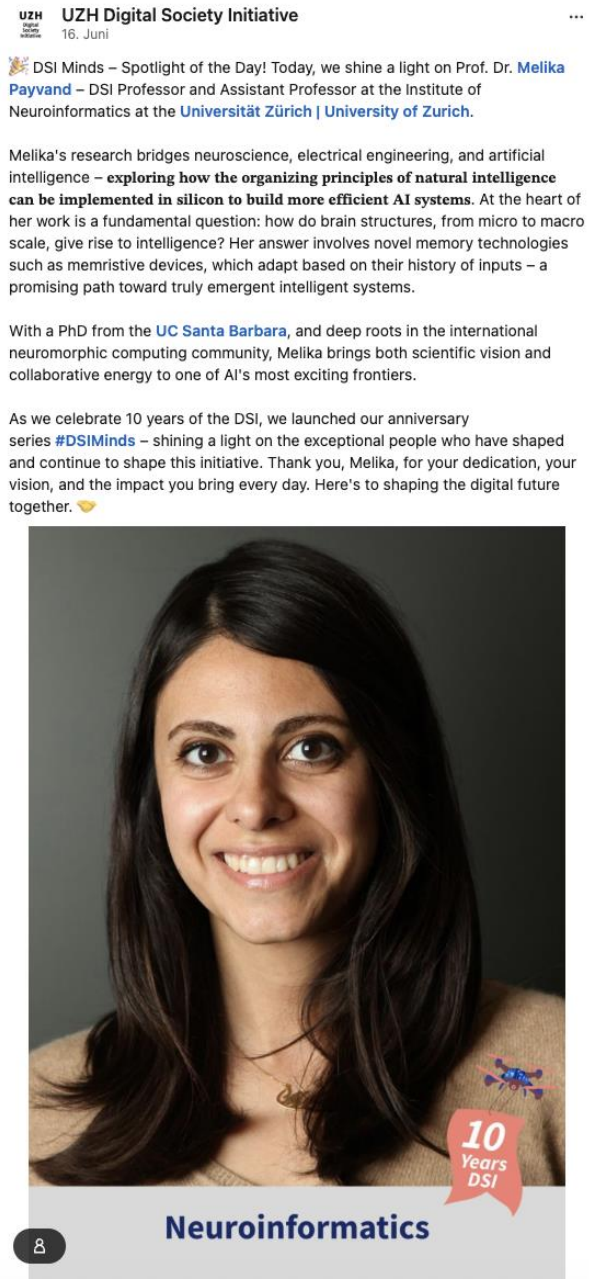
Decade of Impact:
10 Years DSI – 10 Stories

The «Decade of Impact» campaign tells **ten stories** about what has emerged and what these «impacts» continue to make possible. Since September 14, 2026, exactly ten years after the DSI was founded, a new story has been published **every week**, leading up to the **anniversary celebration**.



DSI Minds – LinkedIn Serie

The DSI has featured all of its professors in a LinkedIn series. All of the «DSI Minds» are now also available on the DSI's anniversary page.



Jubiläumsanlass «Decade of Impact»

— 24.11.2026 / 18.30

— UZH Aula

— Keynote Prof. Dr. Urs Gasser (Technical University of Munich) on «Digitale Gesellschaft gestalten»

— Welcoming remarks from representatives of the federal government, the Canton of Zurich, and the university

— Hosts: Kathrin Hönegger (SRF Einstein) & Abraham Bernstein (DSI Director)



Register now:

DSI Update 2026

DSI Board of Directors – Change of DSI Director of the MNF



Noah Bubenhofer
Prof. Dr. **(PhF)**



Thank you
Titus Neupert
Prof. Dr. **(MNF)**



Beth Singler
Prof. Dr. **(TRF)**



Abraham Bernstein
Prof. Ph.D **(WWF)**



Welcome
Jan Dirk Wegner
Prof. Dr. **(MNF)**



Claudia Witt
Prof. Dr. **(MeF)**



Jean-Michel Hatt
Prof. Dr. **(Vetsuisse)**



Sarah Summers
Prof. Dr. **(RWF)**

Welcome to our new professors 2026



Prof. Dr. Gemma Newlands
Digital Sociology

(start 1.1.2026)



Prof. Dr. Eva Bittner
Human-Centered Information Systems Engineering

(start 1.9.2026)

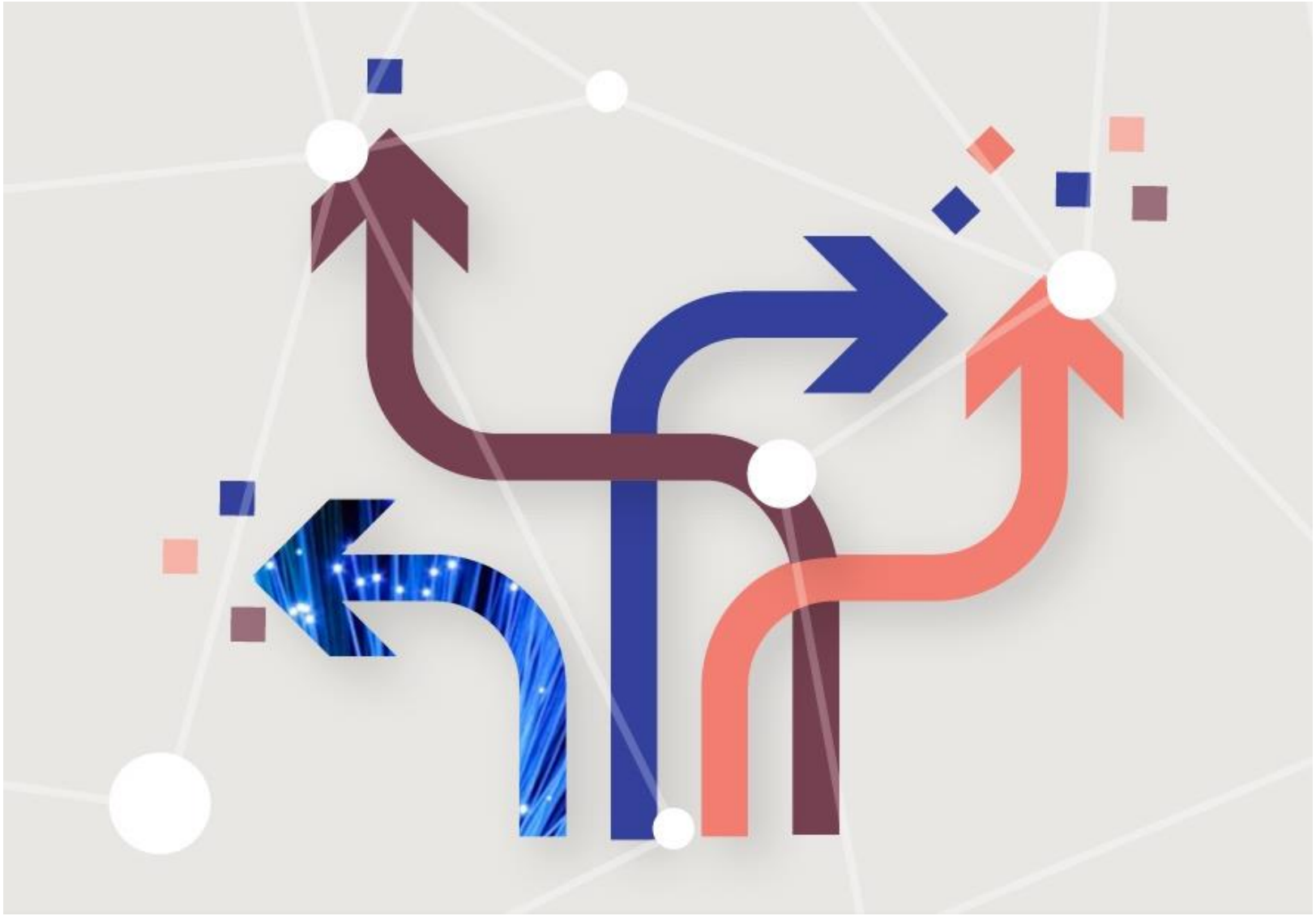


Prof. Dr. Ivo F. Sbalzarini
Scientific Machine Learning

(start 1.9.2026)

All 36 DSI Professorships:

DigitalTransfer



The DSI has launched DigitalTransfer. The new platform (mainly in German) brings together **video content from teaching and research** and makes basic digital knowledge accessible to. The content is organized into six topic areas:

— Basiswissen
— Daten KI & Algorithmen
— Interaktive Systeme
— Medien & Gesellschaft
— Recht

Inter- and transdisciplinary: Excellence Program



Goal: Thinking about digitalization at an academic level across disciplinary boundaries

— PhDs of all disciplines

— Complementary curriculum

— 12 credits (ECTS) over 2 years

— Start 2020

— ~20 students per year

Since its beginning, the program hosted 105 PhD students so far!

DSI Strategy Lab: annual research focus

1. DSI Strategy Lab (2021)

«A Legal Framework for Artificial Intelligence»

- Presentation of the results in the Federal Parliament
- The results have led to several parliamentary activities at cantonal and national level

2. DSI Strategy Lab (2022)

«Artificial intelligence in medicine – where do we want to go?»

- Digital Twins identified as an important development in the future
- Objectives and recommendations for the use of Digital Twins in medicine summarized in a position paper

3. DSI Strategy Lab (2023)

«AI in education, research and innovation»

- Position paper on the topic was published in 2024
- Various communication measures (focus internally at UZH) implemented
- Foundation laid for UZH «AI Buddy»

4. DSI Strategy Lab (2024)

«Disinformation»

- Contribution to the DETEC consultation process «Regulation of communication platforms»
- Various events, including «DSI Disinformation Month» in autumn 2024

5. DSI Strategy Lab (2025)

«A Future with Quantum Computing»

- Various activities, including a Digital MasterClass on the topic
- Findings summarized in a position paper

6. DSI Strategy Lab (2026)

«The Impact of Interdisciplinary Research»

- Communication in the context of the anniversary «10 years DSI»
- Module on interdisciplinarity in the DSI Excellence Program
- Results of activities summarized in position paper

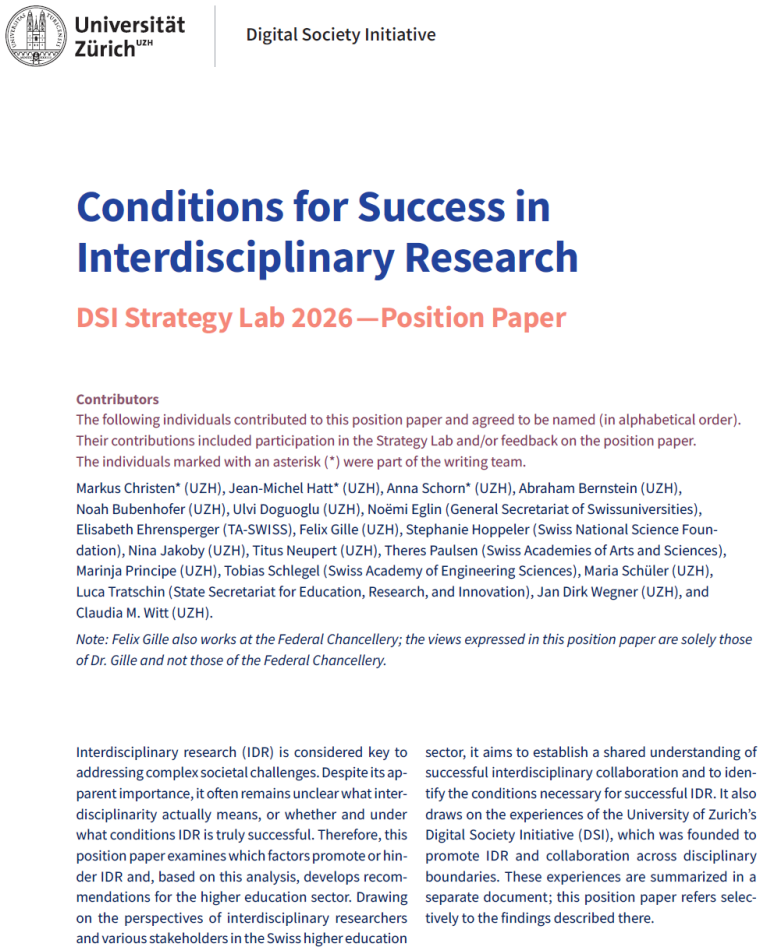
Strategy Lab 2026: The Impact of Interdisciplinary Research

The new position paper examines which factors promote research and develops recommendations for the higher education sector.

- Assessing Impact Dimensions of interdisciplinary research:
  - Within academia
  - On society
  - On institutions of Higher Education

- Presenting Conditions for the Success of Interdisciplinarity:
  - Support for Junior Scientists and Careers
  - Recommendations for Research Funding
  - Higher Education development

- **The position paper will be published officially in November as part of the anniversary series «Decade of Impact».**



Universität Zürich[UZH] | Digital Society Initiative

Conditions for Success in Interdisciplinary Research

DSI Strategy Lab 2026 — Position Paper

Contributors

The following individuals contributed to this position paper and agreed to be named (in alphabetical order). Their contributions included participation in the Strategy Lab and/or feedback on the position paper. The individuals marked with an asterisk (*) were part of the writing team.

Markus Christen* (UZH), Jean-Michel Hatt* (UZH), Anna Schorn* (UZH), Abraham Bernstein (UZH), Noah Bubenhofer (UZH), Ulvi Doguoglu (UZH), Noëmi Eglin (General Secretariat of Swissuniversities), Elisabeth Ehrensperger (TA-SWISS), Felix Gille (UZH), Stephanie Hoppeler (Swiss National Science Foundation), Nina Jakoby (UZH), Titus Neupert (UZH), Theres Paulsen (Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences), Marinja Principe (UZH), Tobias Schlegel (Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences), Maria Schüler (UZH), Luca Tratschin (State Secretariat for Education, Research, and Innovation), Jan Dirk Wegner (UZH), and Claudia M. Witt (UZH).

Note: Felix Gille also works at the Federal Chancellery; the views expressed in this position paper are solely those of Dr. Gille and not those of the Federal Chancellery.

Interdisciplinary research (IDR) is considered key to addressing complex societal challenges. Despite its apparent importance, it often remains unclear what interdisciplinarity actually means, or whether and under what conditions IDR is truly successful. Therefore, this position paper examines which factors promote or hinder IDR and, based on this analysis, develops recommendations for the higher education sector. Drawing on the perspectives of interdisciplinary researchers and various stakeholders in the Swiss higher education sector, it aims to establish a shared understanding of successful interdisciplinary collaboration and to identify the conditions necessary for successful IDR. It also draws on the experiences of the University of Zurich's Digital Society Initiative (DSI), which was founded to promote IDR and collaboration across disciplinary boundaries. These experiences are summarized in a separate document; this position paper refers selectively to the findings described there.



Our communication highlights 2026

- Focus on the 10-year-celebrations & Decade of Impact communication
- Lauch of DigitalTransfer
- Start new Digital MasterClass for the Cantonal Parliament of Zurich
- New media workshop format with the journalism competence center MAZ
- Increasing the numbers of followers (more than 7’600)

Voting (New Members)

Rights and duties of DSI General Assembly

- Election of full DSI members
- Election of associated members

Formalities: Election of full DSI members

108 new full members (since 22.10.2024 up to 28.10.2026):

Mats Amlid, Nesina Grütter, Daniel Fasnacht, Alessandra Conti, Lorenta Ojo, Maria Carolina Broini Marcondes, Zheng Pei, Sedi Abbasnejad, Christy Aerne, Marcia Nissen, Una Pale, Harry Parfitt, Erda Perfundi, Rania Rezkellah, Oliver Schmid, Marco Toscano, Alicia Castro, Selene Baez Santamaria, Virginie Uhlmann, Johannes Sarnthein, Jose Miguel Valqui Pastor, Martin Pacesa, Danni Wang, Gemma Newlands, Maruja Ortega, Nikhaz Omar, Xinyao Wang, Valerie Pierre, Laurenz Meier, Inhye Kong, Olga Burenina-Petrova, Jan Müller, Noah Mamie, Rahel Goldenberger, Alice Margaria, Banafshe Marziyeh Bamdad, Karl Reimer, Zhivko Taushanov, Lui Unterrassner, Samira Yeganeh Shirazi, Jiahui Yu, Ryan Yussuf, Sarah von Hoyningen-Huene, Andrea Alfarano, Khrystyna Boichuk, Mehmet Onur Yasa, Antonio Joia Neto, Alexandra Lengert, Liam Tyler, Michele Marchioni, Hanna Laura Hampe, Camilla Illy, Sara Keel, Venkata Akhila Rani Obilisetty, Helene Von Gugelberg, Sarah Zöchling, Anne Brenoe, Aline Steiger, Catharina Veit, Juni Schindler, Catalina Nunez, Samantha Nater, Jürgen Barth, Junmo Cheon, Luc Steffen, Ziggy O'Reilly, Anja Hasse, Anna Schorn, Hannah Fairless, Alireza Harrafamoughin, Patricia Uellendahl, Camille Nchakga, Aleksandra Nelson, Sophia Strolz, Eythan Levy, Julia Ambrosini, Olivia d'Anselme, Ruta Dapkunaite, Siddhant Ritwick, Matthias Egg, Golnaz Sarkar Farshi, Amina Saleh, Eva-Maria Vogel, Christoph Hassler, Mieke Willms, Lars Pinkwart, Philippe Sloksnath, Leonardo Raso, Ata Atabek, Victoria Catalán Pastor, Michelle Roth, Eva Bittner, Ivo Sbalzarini, Abigail Tianai Zhang, Agata Zajaczek, Maribel Pérez Ribera, Freya Sukalla, Ann-Kathrin Schwientek, Susanna Weber, Jean Anthony Grand-Guillaume-Perrenoud, Felicitas Princz, Olaf Czerniejewski, Anna-Lisa Lundberg, Jascha Grübel, Eva Zehentner

Formalities: Election of associate DSI members

132 new associate members (since 22.10.2024 up to 27.10.2026):

David Loher, Johannes Bodungen, Henry Raymond, Nicola Forster, Ann-Karin Sanchez, Lara König, Remo Stebler, Mirjam Sarah Lepp, Fabio Zünd, Ali Shafagh, Vero Estrada-Galiñanes, Letizia Grasso, Severin Kolb, Darius Farman, GunjanPathak, Nur Gündüz, Eva Papp, Daniel Schönberger, Rodolfo Marcone-Lo Presti, Kristina Kovalskaya, Sascha Lanz, Oyeniyi Ajigboye, Laura Gantenbein, Marie Zufferey, Nino Jibuti, Yulia Soloviichuk, Adrian Matter, Gaia Giorgi, Carmen Kam, Marcel Freyschmidt, Jane Qin, Angela Mazzonetto, Matina Gatsou, Ryan Gold, Paloma Claire Figueroa, Kerstin Reiser, Sofia Scatolin, Daniel Müller, Michele Loi, Christian Gschwendt, Monika Rauscher, Mümtaz Enser, Zeynep Erden Özkol, Obinna Nwokike, Stéphanie Vanden Berghe, Mykola Khudyntsev, Fiona Smith, Lavanya Viswanathan, Irem Neseli, Sarah Toucas, Désirée Hilscher, Christoph Ammon, Khyati Gaur, Arthur Kueng, Silvio Magaldi, Elif Nur Uygun, Emmanuel Omont, Avishek Pal, Dominic Robert, Yan Sun, Rüya Tuna Toparlak, Arlette Roman, Yehonatan Elkobi, Alonso Hernández Antón, Francesca Larosa, Chris Eckert, Luc Gharibian, Alain Schmid, Ariane Trammel, Jill Wick, Ada Arendt, Damian Birney, Jana Juangjohann, Anna Hüsser, Kaspar Rosager Ludvigsen, Jake Stephan, Rudolf Hagenbuch, Mevina Caviezel, Yves Valéry Obame, Carina Kaeser, Philipp von der Thannen, Andreas Tschuor, Abrham Meseret, Annegret Mündermann, Barbara Klimek, Caroline Zheng, Maria Claudia Murr, Elke Dossow, Gian-Luca Savino, Agnes Bade, Stefan Schmidlin, Priyanka Saini, Zara Malgir, Ayla Durrer, Nicoletta Fornara, Alia Amin, Monika Atanasova, Ishan Purnanand Gaikwad, Louis Wyss, Marcello Stanley, Pascal Schneiders, Yuliia Mieriemova, Malveeka Bhandari, Eduardo Luersen, Abigail Zhang, Andrii Semenov, Nandini Parashar, Tatiana Guimarães, Oskar Schmölz, Shilpa Singh Jaswant, Ma Baño, Tsvetelina Ivanova, Michael Forstner, Markus Winkler, Nina Bessei, Larysa Zavgorodnia, Basim Alabd, Sid Lamichhane, Jonas Westphal, Giulia Banfi, Sofia Giudici, Flora Wang, Kabelo Ruffo, Salma Aqida, Enxhi Qama, Claire Paddison, Martin Harraca, Steven Goodman, Eleni Nikoleri, Siqing Yu, Elisabeth Ehrensperger, Tuğba Tosun Çobanoğlu

In total, the DSI network now consists of 1582 members.

Playtime

Q&A and Apéro