



# ZKSD-Funded Projects 2026 Matchmaking Event



## Realizing Sustainable Projects in Teams

Financial Support for Interdisciplinary Project Teams at the ZKSD!

In 2026, the ZKSD will once again support interdisciplinary project teams with seed funding of up to CHF 20,000. The objective is to develop and implement sustainability-oriented projects in research, teaching, or knowledge transfer that generate clear added value through interdisciplinary collaboration.

Are you a staff member or student at a ZKSD partner university?

Do you aim to create sustainable impact?

Are you working on a project idea that addresses ecological or societal challenges?

Are you convinced that complex problems require interdisciplinary solutions?

ZKSD partner universities offer a broad spectrum of expertise, from engineering and technology to social and natural sciences, as well as arts, design, education, project management, and other disciplines. This diversity provides ideal conditions for innovative, practice-oriented sustainability projects.

Presenting your idea at the matchmaking event or joining an existing team offers the opportunity to become part of a funded project.

Three projects were funded by ZKSD in 2025: [Funded Projects 2025](#)

We look forward to receiving innovative, interdisciplinary project ideas!



Universität  
Zürich <sup>UZH</sup>



## Your Participation in the Matchmaking Event

You may choose between two participation options:

### Option A – Present a Project Idea

You have a concrete project idea and are specifically seeking interdisciplinary collaborators from ZKSD partner universities:

- Submission of a short description of your project idea
- Presentation at the Pitch & Matchmaking event
- Formation of an interdisciplinary project team

[Registration here \(A\)](#)

### Option B – Contribute Your Expertise

You do not have your own project idea but would like to contribute your expertise to a project:

- Submission of a short profile outlining your competencies and interests
- Participation in the Matchmaking event
- Integration into an existing or newly formed project team

[Registration here \(B\)](#)

## Eligibility Requirements for Project Submission (Mandatory)

The following requirements apply to all projects submitted after the Matchmaking event:

### Eligibility to Apply

Projects may be submitted exclusively by staff members of ZKSD partner universities. Collaboration with students (Bachelor's, Master's, doctoral candidates, and graduates up to one year after graduation) is encouraged but not mandatory.

### Team Across Institutions

The project team must include at least two representatives from different ZKSD partner universities.

### Project Leadership

Overall project responsibility must be clearly defined and assigned to a staff member of a ZKSD partner university.

## Matchmaking – Formation of Interdisciplinary Teams

Interdisciplinary project teams will be formed during the Pitch & Matchmaking event. Teams established during this event are eligible to submit a full project proposal for the final pitch.

The eligibility requirements and evaluation criteria listed below apply to all subsequent project submissions.

## Evaluation Criteria (Mandatory)

- Novelty and originality of the project and its objectives
- Relevance and potential impact in sustainability or sustainable development
- Clear interdisciplinary approach, involving at least two ZKSD partner universities
- Clearly defined goals, defines quality criteria as well as a timeline
- Use of interdisciplinary professional, educational, or methodological competences and knowledge that translate into concrete activities
- Feasibility, appropriate balance between requested funding, effort required, and expected outcomes

## Funding Scope

Selected teams will receive project-specific seed funding of up to CHF 20,000 to further develop and implement their project.

## Timeline

22 April 2026 – Submission of project idea (deadline)

12 May 2026 – Pitch & Matchmaking (18:00–21:00) at Kulturpark Zürich

1 September 2026 – Submission of full proposals for Final Pitch application

23 September 2026 – Final Pitch and jury decision at ZKSD