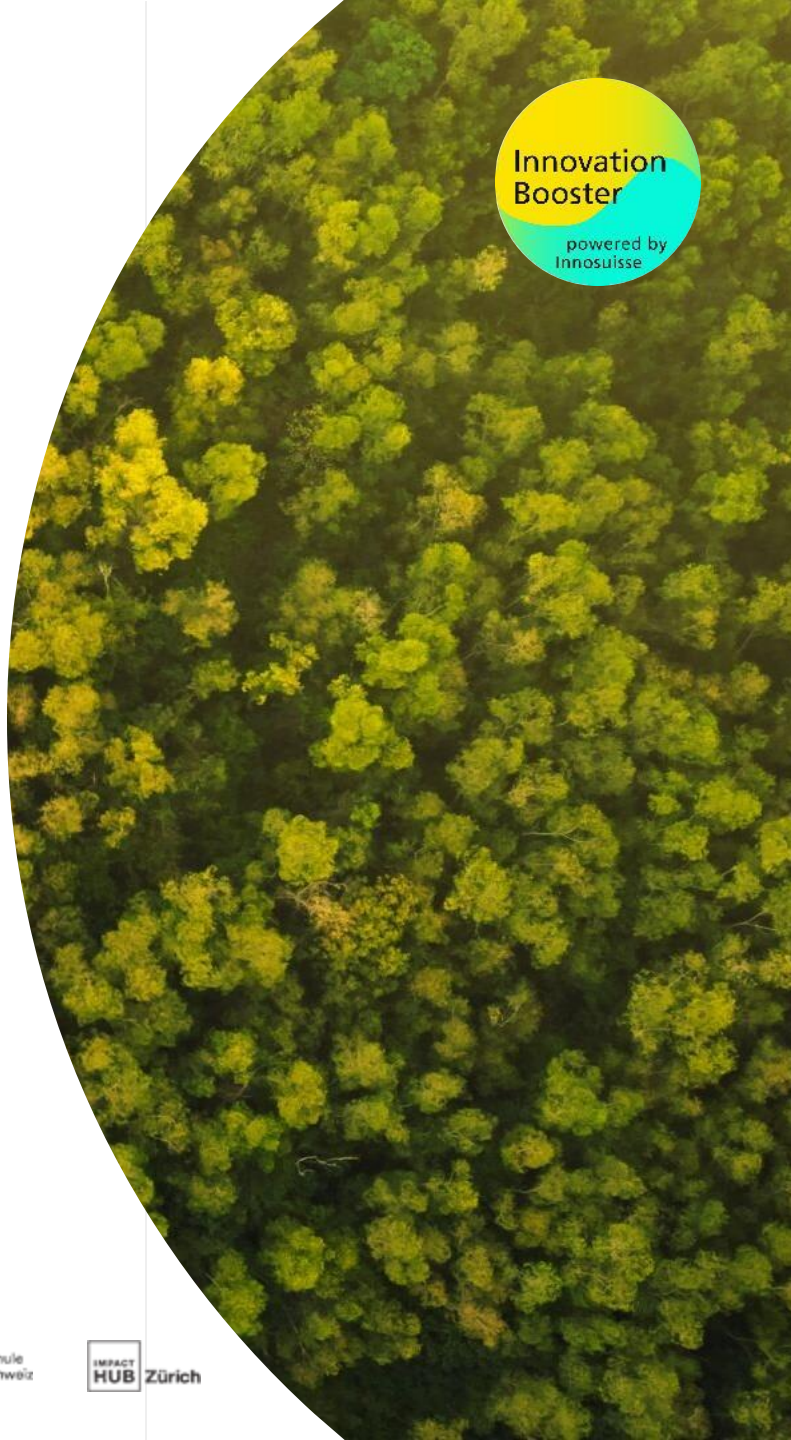
CARBON REMOVAL BOOSTER



Program Information

January 2025

sus.lab ETH zürich remove Empa RISIKO_DIALOG ZUKUNFT GESTALTEN. GEMEINSAM. Swiss Carbon Removal Platform nw Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz IMPACT HUB Zürich

Background | **What is the Carbon Removal Booster?**

The Carbon Removal Booster is the first **open innovation program** in Switzerland created to bring together key stakeholders to jointly **develop and test ideas** for new solutions needed to address important challenges in the **carbon dioxide removal (CDR) space**.

We create an inspiring open innovation environment to spark and develop ideas by:

- **Funding** twelve innovation teams annually with up to CHF 24’000 each
- Providing **support** to further develop the desirability, viability, and feasibility of the ideas
- **Connecting** key stakeholders of the carbon removal domain and facilitating collaboration

Management | The core team combines CDR and innovation experience from academia and business

sus.lab ETH zürich

Aliénor von Roten
Senior Project Manager

Oliver Akeret
Co-lead sus.lab

Tatjana Zurbriggen
Intern

Overall strategy and program management, ecosystem architecture, tailored (innovation team) support

remove

Hans Westerhof
Co-Founder

Rawan Gebran
Senior Director

Innovation team coaching

RISIKO_DIALOG Swiss Carbon Removal Platform

Dr. Samuel Eberenz
Project Manager

Nicolas Solenthaler
Project Manager

Support on challenge identification

nw Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz

Ananda Wyss
Research Associate

Riccarda Schmid
Research Assistant

Open innovation workshops

Empa

Dr. Björn Niesen
Managing Director

Overall program support

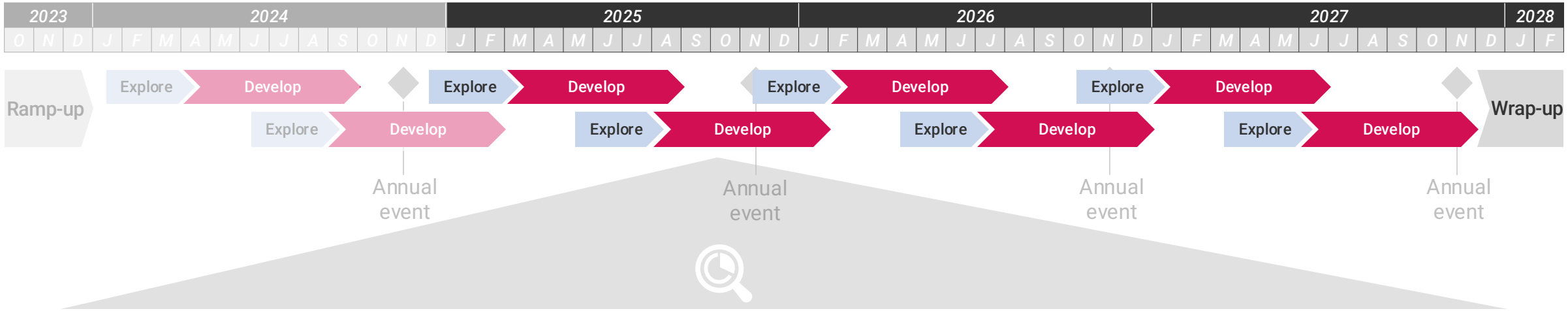
IMPACT HUB Zürich

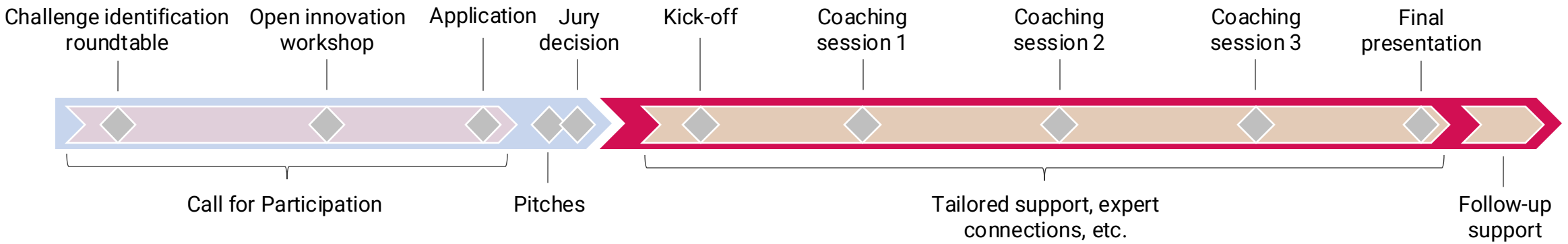
Eliane Albrecht
Program Manager

Annual event

We have built a diverse community of interest consisting of over 70 organizations that are ready to support the program on different fronts

Overview | **Over four years, the Carbon Removal Booster will fund and support 48 innovative projects in eight cohorts in a two-staged process**





The Carbon Removal Booster is the **first open innovation program** in Switzerland for carbon removal, funding **12 innovation** teams annually with **CHF 24,000** each

Education & Expertise

Share your expertise, get access to the latest scientific findings around CDR and engage with our extensive community

sus.lab
Empa

Individual Coaching

Benefit from individual coaching session with experienced mentors from the CDR start-up accelerator remove

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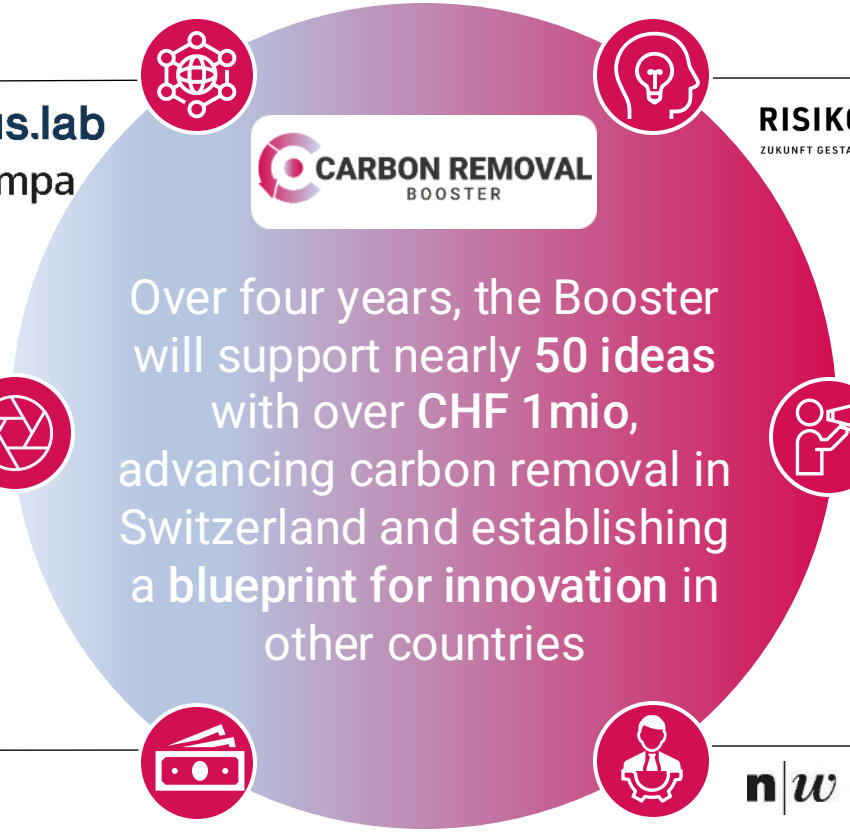
Financial Support

Receive up to CHF 24'000 funding to further develop and test your idea along your implementation path

Innovation Booster



Challenge identification

RISIKO_DIALOG
ZUKUNFT GESTALTEN. GEMEINSAM.

Identification of and engagement with key questions and challenges to discover innovation opportunities

Ecosystem & Communication

Swiss Carbon Removal Platform

Broadcast your solution to community members, policy-makers and the public

Co-creation und Design Thinking

n|w Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz

Team up with CDR enthusiasts to develop your ideas and move from the problem to the solution space

Process | **Understand the Carbon Removal Booster from start to end**

Challenge identification roundtable

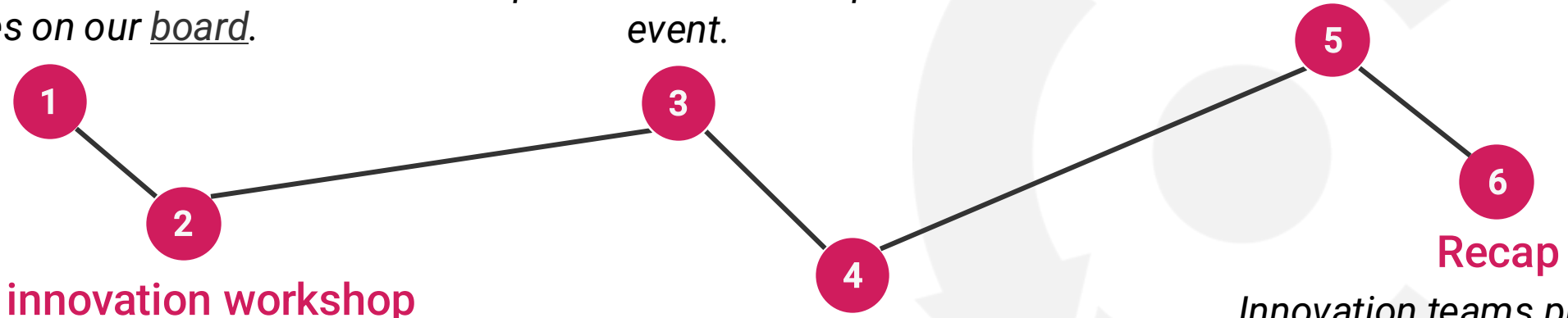
Participants explore CDR knowledge gaps and identify key ecosystem challenges in an on-site workshop. Check out current challenges on our board.

Application

Innovation teams submit their ideas through the project application form. Ideas must meet the minimum requirements to be pre-selected for the pitch event.

Idea development

Innovation teams work on their ideas during the six-month development phase, supported by the program's core team.



Open innovation workshop

Participants get feedback from the coaches and other participants to further develop their ideas and sharpen their understanding of the CDR ecosystem in an on-site workshop.

Jury pitch

Innovation teams pitch their ideas online to a jury that decides based on the published assessment criteria which teams receive funding and development support.

Recap

Innovation teams present their progress at the end of the six-month development phase and are invited to the annual event.

Challenges | **Get inspired by posted challenges, add your own challenge to the board or have a team develop a solution to your challenge**

Click here to access

How you can use the Carbon Removal Booster challenge Miro board: miro

Help with applying

You want to apply but do not have a concrete idea on what you want to work on:

Get inspired by the challenges that are already collected on the board and come up with an idea that addresses one of the challenges!

You do not need to address one of the specific challenges in order to apply!

Want to explore

You want to explore the vast number of challenges and propose new ones:

Access the Miro board and explore the challenges that have already been identified and add new ones that you think have not been mentioned to provide food for thought!

Specific challenges

You have a specific challenge that you would like a team to work on:

Contact us and we can discuss the best way to encourage participants to apply with ideas addressing your specific challenge!

Idea Space| We support ideas that address challenges across the operational supply chain and enabling forces in the (Swiss) CDR ecosystem

Enabling ecosystem forces

Science and technology
- Research and development
- Novel approaches
- Prototype & pilot projects
- …

Community engagement
- Socio-behavioural
- Public discourse
- Media and Communication
- ….

Operational supply chain

Capture
- Chemical
- Geochemical
- Biological
- …

Transport
- Logistics
- Network
- Processing
- …

Storage
- Geological
- Land
- Ocean
- …

Investments
- Risk-tolerant capital
- Accelerators & Incubators
- Funds
- …

Market
- Demand
- Incentives
- Intermediaries
- …

MRV
- Monitoring
- Verification & Validation
- Methodologies
- …

Human capital
- Education
- Workforce development
- ….

Legal framework
- Laws & Regulations
- Legal Frameworks
- Administrative bodies
- …

Pre-Requisites | **Who can apply to the Innosuisse Booster program?**

If you are a student, researcher, entrepreneur, startup, SME, large company, non-for profit, city, canton, or just anybody who…

- ✓ Is open for co-creation, diversity and outside-of-the-box-thinking,
- ✓ With an idea for a new product, service, process or business model, that
- ❑ Aims to answer a question or solve a problem
- ❑ Has an **impact on enabling, supporting the development of CDR technologies and ecosystem in Switzerland** and possibly beyond
- ❑ Has the potential for disruption and the capability to be developed into a project.

- ✓ **If you have** the intention of implementing your solution possibly beyond the booster program,
- ✓ With a team possessing the necessary competences and consisting of:
  - ❑ at least one academic research partner and
  - ❑ one implementation partner (legal entity based in CH)
  - ❑ one member of the team that has participated in the challenge roundtable or open innovation workshop

Pre-Selection

The Booster leading house will:

- Check the applications with regards to the pre-requisites and possibly get back to you if anything is missing.
- Pre-select teams for the pitch event based on the pre-requisites stated here and along the jury evaluation criteria.
- Notify teams no later than **24 March 2025** whether they have been selected for the pitch event.

Contact us if any of these points are an issue for you

Evaluation criteria Autumn 2024 | **The primary goal of innovation teams should be to solve problems**

Evaluation criteria	Description	Score
Innovation ✓ *What's the question?*	❑ Does the idea aim to answer a question and/or unsolved problem? Does the question break a common assumption? ❑ To what degree does the idea present a potential pathway to a novel technological, economic and/or social CDR solution?	1-5
Testing ✓ *Is it needed?*	❑ What aspects of the idea (desirability, viability, feasibility) need testing? Is it reasonable to think that the final users will need or want to use the CDR solution? ❑ Does the idea have the potential to create added value for the implementation partner and the CDR ecosystem in Switzerland?	1-5
Methodological approach ✓ *What's the plan?*	❑ Does the innovation team have a plan to further explore and verify the necessary aspects (desirability, viability, feasibility) to reach a solid innovation implementation plan?	1-5
Team ✓ *Who's in?*	❑ Is the team committed to the venture and do they have the skills and experience? ❑ Does the innovation team demonstrate diversity and inclusiveness?	1-5
Impact ✓ *Does the idea fit the program?*	❑ Does the idea have the potential to create sustainable added value for the implementation partner? Does the idea have a transformative character that can initiate change? ❑ Is the support by CDR Booster program (financial contribution, coaching) impactful to the idea? Could the idea not be tested, explored and developed without the program support?	1-5

Please make yourself familiar with the scoring criteria before the pitch event if you've been pre-selected

The pitch event will be online and open to all pitching teams and the public

Innovation Booster (IB) Resources | **Find helpful documents supplementary information on the dedicated Innosuisse website**

Mission Statement

In a fast-changing world, it becomes increasingly urgent to accelerate innovation through collaboration and find radically new ways of solving problems. The IB Instrument responds by supporting the identification of important challenges and the efficient development of ideas for radical solutions.

Vision

The IB instrument creates an environment to foster science-based and sustainable radical innovation and provide a competitive advantage to Swiss companies and organizations.

Mission statement

IBs boost radical innovation in Switzerland by fostering an open innovation culture, by using agile learning cycles and by making user-centricity key in their innovation processes.

Guiding Principles

1. Boost radical innovation
2. Foster open innovation
3. Ensure diversity
4. Promote a learning culture
5. Invest in problem exploration
6. Test ideas effectively
7. Make user-centricity key
8. Prioritize sustainability
9. Maintain good governance

Competences

What do you need to successfully engage in your open innovation journey and develop and test an early-stage innovation project in a diverse team to solve a problem in a new way?

Fill in this survey to find out what competences to acquire or increase for your early-stage open innovation project, along three competence areas crucial for innovation:

- ✓ **Opportunities & Ideas**
- ✓ **Resources**
- ✓ **Into Action**

Contact us!

www.cdr-booster.ch

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