

Call for Projects in Partnership with the Canton of Vaud

3rd call · Transform your data into a large-scale project

Information webinar · 5th October 2026

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Purpose and context

Generate a **tangible and lasting impact** on the **economy and the public sector** of the Vaud region.

How

- Financial and technological support for collaborative data science projects
- Competitive call for projects
- Target: **individual companies, SMEs, academic/industrial consortia, cantonal administration**



Strategic domains



Health & Biomedical

Examples: personalised oncology applications; discovery and development of treatments and therapies; improving the quality of patient care...



Energy & Sustainability

Examples: improving the energy efficiency of buildings; optimising manufacturing processes; forecasting consumption and optimising energy grids; environment and sustainable mobility...



Social impact & digital transformation

Examples: document analysis; optimising logistics flows; anomaly detection on a production line...

Eligibility criteria

Registration

Lead applicant: **registered** in the canton (“registre du commerce”)

Consortium

At least **one non-academic company/entity located in the Canton of Vaud** (as “lead applicant”).

Type of project

Applied innovation project with **potential for direct benefits** for Vaud (socio-economic or environmental)

Duration

Duration of the project / project phase to be developed: **6 months** for PoC, **12 months** for collaborative projects

Required contribution – academic

(if any) the academic partner has to provide at least **0.1 FTE** for the duration of the project.

Required contribution (for 1 year project only) – company

An amount equivalent to **at least 20% of the funding requested**.

Results

Project results that can be exploited and (at least partially) disclosed publicly.

Two tracks

Track 1 – Support and Proof of Concept

For Vaud-based start-ups, scale-ups and SMEs that want to **test a concrete idea** and need methodological and technical help to develop a proof of concept.

- Duration: **6 months**
- Methodological workshops, coaching and technical support

Track 2 – Collaborative Project and Funding

For Vaud-based academic-industrial consortia, SMEs, start-ups and scale-ups that need **financial support** to develop and deploy AI solutions or use data science for innovation projects.

- Duration: **1 year**
- Up to **CHF 100,000** and up to **1.2 FTE** of SDSC expertise

Single application deadline for both tracks: **31 October 2026** (midnight)

Selection criteria for both tracks

Criterion	Description
1. Innovation and regional impact	Clearly identifiable innovative character, potential for significant impact on the economy of the Canton of Vaud.
2. Data science relevance	Major component in data science and/or data analytics, justifying a collaboration with the SDSC.
3. Ethical and legal compliance	Respect for ethical principles in the use of data, compliance with Swiss data protection legislation (CER-Vaud approval to be obtained before start of collaboration)
4. Timeline feasibility	Achievable within 12 months, or 6 months for pilot projects.
5. Level of AI adoption	Availability of data, minimum technical support available or data scientist team

Track 1 - Proof of Concept

AI maturity: beginner to intermediate

Track 1

Test a concrete idea with methodological and technical support



Objective

Develop an AI pilot project.

Final deliverable: prototype for implementation and testing.



Target audience

Companies with **beginner-to-intermediate AI maturity** (data available, AI projects at the testing stage).



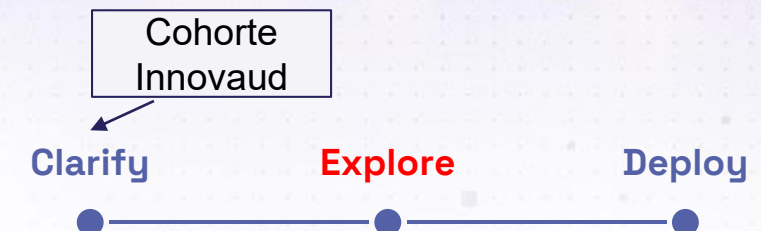
Format

- 2 methodology workshops
- 2 h of individual coaching
- Group of 15 to 20 companies



Expertise

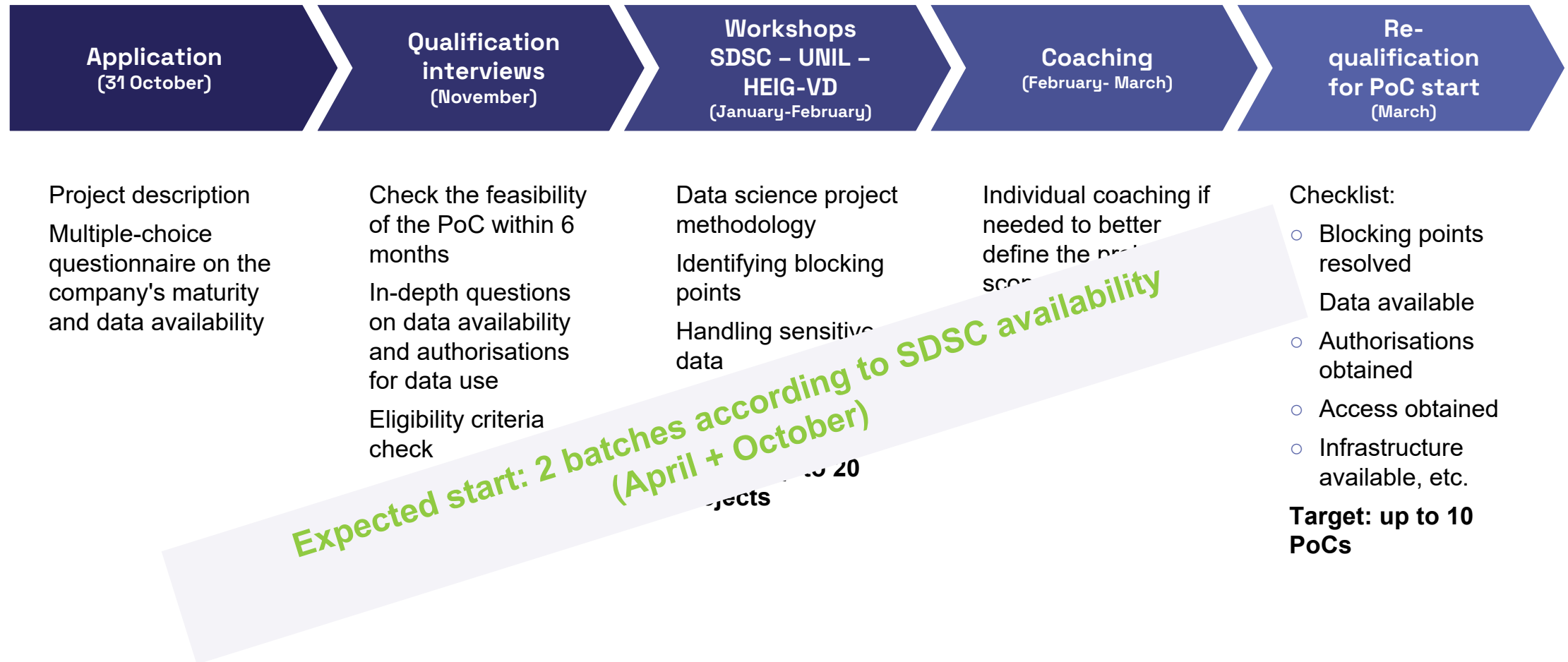
- Workshops with SDSC, HEIG-VD and UNIL
- **Technical support of 0.6 FTE over 6 months**



Track 1 – Nature of support

Project duration	6 months
Application	○ Project description (max 200 words) ○ Multiple-choice questionnaire on the company's maturity and the availability of data ○ Qualification calls with SDSC
Selection & submission	Applications reviewed by a panel of SDSC data scientists · Submission via the Microsoft CMT portal (link on our website page)

Track 1 – Process



Track 2 - Collaborative Projects

AI maturity: intermediate to advanced

Track 2

Go further and develop a solution



Target audience

Companies with **intermediate-to-advanced AI maturity** (data available and usable, AI already tested).
In-house technical experience available.



Objective

Develop and implement an AI solution.
Final deliverable: AI solution



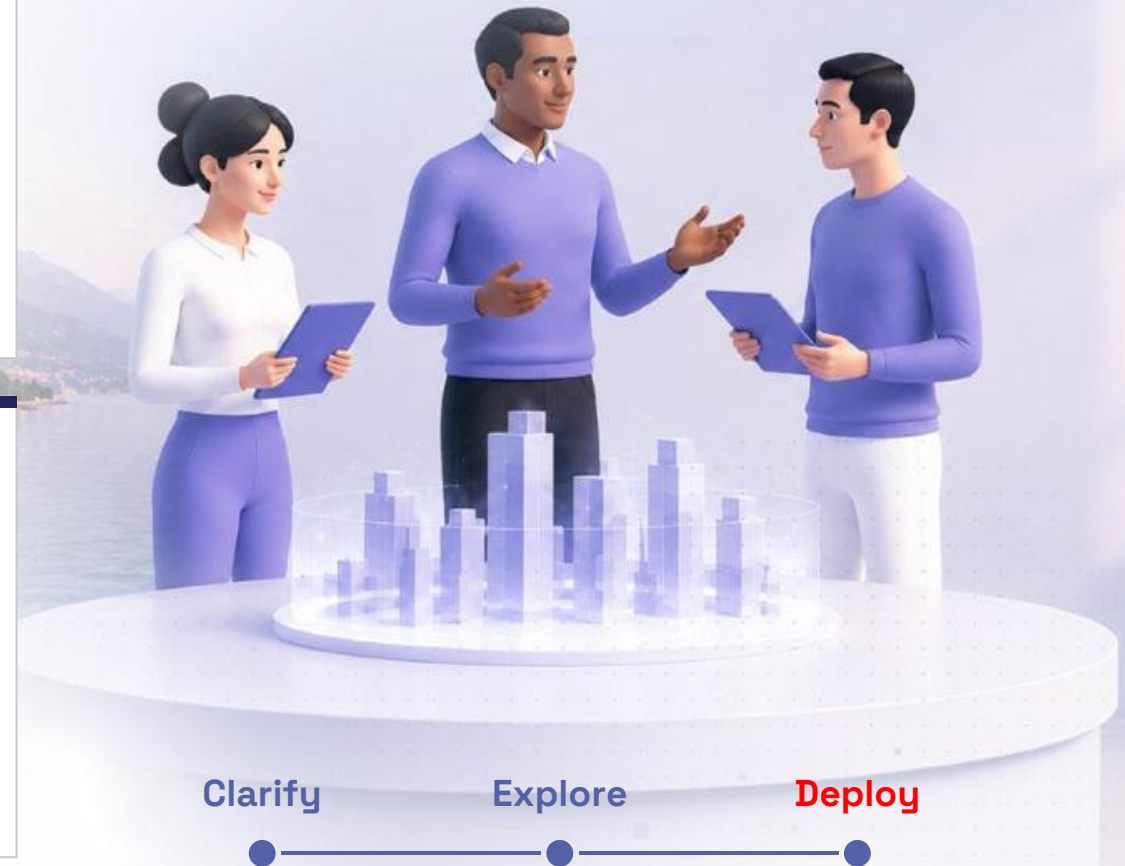
Format

- 1-year collaboration
- Up to 1.2 FTE of technical expertise
- Up to CHF 100,000 in financial support



Expertise

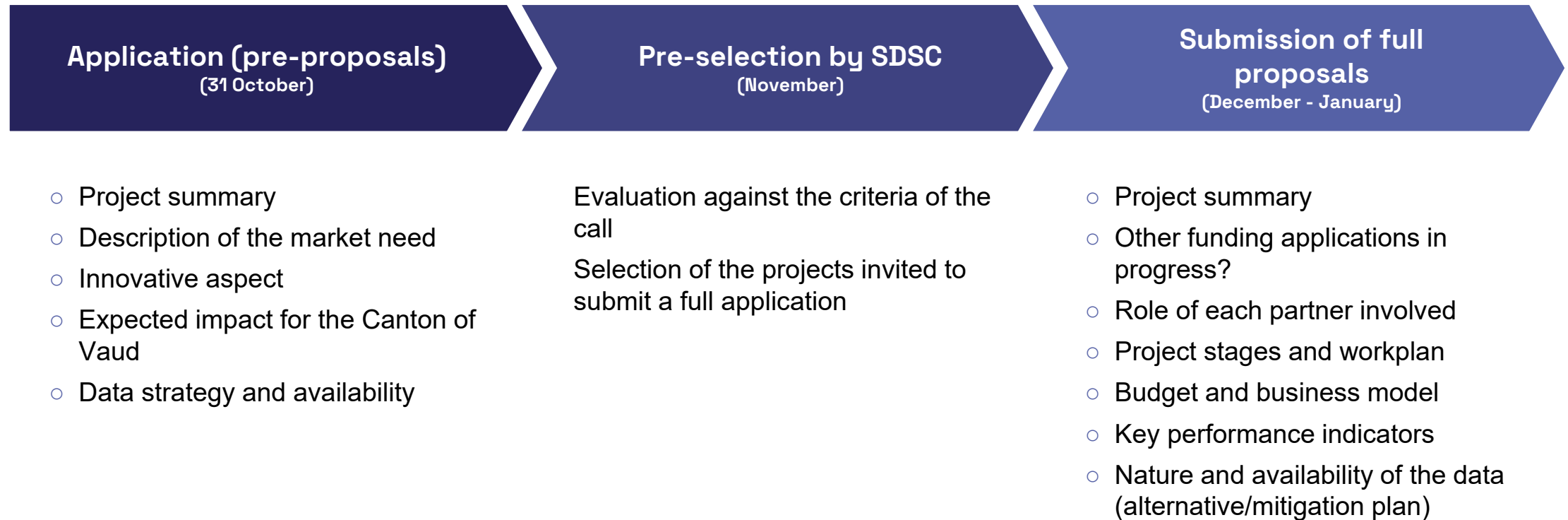
SDSC technical collaboration over 1 year (data scientist, ML engineer, project management)



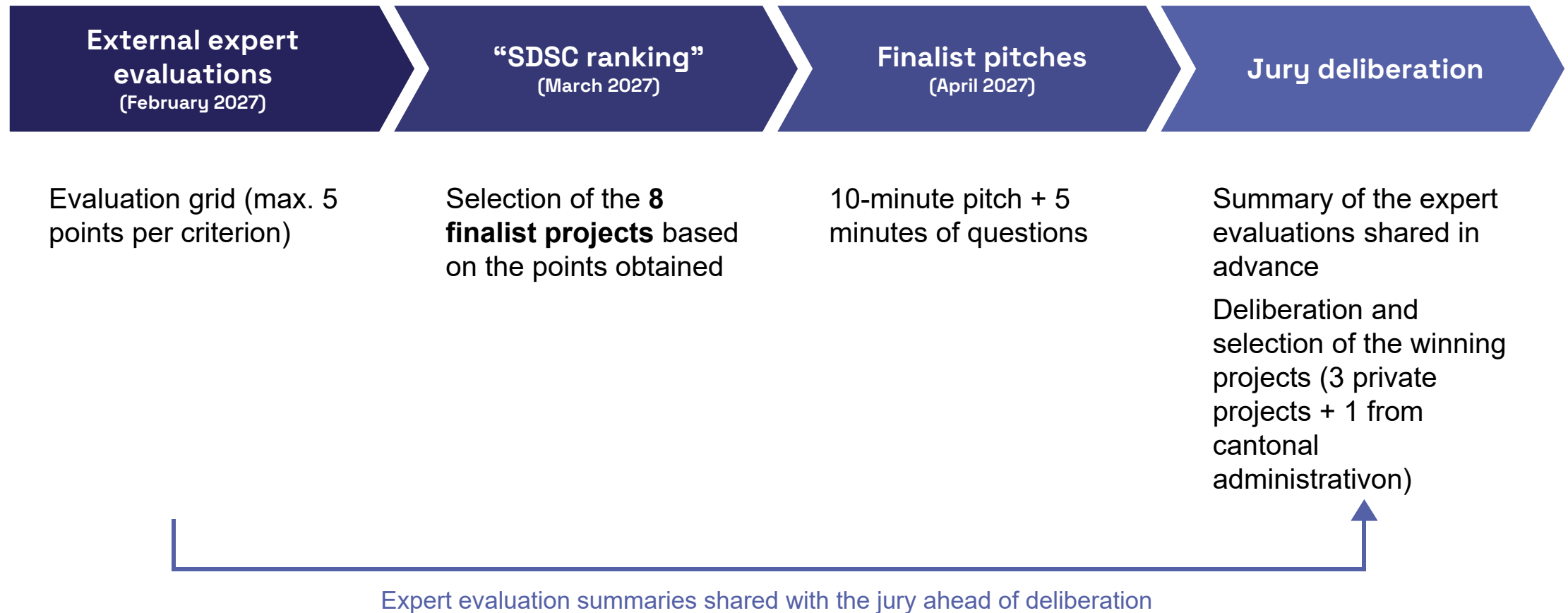
Track 2 – Nature of support

Project duration	12 months
Required co-investment	○ Cash contribution of at least 20% ○ At least 0.1 academic FTE for consortia
Pre-proposal	○ Project description (max. 200 words) ○ Partner roles ○ Business model description ○ Data availability
Submission	Applications reviewed by a panel of SDSC data scientists · Submission via the Microsoft CMT portal (link on our website page)

Track 2 – Process, phase 1



Track 2 – Process, phase 2 (for projects selected only)



Eligibility and key dates

Eligibility

Lead applicant	Other consortium members	Eligible?
Vaud SME alone	-	YES
Vaud start-up alone	-	YES (but priority for SMEs)
Company registered in Vaud	Researcher from academia	YES
Researcher alone / research lab		NO: the lead applicant must be a company
Vaud start-up	Researcher / Research lab	YES (but priority for SMEs)
Vaud SME	Researcher / Research lab	YES
Vaud company	Swiss company outside Vaud	YES
Swiss company (other canton) with a strong presence in Vaud	-	YES, provided the project has a significant impact in Vaud
Vaud (para-) public entity		YES, provided the project has a significant impact in Vaud (e.g. social)
Cantonal administration alone	-	YES (but not eligible for funds)
Cantonal administration	SME / Startup / Academia	YES (but not eligible for funds)

Recap of Key dates

Date	Milestone	Track
September 2026	Launch of the 3rd call	Both
5 October 2026	Information webinar	Both
31 October 2026 (midnight)	Application deadline	Both
End of November 2026	Selected candidates invited to submit a full application	Track 2
January – February 2027	Methodology workshops	Track 1
February 2027	Evaluation by external experts	Track 2
March 2027	Finalist pitches (Track 2) · Coaching (Track 1)	Both
Spring 2027	Start of the collaborations	Track 2
Spring + Autumn	Start of the PoC collaborations	Track 1

Questions?

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datascience.ch/call-for-projects/call-for-vaud-projects

