



# **CARBON REMOVAL** BOOSTER

## Program Information

Autumn 2026

# 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

# Program management | Our core team combines CDR and innovation experience from academia and industry and is ready to kickstart the program

**sus.lab**



**Sophia Demekas**  
Project Manager

**ETH zürich**



**Rita Ghilardi**  
Project Manager



**Alexander Haag**  
Intern

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

**rem:ve**



**Hans Westerhof**  
Co-Founder



**Rawan Gebran**  
Senior Director

*Innovation team coaching*

**RISIKO\_DIALOG**

**Swiss Carbon Removal Platform**



**Dr. Samuel Eberenz**  
Project Manager



**Lukas Fehr**  
Project Manager



**Stella Harper**  
Intern

*Workshop facilitation & Challenge exploration*

**n|w** Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz



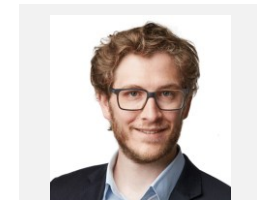
**Ananda Wyss**  
Research Associate



**Lara Sutter**  
Research Associate

*Workshop facilitation & Ideation*

**Empa**



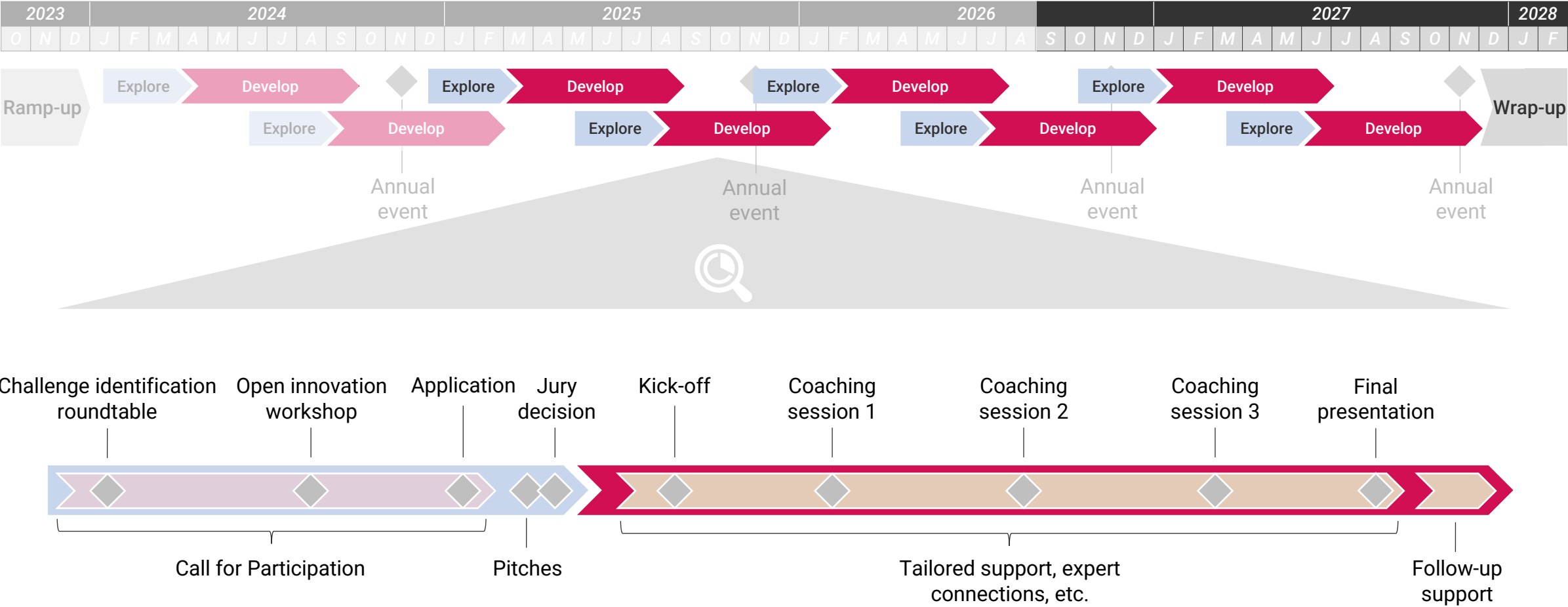
**Dr. Björn Niesen**  
Managing Director

*Overall program support*

# 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



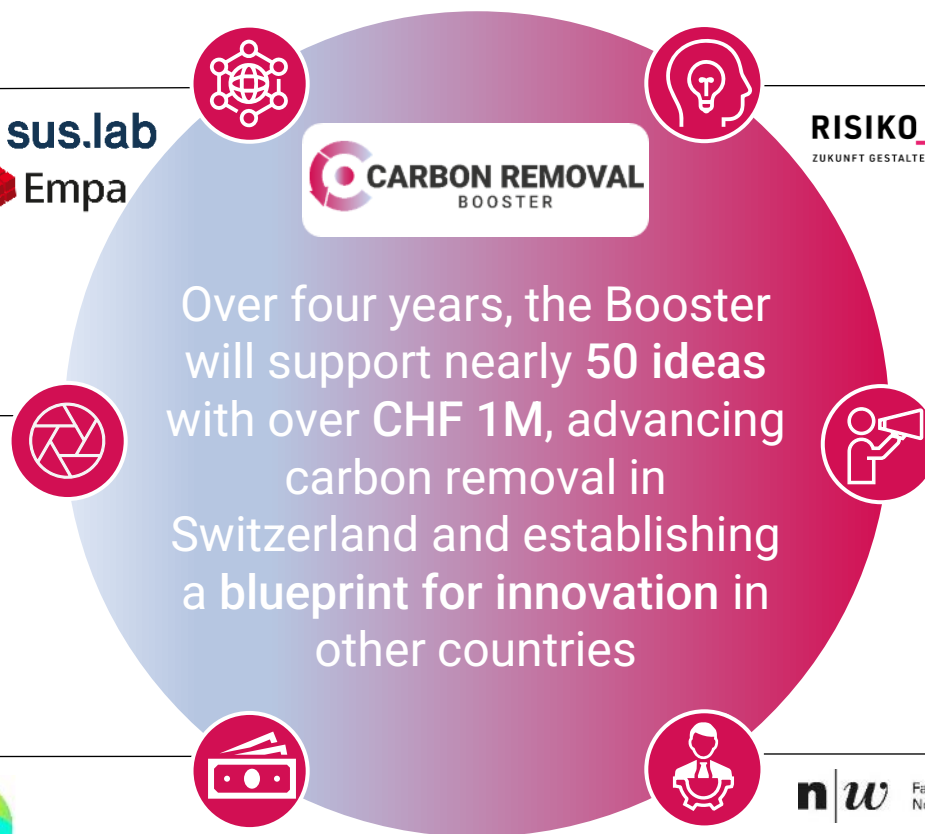
## Individual Coaching

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



## Financial Support

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



## Challenge identification



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

## Ecosystem & Communication



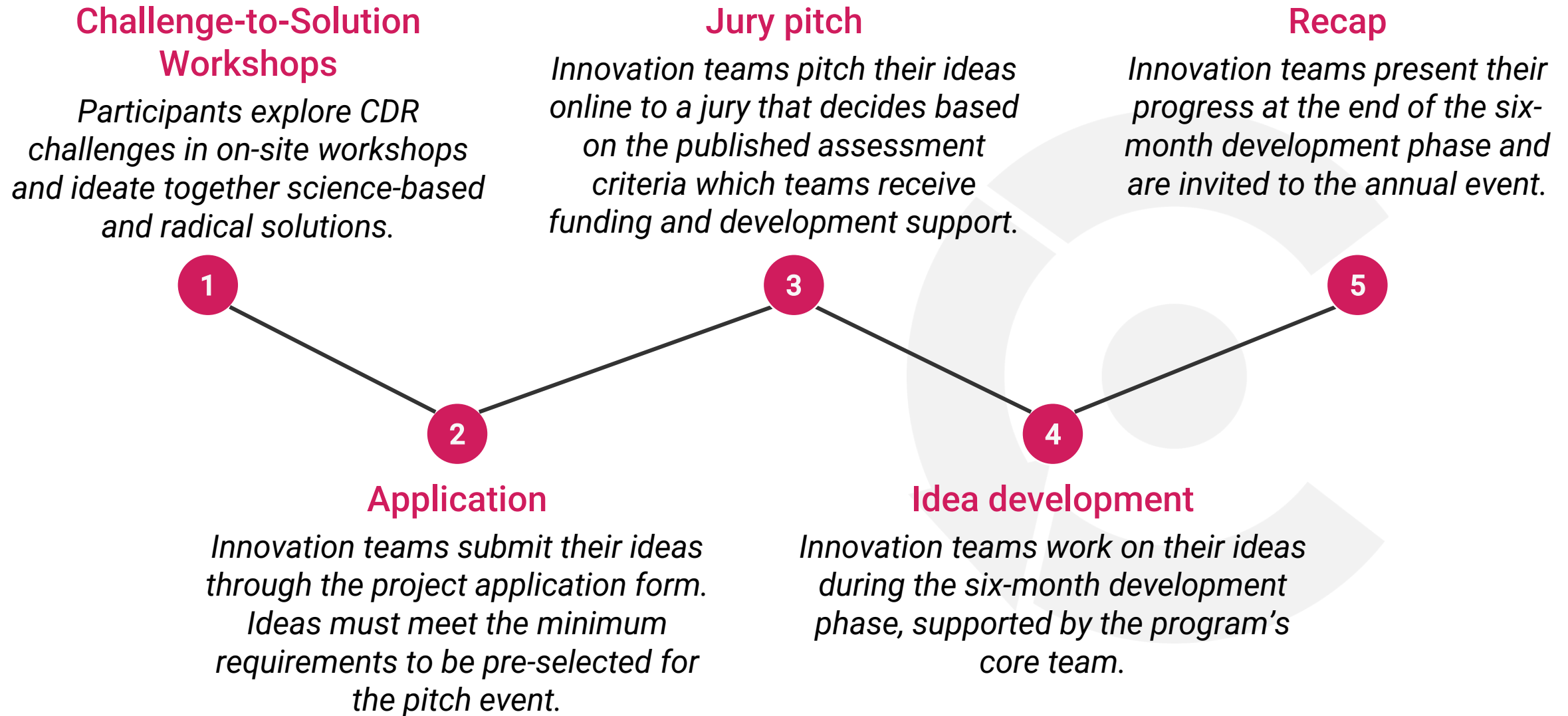
Broadcast your solution to community members, policy-makers and the public

## Co-creation & Design Thinking



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



# Challenges | Participants collaborate to identify new and existing challenges in the CDR ecosystem

How you can use the Carbon Removal Booster Challenges and Ideas Archive:



Click here to access



## 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 Canva 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

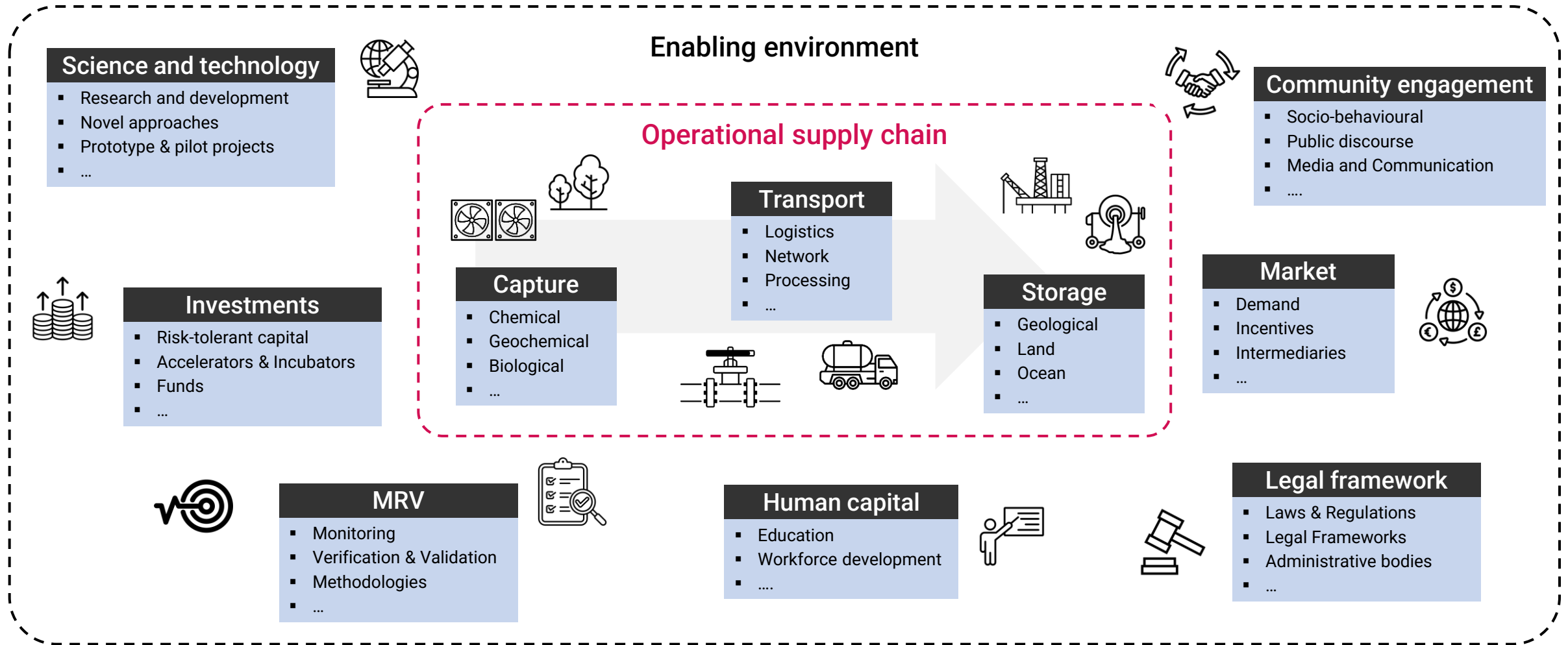
You have a specific challenge that you would like a team to work on:



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



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



# 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 Monday **4 November 2026** whether they have been selected for the pitch event.

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

# Evaluation criteria Autumn 2026 | Applicant pitches are scored across 4 criteria

*We aim to fund new and early-stage ideas, with a focus on quality and technology-based solutions, that address challenges of high relevance and significance to the Swiss economy and society and that bring together stakeholders from different sectors (research, business, politics, and society).*

| Evaluation criteria              | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Score             |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Problem Relevance and Innovation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Does the idea address a clearly defined, unresolved challenge of high relevance to the Swiss economy and/or society?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> How original is the proposed approach compared to existing solutions (technological, economic, or social)?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>To what degree does the idea present a credible pathway to a novel CDR technological, economic and/or social innovation, even if still early or uncertain?</b></li> </ul>                               | 1-5               |
| Methodological approach          | <p><b>Does the innovation team present a clear plan on how to explore and test their solutions for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Feasibility: Is it reasonable to assume the project can be technically implemented or realized?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Desirability: Is it reasonable to think that final users will need or want to use the CDR solutions?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Viability: Does the solution seem worth pursuing and the commercialization or dissemination model sustainable?</li> </ul> | 1-5<br>1-5<br>1-5 |
| Team                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Is the team committed to the venture and do they have the skills and experience?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Does the innovation team demonstrate diversity and inclusiveness?</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 1-5               |
| Impact                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Does the idea have the potential to create sustainable added value for the implementation partner or for the Swiss CDR ecosystem? Does the idea have a transformative character that can initiate change?</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 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?</li> </ul>                                                                | 1-5               |



Please make yourself familiar with the scoring criteria before the pitch event  
The pitch event will be online and open to all pitching teams and the public

# Timeline | What's next?



# Innovation Booster (IB) Resources | Find helpful documents and 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](http://www.cdr-booster.ch)

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