

Smart Living Lab Student Innovation Grants

Information Session 6 October 2025

Martin Gonzenbach
Director of Operations
EPFL Fribourg + Smart Living Lab



supported by



About the Smart Living Lab

The Smart Living Lab is

- a joint initiative of EPFL, the University of Fribourg and the School of Engineering and Architecture (HEIA-FR)
- a Research Centre dedicated to the sustainable future of the Built Environment
- a special building serving as a living lab, currently under construction
- located at the Bluefactory Innovation District in Fribourg
- part of EPFL Fribourg Campus

Smart Living Lab Faculty

EPFL

Prof. Corentin Fivet
Prof. Dusan Licina
Prof. Dolaana Khovalyg
Prof. Andrew Sonta

Support Group Building 2050
Dr. Sergi Aguacil

Director of Operations
Martin Gonzenbach

Unifr

Prof. Martin Beyeler
Prof. Denis Lalanne
Prof. Bernard Ries
Prof. Hans-Georg Fill (*)

(*) Unifr-SLL Coordination

HEIA-FR

TRANSFORM
Prof. Séréna Vanbutsele

ENERGY
Prof. Patrick Wagner

iTEC
Prof. Fabienne Favre Boivin

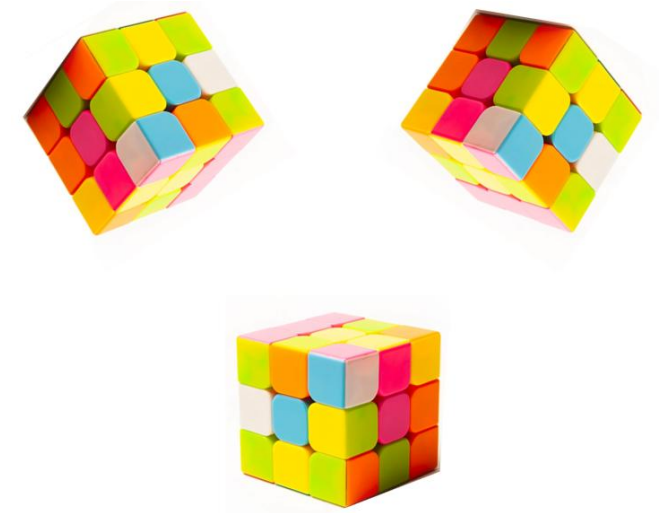
HEIA-SLL coordination:
Prof. Jean-Philippe Bacher

Student Innovation Grants

Purpose

Support students wishing to develop

- innovation projects
- possible applications of research results or technologies developed during educational work
- personal ideas

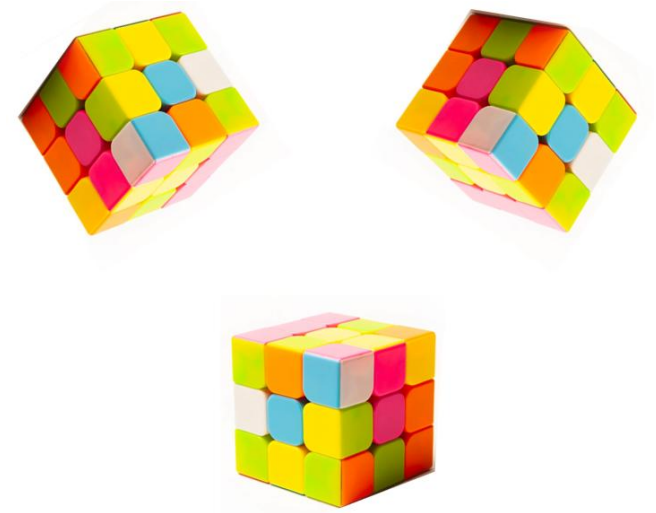


Topics must be related to research domain of the Smart Living Lab :
Sustainability and the built environment

Student Innovation Grants

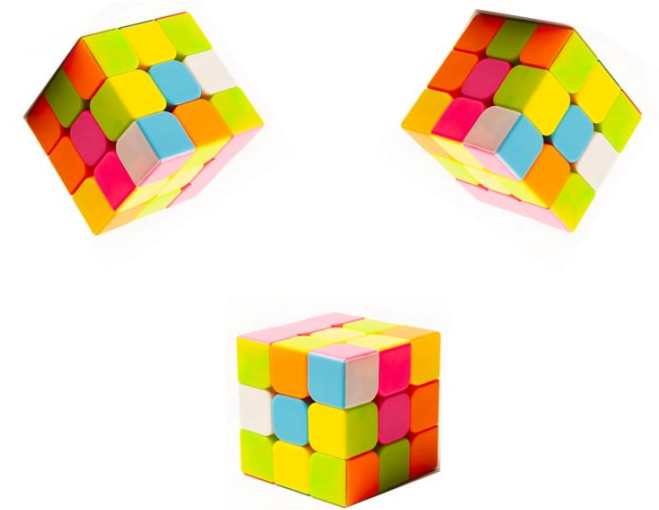
Topics for instance

- Net-zero buildings (low carbon footprint)
- Energy efficiency
- Sustainable construction
- Circularity and reuse
- Digital transformation in the built environment
- Building occupants health and well-being
- Interactions between occupants and buildings
- Design, planning and construction processes



Grant money

1)	1000 CHF Lump sum	to cover your own time investment no report required
2)	up to 4000 CHF expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preliminary budget estimates to be submitted with application • payment according to actual expenses, must provide bills and report • eligible expenses: material, equipment, services, travel – all what is needed to complete your project



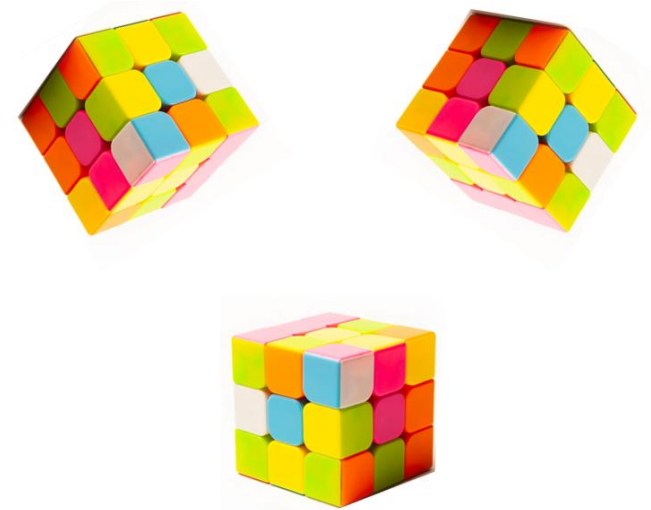
Application Process

Submit Form by e-mail to incubator@smartlivinglab.ch

Deadline 27 October 2025

Eligible candidates are invited to **pitch their idea**
to the selection committee
on 3 November 2025 12h-13h
in-person in Fribourg

5 minutes presentation + 5 min. questions
(details will be confirmed)



Application Form

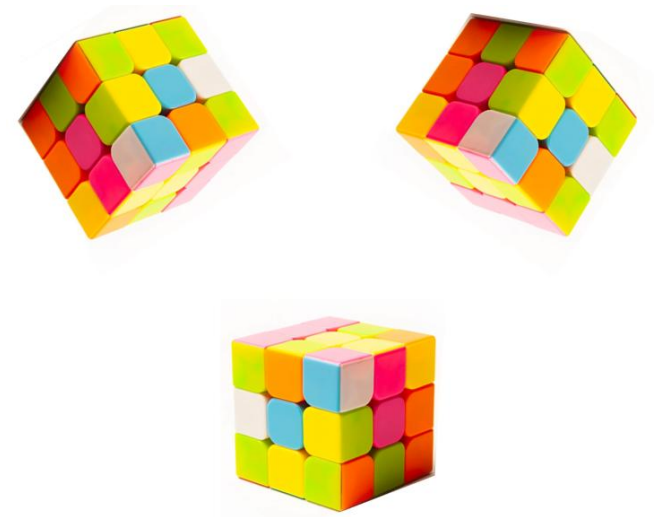
Must provide

- Short description of the project aims, methods, work plan and deliverables
- Budget estimate
- Name of a coach – if available

Form available here

(link is on page [smartlivinglab.ch/incubator](https://www.smartlivinglab.ch/incubator))

<https://www.smartlivinglab.ch/files/studentinnovationgrant-applicationform2025.docx>



The Project Coach

The coach should be a person with relevant experience who can provide advice and guidance.

Ideally a professor, educator or researcher at the Smart Living Lab, with whom you've been in contact.

In case you don't know anyone, leave the field blank in the form – *this must not prevent you from applying.*

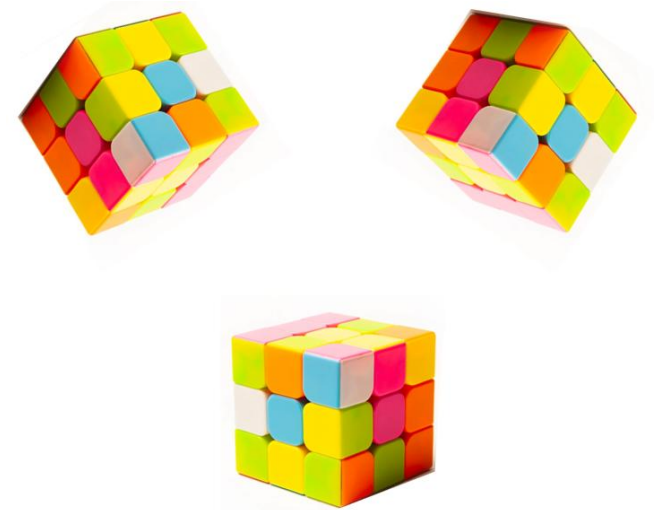


Selection Committee

The committee is composed of representatives of the three academic institutions EPFL, Unifr, HEIA-FR

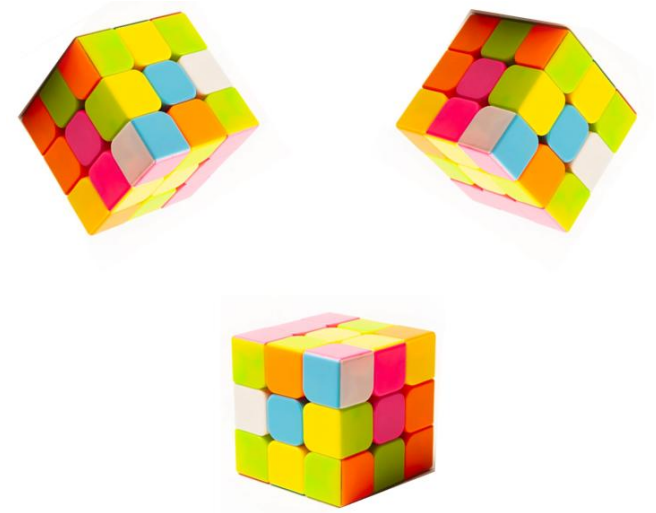
A representative of Baloise may attend the presentations

Decisions will be communicated within 1 week after the pitch sessions.



Evaluation Criteria

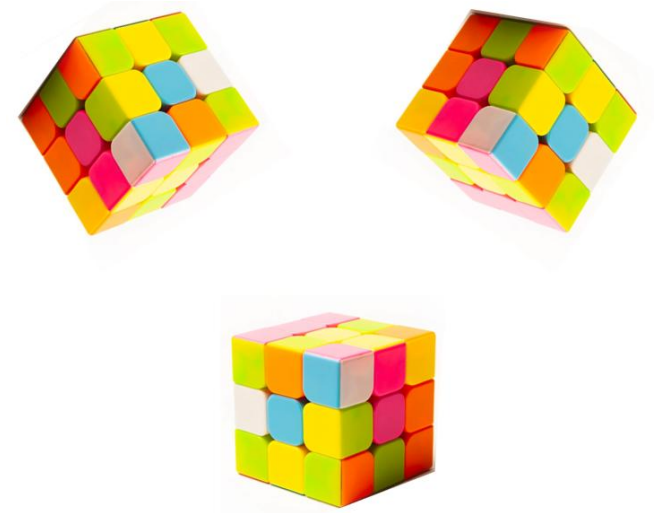
- Project novelty
- Topical relevance
- Realistic work plan and budget
- Candidate motivation, skills and capacity to work independently
- Market potential is a plus, but not required



Chances of Success ?

Success rate of previous call was > 50%

Funding allows for multiple grants



Q & A

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Website: smartlivinglab.ch/incubator

E-mail contact: incubator@smartlivinglab.ch

