With Prototypes Toward More Sustainable Tech

Prototype Fund

Prototype Fund Concept workshop #2

26 Feb 2025, Zurich

Open Data .ch

prototypefund.ch

The Plan (1/2)

PART I

1. Introduction (5’)

- Welcome and recap of the Prototype Fund’s goals and theme.
- Brief intro on why "sustainable digitalization/digital sufficiency".

2. Expert input with Q&A (10-20’)

Guest speaker and expert Dr. Leonard Creutzburg to share their experience and advice.

The Plan (2/2)

PART II

3. Idea refinement and application prep (30-50’)

- In Miro, use the templates or tools to sketch/refine your projects effectively. *All frameworks are meant to support you and not obligatory!*

OR:

3. Cross-share ideas

- **Mini Pitches:** Participants share their initial ideas in small groups (max 3 min. each).
- **Feedback Rounds:** Guest speaker gives feedback.

4. Final Q&A (5-10’)

Welcome

💚💚💚

Prototype Fund

Verena Kontschieder, Program Lead

Open Data .ch

Prototype Fund

- **Experimental space** for open technologies by and for the people
- **Address societal challenges** and strengthen the common good
- Promotes a **collaborative, human-centered, open** innovation culture in Switzerland 🇨🇭



Looking back at 3 Rounds

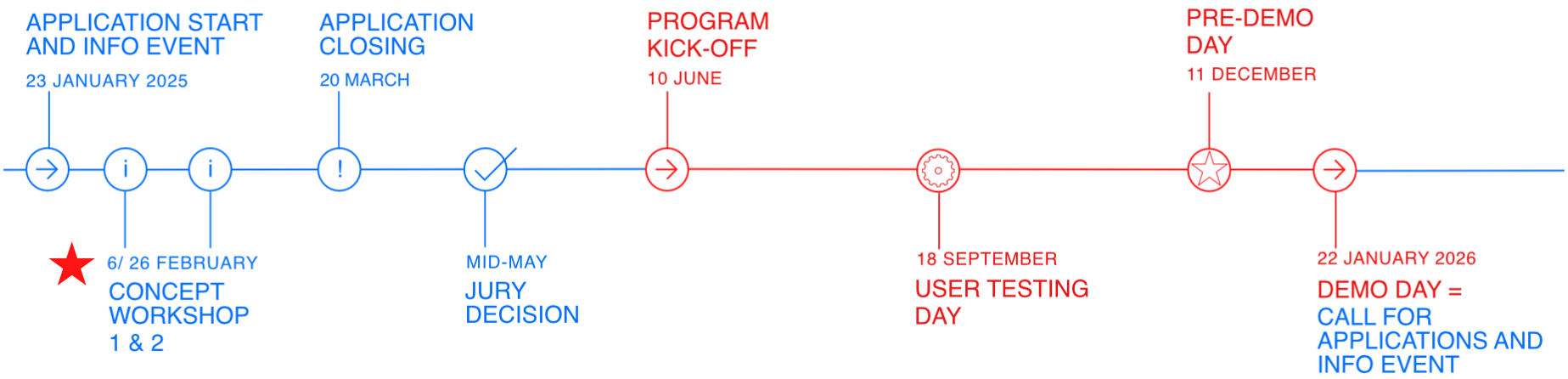
- >160 applications
- 16 projects
- 100 people
- 8 projects received follow-up funding
- Civic Tech and Public Interest Tech

Focus on Sustainable Digitalization + Sufficiency

- Application **deadline**: **20 March 2025**
- **Focus topic**: ecologically sustainable digitalization and “digital sufficiency”
- Highlight the **relevance of the connection between technology and sustainability**
- **Raise awareness** of the concept of sufficiency in the context of digitalization



The Timeline for This Edition



Expert input with Q&A

Dr. Leonard Creutzburg - One Planet Lab, WWF

Refine ideas, prep for submission

1. **Miro, start building!**
2. **Or ask Leonard**

**All frameworks are meant to support you and not obligatory!*

Idea Cross-Sharing & Feedback

All of us who dare - w/Leonard

Why do (public interest tech) projects fail?

Lessons learned from the Prototype Fund

Success and Failure (for projects)

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Success

- Working, user tested proof of concept/ MVP/ prototype
- Insights, learnings
- Ready for future financing round
- Continuation

Failure

- No working prototype
- Failure to meet the demands of users (and stakeholders)
- No continuation
- Program impedes

Stages of failure

- Hypotheses could not be tested
- Tool is not launched
- Tool joins the civic tech graveyard (no users, no longer exists)
- Developed technology is no longer used
- Tool does not achieve desired impact

Administratives to Keep in Mind

Lessons learned from the Prototype Fund

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Selection criteria

Eligibility

- ❑ Contribution to (ecologically) sustainable digitalization?
- ❑ Open-source solution?
- ❑ Open data and public accessibility?
- ❑ Applicant’s age (18+)?
- ❑ Swiss work permit?

Evaluation

- ★ (Digital) sufficiency = (Reduction of absolute resource consumption through/with digital technology)
- ★ Innovation*
- ★ Feasibility and team capabilities
- ★ Long-term impact

Ready to Submit Your Idea!?

- **Apply by 20 March** via prototypefund.ch
- **Follow us** on LinkedIn and Mastodon
- **Spread the word** and share with your network!
- **Join** our newsletter community

We are a project hosted by Opendata.ch

- Become a member (opendata.ch/membership)
- Subscribe to our *newsletter* abonnieren (opendata.ch/news)
- Follow us on *Mastodon* (mastodon.social/@OpendataCH)
- Follow us on *LinkedIn* (opendatach)

Questions?



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Massive Thanks to

Stiftung Mercator Schweiz

cms
Christoph Merian Stiftung

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Reach Out Via

- www.prototypefund.ch
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- info@prototypefund.ch

