

Expertise and interest in Horizon Europe

Seeking partners and consortia — Cluster 2 “Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society”

The Digital Strategy Office (Bureau de la stratégie numérique, BSN) of HES-SO Geneva designs and steers the institution’s digital strategy, working at the interface between applied research, instructional design and digital public policy. The BSN wishes to take part in Horizon Europe consortia and to contribute its expertise in digital literacy, AI in education and digital governance. We are looking for partners — primarily on the **DEMOCRACY-10 (2026)** topic — as a partner bringing focused expertise, or as a coordinator on the components that fall within our core remit.

1. Our expertise

Educational technology and instructional design

Design, deployment and evaluation of teaching and learning solutions in the digital age: instructional design, hybrid learning environments, an educational-innovation incubator, teacher training and the evolution of techno-pedagogical practices. The BSN operates directly within a higher-education ecosystem (the HES-SO network).

Digital skills and literacy

Assessment, development and enhancement of the digital skills of educational audiences (students, teachers, administrative staff): skills matrices by profile, self-assessment tools (PIX) and training pathways. Digital and media literacy — the ability to search for, critically evaluate and use information — lies at the heart of our expertise.

AI in teaching and learning

Analysis of the uses and effects of AI tools in education: personalised learning, support for the teaching profession, intelligent tutoring systems, and the conditions for safe, equitable and developmentally appropriate integration. Particular attention is paid to equity, inclusion and the mitigation of algorithmic bias.

Governance of digital technology and AI

Frameworks for the governance, ethics and regulation of digital technology and AI: implementation of the AI Act, data governance (FAIR principles, GDPR compliance, protection of minors), AI literacy and recommendations for public decision-makers. Geneva’s location, close to many actors in the international governance of information and AI, is a strong positioning asset for a consortium.

2. Calls of interest

Immediate priority: DEMOCRACY-10 (2026). DEMOCRACY-04 (2027) is a natural extension of our expertise in AI governance.

HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-DEMOCRACY-10

Digital and media literacy as drivers for democratic and civic resilience

RIA · €12M · €3.5–4M/project · 3 projects · opens 12 May 2026 · deadline 23 Sep 2026 · 100% funding (lump sum)

The topic targets digital and media literacy as a lever for democratic resilience against disinformation and hybrid threats. It requires a multi-stakeholder approach (public authorities, schools, universities, civil society, media) and addresses three strands: understanding citizens’ information behaviours, critically evaluating existing literacy initiatives, and developing practical strategies and tools for educators and decision-makers. Reference frameworks: the European Democracy Action Plan, the DSA and EDMO.

Potential contribution: partner (or work-package coordinator) on the work packages relating to digital and media literacy in educational settings, the design of pedagogical tools for educators and decision-makers, and dissemination towards Swiss and European training institutions. We are a useful complement to a consortium combining expertise in political science and democracy, in computing (NLP, social network analysis) and actors from civil society and the media.

HORIZON-CL2-2027-01-DEMOCRACY-04

Addressing the impact of artificial intelligence, cyberviolence, and deepfakes on equality, democracy and inclusive societies

RIA · €20M · €3.5–4M/project · 5 projects · opens 13 May 2027 · deadline 23 Sep 2027 · 100% funding (lump sum)

This topic addresses the impacts of generative AI, deepfakes and cyberviolence on equality, democratic integrity and social cohesion, explicitly within the framework of the AI Act. A multidisciplinary approach and a gender perspective are mandatory; the expected outcomes concern AI governance frameworks and media literacy. The later deadline leaves time to build a solid consortium.

Potential contribution: on AI governance and ethics (implementation of the AI Act), AI and media literacy, and awareness-raising among citizens and institutions. A distinctive asset stems from the Geneva-based positioning (UN actors in AI governance); to be complemented by partners in gender studies / digital law, in political science, and technical partners (deepfake detection, AI).

3. Contact

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