

Call for proposals for Short Project funding

Through its internal funding program *Short Projects*, the Weizenbaum Institute specifically supports interdisciplinary collaboration as well as the development and testing of new ideas and research topics related to current social and technological developments. In this way, the Institute promotes innovative project initiatives that address contemporary challenges and open up new perspectives.

With the Short Projects program, the Weizenbaum Institute strengthens its claim to react flexibly and responsively to current developments and challenges. At the same time, the program promotes interdisciplinary cooperation, communication and innovation within the Institute. The funded projects are thematically and methodologically open, lie outside the existing research program and provide new impulses or answers to current questions. All researchers at the institute can apply for the annual call for proposals.

Third Call for Proposals

We invite submissions for flexible short projects with the duration of up to one year. Researchers at WI can apply for internal support funds of up to €20,000 for a short project. Deadline for submission is 14 December 2025.

Project design

These funds can be used for research projects with a clear interdisciplinary design that are not planned/possible in the program and budget of the research groups. These can be, for example, research projects focusing on the main mission of the Weizenbaum Institute and going beyond the focus of one research group (meta research, development of new methods etc.), projects that respond to current developments and events or take up emergent topics, that were not foreseeable at the time the research program was developed.

The project should include a transfer activity (e.g. public event, report, interview, video).

Proposals submitted and carried out by members of at least two different research groups will be given priority. Projects can also include external partners.

The project should be completed within one year in the timeframe of February 2026 until May 2027. The final results will be presented at the Research Day 2027.

Budget planning

The requested funds of up to €20,000 can be used for research staff (e.g. researchers, student assistants) and/or other direct project costs.

Application and selection process

We expect a proposal of max. 3 pages which includes:

- precise research question embedded in the current state of research
- objectives and relevance of the proposed project
- the planned outputs including at least one transfer activity
- brief description of methods and interdisciplinary approach
- brief work plan (one year project duration)
- budget plan

Please hand in the proposal by **14. Dec. 2025** to forschungsmanagement@weizenbaum-institut.de

Proposals will be reviewed and selected by an internal interdisciplinary committee in January 2026. The central criterion is originality and contribution to the mission of the WI (excellent interdisciplinary research and/or dialogue and transfer).

After the selection, the new round of Short Projects will start with a joint Kick-off meeting in February 2026 und will include an input on interdisciplinary collaboration and research.

If you have any questions, please contact Annegret.Kunde@weizenbaum-institut.de