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Support for fresh scientific ideas: wemakeit, the largest Swiss crowdfunding platform, will boost science projects that raise funds from the public with CHF 225,000.

Crowdfunding is becoming more popular each day with people funding thousands of fresh initiatives that would otherwise never see the light of day. It is now an integral part of public support to culture and technology. But this kind of resources are still missing in science, especially for short-term and small-scale projects.

A private boost for public ideas

To change this, the Gebert Rüt Stiftung has partnered with wemakeit, the largest crowdfunding platform in Switzerland, and has pledged CHF 225,000 for a Science Booster through its «Scientainment» program. The Science Booster will give researchers from within and outside academic institutions a chance to actively engage with the public in an original way and raise funds to test unconventional scientific ideas. The financial contribution from the Gebert Rüt Stiftung will be used to match these funds and thus double their impact.

To help scientists communicate and fund their idea, Luc Henry and Mirko Bischofberger will be coaching the projects submitted to the Science Booster program. Both spent several years in research, science policy and communication and they realized that in a majority of cases, science projects receive large budgets and require long-term commitments. «[While the traditional grants work great for most science, they do not allow small-scale and short-term projects to happen](#)», says Luc Henry.

Democratizing science

The goal of this partnership is to boost unconventional scientific ideas and especially promote young scientists to get their first independent research started. «[Crowdfunding enables young and curious minds to formulate their scientific ideas, explain them to a broader audience and thus reach out of the ivory tower](#)», adds Mirko Bischofberger. The collaboration will explore crowdfunding as a tool to support researchers at the beginning of their careers, but also empower citizen and let them chose the science projects they want to support.

[Rea Egli, co-founder of wemakeit, is excited about the new Science Booster: «This boost will make Science accessible to the public and more participative. We look forward to expanding our portfolio and hosting many interesting and promising science projects in the near future.»](#)

The Science Booster is now open for submissions: science.wemakeit.com.

we

wemakeit
Crowdfunding
creative projects

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About wemakeit.com

Founded in 2012, wemakeit is Switzerland's largest crowdfunding platform, reaching the top five in Europe. It offers creatives the possibility to introduce their project to a large online community and to finance it with the help of a big crowd of backers. Next to its offices in Zurich, Basel and Lausanne, wemakeit is also present in Vienna, Berlin and Bellinzona and speaks four languages. Although it was initially founded to support cultural projects, wemakeit nowadays sports all kind of ideas originating in the creative industries as well as community and science projects and startups. So far, 117,000 backers have supported more than 2,000 projects with 20 million Swiss francs.

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