Défi Source

Regulations 2026-27

(v1)

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What is the Défi Source ?

The **Défi Source** is a collaborative innovation event in the form of a hackathon, dedicated to innovation in care and healthcare. It is open to caregivers, patients, family caregivers, technologists, developers, engineers, designers, gamers, marketers, entrepreneurs, startup founders, students, professionals, teachers, and researchers - in short, anyone who is committed to addressing healthcare challenges through innovation by contributing their ideas, skills, experience and dedication. All are welcome to participate in the Défi Source and may register free of charge as participants on the website https://defi-source.ch.

During this event, participants form teams and collaborate to develop their own innovative projects in care and healthcare. Each team sets out to propose a solution idea to an identified problem or need in this field, then develops that solution by creating mockups, prototypes, draft applications and presentations of their ideas and progress. *In this document, "Project" means a project developed by a team during the Défi Source phase known as BOOTCAMP, from the initial idea for a solution to a given problem, or to address a given need, in the field of care and healthcare.*

Throughout the Défi Source, teams may receive guidance from support personnel (coaches and experts) provided by the organizers to guide them, without doing the work on their behalf. A panel of experts will evaluate the Projects and select the winners at the closing event.

The Défi Source takes place in **four stages**:

- **1 – Immerse**: the launch evening on **October 28, 2026**, centered on an entrepreneurial simulation.
- **2 – Engage**: idea generation and application submission:
    - **Project submission**: from **March 1 to 28, 2027**, anyone may submit a Project idea on https://defi-source.ch.
    - **Announcement of selected Projects**: **April 2, 2027**, on the Défi Source website.
    - **Team formation**: from **April 5 to 18**, on the Défi Source website.
- **3 – Act**: from **April 22 to 24, 2027**:
    - **BOOTCAMP**: selected Projects are developed by teams with support from coaches and experts.
    - **Closing event** - **Saturday, April 24, 2027** (in Lausanne): presentation of results to the public and judging panels, followed by the presentation of awards to the winners.

- **4 – Anchor**: Day 60 and Day 180; follow-up support for the winning Projects.

The Défi Source is organized by H4 and the Institut et Haute École de la Santé La Source. The H4 team responsible for the Défi Source is referred to below as “the organizers.”

Participation in the Défi Source

Participation Requirements

Participation in the Défi Source is open to anyone who registers through the event website. Project leads may submit their applications from **March 1 to 28, 2027**. The selected Projects will be published on **April 2, 2027**, and applications to join a team will be open from **April 5 to 18, 2027**. No Project applications will be accepted after the submission period closes. Teams are formed by Project leads based on the applications received.

Anyone may take part in the Défi Source. Applicants may either submit a Project or join one of the teams formed around the selected Projects. People who do not have a Project idea are welcome - and are essential - and can contribute to Project development through their skills and experience.

No prior experience in innovation, entrepreneurship, or healthcare is required. **Participation in the Défi Source is free and open to everyone.**

Please note that registration is also required to attend the immersion evening on October 28, 2026. This registration is separate from the registration required to take part in the hackathon.

Registration for the Défi Source hackathon must be completed exclusively through the official Défi Source website (https://defi-source.ch).

Anyone wishing to submit a Project may apply between **March 1 and 28, 2027**, by completing the designated form. The selected Projects will be published on **April 2, 2027**.

Anyone wishing to participate without submitting a Project may review the selected Projects and apply to join a team between **April 5 and 18, 2027**. Applications are sent directly to the Project leads, who form their teams, with support from the organizers if necessary.

The information provided during registration or Project submission is used to organize the Défi Source and is subject to the event’s privacy policy.

Project Selection

Projects submitted between **March 1 and 28, 2027**, are reviewed by a panel composed of professionals from the fields of healthcare, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

The selection criteria include, in particular:

- the relevance of the identified need or problem;
- the potential impact of the proposed solution;
- the innovative nature of the Project;
- its feasibility within the Défi Source;
- the motivation of the Project lead.

Project leads who attended the Défi Source launch evening on **October 28, 2026**, receive one **bonus point** in the evaluation of their application.

At the end of the process, **12 Projects** are selected to participate in the BOOTCAMP. Applicants are notified of the results before the selected Projects are officially published on the website.

The panel's decisions are final and not subject to appeal. No appeal may be filed against the selection results.

Team Formation

The selected Projects will be published on the Défi Source website on April 2, 2027.

From April 5 to 18, 2027, anyone wishing to join a team may apply to the lead of the Project of their choice using a form on the Défi Source website. Applications are sent directly to Project leads, who are responsible for forming their teams based on applicants' profiles, skills, and motivation. Each team may have a maximum of five people, including the Project lead.

The organizers may assist Project leads during this process to encourage the formation of multidisciplinary and balanced teams.

Team Composition

Ideally, teams should bring together people with varied backgrounds so that the Project's challenges can be approached from different angles. Participants are encouraged to combine

complementary skills in healthcare, design, engineering, development, business, or entrepreneurship.

However, final responsibility for team composition rests with the Project leads. It is essential to bring together several people; no one may develop their Project alone during the BOOTCAMP. The organizers will do their best to ensure that this does not happen.

Withdrawal from the Défi Source

Participants may withdraw their application or leave the Défi Source at any time by informing the organizers. The organizers reserve the right to retain information already provided to the extent necessary for the event's administrative management, in accordance with the privacy policy.

Exclusion of a Participant

The organizers reserve the right to exclude a participant from the Défi Source and terminate their participation in the following situations:

- behavior that conflicts with the values of the Défi Source, including any discriminatory, violent, insulting, or harassing statements or actions, or any conduct that disrespects other participants, experts, or members of the organizing team;
- behavior that disrupts the program or prevents a team from working under satisfactory conditions;
- use of the Défi Source primarily for promotional or commercial purposes, without making a genuine contribution to Project development;
- repeated failure to comply with instructions communicated by the organizers.

No participant may demand that another participant be excluded.

Before making any exclusion decision, the organizers will prioritize dialogue, mediation, and the search for a constructive solution. Exclusion is an exceptional measure and will be applied only when problematic behavior persists or compromises the proper running of the Défi Source.

Boot Camp

Participation

The teams behind the 12 selected Projects participate in the Défi Source BOOTCAMP.

Each team commits to actively participating in the different stages of the program. Team members must attend all required activities to ensure the Project runs smoothly and to allow participants to fully benefit from the support provided.

Program Schedule and Format

Throughout the program, teams receive support from coaches and experts assigned according to each Project's needs.

The organizers provide teams with access to a network of experts through themed clinics covering, in particular, clinical use and patient experience, regulatory and legal matters, cost-effectiveness and funding, AI and technology, human-centered design, testing in realistic conditions, as well as innovation and entrepreneurship. These experts are intended to support teams as they develop their Projects.

Each team is also assigned a dedicated coach throughout the BOOTCAMP.

The organizers may also make a Fab Lab available to support the prototyping efforts of certain teams. Access to this resource is granted according to Project needs and cannot be guaranteed for every team.

The organizers will make every effort to address identified needs but cannot guarantee that all requested expertise or resources will be available.

Mandatory Training

As part of the program, teams commit to taking part in the short training sessions organized by the Défi Source during the BOOTCAMP, including:

- **Value Proposition Canvas.**
- **Business Model Canvas and Pitch (Kawasaki method).**

Other workshops or support sessions may be offered during the program.

Absence Management

Any absence from a required activity must be reported to the organizers as soon as possible at contact@h4vd.ch.

Project Follow-up

Teams agree to provide the information requested by the organizers to track Project progress and prepare the various evaluation stages, as well as the awarding of prizes and support opportunities.

Practical arrangements for this follow-up will be communicated to the teams concerned during the program.

Project Development

Teams are free to choose the methods, tools, and technologies they wish to use to develop their Projects, provided these comply with the principles of safety, ethics, and respect for people.

Any Project involving interactions with patients, healthcare professionals, or other users must comply with applicable rules on confidentiality, consent, and data protection.

Teams may not simply reproduce an existing solution by reusing work or materials previously created by themselves or by third parties. In particular, copying a solution as-is is prohibited. If a solution's development builds on prior work (open source or otherwise), the team must inform the organizers. This may be considered, particularly when the panel evaluates Projects, in order to prioritize originality and innovation. In such cases, the Project may build on earlier developments but must add new work created during the BOOTCAMP.

Teams may not use developers from outside the Défi Source to do the work on their behalf. In exceptional cases where developing a solution requires highly specialized outside assistance, a request must be submitted to the organizers, who will decide whether such assistance may be permitted and under what conditions.

The organizers reserve the right to immediately stop any development that violates these rules.

The goal of the Défi Source is to move Projects toward a tangible solution. Teams are therefore encouraged to develop prototypes, demonstrators, mockups, or other materials that bring their value proposition to life.

Closing Event

Participation

The Défi Source closing event takes place on the final day of the BOOTCAMP. In addition to Défi Source participants, the event is open to everyone, subject to registration and available space.

Project Presentations

Each team is invited to present the Project developed during the hackathon at the closing event. The presentation requirements (format, duration, visual aids, any technical constraints, and evaluation criteria) will be communicated to teams by the organizers at a later date.

Teams agree to follow the instructions provided and meet the deadlines set for submitting any presentation materials.

Awards and Distinctions

Prizes and distinctions awarded as part of the Défi Source are granted according to procedures established by the organizers and/or the partners providing them. The award criteria, selection procedures, and responsible decision-making bodies are determined separately for each prize or distinction. Decisions made in this context are final and may not be appealed.

Unless otherwise stated, prizes and distinctions take the form of services, mentoring or support, introductions, visibility opportunities, or other contributions defined by the relevant partner organization. Rewards may not be converted into cash or give rise to financial compensation.

Provisions applicable to the entire Défi Source 2026–2027

Neutrality Clause

Everyone involved in supervising or supporting participants during the Défi Source - including panel members, coaches, and experts - must remain neutral. **It is strictly prohibited to use the Défi Source to promote one's own products, services, or personal professional activities**. This rule applies throughout all phases of the event.

This prohibition does not apply to the event's official sponsors and partners, who have their own visibility spaces provided by the organizers.

Image Rights

At each Défi Source event (launch evening, BOOTCAMP, and closing event), the organizers may take **photographs and videos** of participants and their work. By registering, participants are informed that their image may be captured during the event and consent to its use by the organizers for internal and external communications related to the Défi Source. Anyone who does not wish to appear in photos or videos may notify the organizers. They may be given a special badge, which must be worn visibly during the event to alert photographers not to photograph them. Such requests must be sent by email to contact@h4vd.ch before the event begins.

Teams also agree that the organizers may publish public communications (articles, social media posts, etc.) about their respective Projects.

Equipment and Software

Each participant must bring their own work equipment (laptop, adapters, extension cords, power strips, development tools, etc.) and software. Participants remain fully responsible for their equipment throughout the Défi Source. The organizers accept no liability for theft, loss, or damage to participants' personal belongings.

Throughout the BOOTCAMP, the organizers may, at their discretion and without obligation, provide various equipment and facilities to support the teams' work, including:

- Suitable rooms.
- Wi-Fi Internet access.
- Sufficient cables, extension cords, power strips, and electrical outlets.
- Furniture and flexible workspaces.

- Office supplies (flip charts, stationery, etc.).
- Craft materials for creating mockups and illustrations (upon request).

Specific equipment needs should be communicated to the organizers as early as possible. They will do their best to provide additional equipment based on requests, but this is not guaranteed.

Personal Data Protection and Confidentiality (FADP)

The Défi Source involves collecting and processing certain participants' **personal data** (for example, first and last names and email addresses submitted with applications), as well as content they share on the Défi Source website (Project ideas, messages, comments). In accordance with the revised **Swiss Federal Act on Data Protection (FADP)**, which came into force in 2023, the organizers will use this data only for the organization and running of the Défi Source. In particular, the data is used to manage registrations, form teams, facilitate communication between participants and organizers, and promote the event to the public. Personal data will not be shared with third parties outside the Défi Source without the consent of the individuals concerned, except potentially with partners or sponsors directly involved in the event, and only within the scope of the event and to the extent necessary (e.g., for prize administration). The organizers undertake to take the necessary measures to secure the data and prevent unauthorized access.

Under the FADP, each participant has the following rights regarding their personal data:

- **the right to information** about the processing of their data (purpose, type of data collected, recipients, retention period, etc.);
- **the right to access** personal data held by the Défi Source organizers, upon reasonable request;
- **the right to correct** inaccurate or incomplete data concerning them;
- **the right to have their personal data deleted** after the Défi Source ends. By making a simple request to the organizers, a participant may have their personal data deleted, provided retention is no longer necessary for event organization and subject to any legal data-retention obligations.

To exercise these rights or ask questions about personal data, participants may contact the Défi Source organizers (for example, using the contact email address provided).

All participants and contributors are also expected to respect data protection and confidentiality principles during the Défi Source. In particular, everyone must refrain from disclosing personal information about third parties without their consent. For example, a

participant must not publicly share another participant's contact details without permission. Similarly, if a Project team handles or collects personal data (e.g., patient, healthcare professional, or user data as part of its idea), it must ensure that it does so in compliance with applicable law: obtaining consent from the individuals concerned where necessary, anonymizing sensitive data, respecting professional secrecy where applicable, and so on.

Coaches and experts involved in the event are also bound by confidentiality. They must not disclose outside the Défi Source any confidential technical or strategic information they learn about the Projects of the teams they support without those teams' consent.

Intellectual Property

The parties who contribute to developing a solution during the Défi Source (participants, partners, etc.) retain control over the **results** of that development. In other words, intellectual property rights in creations (prototypes, code, designs, etc.) made during the Défi Source belong to the people who created them. Participants are not required to transfer their results to the organizers or publish them as **open source** or **open data**, although the organizers strongly encourage them to share their work with the community in the spirit of open innovation.

Developments created during the Défi Source that are based on open-source tools or resources generally remain **open source**, in accordance with the applicable licenses (for example, if a team uses open-source software, any modification to that software must comply with the corresponding open-source license).

Under applicable law, no participant may subsequently claim a **patent** on an idea, process, or invention that was publicly presented during the Défi Source and thereby entered the public domain. In other words, elements of Projects presented during pitch submissions, the BOOTCAMP, or the closing event are considered publicly disclosed, which may compromise their ability to be patented later.

If participants want pre-existing materials or technology they bring to a Project, or any part of the materials or invention resulting from development during the Défi Source, to be the subject of a patent application, they are responsible for taking protective steps **before** disclosing that material during the event. This may include, for example, filing a provisional patent application (a simple and relatively inexpensive procedure) before the closing event.

Accordingly, participants considering filing a patent for an invention related to their Project are strongly encouraged **not to disclose specific technical details of their solution (the detailed "recipe" for their innovation) during the Défi Source**. They should limit their presentation to the general concept and basic functionality, without publicly revealing the novel technological aspects they wish to protect. This precaution is intended to preserve the possibility of filing a patent later without losing novelty.

Information and Recommendations for Participants

Meals, Snacks, and Drinks

Meals are provided throughout the BOOTCAMP for participants, coaches, and experts.

Spirit of the Défi Source

The Défi Source is conducted in a spirit of **collaborative innovation**. It encourages sharing, interdisciplinarity, and collaboration across professions. The event aims to be **innovative, responsible and ethical**. Each participant agrees to respect their teammates, listen to their points of view, and maintain a spirit of cohesion and kindness within their own team and toward other teams. Mutual support, curiosity, and enthusiasm are welcome throughout the Challenge.

Acceptance of These Regulations

By registering for the 2026 Défi Source, each participant implicitly accepts these regulations in their entirety. A link to the regulations is provided to participants during registration, and any subsequent changes will be communicated by email.

The organizers alone are responsible for and have final authority over logistical and organizational decisions made to ensure the smooth running of the Défi Source, in accordance with the applicable general legal framework.

Participants have no right to appeal organizational decisions made by the organizers, provided those decisions comply with applicable law. This includes, but is not limited to, excluding applicants or teams for failure to comply with these regulations, procedures for forming or balancing teams, participation requirements for the different phases of the Défi Source, and any other decision necessary for the event to run smoothly.

In the event of a dispute, challenge, disagreement over the interpretation of these regulations, or an unforeseen situation, the organizers alone are authorized to make the decisions they deem necessary for the proper running of the Défi Source. **Their decisions are final and binding, subject to any mandatory applicable legal provisions**.

By participating in the Défi Source, everyone agrees to comply with these regulations and the spirit of the event. The organizers reserve the right to interpret and adapt organizational arrangements in the event of special or unforeseen circumstances, with a view to fairness, safety, and the smooth running of the event.

These regulations are established in accordance with applicable Swiss law and the HES-SO's institutional rules governing events, ethics, and confidentiality.