

# 7<sup>th</sup> TRAIL Research Camp on Artificial Intelligence Call for Project Proposals

in collaboration with

## University of Lausanne & CIVIS



**August 24<sup>th</sup> – September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
**Lausanne (Switzerland)**

TRAIL Institute is thrilled to announce the call for project proposals for the **TRAIL Research Camp 2026 (TReC)** on artificial intelligence. The event will take place from August 24th to September 4th, 2026, in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Building on the success of [previous editions](#) in Tournai (2020), Paris (2021), Berlin (2022), Nantes (2023), Lisbon (2024), and London (2025), the TReC not only fosters collaborative, intensive research but also strongly emphasizes **hands-on innovation and the concrete implementation of AI solutions**. We bring together international AI researchers for two weeks of intensive co-creation.

### What is TRAIL?

The TRAIL Institute was established as a collaborative initiative between all Belgian French-speaking universities and four accredited research centres to consolidate AI research in Wallonia.

TRAIL is a cornerstone of the Walloon region's Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3) and is labelled as a **Strategic Innovation Initiative (SII)**. TRAIL works in synergy with other strategic initiatives like CyberWal (Cyber Security) and HITT (Human Interaction Technology Transfer), contributing to regional and federal policy through DigitalWallonia4.AI and AI4Belgium.

With **more than 50 PhD students funded through the Walloon region's programme of excellence, over 300 affiliated researchers, 60 associated companies, and more than 100 innovation projects with industrial partners**, TRAIL is at the forefront of AI research and innovation. TRAIL ecosystem includes other European and regional funding programmes, with ongoing synergies with other national AI Ecosystems such as FARI in Brussels and Flanders AI.

Concretely, TRAIL research and business community seeks to achieve 4 impacts:

- **Conduct high-quality research** with a positive societal impact across all levels of the TRL scale.
- **Develop future talent**, addressing the accelerating digital transformation by equipping the next generation with cutting-edge AI skills.
- **Drive AI adoption**, including within SMEs, to enhance economic growth and competitiveness.
- **Expand global outreach** by fostering international collaboration and innovation.

This year, TRAIL is proud to collaborate with the [AI Strategic Unit](#) of the **University of Lausanne (UNIL)** and the European University Alliance [CIVIS](#). Leveraging UNIL's renowned expertise, TReC'26 will give special weight to **multidisciplinary between STEM and SSH**. We believe the most robust and innovative AI applications emerge when technical excellence meets a deep understanding of societal, ethical, and human dynamics.

## What to Expect?

- ✓ **Cutting-edge AI projects** led by teams of researchers and students.
- ✓ **Talks from invited senior researchers**, offering insights into the latest AI advancements.
- ✓ **High project visibility** throughout the event and across the broader TRAIL ecosystem, extending to our vast network of international partners and regional stakeholders.
- ✓ **A unique, immersive environment** where students and experts work side by side, pushing the boundaries of AI research.

## Our Goal

To create an unparalleled **collaborative space** where young talents and leading scientists come together to **co-develop the future of AI research**, transforming theoretical concepts into concrete, innovative applications that address real-world challenges.

**APPLY**

## Research Camp Project's Themes

To craft a compelling project proposal for TReC 2026, we encourage participants to incorporate three key elements:

- ✓ Align with a **recommended domain of application** and provide a **relevant dataset**
- ✓ Fit within a **scientific theme**
- ✓ Demonstrate a **clear pathway to concrete implementation** or practical innovation.

*(Note: Adopting a multidisciplinary approach is highly recommended but not mandatory)*

### Domains of Application:

- Healthcare
- Industry 4.0 & Manufacturing
- Mobility & Logistics
- Energy & Environment
- Media, Culture & Digital Humanities
- Education & Public Policy

### Scientific Themes:

- Trustworthy AI
- Human-AI Interaction
- Embedded & Energy-efficient AI
- Privacy-preserving AI
- Multi-agent Systems
- Active & Weakly-supervised Learning
- Social & Ethical Impacts of AI
- Generative & Multimodal AI
- Physics-based Models & Digital Twins
- Natural Language Processing

## Evaluation Criteria

- ✓ **Project Quality:** Clarity, feasibility (data, team skills, timeline), scientific relevance, **societal/industrial impact** and the potential for concrete implementation.
- ✓ **Timely Submission:** Only proposals submitted **before the deadline** will be considered.
- ✓ **Data Availability:** Proposals should include access to a **relevant dataset** to facilitate hands-on experimentation.
- ✓ **Multidisciplinary:** Preference will be given to projects bridging STEM methodologies with SSH perspectives. However, single-discipline projects will still be considered.

*NOTE: Preference will be given to proposals that are **not merely a direct continuation** of projects from [previous editions](#) (e.g., incremental extensions or follow-up work without substantial new objectives, methodology or scope).*

## How to apply?

All project proposals must be submitted using the official online form **before April 30th, 2026, 01:00PM (CET)**. Submissions will be **evaluated and selected by the Scientific Committee** to ensure alignment with the camp's objectives and format.

**SUBMIT**  
your Proposal

**APPLY**  
for Registration

## Scientific Committee

- Bruno Dumas (University of Namur)
- Gilles Louppe (ULiège)
- Pierre Schaus (UCLouvain)
- Stéphane Dupont (UMONS)
- Tom Lenaerts (ULB)
- Caroline Sainvitu (Cenaero)
- Jean-Christophe Deprez (Cetic)
- TBD (Industrial partner)
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- Emmanuel Jean (Multitel)
- Marouene Oueslati (Sirris)
- Katherine Tatarinov (UNIL)
- Marianna Rapsomaniki (UNIL)
- Davide Picca (UNIL)
- Daniele Gorla (UniRoma, CIVIS)
- Arne Bathke (PLUS, CIVIS)
- TBD (Industrial partner)

## Contact

For any questions or issues regarding your submission, please contact TRAIL's Project Liaison Officer at [luca.lafisca@umons.ac.be](mailto:luca.lafisca@umons.ac.be)