

AlertHub Training School in Zurich, July 8-10

Local organizer: Dr. Daniel Vogler, Co-Director, Research Institute for the Public Sphere and Society, University of Zurich

Title: “Using A.I. for Your Research - Data Collection and Analysis with Large Language Models (LLM)”

Description: This training school introduces participants to the integration of Large Language Models (LLMs), such as ChatGPT, into research practice. The program begins with an overview of the opportunities and challenges of using LLMs across different stages of the research process, including methodological and ethical considerations. Subsequent sessions provide hands-on training in data collection and analysis, with a focus on connecting to the ChatGPT API in RStudio and conducting exercises in document and content analysis. Participants will also explore how LLMs can support coding, and how to evaluate outputs using both manual and automated approaches, with particular attention to bias and reliability. Finally, the training will apply these methods to tasks relevant to the AlertHub working groups, ensuring direct engagement with real-world research challenges

The training school is designed primarily for early-career researchers interested in learning the basics of using LLMs in their work. No prior experience is required, as the program starts from first principles. To ensure effective small-group learning, participation is limited to 15. If spaces remain, applications from senior scholars will also be considered. In such cases the priority will be given to applicants from the ICT countries.

The training school will be held at the University of Zurich, Switzerland, from July 8 - 10. It is hosted by the Research Institute for the Public Sphere and Society and the Department of Communication and Media Research.

Possible Program

Wednesday:

13:30 Welcome

14:00 – 15:30 Introduction to potential and benefits of LLM for research (lecture)

15:30 – 16:00 Break

16:00 – 17:30 LLM in research designs. Where, when, how, ethical aspects (lecture)

Thursday:

9:00 – 10:00 Workshop announcements, Introduction

10:00 – 12:00 Workshop Part I

12:00 – 13:30 Break

13:30 – 16:00 Workshop Part II

16:00 – 16:30 Break

16:30 – 18:00 Workshop Part III

18:00 – 21:00 Social event

Friday:

9:00 – 10:00 Lessons Learned. Discussion of workshop results

10:00 – 11:00 Keynote (e.g. related to a specific project)

11:00 – 12:00 Wrap Up & Farewell

Application procedure:

The Training School is open to:

- Members of COST Action CA23126 (AlertHub)
- External researchers and innovators interested in contributing to the objectives of the Action

Applicants must be affiliated with a recognised academic institution, research organisation, public authority, NGO, or relevant stakeholder institution.

Young Researchers and Innovators (40 years or younger) are especially encouraged to apply and will be prioritised in the selection process in line with the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy.

Please note:

Financial support can only be provided to applicants who fulfil the COST eligibility rules for reimbursement.

External applicants who are selected may be invited to formally join the Action.

Applicants must submit:

- A short motivation letter
- A short CV including current affiliation, career stage, and involvement in AlertHub Working Groups (if applicable)
- Please send applications to: daniel.vogler@foeg.uzh.ch (until March 20)

Core Selection Criteria

- Quality of the application and motivation
- Priority given to Young Scholars
- Gender balance (target: ideally 50/50 representation)
- Geographical diversity and coverage of different countries/regions
- Inclusion of participants affiliated with Inclusiveness Target Countries (target: 50%)

Soft Selection Criteria

- Diversity of representation across AlertHub Working Groups
- Level of engagement in Working Groups

The final selection of participants will be approved by the Core Group of COST Action CA23126.

Timeline and Dates

- March 20 Deadline for applications
- March 31 Evaluation of applications and sending out of invitations
- July 8-10 Training school in Zurich