

## Solvo Institute

### Public Competition for Scholarship Supporting Short-Term Interdisciplinary Research in 2025

#### Introduction and Mission of Solvo – Institute for the Development of Potential, z. ú.

The mission of the Solvo Institute is to unlock the potential of this country, as failing to do so costs us hundreds of billions of Czech crowns. We strive for a society of equal opportunities and possibilities.

We view economic growth and greater societal participation as key, along with identifying barriers in the thinking and behavior of citizens. Our goals are both the economic success of the country and the promotion of social cohesion.

The Solvo Institute also seeks to stimulate and support independent research activities, primarily in the social sciences, economics, and related disciplines — always within the context of broader societal frameworks (e.g., sociological, demographic, legislative, historical, cultural, or philosophical). The Institute does not conduct its own research and does not support research with political objectives.

The executive research body of the Solvo Institute is the Solvo Scientific Board, which awards grants in the form of scholarships based on project proposals, typically once a year.

On this occasion, the Solvo Institute is announcing a **public competition for the year 2025**. The Solvo Scientific Board may recommend successful studies for publication, including financial support for publication. The Board makes independent decisions on funding proposals within the principles and budget approved by the Solvo Institute.

More information: <https://www.solvo.institute>

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#### Thematic Focus of the Supported Research

The Solvo Institute supports socially relevant and highly topical research in the social sciences, economics, and related fields—preferably from an interdisciplinary perspective. Scholarships are primarily intended for young researchers at the beginning of their academic careers (Ph.D. candidates or postdocs) who are ready to lead small interdisciplinary research teams focused on socially pressing and professionally relevant topics, with support from the Solvo Institute.

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#### Call for Proposals

The Solvo Institute announces a public competition for targeted funding of up to **CZK 500,000** to support **short-term research (max. 12 months)** focused on **transdisciplinary topics** in the social sciences, economics, and related fields, with emphasis on societal relevance and practical applicability.

The grants are primarily aimed at **young and early-career researchers** across disciplines who are prepared to address socially relevant issues with scientific and societal impact and application potential.

**Goal of the grant competition:** To contribute to research on important social issues and to support early-career researchers.

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**Competition Topic:**

**The Impact of Modern Information Technologies and Services on Czech Society, with an Emphasis on the Young Generation**

**Research questions:**

- What are the positive and negative effects of modern information technologies and services on the psychological, behavioral, and physical aspects of individuals, particularly among Generation Z and Alpha?
  - What are the economic impacts and behavioral changes, with a focus on their description and quantification?
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**Detailed Description**

The research project aims to comprehensively examine the influence of modern information technologies and services (smartphones, computers, tablets, VR, social media, gaming, etc.) on the young generation in the Czech Republic—specifically Generation Z (born approx. 1995–2010) and Generation Alpha (born after 2010). The research will investigate individual effects (psychological, behavioral, physical) as well as broader social and economic contexts.

**Special attention** will be paid to:

- The use of technologies in education
  - The impact of digitalization on the school environment
  - Proposals for mitigating negative effects at all possible levels
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**Key Research Areas and Questions**

**1. Physical Aspects**

- What physical changes or health issues are observed in children and adolescents due to prolonged use of digital devices?
- Are there postural changes, musculoskeletal development issues, or eye strain?
- Are there studies proving bone development changes (e.g., in metacarpal bones) from frequent use of touch devices?

**2. Psychological and Behavioral Aspects, Mental Health**

- How do technologies and platforms like Instagram or TikTok affect young people's mental health and behavior?
- Is there a rise in anxiety, depression, or digital addiction?

- What is the link between digital interaction and social isolation?

### 3. Social and Economic Impacts

- How does digitalization affect interpersonal relationships, communication, and leisure activities?
- What are the effects of technology overuse on productivity, work habits, and financial behavior?
- Can the economic impacts be quantified (e.g., healthcare costs, lower productivity, growing demand for mental health services)?

### 4. Use of Information Technologies in Education

- How are IT tools integrated into teaching in primary and secondary schools?
- Do digital tools and services (e.g., ChatGPT) improve student outcomes, or do they distract and reduce concentration?
- What are the attitudes of teachers, parents, and students toward the use of technologies in learning and homework?
- Are schools prepared for the safe and effective use of technology?
- How is digital literacy and cybersecurity addressed?

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## Team Composition

Researchers from economics, medicine, psychology, and IT (for technical data collection and analysis, software evaluation—particularly in education—cybersecurity, digital literacy, and developing supporting applications or visualizations).

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## Use of Research Results

The grantor requires a **non-exclusive license** for the research outputs. This allows them to publish the results on their website and social media and advocate for proposed solutions with relevant stakeholders. Further terms will be specified in the contractual agreement with the grant recipient.

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## Eligibility Criteria

- Ongoing Ph.D. studies or postdoctoral status (Ph.D. completed within the last 5 years, excluding parental or caregiving leave).

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## Grant Conditions

- Regular consultations with a project mentor on the timeline and deliverables.

- Project results must be dedicated to the Solvo Institute; multiple affiliations are possible upon agreement.
- Within one month after the project ends, the following must be submitted:
  1. A project report (2,500–3,000 words)
  2. Final project results in print
  3. A clear financial report

A **public presentation** of the results at Solvo Institute is expected.

- Funding is provided in **two phases**: 70% at the start and 30% after successful completion.
- The Solvo Scientific Board may also support other topics aligned with the Institute's mission.
- The grantor reserves the right to change the competition rules or cancel the competition entirely, including rejecting all proposals.

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### Proposal Requirements

- Structured academic CV (max. 1 page)
- List of published academic studies and outreach activities
- Project proposal (max. 2,000 words), with emphasis on heuristic and methodological aspects, including a timeline
- Two letters of recommendation from established domestic or international experts
- Copy (or excerpt) of the latest accepted publication
- Proposed project budget

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### Key Dates

- **Application deadline:** August 31, 2025
- **Results announced:** September 22, 2025
- **Project start:** October 1, 2025
- **Public presentation:** Late March / early April 2026

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