

**The submission of proposals is only possible through the internet portal www.mySNF.ch.
→ See chapter 6.1**

Call for proposals

Research Partnerships with Developing Countries

1. Summary

The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), together with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, are launching a call for the submission of projects for research partnerships with developing countries, which are conceived and implemented on a partnership basis between Swiss researchers and researchers from developing countries and which address development-specific problems.

With this programme, SNSF and SDC would like to support high quality research projects, concerning problems relevant to disadvantaged countries, encourage relations between researchers in Switzerland and the South and which contribute to strengthening the scientific potential of these countries. Applications are eligible from public research institutions in Switzerland and developing countries. Research partnerships are open to all scientific disciplines, including sociology, economics, law, political sciences, provided that projects address specific problems concerning developing countries. Corresponding projects must be submitted **by 18 January 2010**.

The submission of the project is only possible through the internet portal mySNF, see point 6.1. The “Guidelines for writing the research plan” are available in the system application.

2. Aims of the research partnerships

The programme for research partnerships reflects the importance given, in general, to the knowledge and strengthening of research capacities in developing countries. For this reason, the pro-

programme and its evaluation process contain elements to support both scientific quality as well as development-relevant aspects.

2.1 Support of high-quality research activities, which are relevant for specific problems of the South

The research projects, which will be running on a partnership basis, must fulfil various criteria (see chapter 6.2.):

- They must be of good scientific quality,
- They must contribute to concrete and innovative solutions and to knowledge of social, economic and ecological problems of developing countries,
- They must contribute to sustainable development of the South.

Special attention should be paid, therefore, to the implementation potential of research results.

2.2 Strengthening of existing research potential

The research project must allow the southern partners the possibility to gain knowledge and experience with reference to content, methodological, technological and other factors through common activities, e.g. training and research stays in Switzerland or transfer of information and knowledge, in order to strengthen their capacities in the scientific and administrative domains.

2.3 Support for the integration of researchers from the South into the international scientific community

Researchers from the South suffer from scientific isolation and a deficit of recognition. The research projects must contribute to a better integration into the international scientific community, especially through publications, conference participations, exchange activities, etc.

3. Programme instruments

The programme for research partnerships encompasses the following three instruments:

3.1 Preparatory Grants (PG)

Preparatory grants are a facultative instrument. They should simplify the preparation of applications for research partnerships in that they allow the partners to meet, either in Switzerland or in the country of the southern partner. Applications may be submitted **at any time after the publication of the call, but by 2 December 2009** at the latest. The meeting must take place before 18 January 2010. After a formal scrutiny, a provisional decision on acceptance or refusal will be made within two weeks of receiving the application. From this point in time the trip can take place up **until the deadline for submission of research proposals**. The definite acceptance is dependent on an application for a research partnership within the deadline, which fulfils all formal criteria as well as submittal of the original flight receipt. The acceptance, therefore, is not dependent upon the positive evaluation success of a submitted research project.

3.1.1 Allowable expenses

PGs are a **flat-rate sum**, as a contribution to travel and subsistence costs for two persons or two trips respectively:

- CHF 1'500.- for air fares under CHF 1'300.-,
- CHF 2'000.- for air fares between CHF 1'300.- and CHF 1'800.-,
- CHF 2'500.- for air fares above CHF 1'800.-.

Additionally, costs of up to CHF 1'000.- for travel, accommodation and subsistence for workshops in the partner country with relevant stakeholders can be claimed. The amount cannot be used for workshops with project-members. The maximal funding per PG is limited to CHF 6'000.-

3.2 Joint Research Projects (JRP)

Joint Research Projects are the main instrument of the programme. With a maximal duration of 36 months, they must be aimed at specific problems of disadvantaged countries as well as being relevant in a local context and prepared and implemented as a partnership between a research group from Switzerland and from the South.

3.2.1 Allowable costs

Funds for the following costs may be requested:

- Apparatus, equipment: only for developing countries
- Consumables
- Salaries and social security in Switzerland and in developing countries
- Living expenses for southern partners in Switzerland, up to six months/year (max. CHF 3'500.-/month)
- Travel costs
- Other costs (e.g publication costs, workshops, dissemination, knowledge exchange)

At least 30% of the budget and at least 50% of the number of paid academic personnel should be earmarked for the southern partners. The maximum amount for a three year project is CHF 500'000.-

3.3 Valorisation Grants (VG)

Valorisation grants are available for the implementation of results gathered in the projects of the research partnership programme. They serve to disseminate relevant research results as well as for the valorisation of research results and/or establishment of learning dialogues between researchers, decision makers and stakeholders in the partner countries. Researchers, who transfer their results into practice or who wish to deepen this transfer, may apply for a VG. Applications may be submitted at any time, but at least three months before the planned activities. Selection criteria are: a clear and convincing implementation strategy, economic or social importance of the results, cost-benefit ratio.

3.3.1 Allowable costs

VGs must contain activities with a direct connection to the results and will only be provided for activities for the benefit of the southern countries. Expenses for technology transfer, workshops, exhibitions, handbooks, publications, translations may be covered by a VG. The maximal amount is limited to CHF 10'000.-.

4. Programme budget

For the implementation of the programme, SNSF and SDC together are providing funding to the amount of CHF 11.24 millions. For the current programme period two calls will be launched and for each call half of the available funds will be distributed. After the first call out of **81** eligible proposals, 13 could be funded. This represents an average success rate of 16 %.

Instrument	Budget in CHF
Preparatory Grants	100'000
Joint Research Projects	10'990'000
Valorisation Grants	150'000
Total	11'240'000

5. Framework conditions of partnerships

5.1 Participation

A research partnership is put together by at least one research group from Switzerland and one from the South. The former comprises researchers who, by definition of SNSF¹, undertake scientific research in public, research institution based in Switzerland and the latter, researchers originally from southern countries anchored to a university or equivalent public research institution in a developing country (see annexe 2 participating countries). Non-governmental (NGOs) or not-for-profit organisations in developing countries can participate as a co-applicant of the Southern partner country's main-applicant, as long as they can prove their internationally recognised scientific research experience. The participation is not limited to one partner in the South as long as additional partners give an added value to the project and the financial maximum is respected

A partnership approach is an essential element of the programme not only to achieve the aim of "capacity development", but also to incorporate the actual needs and the engagement of partners from southern countries. Accordingly, this aspect will be taken into consideration by the evaluation of applications. This includes a equitable division of tasks (in all phases of the project, from preparation to data collection, analysis and synthesis) as well as the transfer of information, knowledge and research results.

Applicants are requested to follow the guidelines for research partnerships with developing countries – 11 principles of the Commission for Research Partnerships with Developing Countries (KFPE), which is electronically available in various languages on the KFPE website: www.kfpe.ch/key_activities/publications/guidelines.html

5.2 Co-ordination

A complete implementation of the KFPE principles is not always possible. This applies to project co-ordination, which is the responsibility of a researcher anchored at a Swiss Research Institu-

¹ All natural persons, who undertake scientific research in Switzerland which serves no commercial purpose, are eligible to submit a project. Research is considered as being undertaken in Switzerland when an applicant is employed by an institution based in Switzerland during the duration of the research (s. Regulation on the granting of funds, Art. 8., al.2, lit a). Based on Art. 8, al, 3, lit a, **the eligibility is restricted to employed applicants.**

tion who is able to verify experience in project management. He/she represents the participants in all matters concerning SNSF and is particularly responsible for:

- Submission of the application for support of a research partnership
- All further contacts with SNSF
- Forwarding of the awarded funds to the participating partners from the developing countries
- Correct use of funds
- Financial and scientific reporting to the SNSF

Even if the co-ordinating person is legally responsible for the above-mentioned points, both SNSF and SDC expect that preparation, undertaking and implementation of the project takes place together with and agreed by the partners.

5.3 Gender balance and ethical standards

- Gender balance is respected whenever possible
- The scientific and ethical standards are respected
- Data is planned to be disaggregated according to disadvantaged groups (women, minorities etc.), or proposal explains why this is not necessary in this case
- Partner country legislation (research permits, salary regulations, customs regulations etc.) is respected

5.4 Scientific disciplines

The topics of the research partnerships will be decided by the researchers and may pertain to all scientific disciplines. Sociology, economics, law and political sciences projects are especially welcome. Interdisciplinary cooperation should be considered. In order to reach the development aims of the programme, consideration of relevant problems of developing countries is essential. Additionally, it is important that researchers achieve results, which can be implemented (concrete uses, publications, presentations).

5.5 Duration

The maximal duration of funding for a research partnership is 36 months. In the knowledge of the importance of sustainability of research partnerships, the participating researchers are encouraged, during the project, to search actively for further funding opportunities for a possible consolidation of the co-operation after the project has been completed.

5.6 Reporting

The guidelines for normal SNSF research funding apply. Additionally, reports require information on specific aspects of the research partnership. Partners of accepted research partnerships will be informed accordingly.

6. Procedure

6.1 Submission of applications for a Joint Research Project (JRP):

The application for the research partnership must be submitted by the future co-ordinating person on the Swiss side. **Only electronic applications (www.mySNF.ch) are possible and must**

be in the English language. If you don't have already an mySNF-account, you need to register for submitting the proposal on www.mySNF.ch. Registration for a log-in for electronic submission requires five working days. By creating a new proposal for the desired instrument on www.mySNF.ch, all the necessary information about the required administrative data and the "Guidelines for writing the research plan will be available". The "Beitragsreglement" and "Allgemeines Ausführungsreglement zum Beitragsreglement"/"Règlement des subsides" and "Règlement d'exécution général relatif au règlement des subsides" are part of this call. Deadline for submission of an application is **18 January 2010**. Earliest starting date for projects is 1 September 2010.

Re-submitted projects (that weren't funded after the 1st call) are only sent out for peer-reviewing if they show substantial changes taking into account reviewers comments. Identical or quasi-identical proposals will be rejected.

6.2 Evaluation of the proposals

The submitted proposals will be evaluated by external experts following a set of criteria. The final funding decision will be made by the SNSF with the involvement of the SDC. The evaluation of the proposals is based upon scientific quality, development relevance and project management abilities. For being taken into consideration for funding, a proposal must convince in all three fields equally.

The evaluation of the proposals is based on the following criteria:

Scientific quality:

- Current scientific interest and impact of the project
- Novelty of the proposed research approach and research question
- Suitability and originality of the methods to be used
- Experience and past performance of the applicants
- Specific abilities of the investigators for the proposed project

Development relevance (see annexe 1 for more details):

- Significance for the economic and/or societal development of the partner country
- Strengthening of partner country researchers and research institution capacities
- Communication strategy for research results to potential users
- Balanced distribution of duties, competencies and responsibilities between the partners
- Gender balance and compliance with ethical standards

Project management:

- The project proposal includes clearly spelled out research objectives, research results and indicators to track progress towards objectives
- The proposed project management setup provides for good co-operation between northern and southern research partners
- The cost/benefit ratio of the project is comparatively favourable
- The research plan is realistic, the project is feasible

7. Submission of applications

Preparatory Grants:

At any time, but by **2 December 2009** at the latest. (meeting must take place before 18 January 2010)

Joint Research Project:

18 January 2010

8. Contact and Information

The SNSF is responsible for the programme management: relevant correspondence should be sent to the following address.

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Annexe 1

Good practices for operationalising development relevance in research proposals

The following strategy elements have been identified as international good practices to operationalise “development relevance” in research proposals. They are reproduced here to provide guidance and stimulate discussion between research partners when developing research proposals. While evaluators will look for them when judging the development relevance of proposals, they are not meant to be compulsory and should by no means exclude creative solutions. In case some of them are clearly irrelevant or not feasible for a specific project, we ask you to spell out why this is the case.

Significance for the economic and/or societal development of the partner country

- There is a clear link of the proposed research topic to the Millennium Development Goals, the poverty reduction strategy or the development plan of the partner country.
- The research proposal was developed in cooperation with intended result users in the partner country.
- The research proposal sketches how users intend to translate research results into practice.

Strengthening of partner country researchers and research institution capacities

- The partners’ research portfolios are similar or complementary and the proposal is coherent with both.
- Contributions to enhance the southern partner’s training capacities are planned for.
- The proposal includes a mechanism for channelling research results into future student training.
- The project should lead to obtain a PhD of the Southern researchers.
- Training and/or exchange visits by southern researchers to Switzerland are planned for and included in the budget.
- Promoting the international visibility of researchers from the partner country is planned for (conference, publications).
- After the end of the JRP, researchers from the partner country have a clear career perspective in their country.

Communication strategy for research results to potential users

- The intended result users described in the research proposal are adequately involved throughout the research process.
- Exchange venues with intended result users, from idea generation right through to result validation, are described in the research proposal.
- The research proposal includes a communication strategy for project results, addressing academia, general public and development praxis.

Just distribution of duties, competencies and responsibilities between the partners

- The research proposal was developed jointly by the northern and southern partners.

- A high percentage of the research project budget (at least 30%) benefits people and institutions in the partner country and is earmarked for the Southern partners.
- A high percentage (at least 50%) of the academic staff employed come from the partner country.
- Rules on intellectual property rights are planned and will at least equally benefit southern partners.
- A continuity of the partnership between northern and southern institutions beyond the project duration is likely.
- The proposal includes a plan to permit southern researchers to publish in peer-reviewed journals. Co-authorship between Northern and Southern research partnership is promoted.

Annexe 2

Participating Countries

The reference document for the country selection is the OECD-DAC list of ODA (Official Development Assistance) recipients (<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/62/48/41655745.pdf>).

For the country selection in this program all least developed, all other low income countries and lower middle income countries and territories except GUS and Easter European Countries (cf. SCOPES program) and from the upper middle income countries and territories only Cuba – a priority country of SDC is eligible from cooperation projects within this program.

The eligible countries are:

Afghanistan	Egypt	Madagascar	Sao Tome & Principe
Algeria	El Salvador	Malawi	Senegal
Angola	Equatorial Guinea	Maldives	Sierra Leone
Bangladesh	Eritrea	Mali	Solomon Islands
Benin	Ethiopia	Marshall Islands	Somalia
Bhutan	Gambia	Mauritania	Sri Lanka
Bolivia	Ghana	Micronesia, Fed. States	Sudan
Burkina Faso	Guatemala	Mongolia	Swaziland
Burundi	Guinea	Morocco	Syria
Cambodia	Guinea-Bissau	Mozambique	Tanzania
Cameroon	Guyana	Myanmar	Thailand
Cape Verde	Haiti	Namibia	Timor-Leste
Central African Rep.	Honduras	Nepal	Togo
Chad	India	Nicaragua	Tonga
China	Indonesia	Niger	Tunisia
Colombia	Iran	Nigeria	Tuvalu
Comoros	Iraq	Pakistan	Uganda
Congo, Dem. Rep.	Jordan	Palestinian Adm. Areas	Vanuatu
Congo, Rep.	Kenya	Papua New Guinea	Viet Nam
Côte d'Ivoire	Kiribati	Paraguay	Yemen
Cuba	Korea, Dem. Rep.	Peru	Zambia
Djibouti	Laos	Philippines	Zimbabwe
Dominican Republic	Lesotho	Rwanda	
Ecuador	Liberia	Samoa	

Although some of the listed country have a already a high level in their research activities, the projects have to address the specific problems of the South and contribute to sustainable development of the partner country.