

## SCOPES 2009-2012

### Scientific Co-operation between Eastern Europe and Switzerland

#### General Information / submission of proposals

At the end of 2008, the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs launched a new phase of the programme “Scientific co-operation between Eastern Europe and Switzerland” (SCOPES 2009-2012). The option of multilateral projects (see chapter 4.3) has been introduced during the current phase.

A first call was published in December 2008, a second in November 2010. The entire budget for the funding schemes Joint Research Projects and Institutional Partnerships has been allocated. Therefore, there will not be any further calls for these funding instruments in the current programme phase.

**Applications for Conference Grants (CG) and Valorisation Grants (VG) can be submitted until 31.12.2012.**

#### 1. Background

Together with the Swiss Government, the SNSF has been promoting co-operations with scientists from Eastern European countries including states of the former Soviet Union since 1990 by implementing a scientific co-operation programme in six consecutive phases (1990-1992, 1993-1995, 1996-1999, 2000-2004, 2005-2008, 2009-2012). The commitment is part of a wider effort to strengthen economic, scientific and cultural ties between Switzerland and Eastern Europe.

## 2. Objectives

SCOPES aims at supporting individual researchers, research teams and research institutions from the target countries in their endeavour to overcome the difficulties of the transition period specific to Eastern European countries. From a Swiss perspective, the programme offers the possibility to fund scientific collaborations and promote synergies with the target countries.

SCOPES is open for activities in all scientific disciplines from humanities and social sciences to natural sciences, biology and medicine. As SCOPES does not provide thematic priorities, research teams and institutions are free to submit any thematic proposal (bottom-up principle) that may contribute to the objectives of the programme. Proposals are evaluated according to a set of criteria specific to each funding scheme (see below). However, to further the programme's objectives, other important aspects must be taken into account:

- **Capacity building:** Partnerships between research institutions are not designed to produce research findings but to strengthen research institutions and the scientific community in the target countries. Other important factors are the inclusion of young scientists and a good gender balance.
- **Partnership approach:** Important principles in establishing partnerships are jointly established objectives, shared responsibility, accountability, transparency, non-discrimination, participation and efficiency.
- **Transition relevance:** Eastern European research institutions are supported in their transition process towards international standards.

## 3. Funding schemes

The following funding schemes are open for proposals:

- Conference Grants (see 6.1)
- Valorisation Grants (see 6.4)

More details about these funding schemes can be found in the annexes and on the website (see above).

## 4. Submission

### 4.1 Eligibility of institution

Public research institutions in Switzerland and countries in Eastern Europe, the Western Balkans and the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union are eligible for participation in the programme.

#### Eligible research institutions in Switzerland and Eastern Europe

	Switzerland	Eastern Europe
<b>Research partners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cantonal universities of higher education</li><li>• Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology &amp; associated institutions</li><li>• Swiss universities of applied sciences</li><li>• Federal and cantonal research institutions</li><li>• Research institutions located in Switzerland and substantially supported by the Swiss Government (e.g. CABI, FIBL)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public universities</li><li>• Private universities with national accreditation</li><li>• Institutes of the Academies of Sciences</li><li>• National/state research institutions</li></ul>

### 4.2 Partner countries

Two categories of partner countries have been defined:

#### Category A

The first category comprises the countries on the OECD-DAC list of ODA (Official Development Assistance) recipients (see <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/62/48/41655745.pdf>) :

- Western Balkan: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia
- South Caucasus: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia
- Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan
- Moldova
- Ukraine

#### Category B

- EU-Member States: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia
- Croatia
- Russia

Category B countries have generally progressed further in the transition phase towards Western standards and may act as intermediate partners between the Swiss partner(s) and the partner countries in category A.

### 4.3 Eligible project consortia

For funding schemes that require the formation of **consortia** (Institutional Partnerships), the following collaborations are eligible for funding:

#### **Bilateral projects**

(i.e. one partner from Switzerland and one partner from a partner country)

These are only possible with countries in category A.

#### **Multilateral projects**

(i.e. one partner from Switzerland and two or more partners from partner countries)

These are possible with countries in category A as well as with countries from both categories. In the case of a collaboration involving partners from category A + B, at least 50% of the funding must go to the partner(s) in category A (see annexe for more details concerning financial issues).

To create a sound and balanced consortium, all partner teams must have **a substantial role in the partnership** and complement each other. For this reason, the Eastern European partner teams should request equal contributions.

### 4.4 Technical details for submission

The call information is available on the SNSF website. **The proposal must be submitted by the Swiss applicant (= future co-ordinator of the project) through the SNSF web platform [www.mysnf.ch](http://www.mysnf.ch).**

**A user account is needed in order to gain access to the web platform and to submit the proposal.** To open an account, new applicants must register with the SNSF as a new user. Once registered, the responsible person will receive a username and password by regular mail (generally within five working days). The co-applicants from Eastern Europe can access the online proposal with the login details of the Swiss partner.

General questions concerning the application procedure may be directed to the SCOPES Programme Office (SNSF, International Co-operation, [international@snf.ch](mailto:international@snf.ch)). For technical questions regarding [www.mysnf.ch](http://www.mysnf.ch), a hotline is operated: +41 31 308 22 00.

Submission deadlines are specified below. Late and incomplete proposals will not be accepted. Please note that this is the last call launched within the SCOPES 2009-2012 programme.

#### 4.5 Deadlines of the call for proposals

##### **Conference Grants**

Proposals can be submitted continuously until 31 December 2012.

##### **Valorisation Grants**

Proposals can be submitted towards the end of a funded Joint Research Project or Institutional Partnership and at the latest until 31 December 2012.

### 5. Evaluation and selection

Proposals for **Conference Grants and Valorisation Grants** will be evaluated by the administrative offices of the SNSF.

The **evaluation criteria** are specific to each funding scheme and can be found in the annexe below.

## 6. Annexe

### 6.1 Conference Grants (CGs)

#### 6.1.1 Description

Funds can be made available for Eastern European researchers wishing to participate in good quality scientific conferences with international participation taking place in Switzerland. Pure training courses will not be supported.

#### 6.1.2 Goals

Conference grants aim to strengthen the international networks of scientists from Eastern Europe and open new perspectives for their international co-operation as well as for the development of their scientific CV.

#### 6.1.3 Project duration

Maximum 7 days

#### 6.1.4 Project consortia

The Swiss conference organiser must submit the proposal.

#### 6.1.5 Eligible costs

Contribution to travel and accommodation costs for conference participants from partner countries (flat rate per person, see below). The maximum contribution per CG is CHF 10,000.

#### 6.1.6 Submission

Proposals may be submitted to the SNSF during the whole period of the programme, but at least 3 months before the conference takes place.

#### 6.1.7 Evaluation and selection

The quality of the conference and the candidates will be evaluated. Young scientists (<45) and active conference participants will be given preference. A gender balance is aimed at.

#### 6.1.8 Financial Details

Region	Countries	Flat rate per person*
Western Balkan:	Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia	CHF 1500
South Caucasus:	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia	CHF 2000
Central Asia:	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan	CHF 2500
Other countries:	Moldova, Ukraine	CHF 2000
EU-Member States:	Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia	CHF 1000
Other countries:	Croatia, Russia	CHF 1000

\* All amounts shown are the maximum flat rate per person. Smaller amounts are also possible in order to support more participants if requested.

## **6.2 Valorisation Grants**

### **6.2.1 Objective**

Valorisation Grants aim to increase the effects and sustainability of the supported activities and the results achieved by JRPs/IPs (e.g. publications, websites, organisation of conferences with stakeholders or the general public). Additionally, VGs can be requested if a JRP/IP intends common activities with another JRP/IP in order to make the most of possible synergies.

### **6.2.2 Description**

If JRPs and IPs have generated transition relevant results, funds can be granted to support their implementation or dissemination. Furthermore, extra financial support for the co-operation between different JRPs/IPs will be considered if the according similarities have developed during the programme.

### **6.2.3 Eligible costs**

Allowable costs are not restricted to a specific budget category. The financed activities must relate to the goals of this funding scheme. The maximum contribution per VG is CHF 10,000.

### **6.2.4 Submission**

Proposals may be submitted to the SNSF during the whole programme period, but at least 3 months before the activities take place.

### **6.2.5 Evaluation and selection**

The activities must contribute to an improved dissemination/implementation of the results achieved in the IP.

April 2011