CODEV Seed Money Grant 2018 - Call for Seed Money Projects

Information on the Call for Projects and Rules

Introduction and Background

Through the Seed Money Programme, the Cooperation and Development Center (CODEV) seeks to enhance the interconnections between science and society by promoting partnerships between researchers from EPFL and those in countries of the Global South to jointly address main development challenges. This is in conformity with the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in 2015 by the United Nations, which recognizes the crucial role of science and technology as driving forces behind sustainable development and confirms the need to work together to advance poverty reduction and provide responses to environmental and resources constraints and climate change defies.

The Seed Money Programme was established in 2005 aiming at encouraging scientific cooperation for development at EPFL. It provides grants under a competitive basis through an annual call for projects aimed at EPFL researchers and their partners. Up to 2017, the programme has funded a total of 99 projects in more than 35 different countries for a total of 1’014’950 CHF.

Objectives

Through the Seed Money grant, CODEV seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- Reinforcing interest in scientific cooperation for advancing the SDGs.
- Supporting the establishment of partnerships between researchers and non-academic actors to expanding science and society interfaces when addressing main world challenges.
- Supporting EPFL researchers in the preparatory phase of new research projects with a view to obtaining third party funding.

Thematic scope

The call is open to all scientific disciplines and fields of research represented in EPFL Campus.

Funding and budgeting

The maximum granted amount for one project is CHF 20,000. This funding may be used to cover research activities, field visits, travel expenses, equipment and to organise workshops or meetings. Salary costs for EPFL staff (professors, collaborators or PhDs) cannot be covered. Partial salary costs of researchers in the partner country(ies) may be covered. A detailed budget must be provided (see application form). Foreseen expenses must be justified and coherent with the proposed research activities. Financial and in-kind contributions from each partner are expected and must be clearly indicated in the budget. The budget has to be divided fairly among partners.
Resources are allocated for a calendar year. In October, granted researchers will have to confirm that the entire amount has been or will be spent. Should it not be the case, CODEV has to be informed and any leftover has to be handed back before 15 December 2017.

Eligibility

To be eligible, the applications must meet the following criteria:

- The project leader is based at an EPFL unit (institute, laboratory, college or center).
- The project is related to the activities of that unit.
- The project addresses development challenges in the local context of the partner country(ies).
- The project takes place in one or more countries of the global South.
- The partner(s) from EPFL is/are actively involved in the project.

Submission of applications

Applications must be prepared jointly by EPFL researchers and their partners, following the indications mentioned in the application form. The project leader at EPFL must send the application form in electronic format (including annexes) to CODEV at the following email address: cooperation@epfl.ch

Completed applications must be submitted no later than 15 December 2017. Late and incomplete applications will not be considered.

Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Call release</td>
<td>16 October 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline for submissions</td>
<td>15 December 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation and funding decision</td>
<td>January 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notification</td>
<td>early February 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Starting date of project latest</td>
<td>15 February 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project completion</td>
<td>by 31 December 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline for submission of final reports</td>
<td>31 January 2019</td>
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Evaluation and selection

Applications will be assessed by an evaluation committee on the basis of the following criteria:

- Scientific merit of anticipated outcomes
- Originality and feasibility of the proposed activity
- Sustainable development approach (consideration of the three pillars: environmental, social and economic)
- Expertise and complementarity of the partners (interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary - participation of non-academic actors)
- Relevance and potential development impact for the concerned country(ies)
- Coherence between the budget and the proposed activities
- Co-funding or in-kind contributions from all partners involved
- Gender balance and the promotion of young researchers
- Potential for long-term collaboration and follow-up activities
Priority will be given to projects in their initial stage aiming at using the grant for preparing a new research proposal that would be submitted to a larger funding agency. Other type of projects will be considered based on the opportunities they offer and available financial resources.

According to the type of proposal, previous recipients of a Seed Money grant are allowed to apply for a second consecutive year, provided that they submit a new application to CODEV mentioning the results achieved so far.

**Partnership**

The mutual commitment of the partners in both countries will serve as an indicator of the strength of the partnership. The KFPE Guide for Transboundary Research Partnerships will be used as a guideline for the project process ([http://www.kfpe.ch/11-Principles/](http://www.kfpe.ch/11-Principles/)).

**Reporting and further commitment**

Along with the financial support provided by CODEV, each partner entity should contribute to the execution of the project with additional resources (financial, human and/or material).

EPFL’s requesting units are CODEV’s only points of contact (not their partners). At the end of the following month of January they must submit to CODEV:

- A final financial report (including table of expenditure and Infocentre data extract)
- A final scientific report (including 2-3 photos)

Upon demand, granted researchers agree to participate at a workshop with other Seed Money recipients focusing on their experiences and the results achieved. They also agree to pass on information that CODEV may request to assess the programme ex-post.

Following EPFL commitment to Open Access, any publications resulted from the project should be accessible electronically so that they are freely and immediately available to the public and can be reused without any charge.

**Contact**

If you have any questions please contact:

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