

**UNESCO Chair in Technologies for Development**

CM 2  
STATION 10  
CH-1015 LAUSANNE

Tel: +41 21 693 60 12  
E-Mail: [cooperation@epfl.ch](mailto:cooperation@epfl.ch)  
Website: <http://cooperation.epfl.ch>

**CODEV Seed Money Grant 2019 - Call for Seed Money Projects**

**Information on the Call for Projects and Rules**

**Introduction and Background**

The Cooperation and Development Center (CODEV) established the Seed Money Programme in 2005 to encourage scientific cooperation and transdisciplinary research at EPFL by providing Seed Money grants through an annual call for projects.

The Seed Money Programme enhances interconnections between science and society and it promotes partnerships between EPFL researchers and researchers in countries of the Global South to help them address the main development challenges together. This is in line with the [2030 Agenda](#) and its [17 Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) adopted by the United Nations in 2015, which recognizes the essential role of science and technology as driving forces behind sustainable development. While both basic sciences and applied research are critical for attaining many of these goals, the focus of scientific innovation has shifted towards real-world problem solving in order to address the persistent challenges.

A total of 105 projects in more than 35 different countries have received funding up to 2018 and these have totalled 1,113,823 Swiss francs (CHF).

**Objectives**

CODEV pursues the following objectives through the Seed Money grant:

- To increase the interest in scientific cooperation and transdisciplinary research to advance the SDGs.
- To encourage the establishment of partnerships between researchers and non-academic actors in order to expand the interfaces between science and society when addressing real-world problems.
- To support EPFL researchers during 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 research fields represented on the 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. The salary costs of EPFL staff (lecturers, collaborators or PhDs) cannot be covered. Part of the salary costs of researchers in the partner country(ies) may be covered. A detailed budget must be provided (see application form). The envisaged expenses must be justified and they should be coherent with the proposed research activities. Financial and in-kind contributions from each partner are expected and they must be clearly indicated in the budget. The budget must be fairly divided among the partners.

Resources are allocated for a calendar year. In **September**, granted researchers must confirm that the entire amount has been spent or that it will be spent before the project is completed (**31 October 2019**). Otherwise, CODEV must be informed and any money left over must be handed back before **30 November 2019**.

## Eligibility

To be eligible, applications must meet the following criteria:

- The project leader should be based at an EPFL unit (institute, laboratory, college or centre).
- The project should be related to the activities of that unit.
- The project must address a real-world problem of one or more countries of the global South.
- The project must take place in one or more countries of the global South.
- The EPFL partner(s) must be actively involved in the project.

## Submission of applications

Applications must be prepared jointly by the EPFL researchers and their partners following the indications set out 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](mailto:cooperation@epfl.ch)

Complete applications must be submitted by **15 November 2018**. Late and incomplete applications will not be considered.

All proposals must be registered at the EPFL Grants Database: <https://grantsdb.epfl.ch/pap/>

## Timeline

Call release:	04 September 2018
Science Slam – promotion event:	12 November 2018
Deadline for submissions:	15 November 2018
Evaluation and funding decision:	early December 2018
Notification:	mid December 2018
Starting date of project:	1 January 2019
Project completion:	by 31 October 2019
Deadline for submission of final reports:	30 November 2019

## Evaluation and selection

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

- Scientific merit of the anticipated outcomes
- Originality and feasibility of the proposed activity
- Relevance for sustainable development in the targeted country
- Potential contribution to the SDGs in the targeted country (including a strategy about how the project will contribute to them)
- Integration of the three components of transdisciplinary research (as understood at CODEV): *the project addresses a real-world problem; the research team includes academic and non-academic partners; the project involves various disciplinary methods and insights (interdisciplinarity)*.
- Coherence between the budget and the proposed activities
- Co-funding or in-kind contributions from all the 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 that are in their initial stage and which intend to use the grant to prepare a new research proposal that would be submitted to a larger funding agency. Other type of projects will be considered on the basis of the opportunities that they offer and the financial resources available.

Depending on the type of proposal, previous recipients of a Seed Money grant may apply for a second consecutive year provided that they submit a new application to CODEV with a mention of 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/>).

### **Reporting and further commitment**

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

The requesting units at EPFL are the only points of contact for CODEV (not their partners). The following must be submitted to CODEV **by 30 November 2019**:

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

If requested, granted researchers must agree to participate in an event with other Seed Money recipients focussed on their experiences and the results achieved. They must also agree to pass on any information that CODEV may request to make an ex-post assessment of the programme.

In line with EPFL commitment to [Open Access](#), any publications resulting from the project should be accessible electronically to make them freely and immediately available to the public and to allow them to be reused without any charge.

### **Contact**

Any questions please should be sent to:

Dr. Gabriela Tejada  
gabriela.tejada@epfl.ch  
Phone: +41 21 693 51 16