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MeteoSwiss

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Joint GAW-CH / GCOS CH Call for Proposals

Questions and Answers

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Question 1

Approximately how much of the total available budget can a project apply for?

Answer

The current Call for Proposals is intended to support 2-4 projects with an overall indicative budget of 3 million CHF. While the call welcomes larger-scale projects, also smaller proposals are encouraged and will be considered for funding based on their quality, relevance, and potential impact. The financial share per project will not only depend on the final number of approved projects but also on the scope of each approved project.

Question 2

Could you provide some guidance on the extent of collaboration that is permitted within MeteoSwiss? Given the nature of the project, I will need access to specific datasets or data infrastructure, which would only be possible through collaboration.

Answer

MeteoSwiss can act as a partner in the project but is not eligible to receive funding through the call.

Question 3

Is there a detailed guideline regarding eligible costs? Specifically, we would like to confirm whether costs related to participatory measurement campaigns (e.g., procurement of mobile/wearable low-cost sensors, field campaign logistics, and living lab stakeholder engagement activities) are fully eligible for funding.

Answer

Yes, costs related to participatory measurement campaigns are fully eligible for funding. Please note that MeteoSwiss prioritizes projects with a long-term orientation. We therefore encourage applicants to frame campaign-related costs within a broader, sustained monitoring or research objective, rather than as standalone, short-term activities.

Question 4

The call text mentions that a *"significant in-kind contribution is required"*.

1. Could you clarify whether there is an expected indicative percentage or threshold for the in-kind share relative to the total project budget?
2. We understand in-kind contributions to consist primarily of permanent staff working hours (FTE of principal investigators and municipal personnel), access to computing facilities, and municipal infrastructure. Could you confirm if this interpretation aligns with your expectations?

Answer

1. We expect the in-kind contribution to amount to be at least 50% of the total project budget.
2. Per 4.3 of the Call Document, the provision of office space, computing hardware/software, and administrative support is a baseline requirement, separate from the significant in-kind contribution itself. Staff working hours (FTE of PIs and municipal personnel) form the core of the expected in-kind contribution; where computing facilities represent a genuine, quantifiable cost beyond this baseline provision, they may also be counted. General municipal infrastructure, however, does not qualify.

Question 5

We assume that "remuneration" refers to the budget needed to hire scientific or technical staff for the project. Could you please clarify whether we understand correctly?

Answer

Yes, remuneration refers to the budget needed to hire scientific or technical staff for the project.

Question 6

Could you please clarify what is referred to by "*Please note that overheads will not be funded"?*

Answer

Overhead costs, such as for example personnel administration (HR) or workspace are not eligible.

Question 7

With regard to field expenses, are we correctly assuming that this can be boarding costs (travel + accommodation for staff, shipment of equipment/instrumentation, etc.) as well as consumables needed for the field set-up (e.g. sampling tubes, etc.)?

Answer

Yes, this is correct.

Question 8

Are we eligible to request a fraction of lab consumables?

Answer

Laboratory consumables used within existing laboratory facilities of the institution submitting the request for support would normally be considered as in-kind contribution and would therefore not be eligible for direct funding under this call.

Question 9

Could we also list dedicated hardware which we need to acquire specifically for the project, alongside sample holders for the field sampling which we will need to acquire, and a conditioning unit for the sample holders under direct costs, or should this rather go into 2.3?

Answer

The procurement of hardware specifically required for the implementation of the project would generally be considered a direct project cost and may therefore be eligible for funding. Of course, the need for the procurement must be adequately justified, including a clear rationale for requesting the full purchase cost and an explanation of why the required hardware cannot be provided, in whole or in part, as an in-kind contribution.

Question 10

Could you please clarify in more detail what is considered in-kind and how much is expected (e.g. which ratio between in-kind staff costs to “remuneration” would be acceptable)?

Answer

In-kind contributions may include (besides office space, computing hardware and software, and personnel and financial administration, which is a baseline requirement separate from the significant in-kind contribution itself) the working hours contributed by permanent staff or equipment (e.g. measurement instruments) specifically procured for the project. An in-kind contribution ratio of approximately 50% is expected.

Question 11

In what form and at what level of detail should in-kind contributions be specified in the project proposal, and how must they be documented at the end of the project (or in interim reports)? What supporting documents are required in this regard at the proposal stage and at the end of the project?

Answer

In general, the more detailed and transparent the information on in-kind contributions, the better the basis for decision-making by the Swiss GAW/GCOS Scientific Steering Committee, which makes the final decisions on submitted proposals.

The budget and expenditure are reported in tabular form as part of the annual reporting process. Supporting documents or receipts for the reported in-kind contributions are not required when submitting the project proposal or as part of the reporting process.

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