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**Federal Office of Meteorology and Climatology MeteoSwiss**

**MeteoSwiss**

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# GCOS Switzerland Call for Proposals



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# 1 Scope of this document

MeteoSwiss issues a call for proposals in the framework of **GCOS Switzerland**. The purpose of this document is to provide detailed information on the call to interested institutions. The document serves as the reference for all proposals to be submitted. Associated to this document is the form for proposal submission (available for download at [www.gaw-gcos.ch/activities](http://www.gaw-gcos.ch/activities)).

Please note that the next call in the framework of the Global Atmosphere Watch programme Switzerland (GAW-CH) is planned for 2025.

# 2 Background

Systematic climate observation has become increasingly important over recent decades, especially since 1992, when the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) was established. GCOS is a joint initiative of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) and the International Council for Science (ICS). The overall goal of GCOS is to ensure the sustained provision of reliable physical, chemical and biological observations and data records for the climate system as a whole – across the atmospheric, oceanic and terrestrial domains, including hydrological and carbon cycles and the cryosphere.

In 2022, the latest update of the **GCOS Implementation Plan (GCOS IP-22)** was published (WMO 2022) and adopted at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Sharm El-Sheikh (COP27). The GCOS IP describes the proposed implementation of a global observing system for climate. A core element is the definition of a set of atmospheric, oceanic, and terrestrial **Essential Climate Variables (ECVs)** that critically contribute to characterizing Earth's climate. Monitoring of these ECVs should adhere to the **GCOS Climate Monitoring Principles**. More detailed information on GCOS can be found on the [GCOS Website](http://www.gcos.org).

GCOS is an international programme and relies to a significant extent on the contributions of individual countries and organizations for its implementation. In this respect, the GCOS IP specifically calls for the establishment of national GCOS Focal Points that shall coordinate all GCOS activities at country level. In Switzerland, the Swiss GAW/GCOS Office at the Federal Office for Meteorology and Climatology, MeteoSwiss, is responsible for the coordination of the national climate observing system (GCOS Switzerland) and the Global Atmosphere Watch programme (GAW Switzerland).

In this function, the Swiss GAW/GCOS Office, in close cooperation with the national partner institutions and under the guidance of the Swiss GAW/GCOS Scientific Steering Committee (SSC), published the **GCOS Switzerland Strategy 2017-2026** (MeteoSwiss 2017; hereafter referred to as "Strategy"). The Strategy builds on four overarching pillars, each defined by a number of subordinate priorities. **More information on GCOS Switzerland, including the Strategy is provided at [www.gaw-gcos.ch](http://www.gaw-gcos.ch).**

A key activity of MeteoSwiss is to provide targeted support to activities that contribute to the GCOS Implementation Plan and the GCOS Switzerland Strategy 2017-2026. Such activities will be defined through **regular GCOS Switzerland Calls for Proposals**. It is the responsibility of the SSC to ensure that all supported activities are fully in line with both, the recently published GCOS IP, and the Strategy.

### 3 Objectives

In line with the recent GCOS Implementation Plan 2022 and the GCOS Switzerland Strategy 2017-2026, MeteoSwiss herewith calls for proposals that address:

- **Pillar 3** of the GCOS Switzerland Strategy 2017-2026: ***“Ensure applicability of Swiss GCOS data and products”***; and
- **Priority 3.1**: ***“Ensure that requirements of the Swiss science community, policy makers, and the public are taken into account”***.

This call complies with the GCOS IP-22, which identifies the adequate response to stakeholder needs as essential for a fit-for-purpose data provision. Climate events, such as droughts, heatwaves or floods, impact communities and individuals. It is thus crucial to have a fit-for-purpose observing system in place, which addresses the needs of stakeholders. Only then can an observing system be useful for society. One of these needs could be, for example, the need for higher resolution and real time data and improved climate monitoring of urban areas. Thus, project proposals should actively involve stakeholders to assess and address their needs.

These stakeholder needs should be addressed along the whole data-chain. For example, fostering the traceability of climate data is the basis for high quality climate data records requested by a broad stakeholder community. Project proposals should take into account TRUST<sup>1</sup> and FAIR<sup>2</sup> principles as well as existing metadata standards or provide input for future standards if not yet available.

Proposals that address other pillars than pillar and strategic priority 3.1 will also be considered as long as the benefit for the GCOS Switzerland Strategy and the GCOS IP are clearly apparent.

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<sup>1</sup> TRUST: Transparency, Responsibility, User focus, Sustainability, and Technology (see <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41597-020-0486-7>)

<sup>2</sup> FAIR: Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable (see <https://www.nature.com/articles/sdata201618>)

## **4 Duration and financial contribution**

### **4.1 Duration**

The indicative duration of projects is **2-4 years**.

According to the modalities for MeteoSwiss agreements in the framework of GAW and GCOS Switzerland (available for download at [www.gaw-gcos.ch/activities](http://www.gaw-gcos.ch/activities)), the maximum possible duration of any activity supported through GCOS Switzerland is four years.

### **4.2 Financial volume**

For this call for proposals, a total indicative budget of CHF 1.4 Mio CHF is available. It is anticipated that 4-6 projects will be supported through this call.

Please note that the budget is subject to the approval of the annual Federal budget by the Swiss Parliament.

### **4.3 In-kind contribution**

In addition to the provision of necessary infrastructure (office space, computing hardware and software, personnel and financial administration) a significant in-kind contribution is required and has to be disclosed in the proposal.

## **5 Eligibility criteria**

This Call for Proposals is open to individuals and consortia with a principal investigator affiliated to a Swiss institution in Switzerland. It primarily addresses individuals and consortia that can demonstrate extensive experience in the monitoring of and research related to the climate system in Switzerland.

Please note that each applicant (=individual or principal investigator of a consortium) can submit only one proposal per call as principal investigator. In the case of consortia, each consortia shall designate one principal investigator and a deputy principal investigator. If a consortium includes foreign institutions, the principal investigator has to be based at a Swiss institution in Switzerland.

An ongoing project in the framework of GAW-CH and/or GCOS Switzerland does not exclude an applicant/consortium from submitting a proposal to a subsequent call.

# 6 Submission and selection procedure.

## 6.1 Responsibilities and selection process

GAW and GCOS Switzerland are under the scientific guidance of a joint Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) that is also responsible for the scientific evaluation of proposals.

The selection of projects follows the process as outlined in Figure 1.

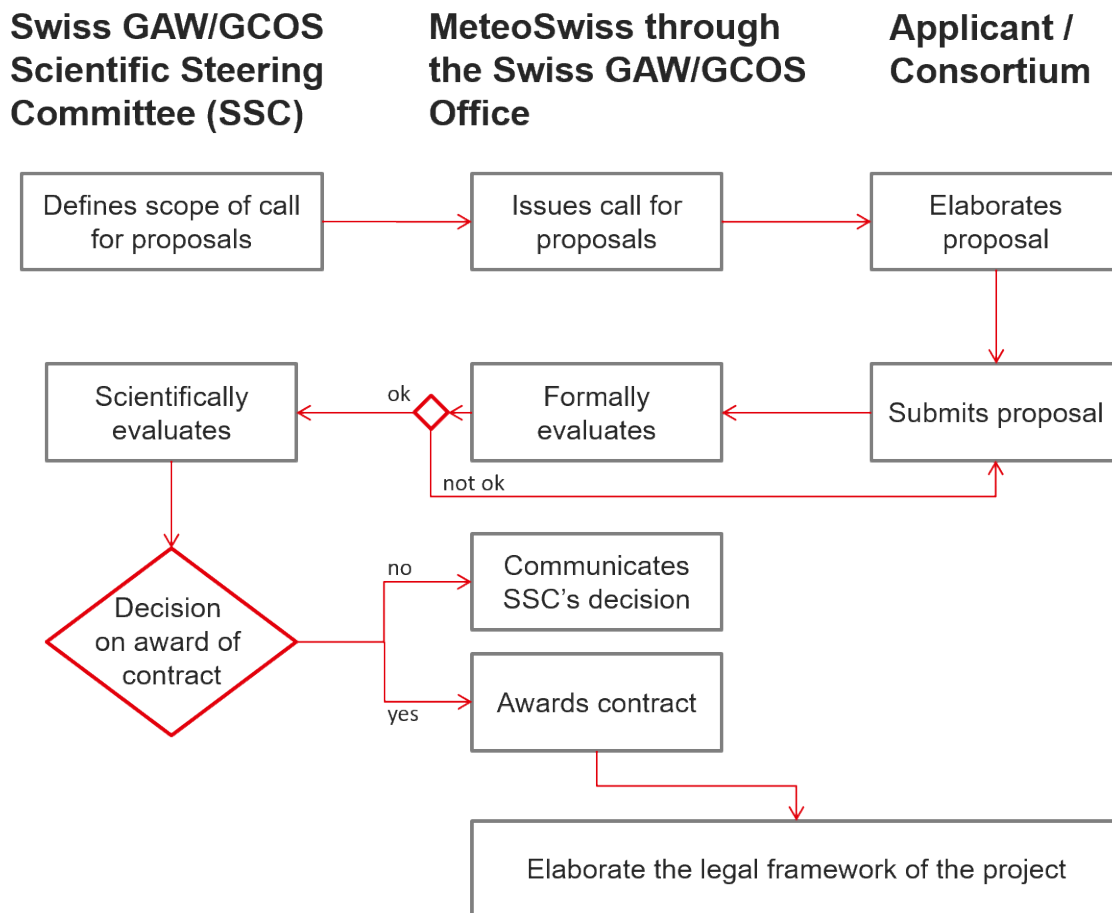


Figure 1 Selection process

## 6.2 Mode of submission

The proposals must be submitted via an online platform **as one single document** in pdf format at the following website: [www.gaw-gcos.ch/activities](http://www.gaw-gcos.ch/activities). Proposals cannot be submitted as hardcopy.

## 6.3 Confidentiality of the written proposal

MeteoSwiss guarantees the confidentiality of the submitted proposals.

## 6.4 Deadlines

The following deadlines apply:

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31 October 2023	Publication of call for proposals at <a href="http://www.gaw-gcos.ch/activities">www.gaw-gcos.ch/activities</a>
29 February 2024, 16:00h (CET)	Deadline for proposal submission. Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be considered
3* April 2024	Award of contract, communication thereafter
31 July 2024	Agreement signed between MeteoSwiss and awarded institution
1 August 2024	Start of projects

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*\*preliminary date*

Questions regarding the call can be submitted directly to [gaw-gcos@meteoswiss.ch](mailto:gaw-gcos@meteoswiss.ch) until 04.02.2024. The answers to those queries will be published on [www.gaw-gcos.ch/activities](http://www.gaw-gcos.ch/activities).

# 7 Formal requirements

The proposal must adhere to the following:

- The proposal must be submitted in the **application form** provided at [www.gaw-gcos.ch/activities](http://www.gaw-gcos.ch/activities), including:
  - o Administrative part: basic data, personal data, and requested funding including mention of in-kind contributions;
  - o Scientific part: executive summary (max. 1 page). detailed research plan (max. 7 pages) and references (max. 1 page);
- The format of the application form must not be altered;
- The proposal has to be submitted in English;
- Additional information requested include the CV of the principal investigator and their deputy, as well as a list of relevant publications.

## 8 Evaluation criteria

If the proposal complies with the formal requirements as specified in Sect. 7, the following criteria will be applied during the scientific evaluation of the proposals:

### Scientific criteria:

- Scientific excellence (e.g., is the proposal based on latest knowledge?);
- Suitability of methods (e.g., are the used methods appropriate to reach the objectives?);
- Conformity with FAIR and TRUST data principles (e.g., how does the applicant/consortium ensure access to and usability of its data?).

### General criteria:

- Benefit for GCOS, especially with respect to the implementation of the GCOS Implementation Plan 2022 and the GCOS Switzerland Strategy 2017-2026;
- Compliance with call for proposals;
- Cost effectiveness, justification of required funding, significant in-kind contribution;
- Competence and experience of the applicant/consortium;
- Project design and organization, clear milestones, feasibility of the proposed timetable;
- Embedding in current national and international activities (e.g. synergies with ongoing projects);
- Risk of failure and risk reduction measures;
- The level of in-kind contribution by the hosting institution.

The decision of the SSC regarding the award of contract is final. The list of supported projects and the respective level of funding will be published online at [www.gaw-gcos.ch/activities](http://www.gaw-gcos.ch/activities).



## **9 Agreement, supervision and reporting**

In case of a project approval, the principal investigator's institution will be stated as an agreement partner with MeteoSwiss. The project will be supervised by MeteoSwiss through the Swiss GAW/GCOS Office. In particular, MeteoSwiss

- serves as the main contact point;
- formally reviews all reporting documents;
- serves as the interface to the SSC;
- is responsible for financial matters.

Implementation progress will be monitored by the SSC. To this regard, the applicant must provide yearly update reports (due on July 31) a final report to the attention of the SSC and a final report to be published on the GCOS Switzerland website. Upon request by the SSC, the applicant/consortium may be invited to present the progress of the project at the occasion of a SSC meeting.

# Annex

## A References

**MeteoSwiss, 2017:** GCOS Switzerland Strategy 2017-2026. Available at [www.gaw-gcos.ch/reports](http://www.gaw-gcos.ch/reports)  
> GCOS Switzerland Strategy.

**MeteoSwiss, 2018:** National Climate Observing System (GCOS Switzerland). Update 2018.  
Available at [www.gaw-gcos.ch/reports](http://www.gaw-gcos.ch/reports)

**WMO, 2022:** The 2022 GCOS Implementation Plan. Available at  
<https://gcos.wmo.int/en/publications/gcos-implementation-plan2022>.

## B Abbreviations

CHF	Swiss Francs
CV	Curriculum Vitae
ECV	Essential Climate Variable
FAIR	Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable
GCOS	Global Climate Observing System
ICS	International Council for Science
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IP	Implementation Plan
SSC	Scientific Steering Committee
TRUST	Transparency, Responsibility, User focus, Sustainability, and Technology
UN Environment	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

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