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Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA  
**Federal Office of Meteorology and Climatology MeteoSwiss**

**MeteoSwiss**

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# **Modalities for MeteoSwiss agreements in the framework of GAW and GCOS Switzerland**



Swiss GAW/GCOS Office



# 1 Background

This document serves to define the modalities for MeteoSwiss agreements in the framework of GCOS-CH and GAW-CH. In accordance with the Federal Ordinance on Meteorology and Climatology (MetV, Article 15 (GCOS) and Article 16a, c, d, e, f (GAW))<sup>1</sup>, MeteoSwiss as a contribution to the international GCOS and GAW programmes can support

- 1) Monitoring activities in Switzerland related to the systematic observation of Essential Climate Variables (ECVs) and of the chemical composition of the atmosphere;
- 2) The operation of Central Facilities hosted by Swiss institutions; and
- 3) Projects in accordance with the current GCOS Implementation Plan<sup>2</sup> and the GAW Scientific Implementation Plan<sup>3</sup>.

This support is provided in the form of a subsidy. The total financial envelope available for activities in the framework of GCOS-CH amounts to 1.6 MCHF per year (Federal Council's Decision 2008). The total financial envelope available for activities in the framework of GAW-CH amounts to 1.2 MCHF per year (Federal Council's Decision 1994). Both financial envelopes are subject to the approval of the annual Federal budget by the Swiss Parliament.

# 2 Agreements concerning Monitoring and Central Facilities

MeteoSwiss gives highest priority to tasks ensuring the continuity of Monitoring activities and Central Facilities. In regards to GCOS-CH, Monitoring activities and Central Facilities at risk of being discontinued are identified in the GCOS-CH inventory report<sup>4</sup>. In regards to GAW-CH, the Monitoring activities and Central Facilities to be supported are specified in Article 16 of the MetV.

<b>Application process</b>	Financial support requires an official request for funding (proposal) to the attention of the Swiss GAW/GCOS Scientific Steering Committee (hereinafter called "SSC"). The SSC decides whether or not to request MeteoSwiss, via the Swiss GAW/GCOS Office, to enter into a contractual agreement with the partner institution.
<b>Eligibility</b>	The responsible institution for any Monitoring activity or Central Facility whose future is at risk, as identified in the GCOS Switzerland inventory report or in the MetV (Article 16).

<sup>1</sup> Swiss Meteorology and climatology Ordinance, MetV; [SR 429.11](#) (Articles 15 and 16)

<sup>2</sup> WMO, 2022: The 2022 GCOS Implementation Plan. Available at <https://library.wmo.int/idurl/4/58104>

<sup>3</sup> WMO, 2025: WMO Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) Science and Implementation Plan: 2024-2027. Available at <https://library.wmo.int/idurl/4/69472>

<sup>4</sup> GCOS CH inventory report 2018 and future updates

GCOS-CH and GAW-CH funding comes into consideration only if no other source of funding is available, or if existing sources of funding (including but not limited to in-kind contributions) are inadequate.

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<b>Agreement duration</b>	Agreements between MeteoSwiss and the partner institution are concluded for a four-year term and enter into force on 1 January of a given year.
<b>Reporting and monitoring</b>	The partner institution submits yearly reportings to the attention of the SSC. In addition, MeteoSwiss convenes an annual meeting with the partner institution.
<b>Evaluation</b>	Extensions of contracts are possible following an evaluation of the achievements commissioned by the SSC. This evaluation always includes a self-assessment by the partner institution and, depending on the level of funding, an external evaluation. Based on the results of the evaluation, the partner institution can be invited to submit a follow-up proposal to the SSC. The SSC decides whether or not to request MeteoSwiss to extend the contractual agreement with the partner institution for another period of four years.

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### **3 Agreements concerning projects in accordance with the GCOS Implementation Plan and the GAW Scientific Implementation Plan**

In addition to the Monitoring activities and Central Facilities, MeteoSwiss can support projects based on an open tendering procedure (call for proposals). The scope of each call must be fully in line with the most recent GCOS Implementation Plan or the GAW Scientific Implementation Plan, respectively.

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<b>Application process</b>	Project proposals can be submitted following a call for proposals issued by the Swiss GAW/GCOS Office. The call is published on the GCOS-CH/GAW-CH website and shared with the communities on various platforms. The scope of each call (thematic focus, budget, anticipated project duration) is defined by the SSC.
<b>Evaluation procedure</b>	The Swiss GAW/GCOS Office conducts the formal evaluation of the proposals. Given that all formal criteria are met, the SSC evaluates the proposals as regards their substance according to predefined evaluation criteria. The SSC then requests MeteoSwiss, via the Swiss GAW/GCOS Office, to enter into a contractual agreement with an awarded partner institution.

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<b>Eligibility</b>	The call for proposals is open to individuals and consortia with a legal representative affiliated to a Swiss institution in Switzerland. It primarily addresses individuals and consortia that can demonstrate extensive experience in the monitoring of and/or research related to the climate system including the composition of the atmosphere in Switzerland.
<b>Agreement duration</b>	The duration depends on the scope of the project, as defined by the SSC, but shall not exceed a maximum of four years.
<b>Reporting and monitoring</b>	The partner institution has to submit a final report at the end of each project. MeteoSwiss will publish the final report on the GCOS-CH/GAW-CH website at the end of the project. In addition, the partner institution is requested to submit a short progress report on a yearly basis to the attention of the SSC.

**MeteoSchweiz**  
Operation Center 1  
CH-8044 Zürich-Flughafen  
T +41 58 460 99 99  
[www.meteoschweiz.ch](http://www.meteoschweiz.ch)

**MeteoSvizzera**  
Via ai Monti 146  
CH-6605 Locarno Monti  
T +41 58 460 97 77  
[www.meteosvizzera.ch](http://www.meteosvizzera.ch)

**MétéoSuisse**  
7bis, av. de la Paix  
CH-1211 Genève 2  
T +41 58 460 98 88  
[www.meteosuisse.ch](http://www.meteosuisse.ch)

**MétéoSuisse**  
Chemin de l'Aérologie  
CH-1530 Payerne  
T +41 58 460 94 44  
[www.meteosuisse.ch](http://www.meteosuisse.ch)

