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SUDAC – swissuniversities development and cooperation network 2nd Call for proposals: COFER

Information for Applicants

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1. Purposes

Consortia for Education and Research (COFER)

SUDAC¹ promotes the establishment of frameworks of cooperation in education and research including different types of academic institutions (Universities/ETH, UAS, UTE) around themes related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the Agenda 2030.

In this framework, COFER will lead to synergies and stronger integration of research, education, and implementation by building upon the different strengths and experiences of the involved institutions through new collaborative networks that will emerge in the North and in the South².

COFER will act as a "research and education incubator": its members will develop proposals together with their Southern counterparts and apply for relevant tenders in their field of competence. Through the unique mix of competences included in them COFER will promote the development of projects meant to include innovation in terms of research with diffusion, education and implementation.

Particular attention will be given to the use of advanced technologies such as ICT in furthering both cooperation and implementation. Distant learning instruments such as MOOCs will be one possible type of output to be expected of COFER.

¹ See approved project :

https://www.swissuniversities.ch/fileadmin/swissuniversities/Dokumente/Internationales/DC_office/2016_02_29_SUDAC_final_version.pdf

² Within SUDAC, the general understanding for „South institutions“, „partners from the Global South“ refers to the countries included in the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) List of Official Development Assistance (ODA) Recipients from the OECD:
www.oecd.org/dac/stats/documentupload/DAC%20List%20of%20ODA%20Recipients%202014%20final.pdf

Important notice:

This call is not about funding research projects, but to establish institutional cooperation for better research, joint education activities, and activities related to transferring research into practice.

2. Timeline

Launch of the Call	November 1 st 2017
Submission Deadline	February 28 th 2018
Decision by SUDAC Assembly	End of May 2018
Earliest possible start of the COFER	June 2018 (For 1 to 2.5 years)

3. Funding

The total budget of each COFER should not exceed 0.8 million CHF (50% of which must come from matching funds³).

The total available federal funding for the COFER in the second call - excluding matching funds from the Swiss Higher Education Institutions – is approximately 2'000'000 CHF. This amount will allow financing around 5 to 8 COFER.

Disclaimer: This budget is subject to the decision of the Swiss Conference of Higher Education Institutions (SHK) on financial cuts at the end of November 2017 and to annual budget availability approved by the Swiss parliament at the end of each year.

4. Criteria

4.1. Formal criteria

1. Language	The proposal must be written in English.
2. Application Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only proposals submitted with the official application form will be accepted. Applications must be written in Arial 8.5 font and not exceed 10 pages (without separate annexes). Tables and graphs can be submitted in separate annexes.
3. Head	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The COFER Head's institution must be a member of the SUDAC Assembly. <p>If this is not the case, an official letter of intent signed by the Rector, committing to a SUDAC Assembly membership – even in case of refusal of the submitted COFER - must be included in the</p>

³ A 50% guarantee of the partner institution's own funds made up of half real money and half virtual money in accordance with the requirements laid down by the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI).

Real money: refers to the financial resources made available for the project by the Swiss Higher Education Institutions. This covers the funding for internal and external staff taking part in the project as well as any purchases made for the purpose of the project. The expenses referred to relate directly to the project.

Virtual money: represents the value of the existing infrastructure used and any services provided by the staff of the Swiss Higher Education Institutions (who collaborated on the project but were not remunerated within the framework of the project). It also refers to services provided by staff which were financed by national funding programmes (e.g. Swiss National Science Foundation SNSF).

	<p>proposal submission. The membership fee covers the remaining programme duration from 2018 to 2020 and consists in an annual contribution of CHF 10'000 in Real Money and CHF 10'000 in Virtual Money.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single researchers and members of the same chair and/or working groups can only head one COFER within the SUDAC programme. This rule applies also for the Head of COFER accepted in the 1st Call. • COFER Heads and members of the same chair and/or working groups can be involved as partners in only one additional COFER. • Members of the same institute, faculty/department or higher education institution can head their own COFER.
4. Partners	<p>Swiss partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COFER must include at least 2 different types of Swiss Higher Education Institutions. The choice and the collaboration have to be pertinent and relevant. • COFER partners (single researchers and members of the same chair and/or working groups) can be involved as partners in maximum 2 COFER. <p>Global South partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COFER must include as a constituent part, partner institutions from the Global South (according to DAC List of ODA Recipients).
5. KFPE Principles	<p>A particular attention will be given to the alignment to the 11 KFPE principles for Research in Partnership. https://11principles.org/</p>
6. Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The COFER budget should not exceed 0.8 million CHF (50% of which must come from matching funds). • Each COFER must be financed with at least 50% matching funds (divided as follows: at least 50% Real Money and the remaining funds Virtual Money). • Each COFER must bring third party funding for Southern partners – they cannot receive direct funding through SUDAC.
7. Institutional involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment letters of all institutions requiring federal funding. • Letters of intent of the partners from the Global South.
8. Signature	<p>The application has to be signed by the Head of COFER. The Head of COFER will be in charge and responsible for all financial issues vis-à-vis swissuniversities. This includes the repartition of the federal funding and the delivery of a consolidated scientific and financial reporting.</p>
9. Submission	<p>The application has to be sent per regular mail (swissuniversities, Vincenzo Ribi, Effingerstrasse 15, PO Box, 3001 Bern) and by e-mail (vincenzo.ribi@swissuniversities.ch) until February 28th 2018.</p>

4.2. Evaluation criteria

COFER shall promote innovative and improved collaboration between different types of Swiss institutions of higher education, which will join forces and experiences and by promoting new forms of cooperation with developing and emerging countries become more efficient, inclusive and sustainable. Thus, COFER will contribute to the overall goal of SUDAC aiming at an expansion of forward looking knowledge, be it thematically, methodologically or geographically and to further improve Switzerland's international position in research and education. Thereby Swiss priorities must be matched with interests from South partners.

They follow the vision of providing a comparative advantage to its members through the combination of approaches, institutional cultures and their embeddedness in the network of SUDAC.

Proposals need to include the following information:

1. Novelty and innovation	Through its unique mix of competences, each COFER will bring new ideas, insights and perspectives. This novelty will have to be highlighted. The innovation of the COFER has to be understood in terms of research and education on global issues, including as well diffusion and implementation.
2. Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-existing collaboration will be an asset. • The role and competence of each partner have to be precisely described as well as how the collaboration between all partners will be organized. It is essential that the role of each partner is coherent with regards to the requested budget. • The added value of the resulting collaboration has to be clearly shown and justified.
3. Development and cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each COFER must tackle at least 2 different SDGs. • The relevance of the chosen topic with regards to the SDGs has to be explained. Not all SDGs present the same relevance in the development and cooperation setting. • The relevance for development and cooperation has to be explicitly motivated. • The added value of the work on the selected SDGs and their interaction has to be clearly explained.
4. Research and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each COFER reflects different disciplinary approaches i.e. including partners from different scientific disciplines. • This call is not about funding research projects, but to establish institutional cooperation for better research, joint education activities, and activities related to transferring research into practice. Both components "research" and "education" have to be present, but not necessarily in equivalent importance.
5. Expected outcomes and sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of the expected outcomes and performances in education and research. The COFER has to work as incubator. • This issue has to be considered at two different levels: a national one, meaning the outcomes for the Swiss institutions and an international one for the institutions from the Global South. • The sustainability of the consortia after 2020 will have to be pursued as general objective of SUDAC.
6. Methodology	Description of the chosen methodology, the main work packages and milestones

5. Evaluation

Formal eligibility

The coordination team (Head of project, Deputy, Coordinator) will check the formal eligibility of the proposals.

Evaluation

The evaluation will be conducted along the 6 evaluation criteria, which all have the same weight.

Each proposal will be evaluated by at least two experts. The evaluation will be conducted along to the following themes:

- One expert will be in charge of assessing the educational and research aspects ;
- Another expert will be in charge of assessing the relevance of the COFER for development and cooperation.

Relevant federal offices (e.g. SDC) will be offered the possibility to participate in this evaluation.

Decision

Based on the recommendations of the experts, the SUDAC Assembly will take the final decision.

In case of equal ranking of proposals by the experts, a third expertise will be required and the SUDAC Assembly will apply the following three soft criteria (by order of priority): disciplinary repartition, geographic repartition in the South, institutional repartition in Switzerland.

6. Contact

For any further questions, please contact:

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