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SUDAC – swissuniversities Development and Cooperation Network

Call for Proposals: Clusters of Cooperation in the Global South (CLOCs)

Information for Applicants

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1. Purposes

With this call SUDAC promotes the establishment of Clusters of Cooperation in the Global South (CLOCs)¹. These clusters are to be developed in a limited number of regions (2-3) in the Global South (i.e. in Africa, Asia, or Latin America).²

CLOCs are expected to serve as 'regional hubs', connecting a variety of 'nodes', such as existing research and education partnerships, regionally active COFER, local knowledge platforms and institutions.

CLOCs shall also serve as contact points for Swiss higher education institutions of all types involved in the SUDAC programme and provide access to local higher education institutions and knowledge partners for education & research purposes.

Initially, CLOCs involve at least one designated person developing a 'regional branch' (or antenna) of the SUDAC programme in a region of choice. In 2019-2020 CLOCs shall implement at least 2 activities. These activities are related to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and involve education & research aspects. The activities are relevant to Swiss higher education institutions of all types (Universities, Universities of Applied Sciences and Arts, Universities of Teacher Education). Institutions participating in the SUDAC programme shall benefit from the output as a 'public good'.

¹ See approved [SUDAC proposal](#) (CLOCs initially called COCs).

² Regions are to be understood as 'regional outreach' covering at least 1 country/area involving two active COFER South partners.

CLOCs either build on proven cooperation track records with Swiss research and teaching institutions or open up new opportunities for cooperation. They are designed to capitalize and develop existing regional knowledge platforms and to share this information on a joint platform (to be developed by the SUDAC programme in the course of 2019).

The 2-3 CLOCs funded in this call will serve as showcase models for potential further CLOCs. A follow-up SUDAC programme (2021-2024) will see the continuation of funding of the existing CLOCs and the establishment of additional CLOCs.

CLOC features:

- CLOCs are located in a region covered by at least 2 COFERs, where they develop an activity agenda in cooperation with the concerned COFERs covering different SDGs.
- CLOCs are ideally located in regions that are also of interest to the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency SDC (according to SDC regions of priority³) or other funders and show cooperation opportunities with regions targeted by the federal Bilateral Programmes of State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI⁴. The repartition will be decided on according to the overall interest of the SUDAC programme and in view of sustainable funding.
- CLOCs serve as facilitators to Swiss higher education institutions. They open up and facilitate new opportunities for cooperation for Swiss research and higher education institutions.
- CLOCs are intended to provide services (networking, scientific exchanges e.g. summer schools, learning events, facilitation of tender or project submission, expertise and review for selection processes e.g. Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships, etc.).
- CLOCs contribute to the collection and share of information and knowledge on the thematic realm covered by the involved COFERs and other partners as defined in the UN 2030 Agenda.
- CLOCs serve as contributors to a joint open access information platform.
- CLOCs have a local institutional anchoring and must implement safeguards against corruption and infringement of academic freedom.

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

Important notice:

This call is not about funding research projects, but aims at establishing institutional cooperation supporting better joint research and education activities and activities related to sharing education-, research-and practice-related knowledge.

2. Timeline

Launch of the Call	January 3 rd 2019
Submission Deadline	March 31 st 2019 (24h00 GMT+1)
Decision by SUDAC Assembly	Mid-May 2019
Earliest possible start of the CLOCs	June 2019 (Funding for approx. 1.5 years)

³ SDC [regions of priority](#).

⁴ Federal [Bilateral Programmes](#) of SERI.

3. Funding

The requested funding for of each CLOC must not exceed CHF 150'000. CLOCs are free to increase their budget with third funds.

The total available funding for this call for CLOCs is of approximately CHF 300'000 CHF. This amount will allow financing about 2-3 CLOCs until 2020.

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 not exceed the indicated length.• Tables and graphs can be submitted in separate annexes.
3. Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A proposal can be submitted by any member of a Participating Institution of the SUDAC Assembly (PI) or by a COFER partner.• A CLOC must be in a region covered by min. 2 COFERs (Find all South partners of COFER in the list of COFER).
4. CLOC Head	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The CLOC Head's institution must be a member of the SUDAC Assembly (PI).• COFER South partners submitting a proposal as CLOC Head must have a Co-Head from a PI.• Single researchers and members of the same chair and/or working groups can only head one CLOC within the SUDAC programme.
5. Affected COFER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A CLOC cooperates with min. 2 COFER partners in the respective region.
6. Regional Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regions are to be understood as 'regional outreach' covering at least 1 country/area involving 2 active COFER South partners.
6. Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A CLOC must submit a concept for min. 2 initial activities covering min. 5 SDGs in total and involving regionally affected COFERs and thematically affected COFERs (partners) in 2019-2020.• CLOC proposals must contain a planning including at least two additional activities in 2019-2020.
7. KFPE Principles	A particular attention will be given to the alignment to the 11 KFPE principles for Research in Partnership (https://11principles.org/).
8. Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The CLOC budget must not exceed CHF 150'000 in requested funds.• Each CLOC can bring third party funding and thus enlarge its budget.
9. Institutional involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Letters of intent of involved COFERs (signed by the Head of COFER).• Letters of intent of involved COFER South partners (signed by the respective partner).• Letters of intent of other involved institutions.

10. Signature	The application has to be signed by the Head of CLOC (or both Co-Heads of CLOC). The (Co-)Head's Participating Institution will be in charge and responsible for all financial issues vis-à-vis swissuniversities. This includes the repartition of funding and the delivery of an brief annual scientific and financial reporting.
11. Submission	The application has to be sent by e-mail to the SUDAC Coordinator Vincenzo Ribi (vincenzo.ribi@swissuniversities.ch) until March 31 st 2019 (24h00 GMT+1).

4.2. Content criteria

CLOC proposals are expected to be innovative. Therefore, only minimal criteria have been set. Proposals need to conceptualize the following characteristics:

- The role of CLOCs is to serve as '**regional hubs**' **connecting a variety of 'nodes'**, such as existing research and education partnerships, regionally active COFER, local knowledge platforms and institutions.
- Each CLOC must submit a concept for min. **2 initial activities** covering **min. 5 SDGs, involving regionally affected COFERs, other thematically affected COFER and other partners**. Activities must encompass both a research & education dimension and correspond to needs of all types of higher education institutions (Universities, Universities of Applied Sciences and Arts, Universities of Teacher Education). Potential activities could be continuing education programmes, MOOCs, networking, scientific exchanges e.g. summer schools, learning events, facilitation of tender or project submission, expertise and review for selection processes e.g. Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships, etc.
- CLOCs serve as **facilitators** for Swiss higher education institutions. They open up new opportunities for cooperation to Swiss research and higher education institutions. CLOCs serve as contact points for Swiss higher education institutions of all types involved in the SUDAC programme and provide access to local higher education institutions and knowledge partners for education & research purposes.
- The **role and competence of each partner** within a cluster must be precisely described, as well as how the collaboration between all partners will be organized.
- CLOCs **contribute to the collection and share of information** on the thematic realm as defined in the UN 2030 Agenda and covered CLOC activities, by involved COFERs, other partners and local knowledge platforms (in view of the joint platform)
- An institutional **anchoring** in Switzerland or in the Global South.
- The implementation of **safeguards** against corruption and infringement of academic freedom.
- Ensuring **sustainability** and the potential of CLOC performance beyond 2020.
- The CLOCs and its activities' **relevance for Participating Institutions** of the SUDAC Assembly or Swiss higher education institutions in general.

5. Eligibility and decision-taking

Formal eligibility

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

Decision-taking

The coordination team will collect the proposals and submit them with funding options to the SUDAC Assembly for decision. The final decision will be taken by the SUDAC Assembly in mid-May 2019.

6. Contact

For any further questions, please contact:

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