

CLOC DEAR MENA

Grant program Guidelines for Applicants



1. Context	2
2. Thematic focuses	2
3. Affected Sustainable Development Goals	2
4. Grant Program.....	3
5. Project governance.....	4

1. Context

The Cluster of Cooperation “Digital Education And Research for MENA” aims at contributing to a research and education network between Institutions of Higher Education in Switzerland and the MENA region. Access to digital education and research is crucial for the implementation of several Sustainable Development Goals, such as SDG4 (Quality Education), SDG9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities) and SDG16 (Peace, Justice and strong Institutions).

New information and communication technologies allow delivering up-to-date digital methods with emerging forms of learning, teaching and technology transfer. The goal of this cluster of cooperation is to bridge the digital gap between the Global North and South to ensure equal access to information, cutting edge tools and techniques, and therefore, to foster innovation, partnership and entrepreneurship.

Relevant contributions of the CLOC DEAR MENA for development and cooperation between Swiss and MENA institutions within the different thematic focuses (see chapter 2) include:

- Developing an institutional framework for education and research by providing methods and expertise in the MENA region,
- Providing an attractive base for the future joint acquisition of teaching and research funding,
- Offering the opportunity to learn about the latest developments, share insights, and get up to date with digital technologies in teaching and research.

2. Thematic focuses

The following thematic focuses are targeted:

- A) Digital Education & Partnership
- B) Engineering
- C) Peacebuilding
- D) Gender & Diversity
- E) Better Public Governance

3. Affected Sustainable Development Goals

[SDG 4 – Quality education](#)

[SDG 5 – Gender equality](#)

[SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure](#)

[SDG 10 – Reduced inequalities](#)

[SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and strong Institutions](#)

[SDG 17 – Partnership for the goals](#)

4. Grant Program

To achieve the CLOC objectives with the aim of encouraging the collaboration between Swiss and MENA partners and for extending the partnership to other Swiss and MENA institutions, a Grant program is proposed.

The Grant program supports the promotion of SDGs in MENA region in the fields of “Digital Education and Research” in one of the following forms:

A) An activity involving interdisciplinary engagement to promote SDGs in the MENA region, in the form of a:

- Interdisciplinary programs and studies
- Feasibility studies
- Explorative and scoping studies
- Meta-analysis

B) An activity on available research results and based on the conversion of academic research outputs into tools and strategies that supports digital education and research in the thematic focuses of engineering, peacebuilding, gender & diversity and public governance:

- Teaching materials and online resources
- Web-based collaborative infrastructures and tools for education and research purposes
- Proof of concept or prototype feasibility studies
- Skills building Workshops or blended research in a CLOC MENA thematic focus areas

Eligibility to Apply

Teams from all [countries of the MENA region](#) and Switzerland are eligible to apply.

The team members can be professors, Master students, Young PhDs and Post-Docs, Research teams, NGOs or Communities of practice. Relevant experience will be evaluated to award the grant.

Two requirements for the team composition:

- At least, one of the partners must be one of our Swiss partners
- At least, one of the partners must be from MENA region

Grant funding

The maximum amount that may be requested is CHF 80'000 per project. 60% of the funding received per project is allocated to the Swiss institutions and 40% is allocated to MENA institutions. The allocation 60/40 is due to Swiss regulation on public funds.

By accepting the SERI contributions, Swiss participating institutions agree to provide the amount of contributions received, in matching funds. These funds can be split in 50% virtual money and 50% real money contributions. (See Budget template)

Submission Deadline

15 September 2021

Projects selection process and criteria

The steering committee of the CLOC will conduct the evaluation process based on the following criteria with equal importance:

- Originality and relevance
- Existing experience
- Partnership between Swiss and MENA institutions
- Effectiveness of the proposed methodology to achieve the goals
- Sustainability of the results
- Feasibility of the project within the timeline and the funding
- Contribution to more than one [SDG](#)
- Adhering to the [KFPE principles](#) and the [Guidelines to Conflict Sensitive Research \(2020\)](#)
- Overarching developmental impacts

Notification of Results

1 November 2021

Duration of funding

The grants are awarded for a minimum of 1 year and a maximum of 3 years.

The start date: From 10 November 2021

The end date: End of 2024

Progress Reporting and final Reporting

In addition to the final scientific project report, a progress report for track keeping is required for the projects which last more than one year.

5. Project governance according to the KFPE Principles and the Guidelines to Conflict Sensitive Research

The funded projects will fully respect [the 11 KFPE principles](#) and adopt [a conflict sensitive approach](#). Some of the most relevant aspects are:

- ✓ The project agenda is set up together with all the project members, clarifying the responsibilities and promoting mutual learning.

- ✓ The project will be coordinated jointly; the methodology and the project management are designed involving all the partners. Even if not all have equal scientific capacity and equivalent infrastructures, the project teams share the same goals and interests.
- ✓ A transparent flow of information and communication systems and facilities are ensured between the partners. The goal is to share and to facilitate the management of information and data between the partners openly and equally.
- ✓ The project implements a conflict sensitivity approach to research activities, monitor risks and opportunities and (re)act accordingly. It essentially means to understand the operating environment including its socio-political fault lines and conflicts, to understand the interactions between the context and the CLOC program and to take action in order to reduce risks to do harm and increase the potential to “do good”, i.e. contributing to social cohesion, conflict prevention or resolution.

Conflict sensitivity risk assessment:

- List the main (3-5) macro level socio-political fault lines relevant for your project (e.g. distrust between government and researchers, societal fragmentation, competition over resources, capital-centeredness, ...),
- List the operational and research project level fault lines (e.g. safety and security issues, corruption, etc.),
- Assess them according to the levels of likelihood and impact in the table provided in the application form.

		Assessment of Likelihood			
		1 Unlikely: Might occur at some point in time. Conditions do exist for this to occur	2 Possible: Could occur. This is possible. Measures to reduce likelihood exist, but may not be fully effective	3 Likely: Will probably occur. Measures and conditions may or may not exist to reduce likelihood	4 Almost certain: Is expected to occur. Almost certain
Assessment of Impact	1 Minor: Some impact, fairly very minor	Low risk			
	2 Medium: Moderate effect. Risk factor might lead to a certain level of consequences, but not major. There is a certain level of impact on the project		Medium risk		
	3 High: Major effect on program that could trigger major adjustments and strategic decision making		High risk		

Low risk = 1-4 / Medium risk = 4-9 / High risk = 9-12