

Financing of additional activities within the Tenure Track Pilot Programme

Eligibility criteria and procedure

About the financing

The “Research Excellence Programme in Science and Higher Education – the Tenure Track Pilot Programme” (hereinafter: TTPP or Programme) is a joint initiative of the Croatian Science Foundation (hereinafter: the Foundation), École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), the Swiss Development Agency (SDC) and the Croatian Ministry of Science and Education (MoSE). The aim of the TTPP is to introduce the tenure track model into the Croatian higher education system. A public call within the Programme was opened between 3 April and 3 July 2018, to which 20 project proposals were submitted. Three projects were selected for financing.

Researchers funded within TTPP are given the opportunity to make use of extra funding made available on the level of the Programme. The funds were made available by the withdrawal of positively evaluated PIs. Article 3.7. of the Project Agreement between the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Ministry of Development and Regional and EU Funds as the National Coordination Unit on the grant for the Project “Promotion of the Tenure Track model -The Tenure Track Pilot Programme”, signed on 3 May 2017, amended on 13 November 2020, defines the reallocation of the funds to remaining projects based on the decision of Parties. Pursuant to the Decision of the Steering Committee of the TTPP, these funds are to be used for additional activities aimed at enhancing the quality of their projects and performance of the research group and upgrading the envisaged results.

Rationale of the procedure: Due to the limited duration of the Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Programme, the implementation phase of the sub-projects is shorter in comparison to similar Tenure Track programmes in other countries (e.g. Tenure Track projects at EPFL are implemented for seven years). Adding resources to the sub-projects can ensure that this shortening does not have a detrimental effect on project results.

Criteria in short

Eligible applicants: Principal Investigators funded through the Tenure Track Pilot Programme (hereinafter: PIs)

Available funds: maximum **CHF 350.000 per Project**

Funding eligibility period: **between date of Amendment to the Grant Award Contract and project end date (i.e. 30 April 2024)**

Publication date: **20 November 2020**

Application deadline: **21 December 2020**

The PIs are hereby invited to submit proposals of new activities intended for meeting the purpose referred to above. **It is recommended that the activities are evenly spread throughout the eligibility period and not cumulated in a single project year.** The requested funds should realistically reflect the required research needs and be completely justifiable.

Eligible activities

The activities should be aligned with the existing categories of the Project's Financial Plan. The eligible activities that may be proposed include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Additional team member (doctoral student or post-doctoral researcher). The additional funds may be used to cover the following costs:

- salary of the additional team member (for a maximum of 48 months) (to be included in Category 1. Salaries),
- PhD student's tuition fees (to be included in Category 1.)
- personal equipment for the additional team member (personal computer, printer etc.) (to be included in Category 3. Research costs)
- travel costs and conference fees for the additional team member (to be included in Category 4. Mobility allowance)

2. Short-term visits of the PI and/or other team members to EPFL, where they would be hosted by their Swiss mentors. If the PI has an established collaboration with another Research Performing Organisation in Switzerland or any other country, the short-term visits can be implemented at that Organization instead. Doctoral students and post-doctoral researchers are encouraged to implement these visits **twice a year** for a maximum of one month. The PI should limit his/her visit to a maximum of **one month** in each Project year. The additional funds can be used for covering the following costs of this activity:

- travel costs to Switzerland (or other country)), accommodation costs and daily allowances for a maximum of 30 days per visit (to be included in Category 4. Mobility allowance)

3. Access to advanced research infrastructure available at EPFL or located at EPFL's partner institutions (e.g. CERN) or any other Swiss Research Performing Organization, such as high performance computing, specialized labs (e.g. genetic labs, Geneva Observatory etc.), which would be useful to any team member. If the PI is aware of advanced research infrastructure available at Research Performing Organisations in any other country, s/he is free to propose activities at that Organization as well. The additional funds may be used for covering the following costs:

- infrastructure access fees (to be included in Category 3. Research costs)
- travel costs to Switzerland (or other country), accommodation costs and daily allowances, if physical presence at the location is required for the use of this infrastructure (to be included in Category 4. Mobility allowance)

4. Training of team members at EPFL or any other Swiss Research Performing Organization: EPFL offers various courses on horizontal skills, technical workshops, summer schools, use of research infrastructure etc. The PI should examine the available courses on offer by EPFL and other Research Performing Organizations and discuss with his/her team members the trainings they wish to attend. The additional funds may be used for covering the following costs:

- course registration costs (to be included in Category 4. Mobility allowance)
- travel costs and accommodation during the course (to be included in Category 4. Mobility allowance).

5. Additional equipment and maintenance – equipment not provided for in the existing Financial Plan or additional items of equipment, replacement or repair of equipment damaged in the Zagreb earthquake of 22 March (to be included in Category 2. Major research equipment and maintenance).

6. Additional overhead costs for the Host Organization – maximum 5% of the requested amount (would be added to the amount in **Category 5**).

If the PI would like to introduce an activity not directly provided for in the list above, s/he should check its eligibility by contacting HRZZ on the email address listed below. The Steering Committee of the Tenure Track Pilot Programme will decide on the eligibility of such activities on a case-by-case basis.

Award procedure

The PI should propose activities in any of the categories referred to above. For this purpose, the PI should submit the following documents:

1. Form A – Description of proposed activities, with the activities, their duration, participants, intended outcomes and estimated costs clearly defined,
2. Modified Work Plan of the Project, showing how the new activities are connected with and would benefit the Project overall – the new activities should be incorporated into the last valid version of the Work Plan in **green font**,
3. Modified Financial Plan of the Project, with the costs of the new activities indicated in the last valid version of the Financial Plan in **green font**.

The documents should be signed by the PI and submitted in PDF format and sent via email to the address: ttp@hrzz.hr.

Evaluation

The proposals will be evaluated by a small scientific panel nominated jointly by HRZZ and EPFL. The criteria used for assessing the proposals would be:

1. added value of the proposed activities to the success of the Project overall,
2. feasibility of activities,
3. reasonable estimate of the cost.

The panel will forward its evaluation results to the Steering Committee of the Tenure Track Pilot Programme, which will decide on the amount of additional funding which will be awarded to each Project. The final decision will be adopted by the Board of the Croatian Science Foundation.

If the proposals are positively evaluated, the current Grant Award Contract with the PI will be annexed, whereby the PIs would need to submit a revised Work and Financial Plan of their projects.

Project proposal submission deadline

The deadline for submitting the proposals is 21-12-2020.

Questions

All inquiries should be submitted in English to the email address ttp@hrzz.hr.