

**HRC Living Lab Grants 2022**

*Could your lab and scientific expertise bring value to the future development of the EPFL campus outdoor spaces?*

**Open call for research proposals  
GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS**

**CAMPUS IN TRANSITION  
Improving the outdoor environmental  
quality of EPFL Lausanne Campus**

**Launch:  
16/03/22 - 18:00**

**Apply for one of the  
funding ranges:**  
— 15'000 CHF  
— 30'000 CHF  
— 45'000 CHF

**Deadline:  
14/04/22 - 12:00**

**Send your proposal to:**  
[habitat@epfl.ch](mailto:habitat@epfl.ch)

The *HRC Living Lab Grants 2022* provide financial support for starting new interdisciplinary research taking the outdoor spaces of EPFL campus as case studies and places of experimentation, with the view of influencing the future development of the campus. Its call for research proposals opens on March 16, 2022, and assumes a gradual selection procedure, starting with a first evaluation moment on April 14, 2022. During the whole procedure, the HRC research team is available to accompany projects submission and answer any questions.

**Introduction**

With more than 17'000 users and inhabitants, the EPFL Lausanne site constitutes a main urban piece of the West-Lausanne agglomeration, if not the equivalent of a city itself, containing and sharing both local and global issues of urban growth. In the next 10 years, projections announce an increase of more than a quarter of its current community, requiring new infrastructures, hospitalities, mobility strategies, and facilities. These upcoming developments come at a crucial time when both the physical nature of the campus as well as its main guiding principles are getting old, if not outdated. Beyond the need for renovation and concrete spatial adaptations, EPFL infrastructures are at a notable turning point that requires profound renewals in terms of visions and logic of development, social and spatial practices, landscape amenities, and general inclusion.

Launched at the beginning of the spring semester of 2022 by the Vice Presidency for responsible Transformation (VPT), the *Campus piéton* initiative proposes to interrogate such a turning point toward a more sustainable campus, starting by questioning the configuration and coherency of its open spaces. Following the master plan for the EPFL-UNIL sites, such an exploratory project aims to draw up preliminary perspectives on a first perimeter including the Avenue Piccard and the Route des Noyerettes. While a participative and design study mission is being co-animated together with the two ENAC laboratories Atelier de la Conception de l'Espace (Alice) and the Laboratory of Urbanism (Lab-U), the Habitat Research Center (HRC) is also involved in the coordination of the *Campus Living Lab*.



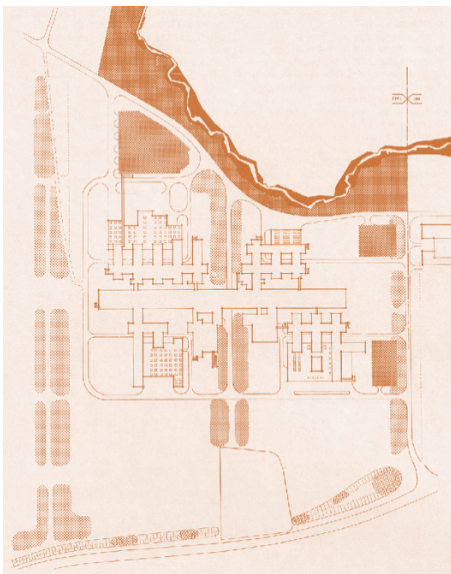
Credit: Anna Karla  
de Almeida Santos  
Avenue Piccard,  
EPFL Lausanne  
campus (2022)

[habitat@epfl.ch](mailto:habitat@epfl.ch)

**EPFL ENAC HRC  
BP 3236 (Bâtiment BP)  
Station 16  
CH-1015 Lausanne  
Suisse**

### EPFL Lausanne 'Campus piéton' as a Living Lab

Through an interactive *Forum* on March 9, 2022, the *Campus piéton* project was formally opened, and allowed the Habitat Research Center to launch the *Campus Living Lab* initiative. Such living laboratory constitutes an open research platform for ongoing or future projects conducted at EPFL related to urbanization and environmental quality. It consists of an interdisciplinary research network questioning the development of outdoor spaces on the EPFL Lausanne campus, with a view to redefine their potential role and qualities.



Credit: ACM, 54.05.006.1  
Zweifel + Strickler + Associates,  
Campus Integration Plan (1972)

The *Campus Living Lab* aims to directly involve the local EPFL scientific community, bridging on-site high-level expertise with the investigation of local pragmatic issues. It provides EPFL laboratories with a privileged research framework including a network of involved stakeholders, facilitated interactions with the user community and fruitful interactions with parallel research. Beyond isolated and punctual experimentations, the living laboratory as a whole aspires to influence progressively and durably the morphology of the campus and its future developments. Among others, proposals on climate change adaptation, water management, heat islands, material reuse, soil strategies, or biodiversity enhancement are particularly welcome, from thematic expertise to the testing application of new knowledge, processes and devices.

The Habitat Research Center organizes a series of thematic seminars and events within the framework of the Living Lab, in relation to the parallel design process. The public seminars allow for a broader interdisciplinary approach by linking the parallel research projects and raising their complementarities. The *Forums* are a regular public meeting with the whole EPFL community, during which exchanges are stimulated among the Living Lab activities and the users of the campus.

Moreover, the co-creation workshops are regular moments of intersection between research and application. They allow for a redefinition of the proposed project ideas impacting the Avenue Piccard and the Route des Noyerettes. These thematic working sessions involve collaboration with invited researchers, the operational services of EPFL and the leading working group managing the design process and its participatory approach. A common research report collects all initiatives, including recommendations from each associated research.

### HRC Living Lab Grants 2022

With the support of the ENAC Faculty, the *HRC Living Lab Grants 2022* encourage EPFL researchers to actively take part in the *Campus Living Lab* interdisciplinary activities, in the framework of the [Campus piéton](#) initiative. The call targets two types of proposals, from thematic considerations informing future outdoor spaces developments in EPFL Campus to concrete applications of innovative solutions. The perimeter including Avenue Piccard and Route des Noyerettes is to be considered as the main and preliminary area for reflection and living lab experimentation.

### Eligibility

The application can either involve one or more researchers, affiliated to one or more EPFL laboratories. Applicants should be early-career researchers (i.e. Ph.D., Postdoc, or scientific collaborator) and supported by the respective heads of their host laboratories. The applicants agree in participating in the living lab research platform, coordinated by HRC, which will allow for and support an interdisciplinary approach. They also declare when submitting that the information contained in their application is correct and complete.

### Recommended budget

The total call budget will be distributed to the selected proposals. The funding requested for the implementation of the submitted project idea can be either 15'000 CHF, 30'000 CHF or 45'000 CHF. The requested budget needs to be justified in the proposal (salary, material, consumables, equipment, services, prototype, conferences, travel, etc). No overhead shall be paid for the HRC Living Lab Grant funded projects. The grant duration is from 8 to 12 months, starting within 1 to 4 weeks after the acceptance of the proposal.

### Evaluation criteria

All proposals will be evaluated, and either accepted, commented for resubmission, or rejected with justification. The HRC Living Lab Grant Selection Committee is composed by the HRC Scientific Board (excluding those involved in a submitted proposal) and one representative of the EPFL *Campus piéton* initiative.

The evaluation criteria focus on the relevance of the project idea regarding the interdisciplinary ambitions of the living lab, its impact on both the campus development and specific state-of-the-art. The motivation to actively participate in and contribute to the activities of the living lab and research platform will also be evaluated.

### Proposal documents

Specific templates are available in the Application toolkit, while the CV and research output can be based on the [SNSF format](#):

- Application form and Research proposal (four pages)
- CV of Principal Investigator(s) (two pages each)
- Supervisor(s) support letter(s) (one page each)

### How to apply

The call for research proposals assumes a gradual selection procedure. The first selection session is open until April 14, 2022 at 12:00. Proposals should be sent to [habitat@epfl.ch](mailto:habitat@epfl.ch) indicating "HRC Living Lab Grant application" and the name of the proposal in the title of the submission email.

For more information on the general *Campus piéton* project, the dedicated [web platform](#) is already online. It includes a recording of the first information session about the Campus Living Lab initiative provided during the Forum 1 *Campus piéton* on March 9, 2022. See the Forum 1 '[General introduction and methodology](#)' section.

For any questions, please contact the HRC coordination via email: [habitat@epfl.ch](mailto:habitat@epfl.ch). Further information might be updated later on the [dedicated website](#).

Apply for one of the funding ranges:

- 15'000 CHF
- 30'000 CHF
- 45'000 CHF

Deadline:  
14/04/22 - 12:00

Send your proposal to:  
[habitat@epfl.ch](mailto:habitat@epfl.ch)