

Collaborative Research on Science and Society (CROSS) Program

2023 Call for Projects

Information and Rules

Objectives

The Collaborative Research on Science and Society (CROSS) Program is the result of an agreement signed between the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) and the University of Lausanne (UNIL) with the aim of encouraging interdisciplinary projects that deal with current issues in society and technology, associating specialists in the human and social sciences on the one hand, with specialists in the life sciences, natural sciences or engineering on the other.

Through an annual call for projects, CROSS provides competitive grants to support new seed research endeavors that have the potential to grow into full-scale interdisciplinary research projects.

Thematic scope

- Every year, the call for projects is launched on a particular theme.
- The theme for the 2023 Call is: “**Crisis**”.

Funding and budgeting

- The maximum granted amount for one project is CHF 60,000.
- The funding may be used to cover salary and material costs, and expenses related to the organisation of events, research visits or fieldwork.
- A detailed budget specifying the division between EPFL and UNIL must be provided through the application form annexed to this document. Foreseen expenses must be justified and coherent with the proposed research activities.
- Resources are allocated for a maximum period of one year.
- The amounts made available by CROSS cannot finance any overhead, infrastructure or other indirect costs.

Eligibility

To be eligible, the applications must meet the following criteria:

- The researchers involved are based at an EPFL or UNIL unit (institute, laboratory, college or center).
- Each project team designates a main applicant who is responsible for coordinating the research work. The main applicant is a professor, senior scientists (MER), or scientific collaborator of one of the two institutions.
- The project is proposed by an interdisciplinary team made up of at least one researcher from each of the institutions (EPFL and UNIL): one specialist in the human and social sciences and one specialist in the life sciences, natural sciences or engineering.
- Projects are encouraged to involve stakeholders of innovation, citizens and other concerned groups in the research process.
- The project falls within the scope of the CROSS program and the 2023 priority theme, namely: “Crisis”. Projects on other themes may also be considered based on the opportunities that they offer and the financial resources available.
- The project proposes an interdisciplinary approach to deal with current issues in society and technology related to the annual theme, and demonstrates the added value of the interdisciplinary collaboration in terms of the expected results.
- The same researcher or group of researchers can only receive one grant per call for projects.

Submission of applications

Applications must be prepared following the indications mentioned in the application form, and submitted by the main applicant in electronic format (including annexes) to CROSS at the following email address: cross@epfl.ch

Complete applications must be submitted by **25 August 2022**. Late and incomplete applications will not be considered.

Timeline

Call release:	12 May 2022
Deadline for submission of applications:	25 August 2022
Evaluation and funding decision:	25 August – beginning Oct. 2022
Notification of decision:	by 15 October 2022
Starting date of project:	1 January 2023
Event presenting findings of granted projects:	November 2023
Project completion:	by 31 December 2023
Deadline for submission of final reports:	31 March 2024

Evaluation and selection

Applications will be assessed by CROSS Scientific Committee on the basis of the following criteria:

- Scientific merit of anticipated outcomes
- Originality and value added of the interdisciplinary approach (clear integration of various disciplinary methods and insights)
- Feasibility of the proposed activities
- Coherence between the budget and the proposed activities
- Potential to grow into a full-scale interdisciplinary research project
- Plan to use the grant for preparing a new research proposal to be submitted to a funding agency

The decision of the Scientific Committee is final and cannot be appealed.

Registration of selected proposals

Once a project is selected by the scientific committee, the researchers concerned must register their project at the EPFL Grants Database (<https://grantsdb.epfl.ch>).

Reporting and further commitment

The main applicant acts as coordinator and point of contact with the CROSS program. **By 31 March 2024** she/he must submit the following documents to the attention of the Scientific Committee:

- A final financial report (including table of expenditure and Infocentre data extract)
- A final scientific report on the activities carried out, the results attained and the future prospects (including submissions to funding agencies)

Granted researchers agree to participate at events with other CROSS participants to present and discuss their projects, and to pass on information that CROSS may request to assess the programme ex-post.

Granted researchers should inform CROSS about any publications and other outputs resulted from the project as well as any further grants received. CROSS encourages publications in Open Access.

Contact

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