

## Collaborative Research on Science and Society (CROSS) Program

### 2026 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.

#### Open to all topics

The 2026 CROSS call will be open to all topics

Call year	Theme
2013	Energy
2014	Memory
2015	Circulation
2016	Perceptions
2017	Traces
2018	Imitation
2019	Resistance
2020	Mobility
2021	Digital humanities
2022	Responsible innovation
2023	Crisis
2024	Open call
2025	Open call
2026	Open call

#### 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 organization 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.
- As each institution, EPFL and UNIL, pays for its share of the budget, grant amounts **may not be** transferred from one institution to another during project implementation.
- Resources are allocated for a maximum period of 12 months.
- 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 non-academic groups in the research process.
- The project proposes an interdisciplinary approach to deal with current issues in society and technology, on any topic, and demonstrates clearly 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](mailto:cross@epfl.ch)

Complete applications must be submitted by **midnight CET on 17 June 2025**. Late and incomplete applications will not be considered.

## Timeline

Call release:	11 March 2025
Deadline for submission of applications:	17 June 2025 (midnight CET)
Evaluation and funding decision:	July - August 2025
Notification of decision:	by 30 September 2025
Starting date of project:	1 January 2026
Event presenting findings of granted projects:	tbc
Project completion:	by 31 December 2026
Deadline for submission of final reports:	31 March 2027

## Evaluation and selection

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

- Scientific merit of anticipated outcomes
- Originality and value added of the interdisciplinary approach (clear integration of methods and knowledge from various disciplines; the proposed research transcends traditional academic disciplines)
- 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 (ideally the funding instrument envisaged is mentioned and the project is adapted to that objective)
- 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 2027** 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 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 program 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**

If you have any questions, please contact:

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**Attachment: application form**