

CDM INTERDISCIPLINARY CALL

Call for proposals – Deadline 31 December 2020 (17:00 CET)

Introduction

While the 2019 launched EPFL Interdisciplinary Seed Fund is a very useful mechanism to promote interdisciplinary research across EPFL schools and colleges, its scope and scale are necessarily limited given the amount of financial resources allocated to it and, thus, it does not match the huge potential for interdisciplinary projects which is featuring in the EPFL campus. It is therefore an option for each EPFL school/college to develop its own instrument aiming at promoting interdisciplinary work with the other schools and gravitating around its key research areas.

The CDM Interdisciplinary Call aims to support projects that use an **interdisciplinary approach** and that are devoted to seeding **new collaborative research ties** between one of the key research areas of CDM – management, economics, finance, operation research – and another research area present at EPFL.

In addition, this call offers the opportunity for EPFL professors to discover the research portfolio and agenda of CDM. Mutual knowledge and information about the research undertaken at each school/college are naturally a pre-requisite for developing interdisciplinary collaborations. [CDM's 2019 Annual Report](#) serves to help this information process.

Call for proposals

A call for proposal is now open and the CDM Director strongly encourages applications. In order to foster interdisciplinary projects in 2021, the CDM Direction has decided to financially support PhD students working on research projects involving at least two principal investigators from two different disciplines. The terms of the call are:

1- Eligibility:

- a. any project between a CDM professor & an EPFL (non-CDM) professor/MER,
- b. the PhD student must be co-supervised by the two professors,
- c. the student must be admitted in EDMT or EDFI,
- d. maximum one application per EPFL (CDM or non-CDM) professor/MER.

2- Finance:

- a. a forfeit amount of CHF 70'000 per year is defined, a sum which covers the PhD's annual salary including social charges, and some additional extra costs (travel, conferences),
- b. CDM Direction covers 60% of the mentioned forfeit amount, i.e. a contribution of CHF 42'000 per year **for a maximum of 2 years** - giving a total contribution of CHF 84'000 by the CDM Direction per Interdisciplinary project.
- c. the associated research units (CDM and non-CDM) must cover together the remaining 40% of the forfeit during those two years:
 - a 20% contribution from the CDM unit (Chair/SFI pool), corresponding to CHF 14'000 per year from its budgetary (endowment) fund,
 - a 20% contribution from the non-CDM unit (lab), corresponding to CHF 14'000 per year from its budgetary (endowment) fund.

- d. The remaining years of the PhD's contract until graduation must be fully covered financially by the units themselves.
- e. If the total project foresees a budget higher than CHF 70'000 per year or lasts longer than 2 years, all additional costs will be covered by the units without claiming any additional financing from CDM Direction budget.

3. Ethical issues:

Proposal posing ethical concerns must declare this. Research activities and methods that have ethical implications according to the information provided by the EPFL-Research Office need to be declared.

How to apply

The full application package must be sent by email to cdm.opencall@epfl.ch before the submission deadline set on **31 December 2020 (17:00 CET)**.

Please fill in and sign the provided [Application Form](#) and send it with all required documents in PDF format.

Evaluation

Each proposal will be evaluated by a committee of **three referees**. For the 2020 call the committee is formed by:

Prof. Dominique Foray – CDM Director
Prof. Thomas Weber – Head of EDMT
Head of EDFI (TBC)

The evaluation is entirely paper-based and no additional documents can be submitted (unless on request) after the submission deadline.

Decision and start of the project

A maximum of 2 interdisciplinary projects will be selected in 2021 and the decisions will be announced mid-March 2021.

Project start will be possible from July to September 2021.

The admission of new PhD students at EDMT & EDFI is communicated mid-end of June 2021. EDFI students who joined SFI in September 2020 and do not have yet a thesis director are also eligible to participate.

The CDM Direction financial contribution will be provided to the CDM unit upon the arrival of the PhD student and the beginning of the research project, annually pro-rata and for the maximum duration of two years. The contribution of the non-CDM unit must be made by a budget transfer to the CDM-unit, one at the beginning of the project and one at the start of the second year.

Reporting

All projects will be asked to submit a 1-2 pages progress report after a period of 12 months composed of:

- a) A **scientific report**, which should include the progress made during the reporting period, activities foreseen for the following period and any changes or deviations from the initial project plan.
- b) A simple **financial report**, which should detail all spending during the period.

Similar reports will be asked after a period of 24 months. Any publication emanating from the funded project must be communicated to the program coordination.

Applicants shall bear the main responsibility for the proposed research project. In particular, they consider all ethical, legal and societal aspects of the proposed research project and will comply with all applicable laws and regulations in relation with these matters.

Prof. Dominique Foray
Director of CDM

