

SEED MONEY FOR JOINT SWISS-PORTUGUESE ACADEMIC PROJECTS

1. Background

On the 2nd of May 2019, the HES-SO University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland and the CCISP Portuguese Polytechnics Coordinating Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding to foster the scientific collaboration between the Portuguese polytechnics and the HES-SO.

2. Goals and objectives

Seed funding represents an excellent instrument to explore the potential of Swiss-Portuguese research. The goal of the seed money for academic projects call is to initiate larger joint activities or to consolidate existing partnerships between the HES-SO and the Portuguese polytechnics. The seed money grants shall achieve the following objectives:

1. To intensify interaction and scientific cooperation between Swiss and Portuguese scientists;
2. To establish research partnerships of mutual interest and benefits;
3. To connect existing but separately funded research projects in Switzerland and Portugal.

Seed money grants may be particularly useful to develop common project proposals to be submitted at a later stage to funding agencies in Portugal, Switzerland and/or Europe. Proposals linked to larger national and international research programmes are also expressly welcome.

The call is open to any research theme: both monodisciplinary and multidisciplinary proposals are accepted.

Projects may take the following form (non-exhaustive list):

1. Preparation of a joint research project with the purpose of submitting the research proposal to national and/or European calls;
2. Development and implementation of a joint education project (e.g. development of a dual diploma);
3. Organisation of a conference or a thematic workshop.

This call allows funding of approximately 10 seed money grants, subject to the number of applications received as well as compliance with the criteria for evaluation and selection (see section 5 Evaluation and selection in this document for details).

3. Eligibility

The call is open to all scientific disciplines and fields of research.



All scientists of the HES-SO and Portuguese Polytechnics are eligible to apply. Each project must be jointly proposed by at least two applicants, one holding a faculty or scientist position within HES-SO and one holding a faculty or scientist position within an eligible Portuguese institution. The “principal investigator/researcher” must act as the main applicant and is qualified to submit the proposal. Proposals that include bachelor and master students must be submitted by their supervisors.

In addition to the Swiss and Portuguese investigators/researchers, other collaborating partners (third parties), including researchers affiliated to international organisations or think tanks, may qualify to participate if they have a solid track record of research and publications. Third-party applicants are not eligible for funding.

The minimum size of the consortium enrolled in the submitted projects is one HEI from each country.

4. Funding and Budgeting

The maximum amount for a seed money grant is 20'000 euro. The grant will be disbursed in two instalments: 50% after signing the grant contract and 50% after approval of the final report. The maximum project duration is 12 months.

A detailed budget must be provided in the project proposal. Budgeted expenses must be justified and related to the proposed activities. A financial contribution of each partner is expected and must be made explicit in cash and/or in kind.

The funds of this call may be used for (non-exhaustive list):

1. Consumables and small equipment;
2. Travel and meeting expenses in relation to the organisation of a scientific conference;
3. Missions, organisation of project meetings and workshops, purchase of small equipment;
4. Publishing fees;
5. Expenses related to scientific studies;
6. The indirect cost must not exceed 20% of the direct costs. Partially salary cost are eligible.

The sum of indirect costs and salary costs must not exceed 40% of the direct costs.

5. Evaluation and selection

Project proposals will be jointly evaluated by Swiss and Portuguese representatives. The final decision of the evaluation will be taken by the Joint Working Group. The evaluation is based on the following criteria (not listed in order of priority):

- a) Scientific, technological or artistic merit;
- b) Originality and feasibility of the proposed project objectives;
- c) Expertise and complementarities of the partner laboratories/institutes and the applicants;
- d) Contributions by all involved partners, including co-funding and in-kind contributions;

- e) Potential for long-term collaboration and follow-up activities;
- f) Promotion of young and female researchers in compliance with the principle of equal opportunities.

6. Reporting

The main applicant is responsible for managing the funds and reporting. He or she must submit a final scientific and financial report one month after the termination of the seed money project. The latest deadline for reporting is end of October 2021.

7. Application

Applications shall be submitted in electronic format only. Please email your full application to international@hes-so.ch and projetos@ccisp.pt by 8 April 2020, 23:59 UTC+0 (Portugal time).

8. Time line

Launch of the call	9 th of January 2020
Deadline for submission	8 th April 2020
Evaluation and funding decision	May-June 2020
Notification	End of June 2020
Latest project start date	September 2020
Project duration	Up to 12 months
Reporting due	October 2021