Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development (r4d.ch)

Main objective
The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Swiss National Science Foundation SNSF are offering a new funding scheme for development-related research on global issues. The main focus of the "Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development" (r4d.ch) lies on the generation of new insights and innovative approaches, solutions as well as on the application of research results into policy and practice through transnational research partnerships. In the focus of the programme is the reduction of poverty and global risks as well as the provision of public goods. Inter- and transdisciplinary research with a problem- and solution orientated approach will be funded. The implementation of the research results into policy and practice are of high significance and are considered as an integral part of the research activities.

Structure of the fund
The new funding instrument consists of six modules, five with pre-defined thematic priorities and one for which the project themes can be freely chosen by researchers. The five thematic research modules have a duration of six years. The ideal scope is CHF 400'000 – 600’000 per year, i.e. approximately CHF 3 million per project. Research projects within the module without pre-defined themes will be three years. The maximum fund available for the 3-year period amounts to CHF 500’000.-. 10% to 15% of the amount awarded to a project must be used for application, implementation and communication.

Themes
The SDC has defined the following five research themes with the objective of fostering a sustainable global development, which targets poverty reduction and the preservation of global public goods in developing countries:

1. Causes of and solutions to social conflicts in contexts of weak public institutions;
2. Employment in the context of sustainable development;
3. Agricultural production systems and food security;
4. Sustainable use and management of ecosystems;
5. Provision systems and financing mechanisms in the public health sector.

Funds
The overall financial volume is of CHF 97.6 million for the period 2012-2022. The SDC will contribute CHF 72 mio. and the SNSF CHF 25.6 mio. CHF 14.1 million are available for each theme (including research, scientific synthesis and implementation work). This allows for each topic several major research partnership projects to be realised. Three calls for freely chosen thematic research will be launched, each with a total amount of CHF 5.9 million.
Eligibility
- All researchers working at research institutions in Switzerland or in developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America are eligible (according to the OECD-DAC list\(^1\)).
- The responsible applicant must be employed at a Swiss research institution.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Switzerland</th>
<th>Developing Countries</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Universities</td>
<td>• Institutions of higher education, universities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• ETH &amp; institutions of the ETH Domain</td>
<td>• Public research institutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Universities of applied sciences, universities of teacher education</td>
<td>• Other research institutions that do not conduct research for commercial purposes</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Swiss federal research institutions</td>
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<td>• Other research institutions that do not conduct research for commercial purposes</td>
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Research partnership projects
- Only “research partnership projects” are funded. Such projects consist of at least one Swiss research group and for the thematic calls at least two research groups from two different countries of group 1 and one research group for the thematically open projects from a country of group 1. The participation of further groups from Switzerland and from developing countries is highly recommended.
- The following table gives an overview of the eligible developing countries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country group 1: Mandatory</th>
<th>Country group 2: Optional</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Least developed countries, low income countries, and lower middle income countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America or Cuba as a SDC priority country</td>
<td>BICS and upper middle income countries in Africa, Asia (without Turkey) and Latin America (without the Caribbean) - for instance, Brazil, India, China, South Africa and others.</td>
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Calls: Topic/Type
- 1st Call for thematically open projects: 6 June 2012, Funding-decision: September 2013
- Topic “Social Conflicts”: 6 June 2012, Funding-decision: September 2013
- Topic “Employment”: 7 September 2012, Funding-decision: October 2013
- Topics “Ecosystems” and “Food Security”: 28 May 2013, Funding-decision: Summer 2014
- 2nd Call for thematically open projects: Winter 2014, Funding-decision: End 2015
- 3rd Call for thematically open projects: Summer 2016, Funding-decision: Summer 2017

Funded projects
The list of the funded projects are published on the r4d website www.r4d.ch.
- Projects Thematically Open Call
- Projects Social Conflicts

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