



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA

**Federal Office of Meteorology and Climatology MeteoSwiss**

**MeteoSwiss**

01 / 2018

# GCOS Switzerland Call for Proposals



Swiss GCOS Office  
[gcos@meteoswiss.ch](mailto:gcos@meteoswiss.ch)



# Table of Content

<b>1</b>	<b>Scope of this document</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Background</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Eligibility criteria</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Submission and selection procedure</b>	<b>7</b>
5.1	Responsibilities and selection process	7
5.2	Mode of submission	7
5.3	Deadlines	8
<b>6</b>	<b>Anticipated duration and financial volume</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Guidelines for writing the proposal</b>	<b>9</b>
7.1	Formalities	9
7.2	Confidentiality of the written proposal	10
<b>8</b>	<b>Evaluation criteria</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Supervision and reporting</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Annex</b>		<b>12</b>
A	References	12
B	Abbreviations	12



# 1 Scope of this document

MeteoSwiss issues a call for proposals in the framework of GCOS Switzerland. The purpose of this document is to provide detailed information on the call to interested institutions. The document serves as the reference for all proposals to be submitted. Associated to this document is the form for proposal submission (available for download at [www.gcos.ch/callforproposals](http://www.gcos.ch/callforproposals))

# 2 Background

Systematic climate observation has become increasingly important over recent decades, especially since 1992, when the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) was established. GCOS is a joint initiative of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Council for Science (ICSU). The overall goal of GCOS is to ensure the sustained provision of reliable physical, chemical and biological observations and data records for the climate system as a whole – across the atmospheric, oceanic and terrestrial domains, including hydrological and carbon cycles and the cryosphere.

In 2016, the latest update of the **GCOS Implementation Plan (GCOS IP)** was published (WMO 2016) and adopted at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris (COP22). The GCOS IP describes the proposed implementation of a global observing system for climate. A core element is the definition of a set of atmospheric, oceanic, and terrestrial **Essential Climate Variables (ECVs)** that critically contribute to characterizing Earth's climate. Monitoring of these ECVs should adhere to the **GCOS Climate Monitoring Principles**. More detailed information on GCOS can be found on the [GCOS Website](http://www.gcos.ch).

GCOS, being an international programme, relies to a significant extent on the contributions of individual countries and organizations for its implementation. In this respect, the GCOS IP specifically calls for the establishment of national GCOS Focal Points that shall coordinate all GCOS activities at country level. In Switzerland, the Swiss GCOS Office at the Federal Office for Meteorology and Climatology, MeteoSwiss, is responsible for the coordination of the national climate observing system (GCOS Switzerland).

**GCOS Switzerland** encompasses the entirety of systematic climate observation and includes international centers in Switzerland, operated by a wide range of national partner institutions in support of GCOS. Based on the mandate of the Federal Council (BBl, 2002), the Swiss GCOS Office, hosted at MeteoSwiss, coordinates systematic climate observation in Switzerland, in support of its national partner institutions.

In this function, the Swiss GCOS Office, in close cooperation with the national partner institutions and under the guidance of the GCOS Switzerland Steering Committee (StC), recently published the **GCOS Switzerland Strategy 2017-2026** (MeteoSwiss 2017; hereafter referred to as “Strategy”). The

Strategy builds on four overarching pillars, each defined by a number of subordinate priorities. **More information on GCOS Switzerland, including the Strategy is provided at [www.gcos.ch](http://www.gcos.ch).**

As a basis for the implementation of the GCOS Switzerland Strategy, MeteoSwiss maintains an inventory of the most important quality-assured, long-term measurement series of ECVs and international centers operated by Swiss institutions. An inventory report was first published in 2007 (Seiz and Foppa 2007) and updated lately (MeteoSwiss 2018; available at [www.gcos.ch/inventory](http://www.gcos.ch/inventory)). Considering the findings of this report, a key activity of MeteoSwiss in implementing the Strategy is ensuring the long-term continuation of such time series and of the international centers.

Another key element for MeteoSwiss is to provide targeted support to activities that contribute to implementing the Strategy. Such activities will be defined through **regular GCOS Switzerland calls for proposals**. It is the responsibility of the GCOS Switzerland StC to ensure that all supported activities are fully in line with both, the recently published GCOS IP and the Strategy.

### 3 Objectives

This **call for proposals addresses two different pillars** and selected subordinate priorities of the GCOS Switzerland Strategy 2017-2026:

- o **Pillar 1:** *“Enhance and strengthen the Swiss climate observing system”*:
  - a. **Priority 1.2** *“Regular evaluation of the monitoring networks and strategy of Swiss ECVs”*: Regular evaluation of the monitoring network and observing strategies is needed to ensure that the observation network is fit for purpose thus serving climate science but also the society in general. This includes, but is not limited to, comparing existing products with the ECV product requirements and identifying gaps; reviewing monitoring networks (“Are we measuring the right thing at the right location?”); and ensuring the data is accessible and its availability is communicated.
  - b. **Priority 1.3** *“Promote the integration of existing and emerging observation methods”*: There is a common need to ensure continued production and development of improved versions of established data products. New opportunities for climate observation arise from the integration of newly available observing systems and concepts into national monitoring strategies, e.g. by integrating satellite- or ground-based remote sensing data or crowd-sourcing. The goal is to demonstrate how a combination of established and emerging observation methods can contribute to enhancing the national climate observing system.

- **Pillar 3:** “*Ensure applicability of Swiss GCOS data and products*”:
  - a. **Priority 3.2** “*Enhance process understanding through a more integrative monitoring approach*”: In recent years the use of ECV-based climate records to close budgets of energy, carbon, and water cycles, or to study interactions between land and atmosphere in an integrated way, has increased. The aim is to enhance process understanding at the national scale through a more integrative monitoring approach, ensuring cross-disciplinary scientific exploitation of the GCOS Switzerland observations.

**MeteoSwiss herewith calls for proposals that address**

- **Pillar 1 and one, or both, of its subordinate Priorities 1.2 / 1.3;**

**OR**

- **Pillar 3 and its subordinate Priority 3.2.**

## **4 Eligibility criteria**

The call for proposals is open to all national institutions in Switzerland. It primarily addresses institutions that can demonstrate extensive experience in climate system monitoring and research in Switzerland.

Proposals can be submitted in a consortium. Each consortium shall designate one principal investigator (PI) and a deputy PI. Please note that each applicant can submit only one proposal per call as principal investigator.

## **5 Submission and selection procedure**

### **5.1 Responsibilities and selection process**

The call for proposals follows the process as outlined in Figure 1.

### **5.2 Mode of submission**

The proposals have to be submitted via an online platform as one single document in pdf format at [www.gcos.ch/callforproposals](http://www.gcos.ch/callforproposals).

## GCOS CH Steering Committee

## MeteoSwiss through Swiss GCOS Office

## Applicant

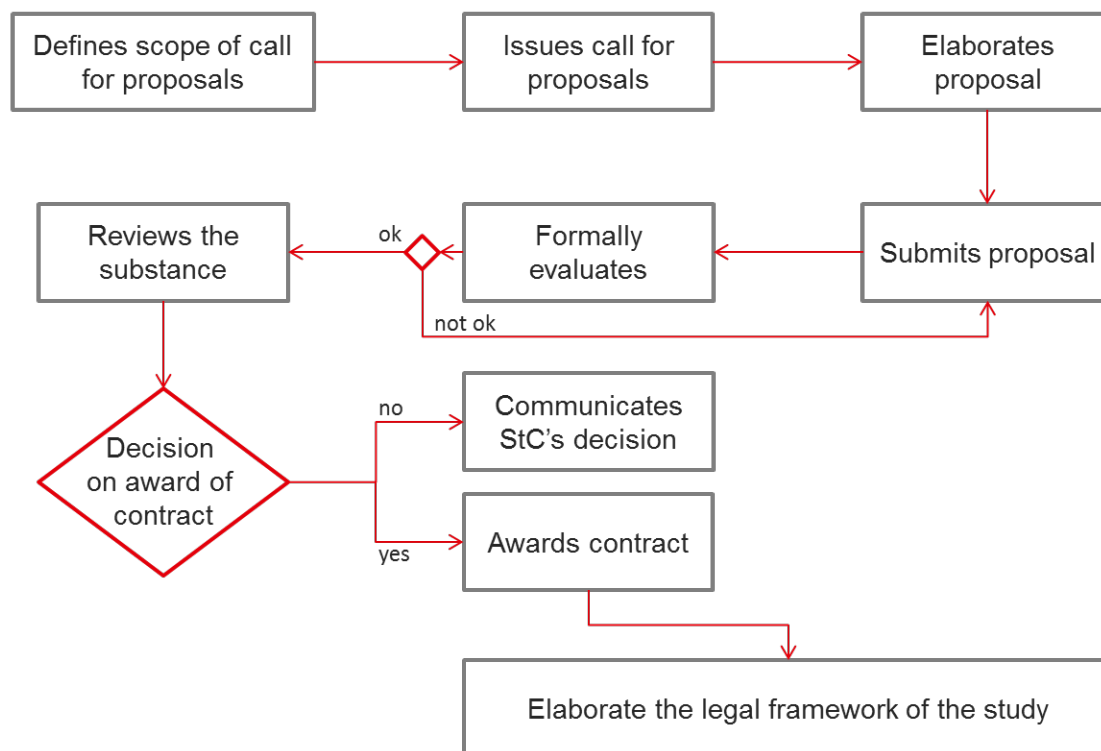


Figure 1: Selection process

### 5.3 Deadlines

The following deadlines apply:

7 February 2018	Publication of call for proposals at <a href="http://www.gcos.ch/callforproposals">www.gcos.ch/callforproposals</a>
28 February 2018	Deadline for questions (by email) addressed to MeteoSwiss ( <a href="mailto:gcos@meteoswiss.ch">gcos@meteoswiss.ch</a> )
9 March 2018	Answers to all questions made publically available at <a href="http://www.gcos.ch/callforproposals">www.gcos.ch/callforproposals</a>
31 March 2018, 12:00 a.m.	Deadline for proposal submission
31 Mai 2018	Award of contract
31 July 2018	Agreement signed between MeteoSwiss and awarded institution
1 August 2018	Start of studies



## 6 Duration and financial volume

### 6.1 Duration

The possible duration of studies addressing **Pillar 1** and one, or both, of its subordinate Priorities as defined in Section 3 is: **1-2 years**.

The possible duration of studies addressing **Pillar 3** and its subordinate Priority as defined in Section 3 is: **2-3 years**.

According to the modalities for MeteoSwiss agreements in the framework of GCOS Switzerland (available for download at [www.gcos.ch](http://www.gcos.ch)), the maximum possible duration of any activity supported through GCOS Switzerland is four years.

### 6.2 Financial volume

For this call for proposals, a total indicative budget of CHF 300'000 is available in 2018. The budget for subsequent years is of similar order of magnitude. It is anticipated that 2-3 studies will be supported through this call.

Please note that the budget is subject to the approval of the annual Federal budget by the Swiss Parliament.

## 7 Guidelines for writing the proposal

### 7.1 Formalities

The proposal must adhere to the following guidelines:

- The proposal must be submitted in the application form provided at [www.gcos.ch/callforproposals](http://www.gcos.ch/callforproposals), including:
  - o Administrative part: basic data, personal data, and requested funding (including mention of possible in-kind contributions)
  - o Scientific part: executive summary (max 1 page) and detailed research plan (max 6 pages).
- The format of the application form must not be altered;
- The proposal has to be submitted in English;
- Additional information requested include the CV of the principal investigator and the deputy.

## 7.2 Confidentiality of the written proposal

MeteoSwiss guarantees the confidentiality of the submitted proposals.

# 8 Evaluation criteria

If the proposal complies with the formal requirements as specified in chapter 7.1, the following criteria will be applied in reviewing the proposal's substance:

### Scientific criteria:

- Scientific excellence (e.g., is the proposal based on latest knowledge?);
- Suitability of methods (e.g., are the used methods appropriate to reach the objectives?);
- Planned availability of data (e.g., how does the consortium ensure the applicability and use of its data by the public?).

### General criteria:

- Benefit for GCOS Switzerland
- Compliance with call for proposals;
- Cost effectiveness, justification of required funding;
- Competence and experience of the consortium;
- Study design and organization, clear milestones, feasibility of the proposed timetable;
- Embedding in current national and international activities (e.g. synergies with ongoing projects);
- Risk of failure and risk reduction measures.

The decision of the StC regarding the award of contract is final.

## 9 Supervision and reporting

The study will be supervised by MeteoSwiss through the Swiss GCOS Office. In particular, MeteoSwiss

- serves as the main contact point;
- formally reviews all reporting documents;
- serves as the interface to the StC;
- is responsible for financial matters.

Implementation progress will be monitored by the StC. To this regard, the applicant must provide yearly update reports (due on 31 July) and a final report to the attention of the StC. Upon request by the StC, the applicant may be invited to present the progress of the study at the occasion of a StC meeting.

# Annex

## A References

**BBI, 2002:** Botschaft über das Protokoll von Kyoto zum Rahmenübereinkommen der Vereinten Nationen über Klimaänderungen. Available at <https://www.admin.ch/ch/d/ff/2002/6385.pdf>.

**MeteoSwiss, 2017:** GCOS Switzerland Strategy 2017-2026. Available at [www.gcos.ch](http://www.gcos.ch) > GCOS Switzerland Strategy.

**MeteoSwiss, 2018:** National Climate Observing System (GCOS Switzerland). Update 2018. Available at [www.gcos.ch/inventory](http://www.gcos.ch/inventory)

**WMO, 2016:** The Global Observing System for Climate: Implementation Needs. Available at [https://library.wmo.int/opac/doc\\_num.php?explnum\\_id=3417](https://library.wmo.int/opac/doc_num.php?explnum_id=3417).

## B Abbreviations

CHF	Swiss Francs
CV	Curriculum Vitae
ECV	Essential Climate Variable
GCOS	Global Climate Observing System
ICSU	International Council for Science
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IP	Implementation Plan
StC	Steering Committee
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization



**Swiss GCOS Office**  
gcos@meteoswiss.ch

**MeteoSchweiz**  
Operation Center 1  
CH-8044 Zürich-Flughafen  
T +41 58 460 99 99  
www.meteoschweiz.ch

**MeteoSvizzera**  
Via ai Monti 146  
CH-6605 Locarno Monti  
T +41 58 460 97 77  
www.meteosvizzera.ch

**MétéoSuisse**  
7bis, av. de la Paix  
CH-1211 Genève 2  
T +41 58 460 98 88  
www.meteosuisse.ch

**MétéoSuisse**  
Chemin de l'Aérologie  
CH-1530 Payerne  
T +41 58 460 94 44  
www.meteosuisse.ch

