

Overview 2024 - Swiss funding instruments for North-South research collaborations

Name	Funder	Type	North-South Research	Target group	Frequency	Grant amount (CHF)	Reference to KFPE guide
Project Funding > details > website	SNSF	all disciplines & interdisciplinary	Not specific for collaborations with LMICs	Experienced researchers based in Switzerland	2 submissions per year	100 – 4'000k p.pr.	no
SOR4D > details > website	SDC / SNF	transdisciplinary research	high	Researchers and development actors	2 calls: 2021 + 2022	760 – 1'000k p. pr.	yes
Bridge > details > website	SNSF / Innosuisse	Intersection of basic research and science innovation.	Not specific for collaborations with LMICs	Young researchers (Proof of Concept) and experienced researchers (Discovery)	1-2 calls per year	Discovery: max 850k p.pr. Proof of Concept: max 130k p.pr.	no
Spirit > details > website	SNF	Research funding	high	Research consortia from 2-4 countries	1 call per year	50 – 500k p. pr.	yes
REPIC > details > website	SECO, DEZA, BAFU, BFE	Seed money for implementation and tech-transfer projects in renewable energy /energy efficiency	high	Practitioners, researchers, development actors	4 calls per year	50 – 150k p- pr. up to 500k in special calls	no

Name	Funder	Type	North-South Research	Target group	Frequency	Grant amount (CHF)	Reference to KFPE guide
SNIS Projects > details > website	SNIS	Grants for pluri- and transdisciplinary research	Not specific for collaborations with LMICs	Researchers based at Swiss institutions and development actors	1 call per year	100 - 300k p. pr.	yes
Movetia International Programme > details > website	SFAM	Collaboration in education	Not specific for collaborations with LMICs	Education institutions	1 call per year	15 - 150k p. pr.	no
Leading House Asia > details > website	SERI	Pilot projects, collaboration grants	high	Researchers from Swiss institutions and their Asia-based partners	2-3 calls per year	20- 50k p. pr.	yes
Leading House Latin America > details > website	SERI	Pilot projects, collaboration grants	high	Researchers from Swiss institutions and partners in Latin America	2-3 calls per year	7 - 50k p. pr.	yes
Leading House Africa > details > website	SERI	Pilot projects, collaboration grants	high	Researchers from Swiss institutions and partners in Africa	2-3 calls per year	15 - 50k p. pr.	yes

Name	Funder	Type	North-South Research	Target group	Frequency	Grant amount (CHF)	Reference to KFPE guide
Leading House MENA > details > website	SERI	Pilot projects, collaboration grants	high	Researchers from Swiss institutions and partners in MENA countries	1-2 calls per year	10 - 40k p. pr.	no
Leading House South Asia and Iran > details > website	SERI	Pilot projects, collaboration grants	high	Researchers from Swiss institutions and partners in target countries	1-2 calls per year	10 - 35k p. pr.	no
SNIS Award > website	SNIS	PhD research award	Not specific for collaborations with LMICs	Post-PhD level early career researchers	1 award per year	10k	n/a
ETH4D > details > website	ETH Zurich	Various research grants and fellowships	high	ETH researchers	Various	4 - 300k p.pr.	no
Tech4Dev > details > website	EPFL Lausanne	Collaborations with NGOs	high	EPFL researchers	irregular calls	300k p.pr.	yes



Project funding

Funding organisation: SNSF

Purpose and goal:

- to enable independent research on topics of the researcher's choice. This enables research that is relevant, creative and diverse – the perfect framework for gaining new insights or resolving practice-related questions.

Description:

Applications can be submitted by experienced researchers working at a university or another institution in Switzerland that is eligible to receive funding. Interdisciplinary or collaborative projects are encouraged. In collaborative projects with three or more applicants, one applicant may work at a research institute abroad if their expertise is necessary for the project.

Organization:

- The SNSF awards between 100,000 francs to 250,000 francs annually per applicant per project and a maximum of 1 million francs annually for the project as a whole. Applicants can freely divide the grant among themselves.
- The duration of the projects can be 1 to 4 years.
- The SNSF grant covers your staff's salaries, research costs and funding for scientific collaboration. Your salary is financed by your institution.
- Every year, more than half a billion Swiss francs are invested in new projects.

Extent:

- CHF 100'000 – 1'000'000 p.pr. and 2 submission dates per year

Further information: <https://www.snf.ch/en/WAvYcY7awAUGolST/funding/projects/projects-in-all-disciplines>

SOR4D

Solutions-oriented Research for Development Programme

Funding organisation: Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Purpose and goal:

- to produce better knowledge, solutions and innovation by needs-driven, transdisciplinary research that advances sustainable development and reduces poverty in the least developed, low and lower middle-income countries.

Description:

The (SOR4D) builds on experiences and lessons learnt from previous joint programmes (e.g. the r4d – Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development). The programme prescribes a transdisciplinary set-up, where researchers and development actors¹ from the Global South and Switzerland jointly generate solution-oriented knowledge in their respective geographical contexts and test and disseminate their research results with potential for innovation (pilot testing, valorisation). The SOR4D programme is conscious of a historical North-South imbalance in research for development. It thus encourages fair shares in responsibility and working conditions in consortia to act as a small contribution to redressing it.

Funding and organization:

- With an overall budget of 19.3 million Swiss Francs, SOR4D funds 16 transdisciplinary research projects with around CHF 1 Mio. per project for a duration of 4 years (3 years for research, 1 year for application and dissemination in the form of a Transformation Accelerating Grant, TAG).
- Two-stage selection procedure (pre-proposals followed by full proposals). Projects invited to submit a full proposal can make use of a preparatory grant to organise a consortium meeting and develop their collaboration.
- Mixed review panel composed of scientific and development experts from the Global North and the South. Scientific quality and relevance for development are of equal importance for projects funded in the SOR4D programme.
- 50% of the project budget must be spent in the partner country/countries, at least 20% must be allocated to development actors and at least 10% must be spent for communication and dissemination activities to enable interaction and knowledge utilisation.
- The SOR4D programme management takes an active role in monitoring projects and in supporting the community through workshops, trainings and other events.

Extent:

- CHF 760'000 – 1'000'000 p. pr.

Further information: www.sor4d.ch

¹ Non-academic actors from policy and practice, interested and involved in societal, environmental and economic development of the countries in the Global South, being part of the public or private sector.

Bridge



Funding organisation: SNSF, Innosuisse

Purpose and goal:

- to support the research and innovation chain. This instrument addresses an existing gap between basic research and science-based innovation.

Description:

Associating the gap between basic research and applied research and subsequent implementation in society and/or on the market. It supports researchers in rapidly transforming their findings into products or services. All disciplines from a Swiss university, Federal Institute of Technology, University of Applied Sciences and Arts, or other research institution as defined by the Federal Act on the Promotion of Research and Innovation are eligible to apply.

Organization:

- Proof of concept: for young researchers
 - I have an idea for developing my results into a social or commercial innovation. I am looking for the opportunity to test and refine my idea.
 - My Swiss research institution will support me for the duration of the project;
 - I have gained research experience during my bachelor's or master's degree (either one of them obtained within the last four years); or
 - I have completed my PhD within the last four years or will do so in the next six months;
 - I am submitting my application as an individual.
- Discovery: for experienced researchers
 - I am looking for the opportunity to develop an innovative idea by exploring and implementing the innovative potential of my research results.
 - My innovation has a societal and economic impact;
 - I am conducting research in a Swiss research institute;
 - I have the skills required to lead a research project;
 - I am submitting my application as a single applicant or as part of a small consortium (maximum of three applicants).

Extent:

- Max CHF 850'000 p.pr (Discovery), max CHF 130'000 p.pr. (Proof of Concept) and 1-2 calls per year

Further information: <https://www.bridge.ch/en/>

SPIRIT

Swiss Programme for International Research by Scientific Investigation Teams

Funding organisation: Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)

Purpose and goal:

- To facilitate knowledge exchange and collaboration between Swiss researchers and researchers in countries that are receiving development assistance. A special focus is on a team-oriented approach, equal opportunities, and promoting female scientists, as well as raising awareness of gender-specific questions.

Description:

The SPIRIT grants aim to foster international cooperation and facilitate cross-border collaboration between a research group in Switzerland and one to three research teams in countries that receive development assistance. Scientists from all disciplines are welcome to apply, and research topics can be chosen freely. Scientific capacity building can take various forms, including supporting and fostering the capacity of individuals in partner countries, as well as researchers in Switzerland, young researchers, and women. Additionally, promoting gender awareness is considered a form of capacity development. The SPIRIT programme recognises that transboundary and intercultural research in partnership is a continuous process of sound knowledge generation, building mutual trust, mutual learning and shared ownership.

Funding and organization:

- Applicants can request between 50,000 and 500,000 francs in project funds for a period of two to four years. At least 30% of the approved amount must be spent in Switzerland, and another 30% in the partner countries. The remaining 40% can be distributed according to project needs.
- SPIRIT grants promote gender awareness and equal opportunities. Gender awareness is achieved through consciousness and discourse on the potential sex and gender implications of the planned project. It is recommended to take active steps to ensure a gender-balanced team.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to adopt the KFPE's principles for fair and equitable research partnerships

Extent:

- CHF 50'000 - 500'000

Further information:

<https://www.snf.ch/en/nlghrhyzbD90TM9D/funding/programmes/spirit#Details>



REPIC

Renewable Energy, Energy and Resource Efficiency Promotion in International Cooperation

Funding organisation: SECO, DEZA, BAFU, BFE

Purpose and goal:

- to support renewable energy and energy efficiency projects with the participation of Swiss companies and organizations. The overall goal of the REPIC platform is the transfer of knowledge and technology.

Description:

The platform is intended to facilitate new concrete projects in these areas with the increased involvement of Swiss companies and organizations. To this end, it establishes a network to inform and raise awareness among interested parties, fosters the exchange of experience between various stakeholders and promotes knowledge of local framework conditions and project opportunities.

Organization:

- The project must be in the field of renewable energies and/or energy efficiency and/or resource efficiency (waste, wastewater and industrial processes). The target country must be among the OECD's and the project must meet a local need. Local, direct beneficiaries must be identified.
- The REPIC project applicant must be a Swiss know-how carrier (companies, NGOs, institutes, etc.) and the transfer of Swiss know-how and technology must be ensured.
- Project management in both Switzerland and the target country must be relevant, effective, independent and sustainable.
- The project must include a clear strategy and approach for replication and multiplication after REPIC support ends. The project's objectives, activities and milestones must be clearly defined and measurable.
- The budget must be easily understandable and adapted to the project. Complete financing must be indicated. As a general rule, REPIC's contribution will not exceed 50% of the project's cost.

Extent:

- CHF 50'000 – 150'000 p- pr., up to CHF 500'000 in special calls and 4 calls per year

Further information: <https://www.repic.ch/en/>



SNIS Annual project call

Funding organisation: Swiss Network for International Studies

Description:

There are two thematic branches of the call: The General Call: in any area of International Studies and a specific theme call defined by the SNIS International Geneva Committee. The SNIS supports pluri-disciplinary projects in the social sciences and pluri-disciplinary projects that combine natural and social sciences. Projects must run for two years.

Funding criteria:

- **Theme: International studies:** The research projects must fall within the realm of international studies. The SNIS embraces a comprehensive understanding of international studies, encompassing issues that are relevant to the global agenda and require international cooperation to generate policy-relevant outcomes. These issues may encompass political, economic, social, environmental, historical, legal, health, scientific, and developmental aspects of complex societal inquiries.
- **Method: Pluri- and trans-disciplinary:** Projects must be pluri- and trans-disciplinary, meaning they must incorporate various academic disciplines and involve collaborations with International Organizations and/or NGOs.

Extent:

- CHF 100'000 – 300'000 p. pr. and 1 call per year

Further information: <https://snis.ch/funding/>

Movetia International Programme

Funding organisation: SFAM

Purpose and goal:

- to support projects that contribute to the development and improvement of the Swiss education system through cooperation between one or more Swiss institutions and one or more European or non-European institutions.

Description:

The cooperation projects aim to establish and consolidate inter-institutional networks and propose new processes or ways of working within the participating institutions through the exchange of experience and best practices. Furthermore, to develop training materials, new teaching approaches or new opportunities to be tested and, ideally, implemented. Resulting in producing guides or charters for the fields and actors represented by the institutions participating in the project.

Organization:

- All educational institutions (from compulsory school to upper secondary level), vocational education and training, tertiary education, youth activities and adult education based in Switzerland can apply.
- The program provides fixed grant amounts of CHF: 15,000, 30,000, 60,000, 100,000 and CHF 150,000. The project duration cannot exceed 24 months.
- These contributions can cover a maximum of 60% of the total project costs. The institutions taking part must therefore provide at least 40% of the total project funding from their resources or other sources. The project cannot already be funded by grants from the Erasmus+ programme or the Swiss Programme for Erasmus+ for cooperation.
- Staff of Swiss organisations planning to participate in a project can apply for financial support to visit future partner organisations before the project is submitted, to establish contacts and prepare projects with partners.

Extent:

- CHF 15'000 – 150'000 p. pr. and 1 call per year

Further information: <https://www.movetia.ch/en/programmes/international/international-programme>

Leading House Asia

Funding organisation: Switzerland's State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI)

Purpose and goal:

- to enhance scientific cooperation between researchers in Switzerland and their peers in East and Southeast Asia. Promoting knowledge among Swiss Education, Research and Innovation stakeholders about East and Southeast Asia by providing them with the necessary contacts and expertise. Additionally, the Swiss scientific community will be represented to potential foreign partners in the region.

Description:

The Leading House Asia, located at ETH Zürich, provides funding to researchers from Swiss universities, universities of applied sciences, universities of teacher education, and public research institutes in all research fields. The funding opportunities are divided into four separate grants.

Funding and organization:

- The “Mobility Grants” and “Young Researcher's Exchange Programmes” fund research stays for early career scientists, providing a monthly allowance and a return ticket. The aim is to facilitate direct exchange between research groups based in Switzerland and Asia.
- The “Innovation Grants” provide a maximum of 20,000 CHF and last for 12 months. The intention is to establish long-term partnerships with mutually beneficial concrete outcomes between academic researchers based in Switzerland and non-academic innovation agents in East and Southeast Asia. These agents may include corporations, SMEs, start-ups, innovation parks, or similar entities with a focus on applied sciences or technical development. Additionally, there are opportunities for internships and university-industry training.
- The “Research Partnership Grants (ASEAN)” and “Applied Research Partnership Grants” provide support for up to 12 months, with a maximum of 15,000 CHF and 25,000 CHF. This instrument aims to establish new collaborations and strengthen existing partnerships.
- The “Opportunity Grants” are available for a maximum of 50'000 CHF and a duration of 12 months. The goal is to enhance the visibility of Swiss science, technology, and innovation abroad. The project should focus on a particular event or incident, referred to as an opportunity. This can include public events or significant changes in the environment, economy, or politics.

Extent:

- CHF 20'000 - 50'000 p. pr. and 2-3 calls per year

Further information: <https://leadinghouseasia.ethz.ch>

Leading House Latin America

Funding organisation: Switzerland's State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI)

Purpose and goal:

- to strengthen or initiate scientific exchange between researchers from Swiss and Latin American institutions in all disciplines by enabling them to jointly undertake preliminary research and organize meetings, conferences, or workshops.

Description:

GIMLA fosters academic partnerships between St.Gallen and Latin American institutions through various programs, research projects, events, and educational initiatives. It aims to contribute to developing high-quality professionals and promote academic exchanges.

Funding and organization:

- The Early Career Grants (ECG) focus on supporting emerging researchers (PostDocs and PhD students) by facilitating their integration into international collaboration. It fosters the development of new networks, enhances sustainability in partnerships, and encourages Swiss researchers to conduct fieldwork in Latin America without having to be a part of a team or academic group. The grant is open to all disciplines, offering up to three months of research stay.
- The Academia-Industry Training (AIT) helps Swiss, Colombian, Brazilian, and Mexican startup talents innovate and develop their entrepreneurial and business skills. The main objectives are to bridge applied research with market applications and assist participants in refining business plans, navigating intellectual property issues, and fostering international networking and partnerships.
- The Consolidation Grant (COG) aims to encourage more advanced, solid projects filling in the gap between smaller instruments and bigger funding calls (e.g. SNSF projects).
- The Research Partnership Grants (RPG) foster scientific collaboration between Swiss and Latin American institutions across disciplines. They support joint preliminary research, as well as the organization of meetings, conferences, and workshops. RPGs facilitate the development of joint project proposals for funding agencies in Latin America, Switzerland, and Europe, and encourage the integration of independently funded projects to build enduring partnerships.

Extent:

- CHF 7'000 – 50'000 p. pr. and 2-3 calls per year

Further information: <https://latinamerica.unisg.ch/en/>

Leading House Africa

Funding organisation: Switzerland's State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI)

Purpose and goal:

- to promote and foster scientific cooperation with key institutions in Africa

Description:

Swiss TPH, supported by the University of Basel, is the Leading House for bilateral research collaboration with partner institutions in Africa, comprising all African countries, except for those in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. The funding instruments within the program are open to researchers from all Swiss universities, universities of applied sciences and public research institutes. The instruments are: Research and mobility grants for early, intermediate and advanced researchers, Lectureships and prolonged research stays at African higher education institutions for Swiss research groups, PhD graduate programme, Academia-industry training programme, with strong institutional support from both academia and industry, Making Innovation a Reality - African Health Initiative (MIRAHl) and DSI-NRF-Swiss Bilateral Research Chair in Blockchain Technology.

Main priorities:

- To improve mutual knowledge and make Switzerland better known as a prime location for education, research and innovation (ERI), by improving the circulation of talents and direct cooperation between institutions.
- To support efforts by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), upon request, to strengthen its collaboration with similar partner agencies, particularly the African Academy of Sciences (AAS), the National Research Foundation of South Africa (NRF), the "Fonds pour la Science, la Technologie et l'Innovation" (FONSTI) in Côte d'Ivoire and the Technology and Innovation Agency (TIA) in South Africa among others.
- To increase collaboration in the field of innovation through new or existing instruments, as a way to develop the capacities of Swiss and African ERI stakeholders and support entrepreneurship and develop instruments aiming at innovation and explore options with industry partners.

Extent:

- CHF 15'000 - 50'000 p. pr. and 2-3 calls per year

Further information: <https://www.swisstph.ch/en/research/leading-house-africa>

Leading House Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

Funding organisation: Switzerland's State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI)

Purpose and goal:

- to enhance the development of the research cooperation between Switzerland and countries with a high development potential in the MENA region, using funding instruments designed according to the interests of the Swiss research community. Additionally, to increase the knowledge of countries with a high development potential among the Swiss research community through the availability of contacts and know-how. Potential partners in the region will also be presented with the interests of the Swiss research community.

Description:

The Leading House MENA is located at the University of Applied Sciences of Western Switzerland (HES-SO). Researchers from Swiss federal and cantonal universities, including universities of teacher education and universities of applied sciences and arts, as well as public research institutions, are invited to apply. Projects must have at least one partner in one of the countries of the MENA region. The eligible countries are Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

Funding and organization:

- The Leading House MENA provides a range of funding instruments, such as research partnership grants, consolidation grants, and projects Morocco-Switzerland.

Extent:

- CHF 10'000 – 40'000 p. pr. and 1-2 calls per year

Further information: <https://www.hes-so.ch/en/hes-so/about-us/international/leading-house-mena>



Leading House South Asia and Iran

Funding organisation: Switzerland's State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI)

Purpose and goal:

- to foster new partnerships with key institutions in South Asia and Iran and allow existing partnerships to grow and develop. Additionally, the aim is to support emerging research talents. The South Asia region includes Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, with Iran as an additional country.

Description:

The Leading House Asia and Iran, located at the ZHAW, provides funding to scientists from Swiss federal and cantonal universities, universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education, as well as public research institutions. Calls are open for activities in all scientific disciplines and fields of research. Research Partnership Grants may also be used to support the next generation of scientists who have not yet completed their PhD and have no more than six years of professional research experience in becoming integrated into international collaborations.

Organization:

- In addition to the Research Partnership grants the Leading House South Asia and Iran also offers the Academia-Industry Training (AIT) India programme. This innovation-based funding instrument is open to 10 sciencepreneurs who are interested in exploring the market potential of their applied research project in India as well as their entrepreneurial potential.
- Swiss researchers planning to organise a symposium or workshop with partner organisations in any country in South Asia or Iran may contact the Leading House to find out more about funding possibilities.

Extent:

- CHF 10'000 – 35'000 p. pr. and 1-2 calls per year

Further information: <https://www.zhaw.ch/en/research/leading-house-south-asia-and-iran/>

ETH4D - ETH for Development

Funding organisation: ETH Zürich

Purpose and goal:

- to educate the future leaders of sustainable development. ETH4D will train a new generation of engineers and natural scientists able to develop, implement and scale world-changing innovations with a global perspective.

Description:

The aim is to combine technological innovation with a profound understanding of people's behavior and their environments to identify new solutions for improving the lives of poor people. ETH4D therefore supports research, which combines the knowledge and skills of engineering, the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities and promotes the collaboration between scientific research, civil society, industry and policy.

Organization:

- Research Grants: enables collaborations on project-based research between ETH researchers and non-academic partners and partners from low- and middle-income countries.
- Scholarships: provides grants for mentoring doctoral students from low- and lower-middle-income countries.
- Faculty Exchange Grants: allows ETH scientists to bring collaborators from low- and middle-income countries to ETH Zurich for a research stay or a workshop/conference; or to fund ETH scientists to travel to partner institutions for lectures, courses and collaboration meetings.
- Research to Action: supports students and researchers to discuss their work with practitioners and ensure that results are being used, implemented and disseminated.

Extent:

- Depends on the grant, CHF 4'000 - 300'000

Further information: <https://eth4d.ethz.ch/funding-opportunities.html>



Tech4Dev

Funding organisation: EPFL

Purpose and goal:

- EPFL Tech4Dev aims to support the market entry of sustainable innovative technological solutions from EPFL Labs. The goal is to scale these solutions so that they reach a growing number of beneficiaries all around the world.

Description:

Through the 2-year Tech4Dev Grant, EPFL Labs receive financial support, entrepreneurship training and access to experts from the EPFL Vice Presidency for Innovation in order to advance successfully in their journey.

In 2024, 2 cohorts, for a total of 8 projects, received the Tech4Dev Grant. This implies the participation of 7 EPFL Labs, 29 researchers and 15 global South partners.

Extent:

- 300'000 CHF per project

Further information: <https://www.epfl.ch/innovation/domains/tech4dev/>