



University of Geneva
Leading House for Science & Technology Cooperation
Swiss-Russian Call for Projects
Program Starter Grants & Innovation Seed Grants

DEADLINE: 15 MAY 2018

Introduction

The University of Geneva (UNIGE) has been mandated by the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) as Leading House for cooperation in Science and Technology between Switzerland and Russia for 2017-2020, in the framework of the bilateral relationship between both countries. In this role, UNIGE supports Swiss-Russian joint projects, mainly through Calls for Projects.

Purpose of the Grants

This Call for Projects is designed to provide seed funding for projects between academic actors in Switzerland and Russia. Two types of projects will be considered: *Program Starter Grants* and *Innovation Seed Grants*. Projects may be submitted in any scientific discipline.

Detailed information is provided below under the section "Type of Grants". Please note that one or several seed funding call for more traditional research projects between Switzerland and Russia will take place between late 2018 and 2020.

Application Process

All scientists from Swiss federal and cantonal universities, universities of applied sciences and universities of teachers' education, as well as public research institutions, are eligible to apply. Applications by doctoral students and postdoctoral scientists must be submitted by their supervisors.

Collaborating partners must be affiliated with a university or a public research institute from the partner country. The collaborating partner must hold a faculty or senior scientist position or a doctoral degree (Ph.D. or equivalent) with several years of research experience.

Proposals for collaborative projects must be submitted jointly using the common application form at <http://unige-leadinghouse.ch/project-submission/>. Proposals may come from individual faculty members or a group of faculty but should have Principal Applicants (PA) from Switzerland in all cases; the co-PA shall be from the Russia institution.

Please note that this Call is disseminated mainly to academic contacts in Switzerland, without an institutional partner on the Russian side. Therefore, Swiss stakeholders are encouraged to spread it to their contacts in Russia.

Types of Grants

Two types of projects will be considered in the framework of this Call for Projects:

Program Starter Grants (PSG): aim at increasing the number of joint programs between Russian and Swiss institutions in terms of teaching, exchanges, or other programs for BA, MA and PhD students. Such grants should allow the establishment of

an institutionalized, durable joint program. Short-term initiatives such as joint summer schools or exchange of administrative staff can be funded as a pilot for future collaboration if a clear mid-term perspective is provided.

The amount per project is 10'000 to 30'000 CHF over one year, depending on the number of participants and duration of the program. PSG funding should be used mainly for effective traveling and accommodation costs for program coordinators and participants. Regular salary costs for project participants will not be considered.

Innovation Seed Grants (ISG): aim at promoting applied projects. Such grants support partnerships between academic actors and innovation stakeholders from both countries. Projects must include a minimum of one Russian and one Swiss academic institution, and an innovation stakeholder from either of the two countries (private companies, incubators, innovation parks, etc).

To emphasize the public-private partnership dimension, funding available for ISG will be 5'000 to 10'000 CHF maximum over 1-2 years; complementary funding will be expected from the innovation partner. The grants will cover the costs of joint workshops or trainings for the academic participants. Regular salary costs for project participants will not be considered.

Application documents

The project submission consists of the following:

- Short project description (500 words maximum, may be published if project selected)
- Project timeline
- 4 questions based on the criteria in the section below (250 words max/question)
- Project budget (template provided on the web page)
- Short CVs of all participants (no list of publications) (to be uploaded in the "Supporting documentation" section of the application form)
- Other supporting documents are optional

Selection Process and Criteria

In agreement with SERI, the Leading House will aim to fund projects that:

1. Build on mutual areas of excellence in both countries and in the institutions involved
2. Establish a foundation for collaboration beyond the funded term, with potential to receive external support;
3. Emphasize mobility and contacts between young talents in both countries and contribute to building and reinforcing Swiss-Russian networks in Science & Technology
4. Benefit from joint funding from their respective institution in Russia or from other sources (may also be in-kind contributions);

The projects submitted will be evaluated on a competitive basis according to the criteria above.

Funding

The LH will provide the agreed funding to the Swiss PA, to be spent over the course of the grant period on travel, accommodations, workshops, facilities use and other expenses as specified at the time of the proposal, for participants from Switzerland and/or from Russia. For travel and housing costs, the funding guidelines used by the Swiss PA's institution can serve as a reference.

Closing Date

The call for proposals closes **15 May, 2018**

Contact for further information

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