SPIRIT
Swiss Programme for International Research by Scientific Investigation Teams

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SPIRIT in a nutshell

- Collaborative projects
- Researchers in Switzerland and in partner countries
- 2-step evaluation process
- No thematic restrictions
- Project duration 2-4 years
Aims

• Foster cross-border collaboration without disciplinary restrictions

• Provide more opportunities for researchers in Switzerland to collaborate with partners in many countries around the world

• Promote gender awareness and equal opportunities

• Contribute to the increase of research capacity in Switzerland and abroad
Duration and Budget

- 2 to 4 years
- Maximum amount: CHF 500’000
- Minimum amount: CHF 50’000
- 30% rule
- Eligible costs:
  - Like in project funding
  - No applicants’ salaries in Switzerland and/or in the partner countries
Research teams

• 2 to 4 applicants
  • Applicant 1: researcher in Switzerland
  • Applicant 2: researcher in a partner country
  • (Applicants 3-4: researchers in Switzerland or in a partner country)
Partner countries

- selection based on list of countries receiving development assistance, issued by the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD

- Exceptions
  - Member states of the European Union
  - Countries associated to Horizon 2020, the European Union’s 8th Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) or subsequent programmes
  - Countries collaborating on a bilateral call with the SNSF

- Complete list available on www.snsf.ch/spirit
Eligibility

• Requirements as in project funding, for applicants in Switzerland and abroad
• Only 1 SPIRIT grant per person and period for all applicants
• Compatible with project funding applications or grants
• No overlap with Ambizione or PRIMA grants
• Eccellenza grantees and SNSF professors may submit a SPIRIT application 2 years after starting the Eccellenza grant or SNSF professorship at the earliest.
Evaluation criteria

• scientific relevance
• originality of the aims and objectives
• suitability of the methodology, feasibility
• track record and expertise of the researchers
• complementarity of the research partners
• contribution to increasing scientific capacities in the relevant research field
• contribution towards raising gender awareness and promoting equal opportunities.
Evaluation procedure

• If proposals are deemed to be equal in terms of their scientific quality, proposals submitted by female applicants, or proposals that show better gender awareness, are given priority.

• 2 phases: pre-proposals and full proposals.

• Only full proposals are peer reviewed.

• Evaluation commission: Pre-proposals and full proposals are evaluated by the SPIRIT Evaluation Commission (SEC).
Submission

• Pre-proposals: anytime

• If pre-proposal is rejected: all applicants are barred from submission for 6 months

• If pre-proposal is assigned to one of the three lowest ranking categories out of six: all applicants are barred from submission for 18 months

• Full proposals: upon invitation after approval of the pre-proposal
Evaluation time span

Total evaluation time span: ca. 14 months
SPIRIT

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