



**SWEET Call 1-2021**

## **Questions and answers (Q&A)**

**Please carefully read the SWEET Call Guideline and this Q&A document.**



## 1 Questions related to the consortium

### Q 1.1: Is it possible to change the coordinator over the years?

**Answer:**

A consortium may vary its composition during its term, including the position of the coordinator and the role of the host institution. See sections 3.2.2 and 3.4 of the Call Guideline.

### Q 1.2: Does the project partner from UZH/ETHZ etc. have to be a full professor or can he/she also be a private lecturer?

**Answer:**

The applicant (project partner) is a legal entity with due representation. If a private lecturer or senior scientist is in a position to represent their institution in a research consortium, they can also be applicant (project partner) within a SWEET consortium. This can be confirmed by a letter of interest signed by an authorized representative of the institution.

### Q 1.3: I also wanted to ask you whether you already know whether there are consortia and possibly which people lead them, as I am also interested in this topic.

**Answer:**

The SFOE does not help with the formation of consortia and does not provide a special platform for interested parties. If you are looking for a project partner or would like to exchange ideas, we recommend that you visit third-party websites such as [www.energy-connect.ch](http://www.energy-connect.ch) or contact potential research partners directly by writing to institutes that are active in energy research. The Research Centres or Energy Science Centres are possible points of contact.

### Q 1.4: I would like to ask you about the procedure when institutions or persons participate in two consortia that have both been invited to the second round of the call for proposals.

**Specifically, this concerns the case where one person has the same role in two consortia (WP lead and co-lead respectively), whereby the WPs deal with a similar topic at the meta-level, but the work to be carried out and research steps differ from one another. Would it still be possible for this person to be involved in both consortia in the preparation of the full proposal, or would a decision have to be made for one of the consortia?**

**Answer:**

The section 3.2.3 of the Call Guideline is intended to prevent being paid twice for the same work. Provided that the work to be done and research steps are different, the same role can be taken in different consortia.

## 2 Questions related to the budget

### Q 2.1: How much money can you apply for in a consortium?



**Answer:**

The overall budget of this call is CHF 20 Mio. Two consortia will be funded eventually and the budget is foreseen to be shared equally. It is therefore possible to apply for up to 10 million.

**Q 2.2: Am I correct in assuming that, as with the figures published for the last call, between 3 and 12 million in equity capital would have to be contributed for the current call?**

**Answer:**

Consortia are encouraged to undertake reasonable efforts to secure adequate own and third-party funding, but there are no guidelines or rules. However, the amount of such contributions beyond the requested SWEET funding enter the evaluation of the proposal. See sections 3.6 and 6.2 of the Call Guideline.

**Q2.3: May I ask whether advisory and research institutions, outside the university world, be it Interface, INFRAS or similar institutions both as engineering and architectural firms, are also eligible for funding for SWEET?**

**Answer:**

We refer to section 3.5.4 of the Call Guideline: "SWEET funds may be allocated to Swiss private for-profit entities engaged in pre-competitive research projects if their skills and competencies are necessary for the success of such projects, including P+D projects."

**Q2.4: Under what conditions exactly can co-applicants from the business community also be compensated by the Sweet Budget? If not or to a limited extent, could their working hours be indicated as further self-financing?**

**Answer:**

Given the subsidiary nature of SWEET funding, an adequate own contribution of the respective company is expected, be it in-kind or cash. Working hours can be considered as in-kind contributions.

### **3 Questions related to the application procedure**

**Q 3.1: Do the Lol of the living labs have to be in English?**

**Answer:**

The Letters of Interest (Lol) of the Living Labs are central for the evaluation by the our international experts. Therefore, they must be written in English.

**Q 3.2: An application for third-party funding from the SNF is pending until the end of September 2021 for the topic we are planning to apply for: would approval be an obstacle to submitting an application or could the amount be stated as self-financing or further third-party funding obtained?**

**Answer:**

We encourage the acquisition of additional third-party funding. Applicants must take care to be



transparent, indicate all kind of third-party funding, in particular from other government agencies, and must avoid double-financing. Such contributions can be stated as third-party funding.