



Answers to questions of general interest and relevance (27.08.2024)

1) Could SFOE funding be used to hire a foreign researcher as a postdoctoral researcher in Switzerland linked to the project?

Answer: Yes, SFOE funding can be used to hire a foreign researcher in Switzerland - it has to be mentioned in the proposal and included in the separate Excel file [Project costs, financing and non-amortisable supplementary costs to an application for financial support](#).

2) Who should apply? The institution in Switzerland or the foreign postdoctoral researcher directly?

Answer: As stated in the call text “the Swiss partner has to be listed as the main partner in the application”. Consequently, the Swiss institution has to be listed as the main applicant (and apply for funding).

3) The call mentions that “the participation of young scientists and PhD students in the research teams is encouraged” - is there any preference between a proposal that would dedicate the funds to fully financing one PhD project, compared to one where the funding would be split between a (part-time) PhD student and a (part-time) postdoctoral researcher?

Answer: There is no preference between the 2. The PhD student has to provide a relevant contribution to the research work performed in the project to ensure a high score for the evaluation sub-criterion that states: “promotion of doctoral candidates”. This is possible for a part-time financing of the PhD student.

4) Significant experience exists in some other European countries when it comes to the topics of the call, such as financial community participation. Would it make sense to capture such experiences by teaming up with one or two research partners in other European countries? And if so, is there any guidance as to which share of the budget should be dedicated to the Swiss research group versus financial contributions to non-Swiss members of a consortium?

Answer: depending on the research questions, it can make sense to capture experience abroad by teaming up with foreign research partners. As stated in the call text, the Swiss partner has to provide a **substantial contribution** to the research work performed in the project and **be listed as the main partner** in the application. There is however no strict limit for the share of the funding that can go to foreign members of a consortium.