Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
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Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of the Environment,
Transport, Energy and Communications DETEC

Swiss Federal Office of Energy SFOE

Research Program Energy-Economy-Society Call 2018 for Research Proposals

The Energy – Economy – Society (EES) research programme promotes application-oriented research in the field of energy policy. To this end the EES focuses on economic, social, psychological and political issues throughout the energy sector supply chain. EES elaborates calls to fund innovative socio-economic research projects that address relevant energy-policy questions for Switzerland. In line with the Federal Energy Research Masterplan for the period from 2017 to 2020 and with the "Energieforschungskonzept 2017-2020", EES defines research priorities through its calls.

Scope

In 2018, researchers are invited to submit research proposals in one of the following fields:

1) **Demand Side Management, flexibility options and integration of renewables**
   - Remuneration/value of flexibility for an optimal use of DSM
   - Network tariff systems, decentralized energy provision and the integration of renewables
   - How to exploit the flexibility potentials of prosumers to optimally integrate them into the energy system
   - Local vs. system-wide use / benefits of flexibility
   - Interplay between actors (TSO, DSO, aggregators, individuals, etc…)

2) **Investment in energy infrastructure**
   - Impact of existing and planned small and/or large-scale energy infrastructure on real estate prices
   - Participatory models and compensation models: impact on social acceptance of energy infrastructure

3) **Motivation and barriers for investments in efficient or smart technology and renewable energy in buildings**

4) **Distributional impact of a decentralized energy system**

5) **Digitalization of energy**: **The pros and cons of new solutions for consumers from a social-economic perspective**

Timeline

3 August 2018, 12:00 CET	**Deadline for pre-proposal submission**
September 2018	Notification of accepted pre-proposals
October 2018	**Deadline for full proposal submission**
November 2018	Notification of accepted proposals
January-March 2019	Launch of accepted projects

Contact Information

If you have any question regarding the call, please do not hesitate to contact:
Anne-Kathrin Faust
anne-kathrin.faust@bfe.admin.ch
Phone +41 58 465 54 45

Eligibility

The call is addressed to universities (including ETH-domain), universities of applied science, further research organizations and the private sector in Switzerland. The participation of young scientists, and particularly PhD students, in the research teams is encouraged. Researchers in the public and private sector can apply for remuneration of the personnel costs according to the maximum rates provided in the Appendix. The Energy-Economy-Society research programme does not pay any contribution to overhead cost.

Proposals from working groups including specialists from different fields are welcome (the contact person should be specified). Own and third-party contributions (in-kind and/or cash) have to be indicated at the pre-proposal submission and formally confirmed at the full proposal submission.

Only projects with a non-technical focus shall be considered for funding. The projects should address questions relevant for Switzerland.

Supported projects typically receive public funding in the order of 80–300 kCHF and have a duration between 12 and 36 months.

Applicants must comply with the General Terms and Conditions of the Federal Government for Research Contracts. Applicants accept that the resulting project reports (annual reports and final report) and the most important information relating to the project will be published on the Aramis information platform. Upon consultation with the program manager, sensitive data may be submitted in a separate appendix that will not be published.

Application Procedure

The call follows a two-stage submission and evaluation procedure. First, a pre-proposal (max. 6 pages, see pre-proposal template) is submitted. If the pre-proposal is selected after evaluation, the applicant is invited to submit a full proposal (approximately 10 pages). Invitation to submit a full proposal does not guarantee funding.

The projects presented in the pre-proposal and in the full proposal must be consistent. Any change to the plans described in the pre-proposal should be explained and justified.

At both stages of the application, the main project partner prepares a proposal (pre-proposal or full proposal) using the template available on the Research Program Energy-Economy-Society website in any national language or in English.

The pre-proposals have to be submitted as one single PDF file by e-mail to Mrs. Anne-Kathrin Faust, anne-kathrin.faust@bfe.admin.ch, by 3 August 2018, 12:00 CET.

The receipt of the pre-proposal will be confirmed in due time.

Evaluation of Proposals

The project proposals will be evaluated at the Swiss Federal Office of Energy along the criteria listed in Appendix 2.

Appendix 1

Vergütungen für Arbeiten im Rahmen der Energieforschung des BFE

Gültig ab 1. Januar 2018

Forschungsaufträge

Kategorie	**Hochschulen, Universitäten Fachhochschulen**	CHF/h	**Private**	CHF/h
A	Projektleiter/in Stellvertretung	115 95	Fachexperten und Fachexpertinnen in leitender Position	160
B	Erfahrene Wissenschaftlerinnen und Wissenschaftler mit mindestens 5 Jahren Erfahrung nach Hochschulabschluss	80	Fachexperten und Fachexpertinnen mit mindestens 5 Jahren Erfahrung	120
C	Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeitende	65	Fachexperten und Fachexpertinnen	100
D	Techniker und Technikerinnen, Programmierer und Programmiererinnen	60	Techniker und Technikerinnen, Programmierer und Programmiererinnen	90
E	Sekretariatsleistungen	50	Sekretariatsleistungen	75

Für die **Projektleitung** (Kategorie A) darf maximal 20 % der Projektzeit aufgewendet werden. Für **wissenschaftliche Mitarbeitende** (Kategorie C) dürfen maximal 1‘400 Stunden pro Person und Jahr eingesetzt werden. Für **Doktorierende an Hochschulen** werden maximal die effektiven Lohnkosten (Bruttolohnsumme zzgl. Arbeitgeberanteile an den Sozialkosten) vergütet. Werden diese nicht nachgewiesen, so werden die Ansätze für Doktorierende gemäss SNF[1] vergütet.

Gemäss Art. 16, Abs. 6 FIFG werden keine Overhead-Beiträge entrichtet.

Arbeitsstunden

Als Basis dient eine Arbeitszeit von 1824 Arbeitsstunden pro Person und Jahr bzw. von 152 Arbeitsstunden pro Person und Monat.

Spesen

Reise	Halbpreis 1. Klasse oder Fahrzeug mit km-Entschädigung CHF 0.70/km ab Arbeitsort.
Übernachtung	Für auswärtiges Übernachten werden die tatsächlichen Auslagen im Rahmen einer Mittelklasseunterkunft vergütet (Richtwert CHF 180)
Verpflegung	Hauptmahlzeit CHF 27.50, Frühstück CHF 14.

Sitzungsgelder für Experten (z.B. Begleitgruppen, Hearings)

Sitzungsdauer bis 5 Stunden:	maximal CHF	800	plus Reisespesen
Sitzungsdauer von mehr als 5 Stunden:	maximal CHF	1’400	plus Reisespesen.

In diesen Ansätzen ist der Aufwand für die Vor- und Nachbereitung von Sitzungen, die Reisezeit und die Verpflegung inbegriffen.
Keine Sitzungsgelder werden ausbezahlt an Verwaltungsangehörige des Bundes, der Gemeinden und der Kantone (einschliesslich der Professorinnen und Professoren), sowie an Vertreter von Verbänden und Organisationen.
Für die Entschädigung der Mitglieder der Eidgenössischen Energieforschungskommission CORE gilt die Regierungs- und Verwaltungsorganisationsverordnung (RVOV).

[1] www.snf.ch → Förderung → Dokumente&Downloads → Rechtsgrundlagen → «Anhang 12: Ansätze für Doktorierende, Lohnbandbreiten und Richtlinien für Postdocs und weitere Mitarbeitende, Pauschalen Sozialabgaben»

Appendix 2: evaluation criteria

The project has to fulfill **all** eligibility criteria to be evaluated.
Eligibility criteria

Formal criteria:

Criteria		
F1	Is the application complete (does the proposal include all information requested in the call)?	☐ yes ☐ no
F2	Are the objectives of the research project clear and is the research proposal well structured?	☐ yes ☐ no
F3	Was the application submitted in time?	☐ yes ☐ no

Content related criteria:

Criteria		
I1	Do the research questions to be addressed fit the call, and do they fall into the competence of the SFOE?	☐ yes ☐ no

Qualitative Criteria

Each of the main criteria will be scored on a scale from 1 to 5 and weighted equally.
The 1–5 scoring system for each criterion indicates the following assessment:
1 – Poor: The criterion is inadequately addressed or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
2 – Unsatisfactory: The criterion is broadly addressed but there are significant weaknesses.
3 – Satisfactory: The criterion is addressed but with a number of shortcomings.
4 – Good: The criterion is well addressed but with a number of shortcomings.
5 – Very Good: All relevant aspects of the criterion are addressed; any shortcomings are minor.

For a project to qualify for an invitation to submit a full proposal to the second round of the call, each qualitative criterion (Q1 to Q5) has to obtain a minimum score listed in the table. The underlying aspects listed under each criterion represent **evaluation guidelines** rather than sub-criteria and **are not scored individually**.

Criterion		Minimum Score to be considered
Q1	**Organization and methodology**	**3**
a	**Competencies and organization** Are all qualifications necessary for a successful implementation of the research project present in the project team? Is there a clear project organization / distribution of responsibilities that allows for a successful implementation of the project?	
b	**Research design and methods** Is the research question well defined, ambitious and still realistic to be answered? Are the proposed research design and methods clearly defined, “state of the art” and appropriate for addressing the research question?	
c	**Work plan** Is the work plan realistic and efficient? Are milestones clear and verifiable?	

Q2	**Excellency**	**3**
a	**Preliminary work, quality of inputs** Did the project team conduct preliminary work, which it can build on? Are the inputs (especially **information on data sources**) of good quality?	
b	**Experience of the team** Is the team experienced and/or include professionals recognized in their field?	
c	**Success potential** Do previous contributions by the project team in their field of research point out to the likeliness of a successful project completion by this project team?	
Q3	**Project content**	**3**
a	**Political/strategic/scientific relevance** Do the results suggest a high value added for Switzerland in economic, energy policy or scientific terms? Are national or international collaborations planed?	
b	**Innovation content** Does the project build up essential knowledge or know-how and / or pursue innovative, novel approaches? Is there a clear value-added to the state-of-the-art research in this field?	
c	**Cost-benefit ratio, subsidiarity** Does the project create significant benefits in relation to the costs involved? Is there an internal funding of the applicant's research institution(s) or a third-party funding (under condition of research impartiality) involved?	
Q4	**Opportunities, risks**	**3**
a	**Potential and Sustainability** Does the project exhibit a high potential to contribute to a safe, sustainable and economical energy provision? Can the expected results contribute to sustainable development at the national or the global level?	
b	**Interest of the general public** Are the research results of interest to the general public? Does the project provide results helpful for informed opinion building and decision making?	
c	**Project risks** How high are the scientific risks associated with the project? Are these well addressed? How high are the organisational risks associated with the project? Are these well addressed?	
Q5	**Monitoring, dissemination, and educational effects**	**No min.**
a	**Monitoring** Are monitoring and accompanying activities like workshops or an advisory group planned?	
b	**Dissemination** Are network and dissemination activities planned; are publications intended?	
c	**Educational effects** Are PhD students involved?	