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MeteoSwiss

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Joint GAW-CH / GCOS Switzerland Call for Proposals

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1 Scope of this document

MeteoSwiss issues this Call for Proposals in the framework of the Swiss GAW and GCOS programmes. The purpose of this document is to provide detailed information on the call to interested institutions. The document serves as the reference for all proposals to be submitted. Associated to this document is the form for proposal submission (available for download at www.meteoswiss.ch/gaw/callforproposals and www.gcos.ch/callforproposals).

2 Background

2.1 GAW-CH

The [WMO Global Atmosphere Watch \(GAW\)](http://www.wmo.int/programmes/gaw/) Programme is a partnership involving more than 100 countries that provide reliable scientific data and information on the chemical composition of the atmosphere, its natural and anthropogenic change, and that help to improve the understanding of interactions between the atmosphere, the oceans and the biosphere. GAW focal areas encompass greenhouse gases, ozone, UV, aerosols, selected reactive gases, and precipitation chemistry. GAW is also considered as the **atmospheric chemistry component** of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) and is an important component of the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS). The **GAW Implementation Plan** (WMO, 2017) is designed to help WMO Members meet their needs and to support plans of national, regional, and international observing projects, programmes, systems and strategies.

The Swiss GAW Programme (GAW-CH) was established in 1994 and is the Swiss national implementation of the GAW Programme. It addresses long-term atmospheric monitoring, involves research activities and provides international services. On behalf of the international community, GAW-CH operates an international quality assurance and calibration centre and an online station metadata portal. Over the past decades, Switzerland has steadily extended its contribution to GAW, strengthening the cooperation among its partner institutions under the auspices of MeteoSwiss. **More information can be found on the [GAW-CH Website](http://www.gaw-ch.ch/).**

Based on the Ordinance on Meteorology and Climatology (MetV, Article 5f), the GAW-CH Programme can fund research projects that contribute to meeting the objectives of the GAW Implementation Plan.

2.2 GCOS Switzerland

The [Global Climate Observing System \(GCOS\)](#) is a joint initiative of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) and the International Science Council (ISC). The overall goal of GCOS is to ensure the sustained provision of reliable physical, chemical and biological observations and data records of the climate system as a whole – across the atmospheric, oceanic and terrestrial domains, including hydrological and carbon cycles and the cryosphere. **The GCOS Implementation Plan** (WMO, 2016) describes the proposed implementation of a global observing system for climate. A core element is the definition of a set of atmospheric, oceanic, and terrestrial **Essential Climate Variables (ECVs)** that critically contribute to characterizing Earth's climate.

The GCOS Switzerland Programme (GCOS Switzerland) was established in 2006 as the Swiss national implementation of the GCOS Programme. The Swiss GCOS Office at MeteoSwiss is responsible for the coordination of the national climate observing system (GCOS Switzerland). The Swiss GCOS Office, in close cooperation with the national partner institutions and under the guidance of the GCOS Switzerland Steering Committee, published the **GCOS Switzerland Strategy 2017-2026** (MeteoSwiss 2017). The Strategy serves as the foundation for the elaboration of actions to be implemented by the entirety of the Swiss GCOS community, through overarching pillars and a number of subordinate priorities. **More information is provided on the [GCOS Switzerland Website](#).**

A key activity of MeteoSwiss according to the Ordinance on Meteorology and Climatology (MetV, Article 4c), is to provide targeted support to projects that contribute to the GCOS Implementation Plan and the GCOS Switzerland Strategy 2017-2026.

3 Objectives

The objectives of the research proposals submitted to this call should be in line with the main recommendations of the [White Paper](#) (MeteoSwiss 2022), which summarizes the results of the 1st Swiss National GAW/GCOS Symposium, held in Bern, Switzerland, 13-14 September 2021. These are consistent with the GAW Implementation Plan 2016-2023 (GAW 2017), the GCOS Implementation Plan (GCOS 2016) and the GCOS Switzerland Strategy 2017-2026 (MeteoSwiss 2017). Closely following the recommendations in the White Paper, the current call encourages in particular collaborative proposals of 2-4 institutions that feature approaches to:

- Interdisciplinary, silo-overcoming, innovative observing, understanding, modelling and/or predicting parts of the Earth System;
- Closing critical observational gaps in the carbon, energy and water cycles, combining in-situ and remote sensing observations, as well as integrating them in modelling frameworks and reanalyses;
- Continuously re-visiting calibration, traceability, homogeneity of existing ECV's in order to guarantee their usability for climate monitoring and climate change detection;
- Constraining individual and overall fluxes and processes within the carbon, energy and water cycles individually, but also across the these cycles, especially at regional and local scales;
- Developing and delivering added-value climate and air-quality services;
- Developing and promoting effective climate communication tools.

In addition, proposals of individual research groups that are in line with the strategic frameworks mentioned in Sect. 2.1 and 2.2 will also be considered.

4 Duration and financial contribution

4.1 Duration

The indicative duration of projects addressing the objectives described in Sect. 3 is four years. The projects are scheduled to start in December 2022.

4.2 Financial volume

For this Call for Proposals, a total indicative budget of 3.3 million CHF for four years is available. It is anticipated that 2-4 projects of consortia of two to four institutions will be supported through this call.

We do not exclude that the total indicative budget might increase. Therefore, please also include possible optional activities that could extend the project and be considered at a later stage, including an estimate of additional required funds for this purpose.

Please note that the budget is subject to the approval of the annual Federal budget by the Swiss Parliament.

4.3 In-kind contribution

In addition to the provision of necessary infrastructure (office space, computing hardware and software, personnel and financial administration) a significant in-kind contribution is required and has to be disclosed in the proposal.

5 Eligibility criteria

This Call for Proposals is open to individuals and consortia with a legal representative affiliated to a Swiss institution in Switzerland. It primarily addresses individuals and consortia that can demonstrate extensive experience in the monitoring of and research related to the climate system including the composition of the atmosphere in Switzerland.

As stated in Sect. 3, MeteoSwiss strongly encourages the formation of consortia. Each consortium shall designate one legal representative and a deputy legal representative.

Please note that each applicant (=individual or legal representative of a consortium) can submit only one proposal per call as legal representative. If a consortium includes foreign institutions, the legal representative has to be based at a Swiss institution in Switzerland.

An ongoing project in the framework of GAW-CH and/or GCOS Switzerland does not exclude an applicant/consortium from submitting a proposal to a subsequent call.

6 Submission and selection procedure

6.1 Responsibilities and selection process

Both programmes are under the scientific guidance of a joint Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) that is also responsible for the scientific evaluation of proposals.

The selection of projects follows the process as outlined in Figure 1.

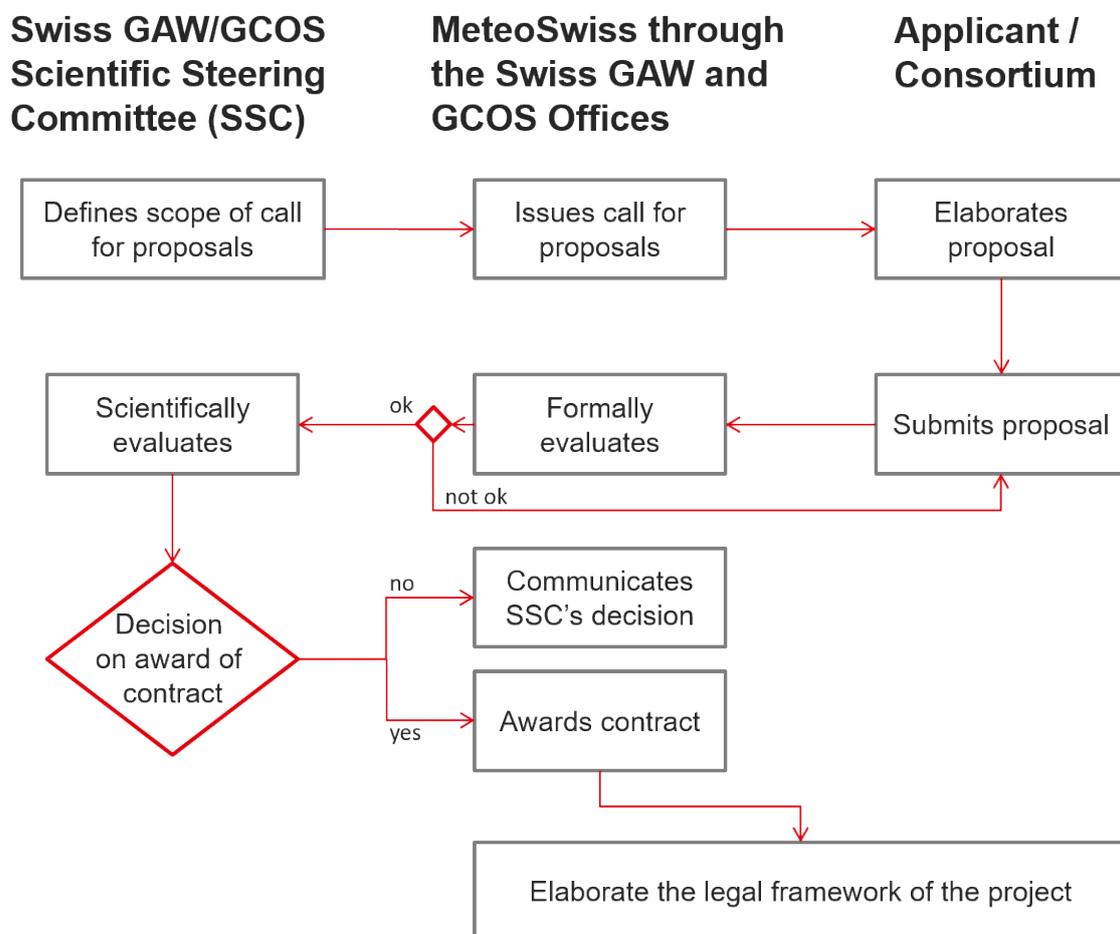


Figure 1: Selection process

6.2 Mode of submission

The proposals must be submitted via an online platform as **one single document** in pdf format at only **one of the following two websites**: either www.meteoswiss.ch/gaw/callforproposals or www.gcos.ch/callforproposals. Please do not submit proposals as hardcopy.

6.3 Confidentiality of the written proposal

MeteoSwiss guarantees the confidentiality of the submitted proposals.

6.4 Deadlines

The following deadlines apply:

14 March 2022	Publication of call for proposals at either of the websites mentioned in Sect. 6.2.
30 June 2022, 15:00h (CET)	Deadline for proposal submission. Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be considered.
7* September 2022	Award of contract
30 November 2022	Agreement signed between MeteoSwiss and awarded institution
1 December 2022	Start of projects

* *preliminary date*

Questions regarding the call can be submitted directly to international@meteoswiss.ch until 23.06.2022. The answers to those queries will be published on both websites mentioned in Sect. 6.2.

7 Formal requirements

The proposal must adhere to the following:

- The proposal must be submitted in the **application form** provided at either www.meteoswiss.ch/gaw/callforproposals or www.gcos.ch/callforproposals, including:
 - o Administrative part: basic data, personal data, and requested funding, including mention of in-kind contribution;
 - o Scientific part: executive summary (max. 1 page), detailed research plan (max. 7 pages) and references (max. 1 page);
- The format of the application form must not be altered;
- The proposal has to be submitted in English;
- Additional information requested include the CV of the legal representative and her or his deputy as well as a list of relevant publications.

8 Evaluation criteria

If the proposal complies with the formal requirements as specified in Sect. 7, the following criteria will be applied during the scientific evaluation of the proposals.

Scientific criteria:

- Scientific excellence (e.g., is the proposal based on latest knowledge?);
- Innovation and cross-disciplinarity of collaboration;
- Suitability of methods (e.g., are the used methods appropriate to reach the objectives?);
- Conformity with FAIR data principles (e.g., how does the consortium ensure access to and usability of its data?).

General criteria:

- Benefit for the Swiss GAW and/or GCOS programmes especially with respect to the implementation of the GAW Implementation Plan, the GCOS Switzerland Strategy 2017-2026 and the GCOS Implementation Plan in accordance with the current Call for Proposals and the White Paper of the 1st Swiss National GAW/GCOS Symposium 2021 (MeteoSwiss, 2022);
- Cost effectiveness, justification of required funding, significant in-kind contribution;
- Competence and experience of the applicant and/or the consortia;
- Project design and organization, clear milestones, feasibility of the proposed timetable;
- Embedding in current national and international activities (e.g. synergies with ongoing projects);
- Risk of failure and risk reduction measures;
- The level of in-kind contribution by the hosting institution.

The decision of the SSC regarding the award of a contract is final. The list of supported projects and the respective level of funding will be published online at www.meteoschweiz.ch/gaw and www.gcos.ch.

9 Agreement, supervision and reporting

In case of a project approval, the legal representative's institution will be stated as an agreement partner with MeteoSwiss. The project will be supervised by MeteoSwiss through the Swiss GAW/GCOS Office. In particular, MeteoSwiss:

- serves as the main contact point;
- formally reviews all reporting documents;
- serves as the interface to the SSC;
- is responsible for financial matters.

Implementation progress will be monitored by the SSC. To this regard, the applicant must provide yearly status reports, a final report to the attention of the SSC and a final report to be published on the GAW-CH and GCOS Switzerland websites. Upon request by the SSC, the applicant may be invited to present the progress of the project at the occasion of a SSC meeting.

Annex

A References

BBI, 2002: Botschaft über das Protokoll von Kyoto zum Rahmenübereinkommen der Vereinten Nationen über Klimaänderungen. Available at <https://www.admin.ch/ch/d/ff/2002/6385.pdf>.

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MeteoSwiss, 2018: National Climate Observing System (GCOS Switzerland). Update 2018. Available at www.gcos.ch/inventory.

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Verordnung über die Meteorologie und Klimaotologie (MetV) vom 21. November 2018 (SR 429.11). Available at <https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/2018/772/de>.

B Abbreviations

CHF	Swiss Francs
CV	Curriculum Vitae
ECV	Essential Climate Variable
GAW	Global Atmosphere Watch
GCOS	Global Climate Observing System
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
ISC	International Council for Science
IP	Implementation Plan
SSC	Scientific Steering Committee
UN Environment	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

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