

Funding regulations for Food 4.0 funding programme

*Adopted by the Executive Committee a+ on 17 August 2022, based on
article 11 para. 7 of the Research and Innovation Promotion Act of 14 December 2012
the strategic multi-year planning 2021–24 of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences of 18 June 2019
the parliamentary decisions on the ERI dispatch 2021–24 of 14 August 2020
article 9 para. 5 of the articles of association of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences of 1 February 2018
the global budget a+, adopted by the Executive Committee on 20 December 2020*

Preamble

Food production in Switzerland is facing increasing competitive pressure. A Europe-wide trend towards increasingly cheaper food is extremely difficult to contend with in view of the existing level of salary/production costs in Switzerland. This means innovative developments for the Swiss food system are required to develop the production of safe, healthy and tasty food to ensure Switzerland remains a commercially relevant production location for food and food industry manufacturing technologies in future. As part of a supplementary credit, the Swiss Confederation tasked the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences – under the lead of the Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences (SATW) – with jointly implementing transdisciplinary projects for a successful Swiss food system.

Art. 1 – Purpose

These funding guidelines govern the framework conditions, requirements and criteria for the funding of projects by the Food 4.0 programme.

Art. 2 – Goals and framework conditions of the funding programme

¹ The Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences' Food 4.0 programme

- a. funds transdisciplinary innovations in the Swiss food system across the entire food value-creation chain;
- b. enables cooperation between the private sector (in particular SMEs and start-ups) and science to test the market potential or feasibility of innovative products, processes, services, technologies and scenarios;
- c. enables the definition of areas of action for (political) decision-makers across the food value-creation chain;
- d. supports projects which highlight new prospects in the form of implementation projects for the successful development of the Swiss food system and explicitly addresses one of the main development areas (see art. 3);
- e. funds four to five projects a year during the period 2021 to 2024;
- f. carries out networking activities to establish links between players in the Swiss food system, including with technology companies outside of it.

- ² The funding programme is based on a study commissioned by SATW which was implemented by the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich under the leadership of Prof. Erich Windhab. This identified four main technology-oriented development areas (see art. 3) which are of major interest to the Swiss food system in terms of research expertise, innovation and economic relevance. Projects whose content falls within one of the four main development areas are funded. The main development areas identified address technology-oriented topics as they possess major initiation potential as implementation-oriented innovation nucleators. As overarching thematic framework conditions, the key aspects to the (Swiss) food system of (i) sustainability, (ii) quality and safety, (iii) traceability and in particular (iv), consumer interests should feature prominently in the project applications in this context.
- ³ When granting funding, it is ensured that the project portfolio covers the entire food value-creation chain and all four main development areas (see art. 3).
- ⁴ The funded projects do not last longer than 12 months. They may be extended to 18 months if necessary, without any cost implications.

Art. 3 – Main development areas

The funded projects explicitly cover one of the following four main development areas which are explained in detail on SATW's Food 4.0 website.

- ¹ Protein technology and plant/dairy hybrid product engineering
- ² Digital transformation of the food system
- ³ Precision biotechnology/biotransformation
- ⁴ Cellular agriculture

Art. 4 – Implementation of the funding programme

- ¹ SATW is responsible for implementation.
- ² The SATW administrative office is the direct contact partner for applicants: food@satw.ch.

Art. 5 – Application requirements

Funding categories

- ¹ Projects in the following categories are funded:
 - a. Projects of members of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences ¹, i.e. representatives of the academies and their member organisations (category A);
 - b. Projects of members of the university system, i.e. universities of applied sciences and universities; organisations and institutions not part of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences; representatives of the private sector up to a maximum of 250 full-time equivalents (category B);
 - c. Projects of representatives of the private sector with over 250 full-time equivalents (category C).
- ² If rights to intellectual property are an issue in the project, the relevant matters will be resolved by the companies themselves where several companies are involved without the intervention of members of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences.

Art. 6 – Promising activities of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences (category A)

¹ the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT); the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (SAMW); the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences (SAGW); the Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences (SATW); the Swiss Young Academy (JAS); TA-SWISS; Science et Cité (SEC)

- ¹ Two to three projects a year are funded as part of category A.
- ² In particular, projects which adopt a transdisciplinary approach and combine various specialist areas of the academies are funded.
- ³ The balanced representation of Swiss regions/languages will be taken into account.
- ⁴ The funding decision is made by an evaluation committee based on the criteria set out in art. 11, para. 3.

Art. 7 – Promising activities of other actors (category B and C)

- ¹ An additional two to three projects a year are funded as part of categories B and C.
- ² The emphasis is placed on projects where cooperation between the private sector and universities (of applied sciences) takes place in the field of applied research (no basic research). Project applications involving cooperation between several parties from the private sector and science are welcomed but are not mandatory; i.e. both companies and universities can submit applications independently. Great importance is attached to the innovation value of the project which can be developed with the funding. Collaboration between universities (of applied sciences) and a company from the private sector (industry, SME, start-up) is viewed particularly positively.
- ³ The funding decision is made by an evaluation committee based on the criteria set out in art. 11, para. 3.

Art. 8 – Submission of applications

- ¹ Candidates submit their applications electronically to the food@satw.ch e-mail address.
- ² The file to be submitted should provide a comprehensive overview of the project but applicants are also requested to restrict themselves to the key points. Incomplete files will not be evaluated.
- ³ The exact details are provided in the official application form. This is available in German, French and English on the Food 4.0 website of SATW. Applications which are submitted after the deadline indicated, or for which an official form is not used, will be discarded.
- ⁴ Project proposals must be submitted by 23 October 2022. The projects will be selected after the submission deadline and applicants will be notified about any support by 15 December 2022. Project implementation must begin in the first quarter of 2023.
- ⁵ The funded projects do not last longer than 12 months. They may be extended to 18 months if necessary without any cost implications.
- ⁶ The project managers undertake to take part in the exchange of experience and to publish the final results in a joint report.

Art. 9 - Budget/allowable costs and level of funding

- ¹ Staff and equipment costs, including travel costs, may be applied for. They must be transparently set out in the application form.
- ² The maximum support contribution amounts to CHF 25,000 per project for funding categories A and B (art. 5 ff). Compensation for expenses up to a maximum of CHF 5,000 may be applied for in funding category C.

- ⁴ The funds are disbursed to the contact person indicated on the application form. In the event of co-operation between several participants, the distribution of the resources and funds is organised by them independently without the intervention of members of the Academies of Arts and Sciences.
- ³ The Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences reserves the right to only grant partial amounts of the funding applied for. The funding is distributed based on the number of project proposals.
- ⁴ The funding granted by the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences is generally paid out upon completion of the project and after submission of the final report. The funding approved is not paid out if the project is abandoned or if it was not used for the implementation of the project.

Art. 10 – Procedure and rights

- ¹ A criteria-based selection procedure applies. There is no entitlement to funding.
- ² The Food 4.0 evaluation committee evaluates the projects based on the criteria described (see art. 2, art. 5 ff. and art. 11). It guarantees a fair, non-arbitrary procedure that is not biased towards participants and which is based on these regulations.
- ³ Rights to equipment with residual value: Equipment paid for with contributions from the Food 4.0 funding programme belongs to the applicant institution.
- ⁴ Applicants are responsible for project management and reporting.

Art. 11 – Evaluation of applications

- ¹ The criteria focus on the impact to be achieved and the project's innovation content. It is ensured that the project portfolio covers all funding categories in accordance with art. 5, para. 1, the entire value-creation chain and all four main development areas in accordance with art. 3.
- ² The following aspects are formally evaluated:
 - a. Eligibility to apply
 - b. Completeness
- ³ The content of the following criteria is assessed:
 - a. Inclusion in one of the four main development areas (art. 3);
 - b. The quality, consistency and originality of the project and an innovative approach in accordance with art. 2, para 1;
 - c. Transdisciplinarity: Cooperation and/or networking with actors in the food system
 - d. Impact as part of the Food 4.0 initiative; contribution to securing the status of Switzerland as a production location (market potential)
 - e. Skills of the project team
 - f. Feasibility in the context of the proposed project and resources management
- ⁴ The criteria are weighted appropriately.
- ⁵ No support is provided for projects which have previously received support in this form from Innosuisse or another Swiss Confederation funding entity. Basic research projects are not supported.
- ⁶ The Food 4.0 evaluation committee decides on the applications provided they meet the formal requirements and are not clearly of unsatisfactory quality. The evaluation committee can call on external experts for advice subject to compliance with the confidentiality obligation and/or conduct evaluation meetings with the applicants.

Art. 12 - Controlling and other obligations of the project management of approved projects

- ¹ Project managers are obliged to report on content-related and financial aspects of the project in the forms provided (interim and final report). Project managers are required to submit reports in writing. Final reports must be submitted by 30/8/2024 at the latest.
- ² Accounts must be kept – separately from other finances – on the use of funds based on commercial principles. The set-up of a separate account for third-party funds is recommended.
- ³ The projects are to be perceived as good examples which the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences wishes to communicate via its various channels. The project management must provide SATW with suitable materials (images, videos, interviews, logos, etc.) for this purpose.
- ⁴ Reference will be made to the funding from the Food 4.0 funding programme of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences in the public relations activities.
- ⁵ The projects supported will be published on SATW's website. SATW reserves the right to use the projects for the purposes of communication in relation to the Food 4.0 initiative. If intellectual property has to be protected in the project, only information which the project manager has communicated using their own abstract will be published.

Art. 13 – Entry into force and amendment

- ¹ These regulations enter into force on 1 August 2022.
- ² The Executive Committee may amend or supplement these regulations at any time. Any member of the Executive Board and management is entitled to apply.

Bern, 17 August 2022

Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences a+



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