

Foster Inter-university Initiatives and Collaborations: Call for Academic Activities 2025

Inter-university initiatives and collaborations build the pillar of the SSPH+ inter-university faculty of public health sciences. Thus, SSPH+ supports transnational activities launched and led by the SSPH+ community. The Directorate reserves up to CHF 50'000 in the 2025 budget for such inter-university activities. The maximum amount per project is **CHF 25'000**. The 2025 call for proposals remains open for submissions until 30 April 2025. Decisions will be taken by the Directorate by 20 May 2025.

Details of the Call

The objective of the call is to support inter-university exchange and activities that are in line with the SSPH+ strategy and mission¹ and initiated by an SSPH+ Faculty member² or a scientist belonging to the group or unit of an SSPH+ Faculty member at one of the SSPH+ partner universities. We also encourage proposals led by junior members of our SSPH+ faculty, including their postdocs. Interdisciplinary initiatives and proposals that may lay the grounds for further inter-university collaborations are also highly welcomed (such as method developments, development of a new SSPH+ course for PhD students or guidelines, etc.)

HOWEVER, PLEASE NOTE: This call does not provide (co-)funding for research and conferences nor support on-going insufficiently funded projects, PhD theses, publications or research projects. Please refer to other funding sources (e.g., SNSF).

Eligible proposals fulfill the following criteria:

1. **Submission:** to SSPH+ (snocera@ssphplus.ch) by **30 April 2025**. Activities must start no later than October 2025 and be completed by the end of 2026.
2. **Proposals:** apart from filling in the provided template (admin info and budget) a proposal of up to 2 pages (max) should be submitted, including title, background, objectives, methods/approaches/program, expected results (outcome), and a statement about how it fits into the SSPH+ strategy and mission. Please do not add additional annexes / material beyond 2 pages. The topic and objectives need to be of interest and relevance for the SSPH+ community, outcome-oriented, and not in conflict with activities already planned by SSPH+ (in case of uncertainty contact Sandra Nocera, snocera@ssphplus.ch). Please check in particular the timing of workshops/events with SSPH+ in advance. The proposal must be realistic and feasible within the budget and time.
3. **Co-lead:** Proposals must have **two co-chairs** (or co-leaders) who are SSPH+ Faculty members or scientists from groups or units of an SSPH+ Faculty member. The two must be **from different linguistic regions** (i.e., activities led only by Swiss German partners, only Suisse Romande partners, or the Ticino alone do not qualify for funding). Collaboration between different types of universities is very welcome. **Also note:** the partnership should be driven by the content and the needs of the proposed work – not just a “pro forma” joint application to fulfill this funding criterion! The co-chairs are in charge of leading the project. For administrative reasons, only one of the two co-chairs will take the role of the administrative leader as his/her institution will sign as “leading institution”; SSPH+ will do the administration (funding) with the leading institution only which is responsible for the management of the funds. Though other collaborators or participants of a proposal may be accepted from any institution (also international), the salary costs can go only to SSPH+ partner universities (i.e., collaborators not affiliated with one of the SSPH+ partner universities cannot be funded from this budget).
4. **Workshops:** proposals should foresee participation of at least 8 people, with the majority being members from the SSPH+ partner universities (the rest can be from any other national or international institution). It is encouraged to consult also the list of the Members of the Foundation Board³ to evaluate whether any should participate. Members of the Directorate may opt in as participants of workshops.

The Directorate will take decisions (reject, partial or full funding). Decisions are final. Assigned funds will be transferred to the contracting institution once the contract is signed (50%) and once the short final report with a summary (max. 200 words) has been received (50%). Please note that the SSPH+ office does not take any responsibility for the organization, planning and implementation of any of the proposed activities.

¹ See <https://ssphplus.ch/en/about/ssph-vision,-mission,-motivation-and-values/>

² See <https://ssphplus.ch/en/about/faculty-members-and-fellows/>

³ See <http://ssphplus.ch/en/about/organization/>