

## **Foster Inter-university Initiatives and Collaborations: Call for Academic Activities 2026**

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 2026 budget for such inter-university activities. The maximum amount per project is **CHF 25'000**. The 2026 call for proposals remains open for submissions until **30 April 2026**. Decisions will be taken by the Directorate by 20 May 2026.

### **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 mission<sup>1</sup> and initiated by an SSPH+ Faculty member<sup>2</sup> 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](mailto:snocera@ssphplus.ch)) by **30 April 2026**. Activities must start no later than October 2026 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](mailto: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 Board<sup>3</sup> to evaluate whether any should participate. Members of the Directorate may opt in as participants of workshops.

The SSPH+ 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.

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

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

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