



12 July 2019

r4d programme

Transformation accelerating grants (TAGs)

Call document

1. Background

The r4d programme aims at producing and making available knowledge, tools and technologies that contribute to the resolution of global challenges, facilitate the provision of public goods, and more generally advance sustainable development in developing countries. Each research project that is financed within the r4d programme developed a theory of change, a pathway to impact and a communication strategy, detailing how the respective project intends to achieve scientific and development outcomes. At mid-term of the r4d programme and after first projects were completed, a request from the side of researchers emerged for additional funding that would facilitate and accelerate the utilisation of knowledge or technologies developed in r4d projects. This has led to the decision to create a new call within the r4d programme.

The r4d programme launches the Call for “Transformation accelerating grants (TAGs)” that allow teams of r4d researchers and non-academic stakeholders (e.g. policy makers, the private sector, development practitioners) to make use of the knowledge, tools and technologies developed within r4d projects through translation and implementation initiatives.

A total budget of CHF 1.4 million is available for TAGs. The first call for TAGs is published on 12 July 2019. One more call will be launched in 2020. For each call approximately CHF 700'000 are foreseen.

2. Objectives

Transformation accelerating grants focus on co-creation, social learning, technology transfer and transformative actions with the ultimate aim to accelerate transformation towards sustainable development and reduce poverty in countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

TAGs shall test, validate, accelerate or facilitate the uptake and utilisation of research findings from an r4d project on a local or national scale in r4d partner countries or on an international scale.



3. Eligibility

Only teams composed of one main applicant and at least one project partner are eligible to apply for a Transformation accelerating grant (TAG).

- The main applicant is a researcher based at a Swiss research institution who is/was involved in the respective r4d project as PI or Co-PI.
- At least one project partner is a non-academic person (i.e. working at a government agency, a NGO, a think tank, or in the private sector) and provides substantial conceptual as well as practical input for the implementation of the project in the respective country.
- In principle, at least one project partner must be based at an institution in the global South (i.e. in a partner country of the r4d programme). Exceptions are possible and have to be justified.
- Further non-academic and academic project partners from any r4d partner country (including Switzerland) can be part of the applying team.

The r4d programme strongly encourages gender balance in applying teams.
The project shall not directly serve commercial interests.

4. Activities, budget, and duration

TAGs can be used for a validation/implementation study, a policy dialogue, creation of a spin-off or start-up, for training courses or material, cultural initiatives, small scale improvements in infrastructure and technology or other specific activities designed to accelerate research-based transformation in partner countries or on an international scale. Should a specific activity be implemented in Switzerland, this cannot include intervention with a political or lobbyist intention.

The proposal has to explain clearly how the planned activity has emerged during the course of the r4d project and why it was not included in the original project's application and communication plan and budget.

Not covered by TAGs are research and application/communication activities already covered by an r4d project or by an r4d synthesis project. Applications from a running r4d project have to show that the use of the respective communication budget is on track with the initial plan.

A TAG budget can be up to CHF 100'000 to be used over a period of maximal 12 months.
Approved TAG projects have to start within 3 months from the date of communication (date of ruling (Verfügung)).

5. Eligible costs

Eligible costs of TAG grants are:

- Costs of project partners, which can be more than 20 % of the total budget.
- Costs of employed staff:
 - in case of employment in Switzerland salaries must adhere to the salary ranges prescribed by the SNSF.

- in case of employment in other countries, the respective country regulations for employment have to be respected and the salaries of employees will be considered as honorarium.
- Costs for other services (e.g. subcontracting).
- Costs for travel, logistics, and communication (e.g. design, online publishing, printing, dissemination) that are directly related with the implementation of the project.

Overheads in Switzerland are not eligible. Overhead costs for a partner institution in the global South can be up to 10 % of the project partner's respective project budget.

6. Submission of proposals

TAG proposals have to be submitted via the online submission platform mySNF. The deadline for the first call is 18.10.2019, 17.00 (CET).

The proposal has to be written in English and has to include the following information and documents:

1. Administrative data according to the online form.
2. A proposal of maximally 5 pages, excluding bibliography and summary using the template to be downloaded in mySNF.
3. CV of each applicant (each CV must not exceed 2 pages and has to include information on personal contributions in the relevant field of the proposal).
4. Written confirmation of partner institutions.

7. Evaluation

The SNSF secretariat checks the applications formally. Only applications that meet all formal requirements will be accepted and evaluated. The evaluation of the applications is in the responsibility of selected r4d Review Panel members who forward funding recommendations to the National Research Council. The Presiding Board of the National Research Council takes the final decision.

Evaluation criteria:

- The proposed activity clearly emerged from an r4d project.
- Founded theory of change and tangible intended outputs in terms of transformation for sustainable development (should aim to create opportunities for concrete application).
- The local intervention is imbedded in an ongoing development/research activity or is part of an overall strategy (no stand-alone, blue-sky research/innovation initiative) which will allow continuity and sustainability afterwards.
- Explicit transdisciplinary, co-creation, need-based approach, making use of the respective competences and added value of different stakeholders needed to achieve the planned transformation.
- In case of proposals of the same quality the proposal of a team with a better gender balance will be given priority.

8. Reporting and communication

At the end of a TAG project, the team has to prepare a results-oriented report and output data as well as a financial report to be submitted in mySNF. Output data can be filled in mySNF during the course of the project and have to be provided until 3 years after the end of a project.

For any publication of TAG results and for outreach activities, the r4d programme, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Swiss National Science Foundation as donors have to be mentioned.
