26 May 2020

**r4d programme**

# Transformation Accelerating Grants (TAGs) Second Call 2020

## 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 Transformation Accelerating Grants (TAGs) Call.

TAGs allow teams of **r4d researchers** and **implementing partners** (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 about CHF 800'000 is available for the second TAGs Call. This means that 8 to 10 TAG initiatives can be funded.

In the first r4d TAGs Call in 2019, six initiatives were selected (see News on r4d Website).

## 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 implementing 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 Principal Investigator (PI) or Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI).
- • At least one project partner is a person with a function in implementation, working for example at a government agency, a NGO or in the private sector. She or he provides substantial conceptual as well as practical input for the implementation of the TAG initiative 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 implementation partners or 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 initiatives have to start within six months from the date of communication (date of ruling (Verfügung)).

## 5.    Eligible costs

Eligible costs of TAGs 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. sub-contracting).
- Costs for travel, logistics, and communication (e.g. design, online publishing, printing, dissemination) that are directly related with the implementation of the TAG initiative.

Financial conditions:
- At least 60% of a TAG budget has to be spent in partner countries of the r4d programme, excluding Switzerland. Exceptions are possible and have to be justified.
- Overhead costs for a partner institution in the global South can be up to 10 % of the project partner's respective project budget.
- Overhead costs in Switzerland are not eligible.

## 6.    Submission of proposals

TAG proposals have to be submitted via the online submission platform mySNF. The deadline for the second TAGs Call is **12.10.2020, 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 mySNF entry mask.
2. A proposal of maximally 5 pages, excluding title page with summary and bibliography, using the template to be downloaded in mySNF.
3. CV of the main applicant and of each applying partner. Each CV must not exceed 2 pages and has to include information on personal contributions in the relevant field of the proposal. Any additional CV (e.g. of prospective employees, sub-contractors) are not required and will be rejected.
4. Written confirmation of partner institutions.

Please note that a Data Management Plan (DMP) is only required in case new data is collected. Add a comment in the respective data container in mySNF.

## 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 embedded 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, (i) better gender balance in the applying team and (ii) proposals from an r4d project that has not yet received a TAG will be given priority. The criteria (i) and (ii) will be used in this sequence.

## 8.    Reporting and communication

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

For any publication of TAG results and for outreach activities, the Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development (r4d programme), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) have to be mentioned as funders.

## 9.    Timeline

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| Launch of second TAG Call | 26 May 2020 |
| Submission of TAG proposals | 12 October 2020 |
| Review Panel meeting and selection | 26 November 2020 |
| National Research Council funding decisions | 8 December 2020 |
| Ratification by Presiding Board of National Research Council | 9 December 2020 |
| Communication of funding decisions | 10 December 2020 |