

## GRANTS PROGRAMME 2015

### STATEMENT AND SCHEDULE

**Deadline for receipt of applications: 1 December 2014**

#### Introduction

The ICSU Grants Programme supports collaborative scientific initiatives of relevance to science and society. Its intent is to encourage cutting edge scientific development at the interface both of traditional scientific disciplines and at the interface of science and policy.

The Grants Programme is competitive and peer-reviewed. Proposals must be led by the ICSU Scientific Unions. The Programme also facilitates collaboration with ICSU Regional Offices, Interdisciplinary Bodies, Joint Initiatives and other members of the ICSU community.

Proposals for 2015 grants must focus on ICSU's strategic priorities as detailed in the ICSU Strategic Plan II, 2012–2017 ([www.icsu.org/about-icsu/strategic-priorities](http://www.icsu.org/about-icsu/strategic-priorities)). Proposals must be innovative, international and multidisciplinary.

Additionally, ICSU particularly encourages the submission of proposals that (i) actively involve the ICSU Regional Offices, (ii) promote the involvement of young scientists, women scientists, and scientists from developing countries, and/or (iii) forge new partnerships between organisations that do not routinely collaborate.

#### Grant Details

The total funding available for the Grants Programme in 2015 is €300000 and a **ceiling of Euro 30,000 is imposed on all applications**.

Grants awarded under this call will have a period of performance of up to 18 months ending no later than 30 September 2016.

Applicants must clearly demonstrate in their proposals that they can manage and spend the proposed budget within the period of performance. A detailed Budget must be attached to the application and a detailed report submitted after project finalisation.

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<sup>0</sup>See <http://www.icsu.org/about-icsu/our-members> (Global site) for listings of relevant bodies.

## **Review Criteria and Selection Process**

Proposals will be reviewed in terms of their:

- 1. Relevance to ICSU strategic priorities**

Relevance to the ICSU Strategic Plan and the priorities of the ICSU Regional Offices.

- 2. Innovation**

Originality as demonstrated, for example, by engagement with new scientific horizons, cutting edge methodologies and techniques, novel collaboration frameworks, etc.

- 3. Scientific quality**

Clarity of objectives; feasibility of work plan; significance of outcomes.

- 4. Cost effectiveness**

Ability to achieve proposed objectives within financial resources available; significance of ICSU financial support to the proposed activity; potential for developing follow-on activities.

- 5. Proposed participants**

Broad participation; multidisciplinary and international focus; meaningful engagement, where relevant, with ICSU Regional Offices.

Applications must be assessed as 'very good' or above against all criteria to be considered for funding under this Programme.

Each proposal will be reviewed independently by at least three members of ICSU's Committee on Scientific Planning and Review and, if necessary, external reviewers. The final ranking of proposals is a consensus decision by the whole Committee. Results will be announced in May 2015 and funds will be made available immediately thereafter.

## **Budget Items Supported/Not Supported**

The ICSU Grants Programme will support only those budget items that contribute directly to the delivery of project objectives. Such items may include, for example, meeting and workshop expenses, research assistance, publication of outputs etc.

Capacity building activities are eligible for funding only where it can be demonstrated that the proposed project is intended to (i) pilot innovative approaches to science capacity building, and/or (ii) equip participants to undertake cutting edge research.

The programme does not support (i) 'travel grants' to attend standard scientific meetings and conferences, (ii) 'fellowship programmes', (iii) regular laboratory or field-based research projects that are normally funded by research funding agencies, (iv) the setting up or maintenance of websites and journals, or (5) routine education and training activities.

Funding should be regarded as catalytic. Funding over several years for the same or similar projects will not be granted.

## Eligibility Requirements: Lead and Supporting Applicants

Each application must have one Lead Applicant that assumes the principal responsibility for the project and at least one, or preferably several, Supporting Applicants. These Supporting Applicants must be active partners in the project. The roles of Supporting Applicants and any other partners in preparing and carrying out the work must be made clear in the application.

- The **Lead Applicants** must be the ICSU International Scientific Unions.
- Formal **Supporting Applicants** are organizations in the ICSU family, and can be Scientific Unions, Interdisciplinary Bodies, Joint Initiatives, ICSU Regional Offices, National Scientific Members, or International or National Scientific Associates. At least one organization from this list must be a Supporting Applicant, with an active role in the project, for the application to be valid.
- Partnerships with other organizations, e.g., UN agencies, are also encouraged and should be described in the relevant section of the application form.

Lead Applicants may submit no more than one application.

Applications by individuals or sub-structures of ICSU member organizations will not be considered.

## Submission of Applications

- All applications must be submitted by email to [rohini@icsu.org](mailto:rohini@icsu.org) no later than **Monday, 1 December 2014 by 17:00 hrs CET**. Only the electronic application format is acceptable and applications received in other formats will not be considered.
- Letters from all Supporting Applicants must be submitted with the application. Such letters should acknowledge that the application has the full support of the respective organization and clearly indicate the Supporting Applicant's role in carrying out the activity.
- It is the responsibility of the Lead Applicant to ensure that all documentation is submitted.
- Submitted applications will be acknowledged and in the absence of any acknowledgement it should not be assumed that proposals have been received. If your submitted proposal has not been acknowledged by 1 December, contact [rohini@icsu.org](mailto:rohini@icsu.org).

## Reports

Grant recipients must submit a final project report as well as an itemized financial statement showing the utilization of funds in conformity with work plans by **30 September 2016**.

For further information on the Grants Programme please contact Rohini Rao International Council for Science (ICSU), at [rohini@icsu.org](mailto:rohini@icsu.org).