ETH

Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

ETH4D Research to Action Grants

1. Goal of the ETH4D Research to Action Grant

The ETH for Development (ETH4D) "Research to Action Grant" aims to bridge the gap between academic research and practice. The grant supports students and researchers to discuss their work with practitioners and ensure that results are being used, implemented, and disseminated, demonstrating global development-related impact. To this end, ETH4D supports bachelor, master, doctoral students and post-doctoral scientists with up to **5 kCHF** and senior scientists and professors with up to **20 kCHF**

2. Eligibility for the ETH4D Research to Action Grant

Who: Bachelor students, master students, doctoral students, post-doctoral scientists and senior scientists are eligible to apply. Students must be enrolled at the time activities are carried out. Projects require a collaborating non-academic partner based in the project's country of focus, and need a letter of support from the non-academic partner. Collaborations should follow the KPFE Guide for Transboundary Research Partnerships.

What: Projects need to (i) have an institutional link to ETH Zurich (e.g., previous research or courses taken at ETH or an affiliation with ETH initiatives that promote the development of innovative solutions) and (ii) demonstrate global development-related impact.

Where: Preference will be given to activities in countries listed as "least developed, low- and lower-middle-income country" according to the DAC-list of the OECD.[1] Applications with a focus area outside of the DAC-list should justify their selection.

3. Deliverables

1. Within three months after the completion of the project, the applicant must submit an **operational and financial report** to the grant office of ETH4D. For the operational report, two pages describing the most important achievements, lessons learned, problems encountered, and pictures of the activities should be submitted.

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[1] https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/DAC-List-of-ODA-Recipients-for-reporting-2024-25-flows.pdf

2. In addition, applicants must submit **one** of the following items:
   - A short video that explains the project to a non-scientific audience
   - An article in an ETH outlet such as Ambassadors Blog
   - A policy brief that presents the findings to a non-scientific audience

3. Participation in the ETH4D Research Challenges. During the seminar, grantees will present their work and will also support other grantees' work in peer-to-peer learning sessions.

4. Finances and Budget

The grant covers expenses up to a **maximum of 5 kCHF for students and postdocs**, and a **maximum of 20 kCHF for professors and senior scientists,** in the following activities:

- Material for developing innovative ideas (e.g., prototypes) to address a challenge faced by global development practitioners (e.g., NGOs, foundations, start-ups, international organisations)
- Organisation of or active participation in a stakeholder workshop, non-academic conference, or policy dialogue
- Production of a video showcasing the research results (max. 2kCHF)
- Exhibition or other creative formats showcasing the research results
- Travel back to the field to present and discuss research results (i.e., doctoral project) with local stakeholders and participants

ETH4D will reimburse the costs after the project against an operational and financial report and other deliverables, as well as copies of all receipts. The applicant needs a professorship or an administrative unit where they can debit the expenses from. The respective professorship or administrative unit needs to provide a financial confirmation letter stating that one of their PSP elements can be debited with the project costs. The number of the PSP element needs to be mentioned in the letter.

5. Application and Deadline

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and the call remains open throughout the year. Submissions will be reviewed after the deadlines of 30 March and 15 October every year. Please make sure to submit your proposals at least 6 weeks before the intended starting date of the project.

Please complete the [electronic application form](#) and upload all required documents in the annex.

Please structure the project description and objectives (6'000 characters) as follows:

- Describe how your results are being used, implemented, or disseminated demonstrating a global development-related impact

- Describe your institutional link to the ETH (e.g., previous research, courses taken at ETH, an affiliation with innovative ETH initiatives)

- Describe what activities you are planning and how these will help filling the gap between research and practice

- If you plan dissemination activities:
  - What are the 3-5 key messages you want participants/viewers to take away?
  - Who is your target audience and why did you decide to focus on them?

- If plan a prototype explain what its purpose is:
  - Is it about learning (e.g., will the product work? Is it realistic? Is it useful? Does it meet a current need?)
  - And/or is it about communication? If so, who is your target audience (e.g., potential funding bodies, NGOs, potential users)?

- Describe how your partner's expertise/ thematic focus aligns with the project's content

- Please add a timeframe and work plan

Application documents for a Research to Action grant entail:

- Completed electronic application form
- Project description and objectives (6'000 characters excl. space characters, using Arial/ size 11/ line pitch 1.15)
- Letter of support from a non-academic partner or collaborator based in the country of focus
- Detailed budget
- Timeframe
- Financial confirmation letter by ETH professor or unit
- CV of the applicant, including publication list (max. 2 pages)
- One reference letter from within ETH