

Call for research projects (Seed funding) for year 2025

Context

The Interdisciplinary Centre for Mountain Research (CIRM) is a pilot project of the University of Lausanne for a period of 8 years (2018-2026). It aims to reinforce knowledge on the specific issues of mountain regions (climate change, economic vulnerability, regional planning, for example) by addressing them through different methodological approaches supported by both the natural sciences or the human and social sciences, as well as health sciences. It achieves these objectives by supporting interdisciplinary research projects, conducting thematic syntheses and organizing scientific events.

For the period 2023-2026, the CIRM is focusing its activities primarily on the Vaud and Valais Alps and the Jura massif, and is organising its work around the notion of "well-being in the mountains".

Call for Research Proposals

To encourage the start-up of new interdisciplinary projects, the CIRM is offering funds (*seed-funding*). Limited to max. CHF 20,000.- per project, these funds must be used for the start-up of *interdisciplinary* projects (networking in particular), carried out as a priority in the three study regions and around the notion of "well-being in the mountains". Projects funded should, as far as possible, lead to a more ambitious research project, funded externally. The funds requested may be supplemented by other sources of funding. Project applicants can possibly apply for additional funding in 2026 (only to support the submission of a project to the Swiss National Science Foundation or to a similar funding body). Three types of projects are funded:

- 1) fundamental research projects,
- 2) applied research projects,
- 3) projects that promote research results.

This year, preference will be given to projects that include researchers from the human and social sciences and natural sciences and health sciences ("strong" interdisciplinarity), that integrate scientists and actors from the territories, in particular Jura Range and for instance the CIRM's partners (transdisciplinarity).

Projects will be evaluated by the CIRM Board, based on the following criteria:

- 1) scientific quality;
- 2) interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary nature;
- 3) interest in relation with the "well-being in the mountains" thema;
- 4) potential for a larger project (leverage effect).

Rules

- 1) Projects are open to [CIRM members](#) (according to the list at the time of the call). The project is submitted by a respondent, who is one of the UNIL members of CIRM, with a permanent contract. Other UNIL researchers or other institutions, as well as [partners of CIRM](#) can be part of the research group.
- 2) Proposals (written in French or English) must be submitted as **a single pdf file** to Christelle Monnet, secretary of CIRM (christelle.monnet@unil.ch) **until 15th January 2025**. The file will include:
 - the attached administrative form duly completed;
 - a description of the project (**max. 6 pages**, according to the attached form) including the title, scientific objectives, organisation of the research, expected results and and three sections describing the inter- and transdisciplinary research arrangements, the interest with regard to "wellbeing in the mountains" and the potential for development towards a larger-scale project;
 - the composition of the research team;
 - a curriculum vitae of the project leader (max. 2 pages);
 - any supporting documents.
- 3) The funds can be committed from 1st March 2025 and must be used in 2025. They can concern both salaries and research costs (equipment, travel, seminars, etc.). A scientific report must be submitted no later than 3 months after the end of the project.
- 4) Funding recipients commit to participate in deux half-day interdisciplinary workshops, bringing together members of the different projects. These workshops aim at an exchange on the practice of interdisciplinary research.

More information:

Iago Otero, Project Officer
iago.otero@unil.ch