



## **Seed Grants for participatory citizen science projects**

Call for applications, April 2019

The Participatory Science Academy (Partizipative Wissenschaftsakademie, PWA) awards Seed Grants for the development and/or implementation of participatory citizen science projects. Grants with a maximum amount of CHF 50,000 can be applied for twice a year. Applications for up to CHF 10,000 can be submitted on an ongoing basis. This document describes the criteria for the award of Seed Grants and the application process and is intended to provide assistance in submitting applications.

### **The Participatory Science Academy**

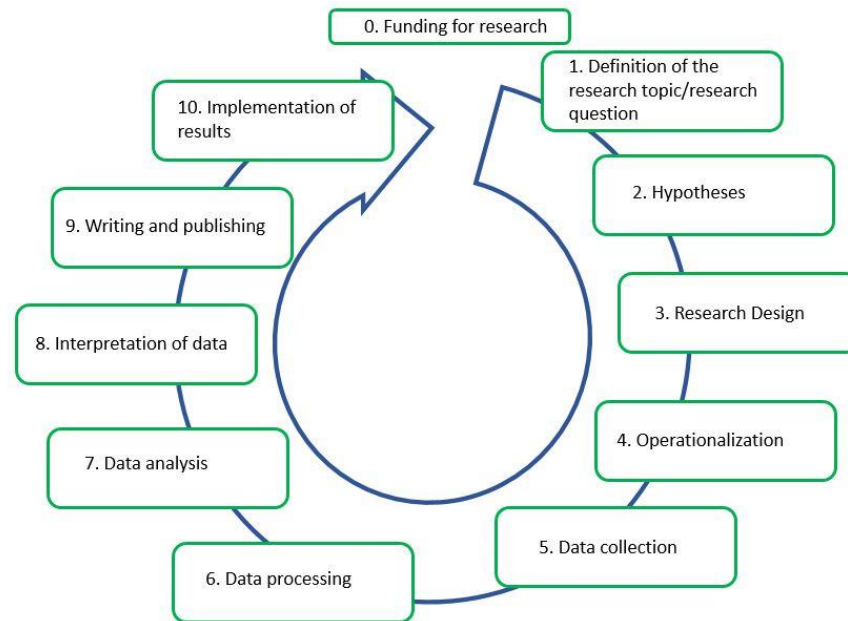
The Participatory Science Academy aims to promote the participation of citizens in science and research and to enable UZH and ETHZ researchers to conduct joint research together with citizens at eye level. The PWA is located at the Competence Center Citizen Science of the University of Zurich and ETH Zurich and is funded by the Mercator Foundation Switzerland.

### **Goal of the Seed Grants**

With the Seed Grants, the PWA creates incentives for the participatory development and/or implementation of research projects. Teams of academic researchers from UZH and/or ETHZ and citizens are given the opportunity to develop and/or carry out a participatory research project. Priority is given to projects which, in addition to the prospect of excellent research, show a high degree of participation in as many phases of the research process as possible. One seed grant per year is reserved for research on participatory research.

In participatory research projects, each step of the research process (see below) is open to the participation of citizens, although the degree of participation may vary in each step. Participation means that first, the possibility for cooperation and participation is given. In a second step, the mode of cooperation is jointly developed and defined by the participants. Individual and collective competences, abilities and knowledge should be applied in the research process in the most optimal way.

We assume that research projects may be organized along the steps shown in the graph below. Part of participatory projects is the development of appropriate forms of cooperation and possible division of labor in the various phases of the project. The graph serves as an orientation for a possible structuring of a research project. Depending on the discipline and the project, a research process can also be structured differently.



*Graph: Steps in the research process*

### **Project support**

In addition to financial resources, the PWA provides support to successful applicants. This can include moderation and facilitation of the research process. The PWA office will develop a support scenario suitable to the project together with the project participants.

### **Eligibility**

Teams of at least two persons are eligible to apply: an academic researcher working at UZH or ETHZ and a citizen. In the context of the Seed Grants, we define "academic researchers" as professors, postdocs and doctoral students at UZH and ETH.

### **Project duration and amount of funding**

You can submit an application for up to CHF 10,000 or up to CHF 50,000. The funds must be used within 12 months of the start of funding. The use of the funds must be specified in the application.

### **Language and length of the application**

Applications can be submitted in English or German. The application should not exceed 35,000 characters (including spaces).



### Award criteria

The following criteria will be taken into account when evaluating the applications:

- Excellence and innovation: To which topic or which questions are you contributing? How does your approach differ from other projects?
- Degree and structure of participation: In which phases of the research process is cooperation between researchers and citizens structured and how? Projects with a high degree of participation are prioritized.
- Added value of participatory approaches in the field of research.
- Desired impact of the project: Who or what does your project affect? What change is to be brought about?
- Quality and appropriateness of the methods chosen to address the research question.
- Feasibility of the project.
- Prospect of follow-up project(s). This can be the development of a project that is subsequently implemented, the development of an application to the SNSF or the EU, a joint publication or the like.

Successful applicants are encouraged to apply for membership of the Competence Centre Citizen Science (<https://citizenscience.ch/>). Among other things, the Competence Centre provides its members with digital tools to support projects. Successful applicants report on their project after completion of the project.

Please use the form available at [www.pwa.uzh.ch/de/seedgrants.html](http://www.pwa.uzh.ch/de/seedgrants.html) for your application.

The office of the Participatory Science Academy will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Your contact person is Dr. Susanne Tönsmann, [susanne.toensmann@uzh.ch](mailto:susanne.toensmann@uzh.ch). Please send your application to this address. The **deadline for submission** is June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019, 23:59. Your application will be evaluated by a jury. The jury consists of researchers, citizens and a representative of the Mercator Foundation Switzerland.

### Contact

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