



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Swiss Confederation

Innosuisse – Swiss Innovation Agency

The Swiss Innovation Agency's implementing provisions for funding the Swiss Competence Centers for Energy Research SCCERs (Implementing provisions for the energy funding programme)

of 9 January 2018

The Innovation Council of the Swiss Innovation Agency (Innosuisse),

based on Article 10 Section 1 letter f of the Federal Act of 17 June 2016¹ on the Swiss Innovation Agency (Innosuisse Act; SIAA),

sets out the following:

Art. 1 Subject matter

These implementing provisions govern the funding of Swiss Competence Centers for Energy Research (SCCERs) and the joint activities of existing SCCERs in relation to:

- a. the requirements of the SCCERs and joint activities;
- b. the amount and payment of contributions;
- c. eligible costs;
- d. evaluation and evaluation criteria.

¹ SR 420.2

Art. 2 Contract

¹ If Innosuisse approves an application for the establishment and operation of a SCCER or the implementation of a joint activity, it shall conclude a contract with the higher education institutions or institutes participating in the SCCER or with the higher education institutions or institutes participating in the SCCER playing the leading role in the relevant joint activity.

² The contract for the establishment and operation of a SCCER or the implementation of a joint activity in particular governs:

- a. the subject, extent and duration of the funding;
- b. the maximum annual contribution amount;
- c. the conditions and due dates for the contribution payments and any repayments;
- d. Innosuisse's requirements for the establishment and operation of the SCCER or the implementation of the joint activity;
- e. the requirements and deadlines for submitting reports to Innosuisse;
- f. other rights and obligations of the contracting parties;
- g. the termination of the contractual relationship.

Art. 3 Coordination of the SCCER

¹ The higher education institutions or institutes participating in the SCCER shall appoint a coordinator to manage Innosuisse's contribution and communicate with Innosuisse as a representative of the participating higher education institutions or institutes.

² The provisions of Article 9 of the Innosuisse Funding Ordinance of 20 September 2017² on managing the contribution apply as appropriate.

Art. 4 Services

¹ An SCCER shall provide the following services:

- a. operating and maintaining an inter-university competence centre in the relevant area;
- b. supporting and/or developing basic research in sub-areas in which efforts by the higher education institutions or institutes participating in the SCCER are needed for the sustainable implementation of the Energy Strategy 2050;
- c. supporting potentially effective ideas and approaches in the relevant area, particularly in application-oriented research and development;
- d. incorporating the newly developed areas into teaching and training;
- e. ensuring the research results are transferred to the market;
- f. incorporating the activities into other innovation projects relevant to energy, in particular ensuring complementary research in the field of energy;

² SR 420.231

- g. including the cooperation partners (e.g. industry partners) appropriately and in good time;
- h. organising an annual specialist conference on the respective SCCER's area;
- i. preparing for the continuation of the SCCER after 2020.

² The following services will be carried out by the participating SCCER as part of a joint activity:

- a. supporting and/or developing cross-disciplinary cooperation between researchers, research groups, institutions and higher education institutions within the area of energy research;
- b. ensuring the research results are transferred to the market.

³ These services will be carried out in accordance with the contractual agreements and the requirements of Innosuisse. Significant deviations in the research subject from the contractual agreements are to be approved by the steering committee.

Art. 5 Amount and payment of the contributions

¹ The definitive annual contribution amount will be determined at the beginning of every calendar year on the basis of the previous year's periodic evaluation of the SCCER's services provided in accordance with Article 8 of the steering committee's annual decision as specified in Article 10.

² Innosuisse's annual contribution may amount to a maximum of 40 percent of the total annual expenses of a SCCER or a joint activity. The remaining part of the expenses will be financed at a level of at least 20 percent by each of: competitive third-party funds from the Confederation; other third-party funds; and the funding provided by the higher education research centres themselves. Deviations from these requirements may be made if this is necessary due to the composition of an SCCER or a joint activity or because of the particular object of the research.

³ The universities of applied sciences participating in a SCCER must contribute to the costs specified in Article 6 Section 1 letter a at least two times the amount of Innosuisse's contribution and participating higher education institutions must contribute at least three times this amount.

⁴ Innosuisse's contribution to the costs according to Article 6 Section 1 letter b (operational contribution) may not exceed the amount of related cost financing of the funds that the participating higher education research centres provide themselves and may not exceed CHF 300,000 per SCCER either.

⁵ Innosuisse's contributions are paid in the following two instalments each year:

- a. the first instalment amounts to no more than 80 percent of the annual contribution and may only be paid after the decision specified in Article 10 has been issued;
- b. the second instalment of the annual contribution is paid at the end of each calendar year.

⁶ After the calendar year has ended, the SCCERs shall submit a financial report to Innosuisse. Innosuisse shall ask for contributions that have been paid but not used, or not used in accordance with the requirements, to be paid back.

Art. 6 Eligible costs

¹ Only reported expenses that are actually incurred and are absolutely necessary for the proper execution of the services of an SCCER or a joint activity shall be taken into account. These could include in particular:

- a. gross salaries actually paid for the time spent on building capacity in the research area (including employer contributions actually paid in accordance with OASIA/InvIA/LECA, OPA, UIA and AIA);
- b. gross salaries actually paid for the time spent operating and coordinating the SCCER (including employer contributions actually paid in accordance with OASIA/InvIA/LECA, OPA, UIA and AIA) and other outlay required for operation and coordination;
- c. gross salaries actually paid for the time spent implementing the joint activity (including employer contributions actually paid in accordance with OASIA/InvIA/LECA, OPA, UIA and AIA) and other outlay required for the implementation of the joint activity.

² Eligible overhead costs shall not exceed 15 percent of the salary costs set out in Section 1 letter a.

Art. 7 Reporting

¹ The SCCER shall provide Innosuisse with an annual written report in accordance with Innosuisse's requirements about the SCCER or joint activity's financial situation, indicating, among other things, the various sources of financing and their share of the expenses incurred.

² The reports must be filed in accordance with the templates provided by Innosuisse.

³ Each year, the SCCER shall provide oral reports during a visit to the site about the activities carried out as part of the contracts and the fulfilment of the requirements.

⁴ In addition to annual visits to the site, Innosuisse may also carry out visits on specific topics.

Art. 8 Evaluation and evaluation criteria

¹ Each year, the evaluation panel assesses the SCCER's services with regard to the establishment and operation of an SCCER and the implementation of joint activities based on the reporting obligations referred to in Article 7.

² The following is in particular assessed:

- a. the financial conditions in accordance with Article 5 Sections 2–5;
- b. the development of research capacities in relation to the planned values on the application;
- c. scientific progress in relation to the plans set out in the application;
- d. research and development projects approved in the SCCER;
- e. cooperation with research and development partners (within and outside the SCCER).

³ In addition to the evaluation criteria set out in Section 2, the following will also be assessed for funding the establishment and operation of SCCERs:

- a. the promotion of young talent and of women;

- b. scientific and innovation-related results;
- c. international networking;
- d. communication measures for providing information to the general public, the research community as well as existing and potential implementation partners;
- e. the transfer of knowledge and technology;
- f. the extent to which requirements have been fulfilled.

Art. 9 Evaluation and programme reports

¹ The results of the evaluation shall be determined by the evaluation panel and the steering committee in the form of reports.

² Each expert shall prepare an individual evaluation report for each SCCER they supervise, in which they can make suggestions for possible requirements and recommendations for the following contribution year.

³ The evaluation panel's expert committees shall summarise the results of the individual evaluation reports for the respective SCCER in the form of consolidated evaluation reports. These may contain proposals for requirements and recommendations for the following contribution year.

⁴ The evaluation panel's core group shall create a report about all SCCERs and joint activities (programme report), which contains the most important findings from all consolidation evaluation reports and the evaluation of joint activities and sets out the financing for the following year. It may also include proposals for requirements and recommendations for individual SCCERs or joint activities and for requirements and recommendations for all SCCERs or joint activities.

⁵ The consolidated evaluation reports will be submitted to the contribution recipient for comment.

Art. 10 Innosuisse's decision on a possible continuation

¹ After completion of the annual evaluation, Innosuisse shall decide on a possible continuation of an SCCER or joint activity in the form of a contestable decision.

² Should Innosuisse decide that an SCCER or joint activity should be continued, its decision shall in particular set out the following:

- a. the annual contribution amount;
- b. all requirements.

Art. 11 Entry into force

These provisions shall enter into force on 10 January 2018.

Bern, 9 January 2018

SWISS INNOVATION AGENCY (INNOSUISSE)

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BERNHARD ESCHERMANN

(Chairman)

.....
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