

HICSS call for proposals 2024

Introduction

The Helmholtz-Institute for Climate Service Science (HICSS) is a cooperation between the Climate Service Center Germany (GERICS), which is a scientific organisational entity of the Helmholtz-Zentrum Hereon, and the Universität Hamburg (Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences, Faculty of Mathematics, Informatics and Natural Sciences). Within HICSS, scientists of both organisations cooperate on climate service science projects, pooling their expertise in the natural, social, and economic sciences.

In continuing to develop and pursue new approaches in climate service science, HICSS announces a **new call for proposals, which should address some of the following criteria:**

1. The thematic framework is climate-resilient development. The focus is on climate service science aiming at supporting a transformation and cover both mitigation and adaptation.
2. The work in the project should focus on a region, or city-region as a systemic boundary, with the goal of an adapted, climate-resilient system. Systems can be from both the built and natural world.
3. The projects could investigate natural or social 'mechanisms' within complex systems, or methodological approaches to complex systems to expand the spectrum of possible solutions that could enable action.

The closing date for submission of proposals is 01.10.2024.

What is the application process?

Eligibility

Each individual project proposal must include at least one leading scientist from both GERICS, and the Universität Hamburg (Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences, Faculty of Mathematics, Informatics and Natural Sciences). All scientific questions in the proposals have to be covered by the expertise in GERICS and

the Universität Hamburg. It is not possible to bring in external scientists for evaluation, supervision or similar purposes.

Submitting a proposal

Proposals may be submitted for individual projects, or a cluster of projects consisting of at least two different projects which have clearly identifiable commonalities and/or synergies.

To help facilitate the development of cluster proposals we encourage all colleagues interested in submitting a proposal to get in touch with the HICSS board via the below mentioned email, providing us with a couple of sentences as to what the scientific topic of investigation is going to be. In so doing, the HICSS board will be able to make suggestions as to where synergies might be possible that individual projects could pursue if desired.

Funding level and length

A total funding level of up to 1 million € over the whole period is available in this call. Proposals for individual projects can be submitted, with a total funding level up to 350.000 € per individual project.

For a cluster up to 1 million € can be proposed.

Depending on the total funds requested by each project or cluster more than one project and/or cluster or a combination of clusters and individual projects could possibly be funded.

The research within the projects should run for a total length of 3 years. An extension is possible for individual projects in justified exceptional cases. The HICSS Board must approve any extension.

Assessment criteria and process

Proposals will be reviewed by the HICSS Board (HICSS-Vorstand), who will make a recommendation to the HICSS Commission (HICSS-Kommission) as to which projects or, if applicable, cluster to fund. The HICSS Secretariat will inform applicants about the outcome of the funding round.

Following notification of a successful cluster proposal, work in the cluster will have to start by 01 April 2025, at the very latest.

Reporting and review requirements

All funded projects and clusters will be required to provide an annual report to the HICSS board.

Writing the proposal

Proposals should be submitted electronically by the closing date as a pdf document and must contain the following information:

Project proposal:

- Title of the proposed research project.
- Proposal format:
 - Introductory chapter on “Background and Motivation”,
 - A chapter on “Objectives and Research Questions”,
 - A chapter naming the cluster the project is contributing (if applicable) to and showing the project’s cooperation within the cluster,
 - A chapter on “Methods and Tasks”,
 - Milestones,
 - Expected impact or outputs.
- Itemised costs and justification:
 - Personnel resources, i.e., number of postdoctoral researchers and/or doctoral students, and the number of person months for each,
 - Material resources e.g. for travel, partners and so on.
- Previous track record or expertise in this area for each applicant.
- A letter of support from stakeholders is desirable. Ultimately, it must be plausible that the results of the project aims at supporting the development of climate services.
- If applicable, a concept for supervising the project’s PhD students over the full length of the project. Any combination of PhD students and postdocs that is justified in terms of content and research strategy and fits into the financial framework is feasible.

Cluster proposal (if applicable):

- Title of the proposed cluster
- Proposal format:
 - Naming all involved individual projects within the cluster,

- Naming a coordinating person for the cluster with contact data,
- A chapter showing the planned cooperation within the cluster,
- A chapter mentioning the intended synergy effects within the cluster.
- Costs as a wrap up of the costs of the individual projects within the cluster plus possible additional costs for cluster activities (workshops, meetings, ...).

The **project proposal** should be written in English and have a length of not more than 8 pages, excluding references. It should be written as single-spaced typescript using a font size of 12 point in Arial typeface, and page margins should be a minimum of 2 cm.

A **cluster proposal** should have a length of not more than 3 pages, excluding references. It should also be written as single-spaced typescript using a font size of 12 point in Arial typeface, and page margins should be a minimum of 2 cm. Each project within the cluster needs to submit the individual project proposal as described above.

Closing date for submission of proposals

Proposals must be submitted as a pdf attachment to the HICSS Secretariat (info@hicss-hamburg.de) by 16.00 h CET on Tuesday, 01. October 2024.

Contact

Should you have any questions about the process please feel free to get in touch with:

Dirk Neumann

HICSS Secretariat

info@hicss-hamburg.de

Phone: +49 40 226 338 411