

Call for proposals 2024

RELEASE DATE: SEPTEMBER 12TH, 2024

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: DECEMBER 15TH, 2024

E4S invites researchers from its three founding institutions (UNIL, IMD, and EPFL) to submit proposals for projects that contribute to E4S' mission:

Spearhead the transition to a resilient and inclusive economy, within planetary boundaries, seizing the opportunities and addressing the challenges raised by scientific and technological change.

Why should you apply?

- ⇒ To get the funding you need to kick-off, continue or wrap-up your project;
- ⇒ To connect with other researchers under the E4S umbrella (including from other disciplines) and seize opportunities to forge new research partnerships;
- ⇒ To benefit from widespread public exposure and targeted communication to your relevant audiences, maximizing the impact of your research;
- ⇒ To connect to partner companies or organizations, which may support the project, adding practical expertise and creating real playgrounds to test ideas;
- ⇒ To gain visibility amongst the three partner institutions, and to receive support in organizing research seminars, workshops, etc.
- ⇒ To receive coaching and gain experience in addressing non-scientific audiences.

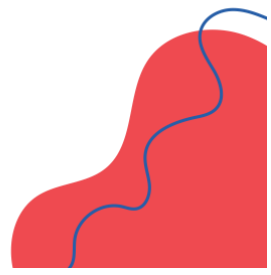
A. Prerequisites

Funded projects should meet the four criteria listed below.



Inter-institutional collaboration

Preference will be given to projects that involve meaningful collaboration between researchers from **at least two** of the three founding institutions (UNIL, IMD, EPFL). E4S embodies the conviction that combining the unique skillset of UNIL, IMD and EPFL creates significant positive spillovers. Therefore, E4S encourages researchers to explore and take advantage of the existing competencies and know-how among faculties of all three partnering institutions. Collaboration with academic



institutions other than UNIL, IMD and EPFL is possible. In case of doubt, the E4S team can provide help and suggestions.



Proven contribution to E4S’s mission

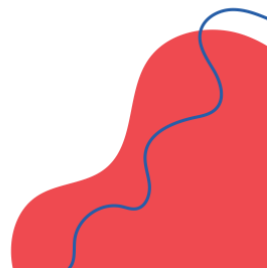
To achieve its ambitious mission, three areas of focus structure and guide E4S’ research endeavors towards impactful and sustainable models. E4S supports research and innovation projects covering topics in these areas.

I - Shaping institutions, policies and norms	II - Transforming key industrial sectors	III – Reimagining managerial practices
<p>In this focus area, research is oriented towards shaping the broader context in which industries and organizations operate. We analyze and propose innovations in economic policies, institutional frameworks, and societal norms. By addressing the larger ecosystem, our aim is to create an environment that fosters sustainable practices and resilient systems on a global scale.</p> <p><i>Example topics in this area: environmental policy; regulation and taxation; public-private partnerships; macroeconomics and globalisation; social norms and behaviours.</i></p>	<p>Here we delve into the unique challenges and opportunities within specific industries or economic sectors. By focusing on these sectors, we aim to drive innovation, efficiency, and sustainability within the core engines of our economy, fostering a ripple effect that positively influences the wider ecosystem.</p> <p><i>Example topics in this area: mobility and infrastructure; energy; health and life sciences; nutrition, agriculture and primary resources.</i></p>	<p>Research in this area explores and reimagines the very fabric of organizations and how they operate. By scrutinizing managerial practices, we seek to identify and promote innovative approaches that enhance organizational efficiency, adaptability, inclusiveness and sustainability.</p> <p><i>Example topics in this area: work and leadership; digitalization and AI; materials, manufacturing and logistics; finance and risk; governance, strategy and reporting.</i></p>



Knowledge transfer and reasonably quick turnaround

UNIL, IMD, and EPFL are academic institutions primarily devoted to the production of knowledge and its dissemination amongst all relevant stakeholders. E4S connects our scientific community to society, businesses and governments, utilizing innovative ideas to shape tomorrow’s economy.



Funded projects should therefore aim to produce relevant and actionable insights that will impact policymakers, business leaders, and/or society as a whole. Section C below describes the outreach formats that E4S proposes to selected projects.

E4S funding does not replace traditional sources of financing (like SNSF, ERC, etc.), but rather complements them, either by providing *kick-off support* at the start of projects that will be subsequently funded by other sources, or *top-up support* to ongoing research projects funded by other sources for the production of shorter “sub-products” with a quicker turnaround that increase their reach and impact¹.



The budget requested does not exceed 85'000 CHF

E4S privileges diversity and inclusion of research groups. To maximize the number of funded projects, grants are capped at 85'000 CHF per project. Any type of cost can in principle be claimed (human resources, datasets, surveys, equipment, etc.) for carrying on the research itself or for developing teaching or impact material related to its findings.

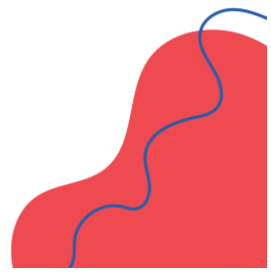
B. Guidelines for submitting a proposal

Proposal

The project proposal should be no longer than 4 pages and contain the following information:

- The names, titles and affiliation of the researchers involved in the project and an outline of the expected contribution to the project by each of them.
- The area of focus in which the project fits (see section A) and a selection of keywords.
- The research question, its importance, how it relates to E4S's mission, and a description of the expected output.
- A detailed budget using the template spreadsheet “E4S_GRANT_BUDGET”, and a description of what alternative sources of funding are being considered. The start date and expected duration of the project should clearly be indicated.

¹ If the projects requiring top-up support are steered by only one institution, E4S would encourage the integration and onboarding of researchers from the other partner institutions to support the original project team.



Proposals should be sent to submissions@e4s.center before

Sunday, December 15th, 2024, 23h59 CET

Evaluation

Submissions will be evaluated by a jury composed of E4S' management board and academic representatives of UNIL, IMD and EPFL. Beyond the four criteria listed in section A, the evaluation committee will consider the quality and originality of the proposal, as well as the relevance of the topic with regards to current societal issues and the ongoing research agenda of E4S and of its three founding institutions. Projects will be selected on a competitive basis until the available budget for this call is exhausted.

Decisions will be communicated by the end of January 2025.

C. Accepted projects

Duration of the grant

The grant has a duration of 12 to 18 months, starting the date stipulated by the research team in the requested budget. A justified request to extend the deadline (at no extra cost) can be submitted at least 2 months in advance.

Reimbursement

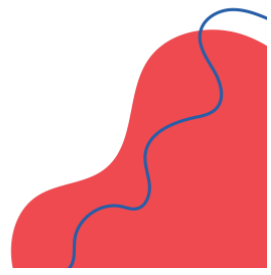
Please be informed that any remaining amount at the end of the grant period will be reimbursed to E4S. Furthermore, the principal investigator/s is/are financially responsible for any expenditures related to the project that exceed the amount of the E4S grant. A financial statement will be requested at the end of the grant period.

Reporting and outreach

Each funded project will have a dedicated webpage in E4S' website, describing the project and listing the participants. You will have the opportunity to upload content related to the project and broadcast it on E4S social media.

We will kindly request accepted projects to:

1. At the start of the grant period, submit a short description of the project, the names, titles and photos of participants, as well as a short list of keywords. This information will feed the creation of the project's webpage at E4S.center/research.



2. In the last quarter of each year in which the project is ongoing, complete an online form including a non-technical summary and motivation and the list of activities and milestones reached by the project in the year. This content will appear in E4S' Annual Activity Report and its yearly Highlights brochure.
3. At the end of the grant period, complete a 4-pager "E4S brief" summarizing the questions, the methods and key take-aways in non-technical terms, to be published in E4S' website and social media. The template of this brief will be shared with the team at the start of the project.

