

## RESEARCH EXCELLENCE SUPPORT FUND

### Call for Proposals Academic Year 2023-2024

CEU academic staff members are invited to submit proposals under the **Research Excellence Support Fund (RESF)**. The fund has been established to support high-quality and innovative early-stage research projects at CEU, in the service of research excellence at the University.

The Fund will provide:

1) **Proposal Development Grants** to support CEU researchers in obtaining external funding for large-scale *new* research projects by providing extra time for preparing the application, paying for research assistants and supporting material costs necessary for developing the concept and/or partnerships. Typically, RESF support would be provided for the thorough preparation of applications to be submitted for European Research Council grants.

2) **Bridging grants** to researchers whose earlier large-scale grant applications have been highly ranked by independent, anonymous, external peer reviewers, but due to the fierce competition, did not get funded. Typical examples of proposals encouraged under this heading would seek to further improve the initial application (the one that was very highly ranked but not funded) and/or continue the respective research activities, so teams and individual researchers do not lose momentum until the next funding opportunity becomes available.

### Proposal Development Grant

#### *Eligibility*

CEU full-time faculty members, who have either a permanent contract with CEU or it is foreseen that their contract will continue during the time of the planned project are eligible to apply. External (affiliated) researchers are not eligible for the Proposal development Grant even if an academic unit plans to host the researcher in case of successful application.

Eligible applications would typically aim at preliminary coordination of either a prospective research team or, establishing CEU as a lead (coordinator) of a network of several partners.

Future proposal budgets, to whose development the grant contributes, are expected to be minimum 500,000 EUR.

Proposed projects must have the full backing of a department or a research center declaring their intent and capacity to implement the future project.

Proposed activities to be financed by the grant should not be shorter than 3 months or longer than 12 months. The maximum eligible grant amount per project is **25,000 EUR**.

#### *Material to be submitted*

- Concept paper describing the research project and/or partnership that will be developed through this grant, and explaining why the grant is essential for the project. The concept paper should also identify the external source(s) and the expected amount of funding that the project would seek to obtain, in addition to the necessary resources and infrastructure needed for this stage of the project (to be provided by CEU).
- Recommendation from the head of the hosting academic unit with a clear statement on the intent and capability of the academic unit to implement the project.
- Confirmation from the academic unit that the unit will administer the Proposal Development Grant.
- Budget, including the breakdown of the most substantial cost categories, validated by ACRO.

### **Bridging Grant**

#### *Eligibility*

CEU full-time faculty members, who have either a permanent contract with CEU or it is foreseen that their contract will continue during the time of the planned project are eligible to apply. External researchers are not eligible for the bridging grant even if the academic unit plans to host the researcher in case of successful application.

Eligible projects would typically aim to sustain large-scale applications submitted by CEU faculty members that have received high ranking<sup>1</sup>, but were not funded by the donor.

Proposed bridging projects should not be shorter than 3 months or longer than 18 months (depending on the time to be bridged before the next application deadline). The maximum eligible grant amount per project is **50,000 EUR**.

#### *Material to be submitted*

- Statement describing how the grant could enable improving the original proposal in order to be successful during the upcoming call for funding.

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<sup>1</sup> Examples would include ERC projects receiving Step-2 A or B ranking or collaborative projects on reserve list.

- Recommendation of the head of the hosting academic unit with a clear statement on the intent and capability of the academic unit to implement the “bridging” project and commitment to implement the project should the next application be successful. If a research center hosts the proposed project, but the applicant is a member of a department, the recommendation of the department’s head is also needed. If applicable, the recommendation should include support for requested teaching waivers or sabbaticals and a plan for replacement.
- Budget, including the breakdown of the most substantial cost categories validated by ACRO.

#### *Eligible costs under the Research Excellence Fund*

- Personnel costs – may include person month salaries of Post-doctoral Fellows, PhD students, and research assistants.
- Personal travel for research or consultation with team members, collaborators.
- Costs of team meetings (in the event of several institutions benefiting from the proposed project, e.g. collaborative research projects, CEU will not finance the travel costs of partner institutions); whenever possible online meeting options should be favored.
- Any other costs indispensable for the success of the subsequent application, including cost of publications (Open Access) needed to improve the profile of the principal investigator, unless such costs can be covered from the CEU Open Access Fund or through the Library’s license agreements.

In order to facilitate the development of project proposals, applicants are encouraged to contact the Academic Cooperation and Research Office. To inquire about the consultation process, please send an email to: [acro@ceu.edu](mailto:acro@ceu.edu)

#### *Application process*

Applications are received throughout the academic year, but are evaluated following set deadlines:

November 15, 2023  
March 1, 2024

Applications should be submitted by the lead researcher to ACRO at [acro@ceu.edu](mailto:acro@ceu.edu). Prior to submission, ACRO research managers will be available to assist in the development of the applications. Regarding the budget, please be in contact with Szilvia Bea [beasz@ceu.edu](mailto:beasz@ceu.edu). We advise to submit applications at least 2 weeks before the deadline, so that there is enough time for modifications.

Received applications will be evaluated by a committee chaired by the Pro-rector for Faculty and Research within 3 weeks after the set deadlines. Priority will be given to applications from junior faculty if any.