

Factsheet Promotion of Design Projects with Societal Impact

Events and publications should deal with the societal impact of design and be characterised by a well-grounded approach. Projects are required to involve new design approaches to societal change. This type of funding is open to the creative work of designers of national importance whose projects have achieved international recognition through several years of trade fair participation or events. Funding is limited to a maximum amount of CHF 25,000 per project.

Pro Helvetia promotes all areas of professional design (textile, fashion, industrial, product, service, graphic design, etc.) through the following different approaches

1. Support for thematic events

Pro Helvetia supports thematic events (e.g. thematic exhibitions, festivals or biennials/triennials on a specific theme) involving Swiss designers at design institutions with an international reach. In Switzerland, Pro Helvetia promotes exchanges between language regions.

Applications should be submitted by the respective institutions or organisers. Event organisers are expected to make an appropriate contribution to covering the costs and fees.

Contributions are available for:

- transport and insurance costs
- travel expenses (economy, excluding accommodation)

2. Knowledge transfer

Organisers with international reach may seek funding to promote knowledge exchanges abroad. Funding is available for specialists participating in public events on the societal impact of Swiss design.

Funding is usually calculated based on travel costs (economy, excluding accommodation).

3. Publications

Reputable publishers from Switzerland or abroad may apply for subsidies towards the printing costs of thematic publications of national importance making substantiated, up-to-date reference to the societal impact of Swiss design.

To be eligible for support, publications must:

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- contain a substantial design theoretical historical or design critical text;
- deal with the topic by taking into account current findings;
- have a clear and well-founded relationship with Switzerland.

Conditions and restrictions

Pro Helvetia only considers projects for support that:

- have a clear connection with Switzerland;
- are of interest to Switzerland as a whole;
- are publicly accessible;
- are adequately co-financed by other public or private sponsors (including organisers).

Pro Helvetia is unable to grant funding if:

- the same part of the project is already supported by other federal bodies (e.g. Federal Office of Culture, Presence Switzerland, Swiss National Science Foundation, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation);
- the project is part of either a school or university curriculum or basic or further training (including dissertations, diploma projects, university scholarships, etc.);
- funding is intended to cover infrastructure costs and the operational costs of cultural institutions, archives and collections;
- the project does not depend on financial support.

Pro Helvetia's Division Design is also unable to consider funding applications for:

- contract work and projects as part of an advertising campaigns;
- exhibitions of private collections and commercial galleries;
- knowledge exchange and exhibitions at schools and universities;
- exhibition catalogues, periodicals, commemorative publications, reference works, monographs, bibliophile editions as well as new editions and revised editions of publications;
- self-published works or paid publications.

Application dossiers

Funding applications submitted to Pro Helvetia must contain:

- project description and summary of the event theme;
- details of the venue, including event dates;
- details on the Swiss designers involved including portfolio;
- budget and financial plan, including details of the amount of funding requested from Pro Helvetia.

Funding applications for publications must also contain:

- complete text or substantial parts thereof;
- image material or mock-ups.

Applications must be submitted via www.myprohelvetia.ch

Application deadlines and timelines for decision-making

Funding decisions are taken within eight weeks. Applications may be submitted at any time but at least eight weeks before the start of the event / printing.

Application processing

Applications are only considered if:

- the project meets the general funding requirements;
- no grounds for exclusion exist;
- the application is complete and has been submitted on time.