



EPFL

Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Programme

Results of the Call “Program of Excellence in Higher Education – Tenure Track Pilot Program” (Call identifier: TTPP-2018-07)

Tenure Track Pilot Program (TTPP) is one of the activities within the Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Programme for reducing economic and social disparities within the enlarged European Union. This program is a result of joint collaboration between the Croatian Science Foundation (HRZZ), Ministry of Science and Education (MoSE) and École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), which is aimed at preparing a model for career development of top young researchers in Croatia. This program for excellent young scientists introduces a new model of career development that is based on clear merit-based criteria that are competitive and comparable on an international basis. The new pilot program is aimed at promoting excellence, increasing innovation capacities and ultimately developing a mentorship system based on high-quality research. The budget of the program is CHF 4.700.000, of which CHF 4.000.000 has been secured through a donation by the Swiss Confederation, while CHF 700.000 has been provided by the Republic of Croatia.

The Call for submitting project proposals was open from 3 April to 3 July 2018 for the following disciplines: Biomedicine and Health, Biotechnical Sciences, Technical Sciences, Natural Sciences and interdisciplinary proposals. Proposals were submitted by scientists who obtained their doctoral degrees not less than 2 and not more than 7 years before the Call deadline and who were not permanently employed at a Croatian research organization. The proposals were submitted through the HRZZ's electronic project proposal submission system (EPP). Twenty proposals were submitted in total, which first underwent an administrative check and were later sent for peer review.

The international peer review process took place between July and September 2018 and was coordinated by HRZZ with the support of EPFL. On the basis of the peer review, the Evaluation Panel members met in Zagreb on 12 November 2018 to conduct the final ranking of project proposals. After this, HRZZ proceeded with financial negotiations with the selected Principal Investigators. The final list of projects approved for financing by the HRZZ Board can be found below. Each project can be financed with a maximum amount of CHF 1.100.000, and all projects are set to finish by 30 April 2024.

Principal Investigator	Project title	Scientific discipline	Host Organization	Contracted amount	Project status
Kosuke Nomura	Exotic Nuclear Structure and Dynamics	Physics	University of Zagreb, Faculty of Science	7.500.000,00 HRK	Project started on 1 May 2019
Helena Bilandžija	Evolution in the Dark	Biology	Ruđer Bošković Institute	7.570.552,50 HRK	Project started on 1 May 2019
Lovro Palaversa	Mining the Variable Sky	Physics	Ruđer Bošković Institute	7.205.450,00 HRK	Project started on 1 July 2019
Goran Lovrić	Advanced X-ray tomographic microscopy for novel applications in structural biology and materials science	Interdisciplinary project	Ruđer Bošković Institute	7.268.076,68 HRK*	*Financial negotiations in progress, planned project start date: 1 January 2020