

Frequently Asked Questions

Call for Research:

Towards an Inclusive and
Sustainable Future for Work(ers)
in Eastern and Southern Africa.

The [Southern Centre for Inequality Studies](#), the [Centre for Researching Education and Labour](#) and the [International Labour Organisation](#) are pleased to announce a ***Call for Research Towards an Inclusive and Sustainable Future for Work(ers) in Eastern and Southern Africa***. In this document we address Frequently Asked Questions. For further clarification, please watch the recording of the information session on the SCIS YouTube site https://www.youtube.com/@Wits_SCIS_Official or email us at #Dept-Info.SCIS@wits.ac.za.

How large is the grant?

We will offer grants of up to **ZAR 1,000,000** per research team. This is the upper limit. Research teams can submit proposals for smaller amounts. In the itemized budget, research teams are expected to provide a justification for the amount requested.

How many proposals will be selected?

We will select between five and six proposals across the Eastern and Southern African region. Proposals will be selected on the basis of the eligibility and evaluation criteria. The selection committee may prioritise proposals that allow for greater geographic and thematic diversity.

Can researchers submit multiple applications as part of different teams?

Yes. However, they can only be a lead researcher for one application.

Can researchers apply on an individual basis?

No. Researchers must apply as part of a research institution.

Do (lead) researchers have to have a PhD?

The lead researcher does not have to have a PhD, provided that they have a demonstrated track record of producing high-quality research for policy impact in a relevant field

Which research institutions are eligible to apply?

Eligible lead research institutions include public and private universities, independent research centres and non-governmental organizations with a demonstrated track record of producing high quality research for policy impact. Multilateral organisations, government departments, and for-profit organisations are *not* eligible to apply as lead institutions.

Can research institutions in the ESA region partner with researchers in the global North?

Yes, as long as the lead researcher is based at a research institution in the ESA region. However, proponents are not required to collaborate with other research institutes.

Are proposals expected to address all the research questions?

Proposals must make a theoretical and empirical contribution to ongoing debates on the implications of decarbonization and/or digitalization for structural transformation, the future of work(ers) and social reproduction – and to reflect on the policy implications thereof. However,

within this broad remit, we encourage teams to identify original research questions that respond to the specificity of their contexts and research interests.

Can proposals focus on more than one country?

Yes, it is possible (although not required) to do cross-country comparative research in Eastern and Southern African. Cross-country comparisons outside the region are beyond the scope of this project.

What are the appropriate number of case studies?

The appropriate number of case studies depends on the research questions and methodology. In the call for research, we propose two. However, research teams are welcome to propose more if they feel that this will strengthen their theoretical and empirical.

What are examples of appropriate case studies?

Case study selection will depend on the research questions and methodological approach. The case studies should allow research teams to explore the implications of decarbonization and/or digitalization for structural transformation, the future of work(ers) and social reproduction – and to reflect on the policy implications thereof.

What are examples of emerging industries and occupations?

The identification of emerging sectors, industries and occupations will depend on the country case studies. Examples of emerging industries include a wide range of sectors, such as the renewable energy, energy efficiency and regional energy integration sector, and its nascent and/or established but evolving sub-sectors, such as geothermal, biomass, green hydrogen, etc. Examples of emerging occupations can include a wide range of occupations at all skill levels, such as geologists, drilling operators, welders, community engagement specialist, energy auditors, etc that are core to the emerging sectors or those who work closely with the core occupations, These are some of the examples focusing on energy. The research could focus on other sectors and occupations.

Would proposals focusing on a provinces, planning regions or towns be considered?

Yes, though they must be able to explore the implications of decarbonization and/or digitalization for structural transformation, the future of work(ers) and social reproduction – and to reflect on the policy implications thereof.

Is action research an acceptable research methodology?

Action research is an appropriate research methodology. However, the research must make a theoretical and empirical contribution to our understanding of the relationship between structural transformation, the changing nature of work and social reproduction.

What is the revised weighting for the evaluation criteria?

The proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Contribution of the proposed research to conceptual, empirical, and policy debates in Eastern and Southern Africa (35%):
- Coherence of the research design, which provides a clear articulation between the research questions, methodology, research instruments, and sources of data (35%)
- Public engagement strategy (10%)
- Team composition (10%)
- Quality of the writing (10%)

How will gender equity and inclusion be evaluated?

We do not have a mathematical formula. However, we will look at the distribution of the research team by gender, experience and roles. Proposals must outline how the research teams will integrate [the IDRC principles of gender equity and inclusion](#) into the team structure, research design and process.

What currency should the budget be in?

The budget must be in South Africa Rand (ZAR).

What are acceptable budgetary expenses?

- Remuneration for research team members. In the itemized budget make sure to clarify the rate, the percentage of time dedicated and any other criteria used to calculate the amounts.
- Services, equipment and materials necessary to carry out the research.
- In-country travel: transportation, accommodation, meals, and related expenditures.
- In-country research dissemination.
- Training related to the implementation of the project.
- National ethics clearance and other permissions.
- Tax

What costs will the research hub at the University of the Witwatersrand cover?

- Travel to regional convenings organized by the research hub
- Review, copy editing, layout and publication of research outputs
- Regional learning and policy dialogues
- Regional media outreach
- Wits ethics clearance

What is the revised structure for the disbursement of funds?

The deadline is indicative, and teams should clarify their timeline in the workplan submitted.

Tranche	Deliverable	Deadline
25%	Upon signature of the contract	September 1, 2024
25%	Upon submission and acceptance of the inception report	November 30, 2024
25%	Upon submission and acceptance of the draft working paper	July 31, 2025
25%	Upon publication of the working paper and submission of the journal article, and summary	December 31, 2025

How can we find out about grants for applied policy work?

Grants for applied policy work will be announced in December 2024. To receive the announcement, please sign up to our newsletter here: <https://www.wits.ac.za/scis/contact-us/>