

Guidelines for the call for proposals: ‘Growing up multilingual’

Introduction

The ‘ici. here together.’ funding programme supports initiatives and projects for families with pre-school children (aged 0 to 6) through its call for proposals: ‘Growing up multilingual’. We are looking for local associations and charitable organisations from across Switzerland that support families in speaking both the local language* and their first language* in their everyday lives. This call for proposals complements existing integration and language support programmes and promotes multilingualism as a resource for education, participation and equal opportunities.

Key points

- The call for proposals: ‘Growing up multilingual’ runs from 23 October 2026 to 30 June 2027. Applications may be submitted at any time until 30 June 2027.
- It is aimed at local associations and charitable organisations from across Switzerland that support families in speaking both the local language and their first language in their everyday lives.
- Priority will be given to projects that explicitly address multilingual families in difficult financial and social circumstances.
- Projects that have previously received mini-grants from ‘ici. here together.’ are also eligible to apply. Government organisations, state schools, private schools and mainstream childcare services are excluded.
- Selected initiatives and projects will receive funding ranging from CHF 3,000 to CHF 10,000.

Contact

The call for applications is issued by the Foundation for the Promotion of Language and Education (SSuB) in collaboration with Migros Commitment. Point of contact for any enquiries regarding this call for applications: info@ici-gemeinsam-hier.ch.

* Definition: the term ‘**local language**’ refers to the language spoken in one’s place of residence. The term ‘**first language(s)**’ refers to the first language(s) a child learns and which are frequently spoken within the family context.

A) Eligibility criteria

Formal criteria

Funding details

The programme or project promotes conditions that help children grow up in a multilingual environment in Switzerland.

Organisation

Organisations based in Switzerland may apply for this call for proposals if they:

- are not-for-profit organisations and have a charitable legal form (e.g. an association or a co-operative)
- are managed according to the principles of [good governance](#) (transparency, balance of power, effectiveness).
- operate at a local and/or regional level

Projects that have previously received mini-grants from 'ici. here together.', funding of up to 2,000 Swiss francs, coaching, project space or thank-you dinner are also eligible to apply.

Public authorities can only apply for funding in partnership with a non-profit organisation.

Funding

- The amount of funding requested is between CHF 3,000 and CHF 10,000.

Time frames

- Applications must be submitted by 30 June 2027 at the latest.

Content alignment

The project:

- is aimed at multilingual families and their children; it explicitly also addresses families facing financial and social difficulties
- encourages families to speak both the local language and their first language in their everyday lives
- is open to all interested families, easily accessible and, as far as possible, free from linguistic, financial or organisational barriers
- works with or actively involves parents and, where possible, their children when developing and implementing initiatives
- builds on the experiences and skills of families
- works with volunteers

Completeness of documents

- Application form
- Articles of Association
- Detailed project budget (if available)
- Last annual report and annual accounts (if available)
- Project concept (if available)

Content and quality criteria

The following criteria are used to evaluate the submitted projects. In addition to the quality of the individual applications, a balanced regional distribution and the diversity of approaches can also be taken into account when selecting funding projects.

Target groups

- The target group comprises associations and charitable organisations operating at a local or regional level which promote multilingualism amongst children aged 0 to 6 and their parents or carers.

Project title

Funding is provided for initiatives and projects that promote multilingualism amongst families with pre-school children and that are also explicitly aimed at families facing financial or social difficulties. The programmes and projects can be categorised into the following themes:

1. Strengthening cooperation with parents and carers, for example:

- Parenting support services with childcare provided by multilingual staff
- Programmes to promote multilingual parent-child communication
- Parenting programmes, e.g. on how to achieve a multilingual upbringing

2. Expansion of multilingual infrastructure and resources, for example:

- Development of multilingual materials
- Partnerships with libraries to provide multilingual books and programmes for families with pre-school children
- Reducing barriers to accessing leisure activities for multilingual families

3. Expansion of existing services to include, for example, the following sub-projects:

- Implementation of multilingual leisure activities for families with pre-school children
- Training for volunteers and staff to promote multilingualism in their work with families and in day-to-day project activities
- Use of multilingual key personnel

4. Specific projects on multilingualism, for example:

- Multilingual parent-and-child drop-in sessions at family centres
- Support for peer groups for children in their first language

Please note: The examples given are not exhaustive and may be supplemented by further initiatives and projects within the four areas mentioned.

Quality criteria

- **Accessibility:** The services and projects are designed to be open to all interested families, explicitly including families facing financial and social challenges. They are easily accessible and, as far as possible, free from linguistic, financial or organisational barriers. They should be accessible to anyone, even without any preparation or prior knowledge, offer flexible opportunities for participation, and have designated contact persons.
- **Participation:** The organisation outlines how it works with or actively involves parents – and, where possible, their children – when developing or implementing the project. It highlights opportunities for participation and decision-making.
- **Volunteering:** The service is made possible through the involvement of volunteers (families, parents and carers).
- **Quality of implementation:** The project promoting multilingualism within families is based on the above themes, has ambitious objectives and is realistically planned.

Process

- The submission deadline is 30 June 2027.
- There are three judging rounds: 14 January, 6 April and 1 July 2027.

Exclusion criteria

The following project owners, contents and costs are not eligible for funding:

- Private individuals or for-profit organisations
- Government organisations, state schools, private schools, and mainstream childcare provision (nurseries, after-school care, forest schools, kindergartens, etc.)
- Organisations that are more than 50 per cent funded by government bodies
- Programmes and projects that are aimed exclusively at promoting a single language and make no reference to growing up in a multilingual environment
- Communication measures that are not covered in the funding details
- Contributions towards rent and other running costs
- Ongoing project activities that are not attributed to the object of funding

B) Provisions for multiple entries

- A maximum of one application per club or organisation will be supported under this call for proposals.
- A maximum of two different projects per organisation and calendar year can be funded by Migros Culture Percentage of the Federation of Migros Cooperatives. This also includes the 'ici. here together.' funding programme.
- This does not include support services such as 'Coaching' and 'Project Space', nor grants of up to 2,000 Swiss francs. You can additionally apply for these once a year.

C) Obligations and general provisions

Obligations of the funded organisation

- a) The funded organisation undertakes to provide the services outlined in its project proposal and to implement the listed activities. Should any problems arise during the implementation of the project which make it impossible to carry out the service/project as agreed, the SSuB Foundation (info@ici-gemeinsam-hier.ch) must be informed immediately so that solutions can be sought jointly. In the event of improper use of the funding, the SSuB has the right to reclaim its contributions in whole or in part.
- b) The funded organisation must complete the final report, comprising ten questions, for the SSuB no later than three months after the completion of the project or initiative. For projects running until 2028, the report must be submitted by 30 June 2028 at the latest. It will include questions regarding the thematic focus, the achievement of objectives and the reach of the initiative/project (the number of people reached by the initiative and the communication).

General provisions and guidelines for the funded organisation

- a) The funded organisation expressly undertakes to act in accordance with all applicable legal and regulatory requirements when running their projects and to refrain from any acts or omissions that could damage the reputation of the SSuB or the other partners.
- b) The funded organisation expressly guarantees that neither the funded organisation itself nor its employees, volunteers, organs or representatives, will directly or indirectly offer, promise or procure undue financial or other incentives for a third party in connection with the projects in order to induce the third party or another party to perform their tasks inappropriately or incorrectly or to act in a manner that is inappropriate or unsuited to their position.
- c) The funded organisation undertakes to ensure that all payments are recorded correctly and in full in its accounts. If the funded organisation is not subject to a statutory audit, it undertakes to have its annual financial statements audited by an external independent auditor. Upon request, the funded organisation shall make its accounts and the annual audit report available to the SSuB Foundation for the purpose of verifying compliance with this provision. In addition, upon request, the funded organisation will provide the SSuB with a full breakdown of the payments made within the project.
- d) There is no entitlement to annually recurring grants.

Services provided by the Foundation for the Promotion of Language and Education (SSuB)

In the event of a successful application: payment of the awarded grant; the amount includes any value-added tax due.

D) Communication

The obligations of the funded organisation are as follows:

- a) Mention of funding from the 'ici. here together.' funding programme in the funded organisation's communication (online and offline): the funded organisation undertakes to proactively and prominently incorporate the 'ici. here together.' funding programme, including the planned logo, into the project communication and to use the [branding and wording](#) on the website.
- b) If required, the funded organisation shall provide the SSuB/'ici. here together.' with photos, videos, etc., from the projects free of charge. The funded organisation ensures that it holds all necessary rights for the use of these photos, videos and other materials (in particular, the consent of persons shown) and that no third-party rights are being violated.
- c) The funded organisation grants the SSuB/'ici. here together.' the right to communicate about the projects; 'ici. here together.' may, at its own discretion, continue to communicate about the partnership and the services provided even after the end of the project / after the end of the funding cycle (without any additional compensation owed). The funded organisation adheres to the embargo periods for media releases of 'ici. here together.'

E) Data protection, copyrights and insurance

- a) The funded organisation undertakes to process any personal data which it receives or collects in connection with the funding exclusively in accordance with the applicable data protection regulations. The funded organisation undertakes, in particular, to treat such personal data in confidence and take appropriate technical and organisational measures to protect it. The processing of personal data by the SSuB is governed by the Migros privacy policy, available at corporate.migros.ch/en/privacy.
- b) The copyright for productions created as part of 'ici. here together.' is held by the producers. Any SUIA fees or other charges that may arise from the use of third-party intellectual property shall be borne by the funded organisation. The funded organisation is responsible for clarifying the payment of any usage fees.
- c) Insurance against any risk (accident, illness, liability) and payment of social security benefits and other social security contributions for any employees and/or external agents is the sole responsibility of the funded organisation.

F) Applicable law and jurisdiction

- a) All legal relationships between SSuB and the project management organisation shall be governed exclusively by Swiss law to the exclusion of conflict-of-law rules.
- b) The exclusive place of jurisdiction for all disputes is the City of Zurich.