

Ecological Transition Acceleration Fund

Application for funding

Applicant(s)

Full name Brenda Rios	Department / Faculty and unit Department of Ecology and Evolution
Function PhD student	e-mail brenda.rioschoa@unil.ch
Full name Emanuele Boni	Department / Faculty and unit Department of Fundamental Microbiology
Function PhD student	e-mail emanuele.boni@unil.ch

Project name **Greener Biophore**
Project scope ☐ Unit ☐ Faculty ☒ Department ☐ The whole University

Amount requested (budget details attached): 3000 CHF

General description of the project

Greener Biophore is an initiative organised by PhDs and PostDocs working in the 3 Biophore Departments (DBMV, DEE, DMF). It is a full day in person event whose objective is to give the Biophore community a space to reflect and discuss openly about UNIL's Transition Strategy, the progress done since 2019 at the whole university, faculty and particularly at the Biophore level, and what it means for our research work.

The event is composed of two parts:

- 1) In the morning, there will be a plenary session which will host 10 short talks designed to provide researchers with insights into current sustainability efforts at UNIL. The speakers will communicate the environmental impact of various research practices (e.g. electricity and consumable consumption, cluster computing and professional air travel), both at the UNIL and the Biophore level, their experience on the implementation of realistic sustainability practices and the outcomes of these. This part will allow attendants to understand the CAP2037 objectives and acquire knowledge on sustainable research practices that are doable at different levels of the institution.
- 2) In the afternoon, 4 to 5 facilitators (organizers and helpers) will guide a workshop where 4-5 different groups will be formed to allow people to express their feelings, opinions and ideas. Leveraging the collective intelligence, we will break down each problem into subproblems and propose solutions, with which we will collaboratively fill in a poster. The collaborative poster will be available in the Biophore hall for 2 weeks after the event, to allow for further spontaneous, less structured, contributions and reactions.

Specific questions

To which CAP2037 objective(s) is the project linked?

To the 'institution objectives' related to the impact of research practices :

- Reduce CO2 eq. emissions from business travel by air by at least 60% by 2019.
- Reduce the volume of capital equipment purchases related to laboratories by at least 40% compared with 2019.
- Reduce the volume of laboratory consumables purchased by at least 20% compared with 2019.
- Reduce the volume of goods purchased for IT and electronics by at least 40% compared with 2019, and by 60% for other types of goods.
- Reduce the thermal and electrical energy consumed by building operations by 50% compared with 2019.
- Reduce the electrical energy consumed by experimental research activities by 20% compared with 2019.

To what problem(s) specifically identified within my entity/department/faculty) does the project respond?

Our initiative aims to address:

- The excessive or inefficient use of resources (from electricity to consumables, from research equipment to air travel mobility) for research practices
- The lack of knowledge of the CAP2037 objectives set by UNIL and the progress made since 2019
- The lack of knowledge of sustainable research practices and how to implement them. The lack of incentives, or the presence of obstacles, to implement them
- The gap between the research community, willing to make changes but often powerless, and the Deanship, which has that power but often fears the reaction of the community

How does the project contribute to a sustainable reduction in UNIL's environmental impact?

The talks will equip researchers with readily applicable knowledge on sustainability. The workshop will allow participants to gather new ideas to implement and detect unforeseen problems. Building upon the quantification of the impact of various research practices at the Biophore level (or, if not available, at the faculty level), participants will be able to identify the areas where the biggest savings are possible, and knowledgeably propose changes that can only minimally, or not at all, hinder the progress of their research work.

Does the project enable certain practices in my entity/department/faculty to be transformed toward greater sustainability?

Yes, it should help researchers to identify opportunities for implementing sustainable practices.

Does the project have a positive social impact on the university community?

Yes, we aim to provide a safe space where researchers can get educated on the transition for a more sustainable campus and encourage the exchange of ideas and preoccupations to find solutions. We believe our initiative will make participants:

- feel part of the decision-making process concerning the UNIL Transition
- reflect on their real needs as researcher and their hopes for the future of the University
- experience, maybe for the first time, a participative democracy process

Can the project be replicated elsewhere in the University?

Yes, the initiative can be replicated in other departments and units.

In our final report, we will briefly describe the organization of the initiative, and we remain available in case someone wants further details to replicate the workshop in their own department/unit. We believe the most challenging part consists in collecting and analysing data on the impact of the various activities at the department/unit level.

Is there any follow-up planned for the project beyond the period of funding by the Transition Acceleration Fund?

We, organizers, undertake to write a report of the process and address it to the 3 Department Directors and the FBM vice-dean for Sustainability and Infrastructure, Prof Senn. If appropriate, we remain available to briefly present the outcomes of the initiative, for example to the 3 Departments or the Cellule de Transition.

Management approval

Projet ≤ CHF 10'000.- : head of department or head of faculty unit

Projet ≥ CHF 10'000.- : head of department or dean's office;

Projet ≥ CHF 30'000.- : head of department or dean's office and necessary co-financing.

The undersigned confirms that he/she is aware of the project and supports it.

Full name

Jan-Willem Veening
Marc Robinson-Rechavi
Philippe Reymond

Department / Faculty and unit

Department of Fundamental Microbiology (DMF)
Department of Ecology and Evolution (DEE)
Department of Plant Molecular Biology (DBMV)

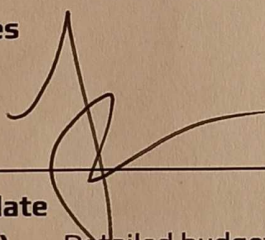
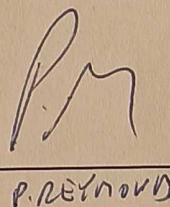
Function

Department Director
Department Director
Department Director

e-mail

Jan-Willem.Veening@unil.ch
Marc.RobinsonRechavi@unil.ch
Philippe.Reymond@unil.ch

Signatures


P. REYMOND

Deposit date

Annex(es)

Detailed budget

Amount requested from the Ecological Transition Acceleration Fund	Estimated (120 participants)	Amount of any co-financing	Actual expenses
	2999,2	0	

Variable expenses	Cost per unit / participant	Number of units / participants	Estimated (120 participants)	Actual expenses
Refreshments and catering for participants [Service provider: Resto101]	Total:		2460	
Morning coffee break (Coffe, tea, apple juice & croissant au beurre)	5,9	120	708	
Afternoon coffee break (Coffe, tea, apple juice)	4,2	120	504	
Final apéro (Végétarian apéro)	9,9	120	1188	
Transport resto101 (per each delivery)	20	3	60	
Printing material and office supplies [Service provider: UNIL Reprographie]	Total:		126,4	
A4 flier (1 per person + 20%)	0,3	120	43,2	
A3 flier (1 per 5 people group + 20%)	0,5	120	14,4	
Colored post-its (1 per 5 people group + 20%)	1	120	28,8	
Set of markers (1 per topic)	10	4	40	

Fixed expenses	Cost per unit / per speaker	Number of units / speakers	Estimated	Actual expenses
Printing material [Service provider: UNIL Reprographie]	Total:		52,8	
Roll of white paper for big posters (120g/m². Roll 1.5m wide, 10m long, Fabriano, from Galaxus)	37,8	1	37,8	
Printing advertisement fliers (A4 or A5, 1 side, color)	0,3	50	15	
Refreshment and catering for invited speakers and organizers [Service provider: Resto101 (Amphimax) or Artigus (Unithèque)]	Total:		300	
Lunch for invited speakers	20	10	200	
Lunch for organizers	20	5	100	
Website hosting [Service provider: ???]	Total:		60	
Hosting website on external server (5 CHF for the domain name + price per month)	11	5	60	