

Submitting a proposal

This is our invitation for you to submit a proposal for the CECAM flagship program in **2021**. The call is open from 4 May 2020 to 19 July 2020.

We realise that this call comes at a time of uncertainties. CoVid-19 has deeply impacted our personal and professional lives, and the 2020 CECAM flagship program has also been affected, with many workshops and schools postponed to next year. Recent events, however, have further demonstrated that scientific exchange and collaboration are precious and our commitment to foster them is strengthened by the circumstances. We are deploying new ways to serve the community, including remote participation events and webinar series. We encourage you too to imagine and submit (also) proposals with innovative formats. The tenets of the CECAM approach will be maintained, but we are, more than ever, open to explore scientific events with different designs and to collaborate for their optimal realisation. Do not hesitate to get in touch during the submission process for an impartial exchange of ideas and information. I call your attention to the “alternative format” option already considered in our calls as the natural channel to submit new types of proposals. We expect the situation to become clearer in the upcoming months, and we shall ensure the flexibility needed to adapt calendar and funding to the evolving scenario. The 2021 CECAM flagship program is made special by the situation; together we can turn this challenge into seeds for exciting developments.

Proposals are submitted online through <https://www.cecaml.org>. This will be the first full-scale testing of the submission tools of the new CECAM website. Please point out problems, if any, or ask for assistance, if need be, at helpdesk@cecaml.org.

All proposals will be peer reviewed and discussed by the scientific advisory committee of CECAM. The CECAM Council will make its final decision about the program **on November 20 2020** and organizers will be notified of the outcome within three weeks. **The CECAM year for events will run from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022**. This will give organizers at least three months to finalize plans for their events.

Traditional CECAM workshops are intended as a forum for the discussion of new ideas and applications in and around our core areas: simulation and modelling at the molecular and meso scale, electronic structure calculations, quantum simulations, materials, life sciences etc. CECAM workshops normally last for 3 days and have between 20 and 35 participants. If in force, social distancing measures will affect these numbers so do not underestimate the value of smaller meetings.

We also run an extensive set of advanced schools in which Master and PhD students, postdocs, young researchers and those interested in changing fields can learn about the simulation-driven approach to science and get a first-class grounding in new methods from experts in the CECAM network. Schools normally last 5 days and have between 30 and 40 participants. The existing remote participation tools will be enhanced, consider if and how you wish to adapt your program (e.g. management of hand-on sessions) to benefit from them.

We are always open to suggestions. If you would like to spend longer looking at an important

problem, or believe that an alternative format (e.g. a smaller discussion meeting) is more suitable to make progress on a specific issue of high relevance, let us know. Proposals of this alternative type are particularly encouraged this year.

An important aspect of the CECAM program is that it is driven by and responds to the needs of its community. You choose the program. However, for CECAM to move forward we need to stretch our boundaries and the Board of Directors and the Scientific Advisory Committee of CECAM would welcome additional workshops in the fields of:

- systems out of equilibrium;
- networks;
- machine learning, data-driven science and scientific approaches to big data analytics;
- engineering applications (including computational fluid dynamics);
- CoViD-19 related scientific challenges

CECAM workshops and schools can be run at CECAM HQ (Lausanne, Lugano, and Zürich in Switzerland) or at any one of the seventeen CECAM nodes described on our web site. In the submission, we will ask you to be specific about which of these locations you require and about your preferred dates. Please consider the whole period when looking for possible dates. If you are running a workshop outside Switzerland, you **must obtain approval** for submission from the appropriate node director before submitting your proposal. Events involving collaboration between different CECAM nodes are welcome. If you plan to organize a multi-nodal event, please make sure that all involved directors approve the meeting.

In the proposal, emphasis should be placed on outlining the challenging issues, which will be the focus of your event, and in establishing your proposed list of speakers and participants. Highlight the role of other key participants, e.g. discussion leaders, chairpersons, in triggering and guiding discussions. A clear description of the structure of the meeting (e.g. a tentative program which clearly identifies opportunities for discussion) constitutes a central part of the proposal and is strongly recommended. Prepare your participants' list leaving room for additional invitations or for participants to enroll after approval. CECAM promotes diversity both among participants and organizers, cross fertilization among different communities, and favors the attendance of young researchers (The number of young researchers and students does not count with respect to the event size limitations.). Applications must pay attention to gender balance and the other criteria listed above. All these aspects constitute an integral part of the overall assessment of the proposal's alignment with the call and are taken into account during the evaluation process.

For schools a clear lecture plan and an outline of the hands-on experience provided at the event are mandatory. Please indicate if you are willing to share the training material with CECAM by uploading it on our website and what infrastructure (in particular in terms of computers and software) you will require.

CECAM HQ provides, upon request, infrastructure to record or stream scientific presentations.

More information and recommendations, in particular for workshops and schools, can be found at <https://www.cecaml.org/submit-flagship-proposal>. If you plan to apply for an event at HQ, please consult the CECAM HQ guidelines before submitting. You are asked to proposed dates in

which you consider convenient to hold your event. Next year, there may be more constraints than usual in accommodating the proposed dates to selected events. We will be grateful if you are ready to work with us to identify a slot that suits both organizers and CECAM.

If you have any enquiries or worries about your proposal, do not hesitate to send a note to helpdesk@cecam.org. As mentioned, we are well aware of the exceptional conditions and uncertainty of these months and we are ready to collaborate to facilitate your task!

We are looking forward to receiving your proposals.

Ignacio Pagonabarraga
CECAM Director