

Project Committee (PC)

The Report to Council 2023 was extended to cover the end of 2023 and supplement with data for 2024

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Summary of financial activity, Jan 2022 - Dec 2023, and Jan-Dec 2024

This summary covers the financial activity of the PC for the biennium 2022-2023, and the year 2024.

Details of the applications (applicants names, project titles, amounts requested and awarded, etc.) are presented below. All monetary values are in USD.

The PC's budget for Projects for 2022-2023 was budgeted as \$ 40,000 plus the unspent budget of previous 2020-21 carried over of \$ 57,780.

The budget for the Financial Support for Conference (FSC) program was \$ 10,000, plus the unspent budget of previous 2020-21 carried over of \$2000.

In the 2022-23 biennium, the Committee completed the reviewing and decided for granting for 15 applications in the reporting period, including 8 project proposals (average commitment \$4747 per project) and 7 FSC applications (average commitment \$3686 per event). The total commitment to projects was \$ 38270 to projects and \$25800 to FSC.

The PC's budget for Projects for 2024-2025 is budgeted as **\$ 16,326**

In 2024, the PC reviewed 4 proposals and granted 2. As of Jan 1st, 2025, the remaining balance is \$ 12,401

See **annex 1** with tabular materials.

As of Dec 31, 2023, the remaining balances for both programs are:

- Project: \$ 45,710
- FSC: \$ 0

As of Dec 31, 2024,

The total number of newly submitted applications during 2024 was 20 in total. (As of Dec 31, 14 have been approved (3 asking for zero budget) and 6 still under review.

During 2022, this number was 35 and in 2023, 36.

During 2020 and 2021 together this number was 61, i.e. 30 on average per year.

During 2018 and 2019 together this number was 88, i.e. 44 on average per year.

The flow of submissions has not returned to pre-covid time.

In May 2024, the document entitled “**Enhancing the work of Divisions and Standing Committees - Funding opportunities and guidelines**” was reviewed. See **Annex 2**. The Notes are prepared for Divisions/Committees officers and were circulated to the Division presidents and Standing Chairs.

In June 2023, while the new Science and Executive Boards announced a review the Union framework and as a way to assess the current project system, we asked ChatGPT “How does the IUPAC project system work?” The answer provided is in the **annex 3** and will be a valuable input to further discussion.

Annex 1

TABULAR PART – approved from Jan 2022 to Dec 2023, and from Jan to Dec 2024

2021-035-1-FSC, approved: 18-Jan-2022
FSC - XIV Green Chemistry Postgraduate
Summer School (July 2022)
Contact: Pietro R. Tundo
\$ 1,400.00, PC
\$ 2,000.00, FSC

2021-033-2-100, approved: 23-Feb-2022
Evaluated Kinetic Data for Atmospheric
Chemistry
Contact: Tim Wallington
\$ 6,480.00, Div I
\$ 10,000.00, PC

2022-006-2-400, approved: 1-Jul-2022
Revision of the Brief Guide to Polymer
Nomenclature
Contact: Roger Hiorns
\$ 2,000.00, Div IV
\$ 2,000.00, Div VIII
\$ 3,000.00, PC

2022-003-2-400, approved: 1-Aug-2022
Polymer video competition
Contact: Lydia Sosa Vargas
\$ 4,000.00, Div IV
\$ 2,000.00, CCE
\$ 2,700.00, PC

2022-010-2-600, approved: 10-Aug-2022
Harmonizing carbon sequestration
measurement
Contact: Diane Purchase
\$ 5,000.00, Div VI
\$ 1,000.00, COCI
\$ 2,000.00, PC

2022-015-2-022, approved: 7-Sep-2022
Safety Training Program e-learning
Contact: Fabián Benzo Moreira
\$ 2,000.00, COCI
\$ 2,000.00, PC

2022-024-1-FSC, approved: 12-Dec-2022
FSC - XV Green Chemistry Postgraduate
Summer School on Green Chemistry 2023
onsite and online
Contact: Pietro R. Tundo
\$ 3,400.00, FSC-SER

2022-026-1-FSC, approved: 23-Dec-2022
FSC - International Conference on Solution
Chemistry 2023
Contact: David Shaw
\$ 4,000.00, FSC-SER

2022-033-2-FSC, approved: 7-Mar-2023
FSC - 8th ACS Nigeria Symposium 2023 &
Seminar for African Early Career Scientists
Contact: Nnanake-Abasi Offiong
\$ 1,400.00, PC
\$ 2,600.00, FSC-SER

2022-034-3-060, approved: 15-May-2023
Guiding Principles for the Responsible
Practice of Chemistry
Contact: Mary J. Garson
\$ 11,220.00, PC

2023-024-1-FSC, approved: 28-Nov-2023
FSC – 7th Annual Days of Chemistry of Senegal and 9h FASC Congress (FASC|JACS 2024)

Contact: Modou Fall
\$ 4,000.00, PC
\$ 0, FSC

2023-025-2-FSC, approved: 28-Nov-2023
FSC –NDR - The 27th IUPAC International Conference on Chemistry Education (ICCE 2024)

Contact: Marietjie Potgieter
\$ 4,000.00, PC
\$ 0, FSC

2023-027-1-FSC, approved: 28-Nov-2023
FSC – Nanoscale Science and Engineering for Agriculture and Food Systems

Contact: Melanie Kah
\$ 3,000.00, PC
\$ 0, FSC

2023-029-1-050, approved: 6-Dec-2023
Capacity building of teachers on chemistry teaching with hands-on small scale experiments in high schools in Asia; India

Contact: Supawan Tantayanon
\$ 2,650.00, CCE

\$ 2,350.00, PC

2023-035-1-400, approved: 21-Dec-2023
Critical Evaluation of Depolymerization Kinetics for Chemical Recycling of Polymers

Contact: Tanja Junkers
\$ 0, Div IV
\$ 5,000.00, PC

Annex 1b

Approved from Jan – Dec 2024

2024-003-2-041, approved: 30-Apr-2024
XVI Postgraduate Summer School on Green Chemistry 2024 onsite and online

Contact: Fabio Arico
\$ 925.00, ICGCSD
\$ 925.00, PC

2024-002-2-022, approved: 4-Jun-2024
Safety Training Program eLearning

Contact: Fabian Benzo
\$ 1,000.00, COCI
\$ 3,000.00, PC

Enhancing the work of Divisions and Standing Committees

Funding opportunities and guidelines

Notes for Divisions/Committees

The core of the scientific work of IUPAC is conducted largely through a formal Project System in which proposals from chemists around the world are peer-reviewed.

In line with the Goals of the Union, the Science Board advises that financial support of projects is linked to the following priorities:

1. *Enables global scientific cooperation and collaboration in chemistry by:*
 - a. Creating a common language, including data standards, nomenclature, terminology and symbols, to enable digital and human communications,
 - b. Bringing together experts and governing bodies to agree on data / constants for common use,
 - c. Defining and providing technical standards in chemistry for our global profession.
2. *Provides a forum for interaction between Chemistry Organisations, Professional Societies, Government Scientific Bodies and Industry to:*
 - a. Facilitate the exchange of best practice in chemistry and in chemistry education,
 - b. Support educational initiatives in data standards and management,
 - c. Promote diversity and inclusiveness in our profession and encourage global access and participation.
3. *Creates connections from chemistry to cognate disciplines and to educational communities to reach common objectives in key issues that cross scientific boundaries, including education and sustainable development, by:*
 - a. Supporting outreach and engagement initiatives,
 - b. Liaising with key industry, science union, and NGO partners, to deliver a more sustainable future,
 - c. Working together to promote the values and ethics of science through responsible practise.

Divisions/Committees have various options to facilitate and fund projects.

Currently four options are available to secure funding for specific projects:

- Divisions/Committees can support project proposals in their entirety, alone or jointly with other Divisions/Committees, and from their own project budget.
- For projects of digital nature, Divisions/Committees can request complementary support from the Committee on Publications and Cheminformatics Data Standards (CPCDS).
- For inter-disciplinary projects or 'inter-Divisional' projects, Divisions/Committees can request complementary support from the Project Committee (PC).
- For large projects or projects that are considered of strategic importance, Divisions/Committees can request funding from the Science Board (SB).

These notes are prepared for Divisions and Standing Committees to make them aware of these opportunities beyond the financial limits imposed by their own budgets. Guidelines are suggested to expedite the processing of funding applications.

Funding of inter-Divisional and inter-disciplinary Projects

As an incentive to the initiation of inter-Divisional projects and inter-disciplinary projects the Project Committee is able to support these projects by complementing commitments from the respective Divisions/Committees.

In a typical scenario, one Division (the lead Division) evaluates a project and decides to support it, and in addition, it may identify the need/opportunity/ relevance of involving other Divisions or Committees (or another Union, e.g. IUPAP, or another NGO, e.g. UNIDO) in the evaluation of and/or participation in the project. Through the Secretariat, other Divisions/Committees etc. are invited to evaluate the proposal and to determine whether they wish to be involved in the moderation of the project outputs, by participation in the Task Group and/or by making a financial commitment. The Secretariat will coordinate and collate dialogue between the Divisions. Frequently the inter-Divisional or inter-disciplinary value of a project is identified at the outset and the review processes by several Divisions/Committees would occur in parallel, rather than sequentially.

A typical outcome for an inter-Divisional project (dependent on the size of the funding request) might be that the lead Division commits 25-50 % of the funding request, other Division(s) commit 10-20 % of the funding request, with the additional funds being requested from the Project Committee.

What is required?

Once the project proposal has been internally reviewed, a recommendation from the Division President/ Standing Committee Chair should be sent to the Project Committee through the Secretariat presenting the case for the scientific value of the project and a justification for the requested additional funding. This letter must be accompanied by the internal and external reviews and an indication of the Division/Committee financial commitment to the project.

In this context, the Division Presidents/Committee Chairs are alerted to the fact that the Project Committee may not have expertise critical to the subject of the project proposal and therefore it is incumbent on the DP(s)/Chair(s) to provide adequate context for the project and an indication of its value and relevance to the wider scientific community. Because of IUPAC's limited resources, Divisions/Committees should, and the PC will, look for opportunities to economize on the cost of Task group meetings, e.g. by coordinating virtual meetings of the task group or using attendance of task group members at a Conference or at the IUPAC General Assembly as a basis for reducing costs.

IUPAC does not normally fund recurring activities such as representation on external bodies, conference series attendance, or extensions to prior work or any events.

To expedite the processing of applications it is important that before a case is made to the Project Committee:

- (a) the normal Division/Committee internal and external review processes have been completed; this should include at least two external reviews;

- (b) the Division/Committee is satisfied that the budget details and the dissemination plan are adequate and defensible;
- (c) the Division/Committee has decided to support the activity and has identified the level of financial support that it can afford and that is commensurate with the Division/Committee assessment of the project's scientific value.

Strategic Opportunities Fund

This fund complements the Project Reserve and is managed by the recently established Science Board (SB). The fund is for the support of large projects and/or projects that are of strategic importance to IUPAC rather than to individual Divisions/Committees or sectional interests. The preparation and processing of proposal applications is similar to that of inter-disciplinary projects referred to the Project Committee, with the distinction that ultimately these proposals will be assessed in batches rather than on a continuous basis, allowing for ranking of the applications. The PC recommendations will be considered by the SB for final decision. Eligible applications will be reviewed in October 2024, April and October 2025.

Summary of the submission, review, and decision process

1. Submitted project proposals are reviewed by an IUPAC body (Division or Standing Committee), in the usual way, and with internal and external reviews sought.
2. Projects entirely funded from Division or Standing Committee funds are approved based on the commitments of the Divisions; a formal approval is transmitted via a letter from the SG.
3. Projects that require "top-up" funding are next sent to the Project Committee along with the reviews and Division/Standing Committee recommendation. PC members review the proposal and the DPs/Chairs recommendations. Communication is coordinated via the PC Secretary.
4. If agreement is reached about suitability of funding for projects requiring a *small* top-up, the Project Committee recommendation is sent to the Secretary General who formalizes the decision and communicate to the TG chair(s) and DPs/Chairs. These *small* top-ups are considered on an on-going basis.
5. If agreement is reached about suitability of proposals requiring significant funding and clearly linked to the scientific priorities of IUPAC, these proposals are earmarked for Science Board consideration.
6. Proposals will be assessed by the Project Committee in batches rather than on a first come-first served basis. (Note that the Project Committee membership is drawn from the Science Board membership.)

Three deadlines are set: **1 October 2024, 1 April 2025, and 1 October 2025.**

The eligible applications should have completed the internal and external assessment and be supported by the DP(s)/Chairs commitments and recommendations.

7. The Project Committee together with the Chair of the Science Board decide on the allocation of funding from the Strategic Opportunity Fund, providing a recommendation to the SG who will finalize the approval.

Annex 3

We asked ChatGPT (on May 9, 2023) “**How does the IUPAC project system work?**”

IUPAC (International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry) uses a project system to carry out its work, which involves developing and maintaining standards for chemistry-related topics. The project system is designed to ensure that IUPAC's work is carried out in a transparent, collaborative, and rigorous manner. Here's how the IUPAC project system works:

- **Project Proposal:** The first step in the project system is the proposal stage, where a proposal is submitted by a member or committee of IUPAC. The proposal should outline the goals, objectives, and deliverables of the project.
- **Evaluation:** Once a proposal is received, it is evaluated by the relevant division or committee of IUPAC. The evaluation process considers factors such as the scientific merit of the proposal, its relevance to IUPAC's mission, and its potential impact on the field of chemistry.
- **Approval:** If a proposal is approved, it is assigned a project number and a project leader is appointed. The project leader is responsible for overseeing the project and ensuring that it is carried out in accordance with IUPAC's guidelines.
- **Execution:** During the execution phase, the project team carries out the work outlined in the project proposal. This typically involves conducting research, collecting data, and developing recommendations or guidelines related to the topic of the project.
- **Review:** Once the project is complete, the project team submits a final report to IUPAC for review. The report is evaluated by a panel of experts, who provide feedback and suggestions for improvement.
- **Publication:** If the final report is approved, it is published by IUPAC and made available to the public. The report may also be presented at conferences and other scientific events.

Overall, the IUPAC project system is designed to ensure that the organization's work is carried out in a rigorous and collaborative manner, and that its standards and guidelines are developed with input from experts in the field.