

## GUIDELINES - LAUDATO SI FUND

### I. Eligibility of projects

1. In 2019, IFCU acquired a financing tool for academic and social cooperation projects in Catholic higher education institutions around the world: the Laudato Si Endowment Fund.
2. With regards to teaching and research in the academic world, this Fund is a response to the call made by Pope Francis in his encyclical Laudato Si, which invited us to work on the axes that cross the entire Encyclical: *"As examples, I will point to the intimate relationship between the poor and the fragility of the planet, the conviction that everything in the world is connected, the critique of new paradigms and forms of power derived from technology, the call to seek other ways of understanding the economy and progress, the value proper to each creature, the human meaning of ecology, the need for forthright and honest debate, the serious responsibility of international and local policy, the throwaway culture and the proposal of a new lifestyle. These questions will not be dealt with once and for all, but reframed and enriched again and again"*.
3. The Laudato Si Endowment Fund aims to help member universities of the International Federation of Catholic Universities-IFCU.
4. The Endowment Fund is governed by a Management Board, composed of the President, the three Vice-Presidents and the Secretary General of IFCU. This Management Board meets twice a year: in March and November. Applications for support must be sent to the IFCU General Secretariat ([sgfiuc@bureau.fiuc.org](mailto:sgfiuc@bureau.fiuc.org)) no later than one month before each Management Board meeting.

Through its Management Board, the Laudato Si Fund team only examines projects:

- To set up in the territories where IFCU member universities are located;
- Which has been the subject of a complete file submitted before the deadline for application;
- To set up concrete objectives which results can be assessed and recorded;
- With a detailed budget (resources/expenses), a precise implementation schedule, and a specific location.

### II. Project leaders

**The Management Board examines only projects carried out and implemented by IFCU member universities.**

- Projects from or concerning individuals are not eligible.

### III. Eligible expenses

Financial support may include:

- Research support within the framework of International Research Groups recognized by IFCU (further information on this link: [http://www.fiuc.org/article8\\_en.html](http://www.fiuc.org/article8_en.html) )
  - Support for innovative academic projects with a strong social dimension,
  - Investment and equipment expenditure where it is linked to a pedagogical or research-action project with a social nature (equipment procurement, facilities, furniture, premises arrangement, etc. based on presentation of estimates in advance).
  - The Fund may finance project-related operating costs up to a maximum of 30% of the overall project budget.
  - Projects must be co-financed.
- **The Laudato Si Fund cannot support the following requests:**
    - Personal projects: scholarships, study funding, study missions;
    - Exchange and meeting travel projects;
    - Humanitarian stays.
  - **Amount of financial assistance**
    - The current operating expenses of the structure (not related to the funded project);
    - Real estate investments;
    - Cash flow requirements;
    - Wages.

**A grant application may not exceed an amount of €20,000 / year.**

The amount of assistance is determined by the Management Board based on the needs, the size of each project, the estimated budget and the number of successful applications.

The number of financial grants awarded depends on the quality of the projects received and the annual resources of the Laudato Si Fund.

The Management Board of the Laudato Si Fund reserves all rights in this matter.

#### **IV. Project implementation dates**

Projects supported by the Laudato Si Fund will not exceed a duration of three years and will be subject to an annual evaluation of the work carried out. Annual projects must be fully implemented during the project year. Financial assistance from IFCU will be provided in instalments at the beginning, in the middle and after the final evaluation of the project.

#### **V. Selection process**

Applications are processed by the IFCU Secretariat, which eliminates incomplete applications or those that do not meet the guidelines. The IFCU Secretariat examines projects with regard to the issues addressed, their relevance, feasibility and efficiency. Based on these criteria, it makes a pre-selection and issues an opinion to the Management Board.

The selected project leaders are informed by email of the result of the selection made by the Management Board.

**An agreement is sent by the Fund and signed with the selected project leaders.** This agreement sets out the terms and conditions for the allocation of financial assistance and the commitments of the project leader, in particular in terms of project monitoring and evaluation (supporting documents to be provided, interim and final reports, etc.).

- At any time during the selection procedure, the Laudato Si Fund reserves the right to contact candidates to request clarification, information or additional documents on the applications submitted.