



# Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme 2026-27

**BRIEFING SESSION**  
**24 March 2026**

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# CEPU Funding Schemes



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**Aim: Facilitate public policy discussion and knowledge transfer of research findings, as well as nurturing the talents required.**

## Strategic Public Policy Research Funding Scheme (SPPRFS)

- ❖ Applications **accepted once a year**
- ❖ Strategic themes and research areas identified by the Government
- ❖ Longer research duration, **1-5 years**
- ❖ More research funding, funding cap **HK\$5 million**

## Public Policy Research Funding Scheme (PPRFS)

- ❖ Applications accepted **throughout the year**
- ❖ Open topics with 16 indicative research areas
- ❖ Shorter research duration, usually **12 months or less**
- ❖ Less research funding, usually **HK\$1 million or less**

# SPPRFS 2026-27



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- ❖ **Five strategic themes** for the SPPRFS 2026-27 in light of the **National 15th Five-Year Plan** and **policy priorities** of the Government
- ❖ Application Period: **24 March to 12 May 2026**

## Strategic Themes

1. Development Opportunities from the National 15th Five-Year Plan and Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA)
2. Deepening International Exchanges and Co-operation, Supporting the Country's Opening Up to the World
3. Development of Education, Technology, Talents and Industries
4. Integrated Development of Culture, Sports and Tourism
5. Elderly and Healthcare Services



**3 to 6 Specified Research Areas**

## SH01 Development Opportunities from the National 15th Five-Year Plan and Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA)

### Specified Research Areas

- ❖ Measures to capitalise on the 15th Five-Year Plan to consolidate and enhance the development and status in various major areas, including international financial, shipping and trade centre, international aviation hub, international asset management centre, international risk management centre, international innovation and technology hub, international legal and dispute resolution services centre, regional intellectual property trading centre, international cultural exchange centre, and international hub for high-calibre talents.
- ❖ Measures to optimize Hong Kong's commodity trading ecosystem, including attracting relevant enterprises to establish their operations, and providing supporting facilities and talents.

## SH01 Development Opportunities from the National 15th Five-Year Plan and Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA)

### Specified Research Areas

- ❖ Policies to develop Hong Kong into a high value-added supply chain service center, including measures to strengthen relevant services (e.g. production chain management, export credit risk management, trade financing, marketing, testing and certification, accounting, and other professional services).
- ❖ Measures to deepen co-operation in the areas of economy, trade, technology, and culture within the GBA, promote the co-ordinated development of ports, airports and rail transit, and facilitate the cross-boundary flows of production factors.

## SH01 Development Opportunities from the National 15th Five-Year Plan and Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA)

### Specified Research Areas

- ❖ Policies and measures to accelerate the high-quality development of the Northern Metropolis, promote innovation and transformation among the industry, academic and research sectors, and deepen co-ordinated development with major co-operation platforms in Qianhai, Nansha, and the Loop.
- ❖ Policies and measures to facilitate Hong Kong residents' development and living on the Mainland, and support young people in seizing development opportunities there.

## SH02 Deepening International Exchanges and Co-operation, Supporting the Country's Opening Up to the World

### Specified Research Areas

- ❖ Policies to enhance the mechanisms for harnessing Hong Kong's role in the country's high-level opening up to the world, and promote connectivity and co-ordinated development between the Mainland and international markets.
- ❖ Policies and measures to strengthen Hong Kong's international economic and trade ties, enhance Hong Kong's involvement in the Belt and Road Initiative, and promote inclusive, equitable, mutually beneficial and green co-operation among nations.
- ❖ Policies and measures to leverage Hong Kong's advantages in Mainland-Global connection and professional services to assist enterprises from various regions in expanding into overseas and Mainland markets.

## SH03 Development of Education, Technology, Talents and Industries

### Specified Research Areas

- ❖ Policies and measures for developing Hong Kong into an international hub for education and high-calibre talents.
- ❖ Policies and measures to enhance the education system, curriculum, technology, pedagogies, and overall quality of education.
- ❖ Policies and measures to drive the development of innovation and technology (I&T) industries, accelerate the transformation and application of research and development results, promote the upgrading and transformation of traditional industries, and facilitate potential or leading I&T enterprises to establish in Hong Kong.



## SH03 Development of Education, Technology, Talents and Industries

### Specified Research Areas

- ❖ Strategies for developing digital economy, fostering green transition, and promoting new energy development, including accelerating industrial transformation, fostering artificial intelligence, strengthening infrastructure, promoting trading ecosystems and cross-boundary co-operation.

## SH04 Integrated Development of Culture, Sports and Tourism

### Specified Research Areas

- ❖ Strategies for enhancing the cultural soft power of Hong Kong and promoting the development of cultural and creative industries.
- ❖ Policies and measures to strengthen Hong Kong's cultural co-operation within the GBA and with other nations.
- ❖ Policies to promote sports development and build Hong Kong into a centre for mega international sports events, enhance professionalism and developing sports as an industry.
- ❖ Policies to support the development strategies set out in the Development Blueprint for Hong Kong's Tourism Industry 2.0.

## SH05 Elderly and Healthcare Services

### Specified Research Areas

- ❖ Policies to improve quality and sustainability of local elderly services, including different subsidy and service provision models.
- ❖ Strategies for leveraging the comparative advantages of the GBA to support development of elderly services and the silver economy.
- ❖ Studies on innovative healthcare services delivery models, including enhanced medical-social collaboration and sustainable healthcare financing.
- ❖ Strategies for enhancing development of primary healthcare in Hong Kong, including strengthening health promotion and disease prevention, and improving public healthcare services.

# SPPRFS 2026-27



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## SH05 Elderly and Healthcare Services

### Specified Research Areas

- ❖ Strategies for developing Hong Kong into an international health and medical innovation hub, including manpower training, biomedical technology innovation and development, and advancement of regulatory functions.

# Processing and Assessment Procedures



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PPRFS

Due Diligence Checking by Secretariat and Clarification by PI

Acknowledgement to PI

SPPRFS

Assessment by B/Ds, Panel Readers and Non-Panel Reviewers

Assessment time around 4 months

Assessment Panel (AP)

Shortlisted for SPPRFS Selection Interview

Assessment time around 6 months

Supplementary Information by PI

Review of Revised Proposal

AP's Recommendations

CEPU's Approval

Notification of Results

# Assessment Mechanism and Criteria



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## Assessment Mechanism

- ❖ Views from Government bureaux/departments
- ❖ Comments from **experienced academics** and **professional experts** (non-Panel reviewers)
- ❖ Comments from Panel Members

## Assessment Criteria

- ❖ **Research quality and relevance to public policy needs**
  - ✓ Well-planned research with reasonable duration
  - ✓ Research team's capability/ track record
  - ✓ Cost-effectiveness
  - ✓ Research findings be effectively translated into practicable policy recommendations

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## 1. Increase Policy Relevance

- ❖ **Specified** strategic themes and research areas for SPPRFS applications
- ❖ PPRFS **theme-based** exercise on specific policy initiatives
- ❖ **Communication** between **research teams** and **bureaux**





## 2. Improve Timeliness of Findings

- ❖ **Project duration** of a SPPRFS project adjusted to 1- 5 years (from 3 - 5 years)
- ❖ **Timely deliverables by stages** to meet policy needs

behaviours (e.g. alcohol drinking, smoking and gambling) will not be supported.

### 2.4 Project Duration

#### 2.4.1 PPRFS

For PPRFS, the duration of research projects will normally last from six to 12 months. Projects with a longer duration up to three years will be considered if strong support and justifications are provided.

#### 2.4.2 SPPRFS

For SPPRFS, the duration of research projects may last from one to five years.

#### 2.4.3 Commencement of Project

PPRFS and SPPRFS projects shall commence within three months upon

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## 3. Encourage Knowledge Transfer

- ❖ Research plans shared at project kick-off workshops  
(開題會)
- ❖ Research findings shared at project conclusion workshops  
(結題會)



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## 4. Maximise Result Dissemination and Discussion

- ❖ Research sharing workshop to **bridge the knowledge-to-policy gap and foster discussion on policy issues**
- ❖ Op-ed publications and media interviews to **showcase findings in public arena**

報章

新聞 / 評論 / 來稿 / 來稿 | 邁向零碳建築之路

### 來論 | 邁向零碳建築之路

2025-01-22 15:30

報章

### 巧用碳交易機制 催化建築業轉型

智析趨勢  
撰文：李恒 香港理工大學通曉教授  
編名：香港競爭力  
發布時間：2025-07-17

香港建造業長期面對人手短缺。為了提高生產力，發展局自2017年起積極推廣「組裝合成」建築法（MIC）。MIC透過將部分建築工序從工地轉移至廠房，預先製作結構、室內裝修及機電裝置模組，再運送至工地組裝。這種方式除了能減少現場人手需求與施工時間，還能大幅降低整體碳排放。然而，受限於採購與跨境運輸的高成本，

報章

### 來論 | ESG浪潮席捲香江 物流中小企轉型有道

2025-07-03 09:58:55 來稿

文/曾偉波

近年，環境、社會及管治（Environment, Social and Governance, 簡稱ESG）理念在全球業可持續發展的重要標準。隨著投資者、客戶及各持份者對企業可持續發展的要求日增，企業亦須品牌聲譽、市場價值、業務拓展及資金流動產生深遠影響。

作為國際物流樞紐，香港推動企業實踐ESG，有助鞏固其供應鏈地位，亦關乎經濟長遠競爭力。為主，資金、人手及技術資源有限，實施ESG相對困難。我們的研究團隊獨特政策組「公共支持，深入分析物流中小企在ESG轉型中面對的挑戰，並提出具體建議，協助企業將ESG理念融入日常色、高效、具韌性的物流體系打好基礎。

中小企ESG困局：資源短缺、動力不足與評級壘壘並存

報章

### 思政策/「HA Go」與醫療數碼轉型方向\黃至生

大公報 A9 | 評論 | 2025-01-20

2025年施政報告提出，政府會繼續提升公營醫療體系及提供更佳的醫療體驗。醫院管理局自2019年推出「HA Go」應用程式以來，一直推動電子醫療的發展，並以「以人為本」的理念改善醫療體驗，如今更成為超過325萬名使用者隨身攜帶的健康管家。事實上，預約門診、繳費、取藥、健康報告等服務都可以方便透過一站式醫療健康平台「HA Go」做到，使病人及照顧者在公立醫院的求診過程更精簡、更貼心，為更多人受惠。筆者透過特約政策組公共政策研究資助計劃的支持，深入探討「HA Go」在香港的使用情況，並分析其持續改進對改善本地醫療環境的重要性。

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## 5. Promote Public Policy Research

- ❖ Visit tertiary institutions and think tanks to exchange views on funding schemes
- ❖ Organise dedicated workshops to introduce the funding schemes



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## 6. Appreciate Impacts of Research

- ❖ Acknowledge and appreciate impacts of funded research

