

Federal Ministry for Education and Research

Funding Announcement

Measures to establish sustainable joint partner structures

from 19.10.2023 ([German version published 31.10.2023](#))

Unofficial English version

This call for funding is made within the framework of the Federal Government's Strategy for the Internationalisation of Education, Science and Research – [Guideline for the Funding of Projects in Research and Innovation Cooperation with the Countries of the Eastern Partnership and Central Asia](#).

Research cooperation with the countries of the Eastern Partnership (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) and Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) has already increased significantly in recent years and has become even more important since 2022 as a result of the Russian war of aggression. Many of these countries are striving to transform their political and economic systems and scientific landscapes and to move closer to European structures or to integrate themselves (among others into the European Research Area). In addition, there is a partly high level of research expertise as well as unique ecosystems, social framework conditions and natural resources. This opens up potential for cooperation in numerous thematic areas, which also play a role in meeting global challenges in the context of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

This call for proposals aims to fund projects for the establishment or expansion of institutionalised and sustainable transnational partnerships in a competitive procedure. New research structures and networks in the partner countries (countries of the Eastern Partnership and Central Asia, see above) are to be initiated or strengthened. At the same time, partner institutions are to be given improved access to topic-oriented networks and research resources in the European Research Area. The partner structures must be based on long-term strategies and be designed in such a way that they primarily strengthen the institutions in the partner countries and last beyond the end of the funding. To this end, personnel and technical resources will be established or expanded, which will help to further develop regional expertise, offer promising work prospects to young researchers in the countries mentioned and also facilitate integration into the European Research Area via the networks of the German partners. In the long term, the aim is to strengthen the research locations in the target regions. This will also address the ongoing challenge of the outflow of trained local researchers.

Priority is given to measures that are necessary for the preparation and establishment of institutional cooperation. In this context, personnel funds are provided primarily for the areas of coordination, networking and concept development. Research work is only funded to the extent that it is necessary to accompany the development and expansion of institutional cooperation.

This call for proposals thus provides funding for international individual or collaborative projects that advance the preparation or establishment of sustainable joint partner structures in accordance with the funding purpose described above and Modules 2 and 9 of the Framework Announcement. In addition to at least one international partner from the countries addressed in this call for proposals, the participation of partners from third countries - without funding through this call for proposals - is generally possible.

The grants are awarded by way of project funding as a non-repayable subsidy. For exploratory and networking measures in preparation for a subsequent sustainable joint partner structure (Module 2), funding of up to 40,000 euros per project is generally provided for the German side with a duration of generally up to nine months.

For the concrete establishment of a joint partner structure (Module 9), funding is usually up to 400,000 euros per project for the German side with a duration of usually up to 36 months. Within the framework of this maximum funding amount, it is possible in Module 9 to pass on parts of the funding to the foreign partners as the final beneficiary. All projects must be carried out in the non-profit sector of the funding recipient. A flat-rate project allowance cannot be granted. The exploratory and networking phase is not obligatory.

In the first stage of the procedure, project outlines must first be submitted to the project management organisation in written and/or electronic form via the electronic outline tool "easy-Online" at <https://foerderportal.bund.de/easyonline/reflink.jsf?m=IB-GUS/RUS&b=PARTNERSTRUKTUREN&t=SKI>.

For exploratory and networking measures in preparation for a subsequent sustainable joint partnership, the project outline must be submitted by 18. January 2024 at the latest. The project outline must be submitted by the German applicant or consortium with a view to future cooperation with at least one or more scientific institutions in the Eastern Partnership countries and/or Central Asia addressed by name above.

For the concrete establishment of a joint partner structure, the project outline should be submitted by 18 January 2024 or 15 January 2026 at the latest. The project outline must be submitted by the German applicant or consortium together with at least one or more scientific institutions in the Eastern Partnership countries and/or Central Asia addressed by name above. The project outline should contain the following information:

- Information on the project coordinator and the German and foreign project partners
- Presentation of the project objective,
- Information on the state of the art in science and technology at the funding applicant,
- Assessment of the utilisation/application possibilities,
- estimated expenditure/costs (including third party participation and expected funding requirements as well as project lump sum, if applicable).

The length of the outlines should not exceed eight pages for exploratory and networking measures in preparation for a later sustainable joint partnership and twelve pages DIN A4 for the concrete establishment of a joint partner structure (at least font size 11, single-spaced).

The submission deadlines are not considered cut-off dates. However, project outlines received after the deadlines specified above may not be considered.

Please address any questions to:

DLR Project Management Agency
European and international cooperation
Heinrich-Konen-Straße 1
53227 Bonn

Technical contact:

Dr Hendrik Meurs (Central Asia)

E-mail: hendrik.meurs@dlr.de

Phone: +49 228 3821 1944

Dr Andreas Suthhof (Eastern Partnership countries)

E-mail: andreas.suthhof@dlr.de

Phone: +49 228 3821 1414

Administrative contact:

Joachim Dietlicher

E-mail: joachim.dietlicher@dlr.de

Phone: +49 228 3821 2663

For more information, see:

<https://www.bmbf.de/forschungsperspektiveost>

Note

This is an informal call for proposals based on the Federal Government's Strategy for the Internationalisation of Education, Science and Research - Guideline for the Funding of Projects in Research and Innovation Cooperation with the Countries of the Eastern Partnership and Central Asia of 17 August 2023 (BAnz AT 19.10.2023 B4). The provisions of this framework announcement apply unchanged to submitted outlines.

Bonn, 19. October 2023

Federal Ministry
for Education and Research

On behalf

Gabriele Hermani