

## G8 Initiative on Multilateral Research Funding Q&A

### I. Application Process

- Q.1 I understand that the project funding period is from 2 up to 3 years. May the applicant set the period? Would it be okay to set a period of 2 years and 6 months?
- A. Yes, you could set a period from 2 years up to 3 years e.g. 2.6 years according to your research plan. When preparing the proposal, within a consortium each PI should set the same period for his or her projects.
- Q.2 What does the funding cover?
- A. Research costs according to the rules of the respective funding organization. Please consult your funding organization for details on eligible research expenses.
- Q.3 Is there a limit on the number of researchers who can participate in a project?
- A. No upper or lower limit has been set on the number of researchers but there is a minimum of 3 Principal Investigators each one coming from a different of the participating countries. The number of researchers should be the optimum for carrying out the joint research project. As this program encourages the fostering of early career researchers, they should be included in the project teams.
- Q.4 How should the Leading PI (principal investigator) of a consortium be chosen?
- A. They should be chosen by the consortium members. Generally speaking, the Leading PI's role is to submit the project application and liaise with the Call-Secretariat and other members of the consortium. Please refer to the Program Guidelines for a detailed description of the Leading PI's functions.
- Q.5 Would it be okay to include within a project a research group from a country other than the UK, US, Germany, France, Russia, Canada or Japan?
- A. No, only projects with research groups from the above mentioned partner countries will be supported.
- Q.6: What do I do when I work closely together with partners from a country that is not participating in this call's funding?

A: Partners from outside the 7 participating countries can be listed as 'collaborating partners' but cannot apply for funding.

Q.7 Is a person allowed to participate in more than one proposal?

A. A scientist may only be leading PI in one consortium. For other researchers, please consult the respective funding organization for guidance.

Q.8 Is it possible to submit a rather big proposal, for instance 10 PIs in 1 consortium or should it be divided into two or more projects?

A. As long as the consortium is excellent, this is acceptable, no matter how many PIs there are in the consortium. You need to describe the excellence of your consortium just as any other consortiums do. For further details, please consult your funding organization for guidance.

Q.9 If we want to confirm whether our project theme fits this year's program theme, who should we contact?

A. Please consult your funding organization for details on eligible research projects.

Q.10 Is there a paper version of the Preliminary Proposal application form?

A. No, there isn't. Interested consortia are required to submit a Preliminary Proposal, using the electronic forms provided by the Call Secretariat:  
[www.dfg.de/g8-initiative](http://www.dfg.de/g8-initiative)

Q.11 What language should be used when preparing our Preliminary Proposal?

A. Both, the Preliminary Proposal submitted to the Call-Secretariat by the Leading PI, and the Full Proposal must be prepared in English.

Additionally, each Partner PI has to submit a Full Proposal to his/her funding organization. As each country uses its own format for this application, Partner PIs should use the procedure set by their country's funding organization.

Q.12 Our Leading PI did not submit a Preliminary Proposal to the Call-Secretariat by May 7, 2010. Can we still submit our Full Proposal?

A. No, only consortia that submitted a Preliminary Proposal and passed the first stage of the competition will be invited to submit a Full Proposal.

- Q.13 Once an application has been submitted, is it possible to submit an amended application?
- A. It is acceptable to change both, the Preliminary Proposal and the Full Proposal, before the respective deadline.
- Q.14 After our Preliminary Proposal has passed the screening, is it possible to add or delete partner countries, project teams, individual researchers or to make other adjustments when preparing our Full Proposal?
- A. The Full Proposals must closely base on the successful Preliminary Proposal and changes should not be a significant deviation from the direction, focus and team composition stated in the Preliminary Proposal. Therefore only inevitable or reasonable amendments e.g. changing the affiliation of PIs, adding project teams, or individual researchers are acceptable. Please pay attention to the fact that the changes can only be accepted as long as the proposed research projects do NOT change much.
- It is also acceptable to withdraw your proposals at any time during the evaluation process.
- Q.15 If a consortium consist of e.g. four projects, is it possible that the number of selected projects will be reduced in the screening process?
- A. No, selections are basically made on each consortium as a unit.

## II. Funding

- Q.16 Do all applicants need to submit the requested funding amount in Euros?
- A. Yes, but as the funding organizations in the non-EU countries need additional information in these cases, please contact your funding organization.
- Q.17 Can we revise the amount of funding requested in the Preliminary Proposal, when we submit the Full Proposal?
- A. Yes, it is understood that the amount requested in the Preliminary Proposal is an estimate and that revised budgets may be necessary when preparing the Full Proposal.

Q.18 After a project is selected, will the full amount of requested funding be provided?

After selection, may we change the amount of funding?

A. The amount of project funding is finally decided by each Funding Organization reflecting the evaluation, peer reviews, and panel discussion. In this process also the adequacy of the funding is evaluated and takes budgetary limitations and funding rules into account.

After selection, project teams have to submit a Project-Implementation Plan, including an itemization of necessary expenditures to the respective funding organization. For information on the possibility of future changes within the awarded amount of funding, please contact your funding organization.

Q.19 May parts of the allocated funds be used to invite researchers within the consortium from other countries to our country?

A. No. The funding allocated for each project may only be used to support that country's own researchers and research activities. For detailed rules on expenditures, please contact your funding organization.

Q.20 From the perspective of fostering early career researchers, may the funds be used to include the participation of postdoctoral researchers and doctoral/master's students and to send them abroad?

A. Yes, they may. The proactive participation of early career researchers is desired in this program.

For further questions please contact your funding organization.

March 30, 2010