

**“BEETHOVEN” – Polish-German Funding Initiative
in the Humanities and Social Sciences**

1st Call for proposals 2014

CALL TEXT

1. Introduction

In order to strengthen international co-operation in the field of the humanities and social sciences, wishing to fund high quality scientific research within their own countries, and conscious that some of the best research can be delivered by working with the best researchers internationally, NCN and DFG are launching their first joint call for proposals in order to fund the best joint research projects in the humanities and social sciences. The scheme will provide funding for integrated Polish-German projects. The partner agencies will conduct a coordinated peer review and a single joint selection process. Funding will be distributed among the partners according to researchers' place of work, and generally according to the funding rules of each individual agency.

Proposals may be submitted in any area of the humanities and social sciences. Only proposals involving [basic research](#) (knowledge-oriented research) may be submitted in response to the call for proposals. Within the framework of this call, the disciplinary coverage may vary according to the involvement of the agencies. Applicants who are uncertain of whether their proposal would be eligible should contact the relevant agencies for clarification.

Projects must have well-defined joint working programmes, demonstrating clearly the added value of international collaboration. We expect that each partner substantially contributes to the common project; this includes taking organisational responsibilities. This division of responsibilities should also be reflected in the amount of funds requested by each partner.

2. Eligibility

Joint Polish-German research projects may be funded for a period of **12 to 36 months**. The projects must focus on substantive research and feature an integrated work programme. Scientific infrastructure or networking activities can only be funded within projects with a substantive research focus. As stand-alone projects, infrastructure or networking projects will not be eligible.

All budget items must conform to the national rules relevant for each applicant. Applicants must note that NCN and DFG retain the right to reject proposals where they fail to comply with the procedures set out in the respective guidelines. If a proposal is ineligible with one national agency, the complete project will be rejected by both agencies.

German researchers from non-university research institutions who have to fulfil their duty to cooperate (Kooperationspflicht) may only submit proposals together with a partner from a German university. Your duty to cooperate is not considered fulfilled if you only cooperate with a Polish partner.

If an application has been submitted to any other call or funding line of NCN, DFG or any other funding agency, this must be clearly stated in the proposal. Please also check the respective national agency's rules regarding submission of a project to more than one scheme.

Please note that the proposals must be written in English.

3. Applicants

Each joint research project must consist of two (Polish and German) national teams. Each team must be led by one Principal Investigator (PI).

4. Budget and eligible costs

The estimated budget must be calculated in Euros according to the budget table included in the *Project Template*. Additionally, Polish researchers must provide the budget in PLN. The budget of the Polish part of the project must be at least 150 000 PLN. All costs must be eligible according to the national eligibility requirements.

A detailed justification of the requested budget will be required. Please note that since the project budget cannot be negotiated at any point after the submission of the proposal, an oversized budget may lead to the proposal's rejection.

For more information please see *Information for Applicants*.

5. Project duration

The duration of the project must be at least 12 months and may not exceed 36 months.

6. Submission of proposals

For technical reasons, proposals have to be submitted in a two-step procedure.

1st step – A single integrated proposal with separate financial sections for each national agency must be submitted via **DFG's submission system** "elan" no later than **10 December 2014**. Proposals received after the deadline will not be eligible.

2nd step (applies to Polish applicants only) – A separate submission of the completed proposal template (including CVs) with additional information must be submitted via NCN's online submission system no later than **15 December 2014**. A hard copy must also be sent by **15 December 2014** to Narodowe Centrum Nauki, ul. Królewska 57, 30-081 Kraków.

8. Evaluation procedure

- 1) The applicants' and projects' eligibility will be checked by both NCN and DFG for the Polish and German sides, respectively.
- 2) Each proposal will then be assessed by at least 2 external referees.
- 3) In the second review stage, each proposal will be evaluated by a joint expert panel. The panel will consist of recognised researchers from various fields of the humanities and social sciences who are familiar with the relevant decision-making systems at the national level.
- 4) The funding recommendations of the joint expert panel will be subject to approval by the agencies.

9. Criteria

All project proposals will be assessed against three sets of criteria: 1) qualification of the research team members, 2) academic merits of the research project and 3) feasibility of the project.

1) Qualification of the research team members (40%)

- Research portfolio of the research team
- Relevant preliminary work

2) Academic merits of the research project (50%)

- Innovative nature of the project
- Impact of the research project on advances in the academic discipline and international cooperation
- Scientific level of objectives and work programme
- Integrated approach of the project

3) Feasibility of the project (budget, research facilities and infrastructure) (10%)

- Feasibility of the project
- Appropriateness of project's budget

10. Tentative Timeline

12 September 2014	Launch of the call for proposals
10 December 2014	DFG submission deadline
15 December 2014	NCN submission deadline
January-July 2015	Peer-review
October 2015	Results
January 2016	Start of joint research projects

11. Call documents

- 1) *Call Text*
- 2) *Project Template*
- 3) *Information for Applicants*
- 4) *Evaluation Sheet for Reviewers*

For Polish applicants only:

Uchwała nr 65/2014 z dnia 11 września 2014 r. Rady Narodowego Centrum Nauki w sprawie warunków oraz regulaminu przyznawania środków na realizację zadań finansowanych przez Narodowe Centrum Nauki w konkursie „BEETHOVEN” na polsko-niemieckie projekty badawcze z zakresu nauk humanistycznych, społecznych i o sztuce.

12. Contact

<p>POLAND, NCN:</p> <p>Dr Anna Marszałek Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences e-mail: anna.marszalek@ncn.gov.pl tel: +48 12 341 91 70</p> <p>Malwina Jabczuga-Gebalska International Cooperation e-mail: malwina.gebalska@ncn.gov.pl tel: +48 12 341 90 17</p>	<p>GERMANY, DFG:</p> <p>Dr Anne Brüggemann Humanities and Social Sciences e-mail: anne.brueggemann@dfg.de tel: +49 (228) 885-2213</p> <p>Dr Christian Schaich International Affairs e-mail: christian.schaich@dfg.de tel: +49 (228) 885-4329</p> <p>Administrative inquiries:</p> <p>Bettina Schilling e-mail: bettina.schilling@dfg.de</p>
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