

Guidelines

for Reviews for the Establishment of Priority Programmes

I Programme Information

A Priority Programme is a funding programme with an open call for proposals aimed at the following objectives:

1. Funding of projects characterised by high originality and quality in terms of their topic and/or methodology

This programme objective may be fulfilled if, for example

- the Priority Programme deals with topics that are currently of paramount importance (emerging fields), and/or
- the Priority Programme explores new, even bold methods and approaches, and/or
- it establishes new avenues of research which may influence other research areas, and/or
- the Priority Programme is likely to have a lasting impact on the scientific landscape, also at the international level.

Priority Programmes will not be announced for research areas that are already well established and currently receive adequate funding from other sources.

2. Added value through interdisciplinary cooperation (interdisciplinarity)

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3. Added value through cooperation between different locations (networking)
4. Support for early career researchers participating in the projects
5. Gender equality measures tailored to the Priority Programme

Once a year, the Senate decides on the establishment of new Priority Programmes proposed by researchers.

Ad hoc review boards prepare a funding recommendation for decision by the Senate. This process brings together members of different review boards who assess and compare proposals similar in subject and make a recommendation to the Senate as to which proposals should be established. The meeting of the ad hoc review board is normally chaired by a member of the Senate from an unrelated subject area (see the Guidelines for Priority Programmes - DFG form 50.05).

www.dfg.de/formulare/50_05/

Preparation for the meeting:

Please prepare for the meeting such that you can express an opinion on all the proposals. For those on which you have been asked to comment, please prepare a brief written statement which you can bring to the meeting (in digital form) or send by e-mail to the DFG Head Office immediately prior to the meeting.

Please note:

General Guidelines for the Written Review (DFG form 10.20) are available at:

www.dfg.de/formulare/10_20/

In addition to the guidelines mentioned there on issues of bias, favouritism and conflicts of interest, please note the following special guidelines for dealing with the appearance of bias/conflicts of interest:

Please check whether you have any academic/scientific or other connections with the members of the programme committee.

If you and a member of the programme committee belong to the same department, this does not in itself give rise to an appearance of bias. If the department is divided into institutes, an appearance of bias is only considered to exist for the purposes of this process if you both belong to the same institute.

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If you are considering the possibility of submitting your own proposal within one of the proposed Priority Programmes, please notify the DFG Head Office immediately of this potential conflict of interest.

Once you have disclosed the conflict of interest at the start of the meeting of the ad hoc review board, you may participate in the review process.

The review should not exceed two pages in length.

II Structure of the Review

1. How would you assess the **quality of the project**, especially with regard to originality and the anticipated contribution to knowledge? Is the topic an emerging field?
2. Are the plans for organising the interdisciplinary and multi-location collaboration/networking convincing?
3. Are the research objectives coherent and clearly achievable over the course of the planned timeframe (six years)?
4. Is the coordinator qualified to manage a major interdisciplinary and multi-location research group?
5. To what extent do measures designed to support early career researchers and female researchers as well as family-friendly provisions exceed the usual standards?
6. How would you assess the planned integration of the envisaged research activities into the international research system?
7. Are the envisaged activities sufficiently and convincingly distinct from other current DFG programmes with a direct thematic connection (e.g. Collaborative Research Centres, Research Units) or programmes offered by other funding organisations (including those outside Germany)?

8. To facilitate the structuring of the discussion in the ad hoc review board, please provide an initial appraisal using the categories below:

- Category A: The proposal can be recommended for establishment without reservation.
- Category B: The proposal is largely convincing but requires discussion.
- Category C: The proposal is not convincing and therefore its establishment should not be recommended.