

Guidelines

for transfer projects in Collaborative Research Centres

Purpose

Transfer projects in Collaborative Research Centres (CRC) serve to test the findings of basic research under real-life conditions or to apply them as a practical prototype. Their goal is to transfer knowledge between research and application, to the mutual benefit of both sides. On the one hand, this allows scientific findings to be tested under real-life conditions, and on the other, it gives the basic research conducted by the CRC an important stimulus and practical suggestions.

Transfer projects are open to all fields of scientific research. The fields of application range from industrial manufacturing and process development through to the translation of insights made in the life sciences and medicine into practical treatments as well as to the service sector and education.

Researchers and scientists can collaborate with private or public users of any kind. The collaboration partners can be manufacturers of industrial goods as well as pharmaceutical companies, software vendors, publishers or museums, and can be from Germany or abroad.

The structure of a transfer project

A transfer project is a collaboration between researchers and scientists belonging to an CRC and one or more collaboration partners from Germany or abroad. The proposal must be submitted to the DFG by the coordinator of the CRC.

Funding can be requested for the scientific institution involved in the transfer project to cover staffing, consumables and instrumentation according to the same rules as apply to the project sections in the CRC. As usual, appropriate core support must be provided. The collaboration partners contribute staff and funds. They are not entitled to receive funding from the DFG.

Flexible funding period and time of proposal submission

A transfer project can be funded for a period of up to 48 months. To make it possible to react to various situations, they can also receive funding for shorter periods. Experience to date has shown that this makes them easier to implement successfully, especially from the collaboration partner's point of view.

Transfer projects can either be proposed as part of the overall proposal for a CRC or subsequently during the current funding period. In contrast to other project sections that are part of a CRC, they can also extend beyond the end of the funding period for the Collaborative Research Centre in justified, exceptional cases.

Sample proposal and cooperation agreement

Please use the appropriate section of DFG Form 60.100e (Proposal Template for the Establishment of a Collaborative Research Centre) or the annotated German version DFG Form 60.100 (Antragsmuster für die Einrichtung eines Sonderforschungsbereichs). This form is also applicable if the proposal is submitted during the current funding period of the CRC.

The collaboration between the scientific institution and the collaboration partner requires a Cooperation Agreement. We recommend that you discuss this with the collaboration partner at an early stage. The Cooperation Agreement must be approved by the DFG's Head Office. It is therefore also advisable to inform the DFG representative responsible for the CRC about the proposed transfer project as early as possible. We recommend the use of the DFG sample cooperation agreement (DFG Form 41.026 or 41.026a).

Transfer project results

Transfer projects operate in the pre-competitive arena and are concluded with the establishment of prototypical results. The DFG expects the results of the transfer projects to be published in an appropriate form. A final report for the project should also mention details of the funding. This should state to what extent the collaboration between the scientific partner and the collaboration partner made it possible to accomplish results that could not otherwise have been obtained, including in terms of the promotion of young researchers involved in the transfer project.

For further information about transfer projects, please contact:

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For enquiries relating to individual transfer project proposals, please contact the DFG representative responsible for the CRC at the Research Centres Division.