

NFDI – Letter of Intent – Planned consortium 2linkNFDI

1. Binding letter of intent as advance notification or non-binding letter of intent

<input type="checkbox"/>	Binding letter of intent (required as advance notification for proposals in 2019)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Non-binding letter of intent (anticipated submission in 2020)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Non-binding letter of intent (anticipated submission in 2021)

2. Formal details

Planned name of the consortium

Linking NFDI to existing Service and Support Structures in German Academia

Acronym of the planned consortium

2linkNFDI

Applicant institution

Verein zur Förderung eines Deutschen Forschungsnetzes e. V. (DFN-Verein)

Alexanderplatz 1
10178 Berlin
2linkNFDI@dfn.de

Head of institution: Dr. Christian Grimm, Jochem Pattloch
Board: Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim Bungartz, Dr. Rainer Bockholt, Christian Zens

Spokesperson

Dr. Christian Grimm, grimm@dfn.de, DFN

3. Objectives, work programme and research environment

Research area of the proposed consortium (according to the DFG classification system)

Cross-cutting services and aspects that support at least a majority if not all research areas represented under NFDI.

Concise summary of the planned consortium's main objectives and task areas

- 2LinkNFDI will conduct a nationwide coordination process with stakeholders and NFDI consortia until 2021 to clarify which cross-cutting functions are necessary within an NFDI and which cannot be carried out by the NFDI Directorate.
- In close cooperation with the NFDI Directorate and the consortia 2linkNFDI will identify and address those cross-cutting aspects and provide cross-cutting or overarching services (mainly for the other consortia) the NFDI directorate does not account for itself.
- These aspects might comprise capacity building, legal support, long-term archiving, local implementation and support, services mapping, service portfolio management, quality assurance and control et al.
- For the services provided by the NFDI, measurable minimum standards should be developed and verified by the related community or an expert group, e.g. to include the services in the NFDI portal. This requires certain criteria (e.g. SLAs and operational/quality acceptance), and workflows. This process is supported and facilitated by the 2linkNFDI consortium, which already has the expertise to provide sustainable services.
- Along the guidelines for the "Development and Implementation of Service Portfolios for Sustainable Support of Digitisation" published by DINI and ZKI in 2018, the infrastructure facilities are also supported in portfolio development in the course of NFDI development. Basic services are usually available at the universities, but the adaptation of subject-specific or (within the framework of the NFDI) for the first time standardized procedures and service offers in the research data management can hardly be mastered by the

service departments individually. Moreover, there are local institutional differences in the requirements at different levels (subject-specific needs, scientific profile, strategic goals, and available resources). Consequently, 2linkNFDI accompanies the institutions in these processes with materials, workshops and coaching.

- Furthermore, it is important to support common developments and aspects of the different consortia so that they can be dealt with in a coordinated way based on general standards. This also includes identifying potential generic services that are better offered across consortia than redundant in different technical consortia. 2linkNFDI is responsible for this task and ensures rapid, direct dissemination at the service facilities. They are also supported in adapting the services to any local requirements.
- IT service centres, media centres and libraries in German academia already provide the right platforms for this to happen. Significant investments have been made over the last couple of years, which led to a combined interworking of digitally-based technology, resources, and communications, often summarized under the term e-Infrastructures – planned and operated by the appropriate expert staff within refined organisational structures to support collaborative research in all disciplines.

Brief description of the proposed use of existing infrastructures, tools and services that are essential in order to fulfil the planned consortium's objectives

- Together, DFN, DINI, ZKI and DBV comprise most if not all relevant IT service centres, media centres and libraries in German academia.
- This implies, 2linkNFDI might organise the use of potentially the entire set of IT services and infrastructures provided by the constituents of DFN, DINI, ZKI and DBV.
- The service institutions – in particular, the computer centres and libraries of the universities – will most likely have an important role to play in the NFDI initiative. Most of the corresponding repositories for research data are located in these institutions – be they specialist or otherwise specific or generic repositories – and a large part of the technical and didactic expertise on the subject of research data accumulates in them.
- DFN, DINI and ZKI together are operating a total of 34 working groups (WG) and special subject interest groups as part of their established community platforms. These activities as well as regular conferences are covering a broad field of topics, e.g. from research data management to supercomputing, from IT security to service management and metadata modelling – from a user and a provider perspective. Based on all these activities, cross-cutting issues for the NFDI might also be approached in a structured way and with the goal of developing well-considered standards.

Interfaces to other proposed NFDI consortia: brief description of existing agreements for collaboration and/or plans for future collaboration

Following one recommendation of the NFDI Conference on 14/15 May 2019 in Bonn members of 2linkNFDI have established contacts to other consortia addressing similar cross-cutting objectives. Based on the positive feedback gathered in bilateral consultations an open invitation was sent to eleven consortia with the aim to further elaborate on synergies for proposal submissions in 2020 or 2021. To better understand and investigate in joint opportunities, a kick-off workshop is planned during summer 2019. One potential outcome of this initiative is the formation of a new organisation to promote cross-cutting topics for NFDI. Such organisation should be considered a merger of consortia with similar cross-cutting

objectives and might become coordinator of a respective proposal. In this case 2linkNFDI would cease as individual consortium.

The following nine consortia responded with positive feedback before 4 July:

- BRIDGE4NFDI
- NFDI4RSE
- Interdisciplinary NFDI
- ForumX
- NFDI4HPC
- AI4NFDI
- CompeNDI
- NFDI4CS4NFDI
- NFDI Web

In addition to consortia addressing cross-cutting aspects 2linkNFDI received interest and support by various community-driven and subject/method-oriented consortia. More explicitly, KonsortSWD and NFDI4Crime expressed their intention to collaborate with the aim to foster synergies with 2linkNFDI.

4. Cross-cutting topics

Please identify cross-cutting topics that are relevant for your consortium and that need to be designed and developed by several or all NFDI consortia.

2linkNFDI maintains its objectives as expressed in the extended abstract submitted to the NFDI conference. Highlighted cross-cutting topics are:

- service mapping and service portfolio management
- access path to data, including search and authorization
- quality assurance
- capacity building
- local implementation and support
- legal support including model contracts and rules of participation
- long-term archiving

As expressed under section 3 this list is subject to both, growth and consolidation in consultation with other consortia. Prioritization and selection of topics will consider requirements by first projects granted in 2020 and executed in consultation with the NFDI Directorate.

Please indicate which of these cross-cutting topics your consortium could contribute to and how.

See above.