

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 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 Academic Service and Support Structures inside and outside NFDI Consortia

Acronym of the planned consortium

2linkNFDI

Applicant institution

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

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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

Co-applicant institutions

Deutsche Initiative für Netzwerkinformation e. V. (DINI)
c/o SUB Göttingen
DINI-Geschäftsstelle
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37073 Göttingen

Head of institution: Dr. Helge Steenweg, Boguslaw Malys

ZKI Zentren für Kommunikation und Informationsverarbeitung in Lehre und
Forschung e. V. (ZKI)
c/o Hochschule Heilbronn
ZKI-Geschäftsstelle
Max-Planck-Str. 39
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Head of institution: Hartmut Hotzel, Prof. Dr. Gudrun Oevel, Dr. Inga Scheler

Deutscher Bibliotheksverband e. V. (DBV)
Fritschestraße 27-28
10585 Berlin

Head of institution: Prof. Dr. Andreas Degkwitz

Universitätsrechenzentrum der Universität Leipzig
Augustusplatz 10
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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 addresses cross-cutting topics in the NFDI and ultimately aims at the long-term provision of cross-cutting services for the NFDI. Specific task areas may include the following (extract from the "Leipzig-Berlin-Erklärung", see below):

- Capacity building, qualification and teaching of data literacy & data management
 - Training, education, consulting
 - Linking science with service providers for research data management through new professional fields, digital skills
 - Local implementation & support (e.g. data stewards)
- IT service management & support structures: This requires the development of specifications and quality standards against which the services and data infrastructures in the NFDI can be measured on a general level. Certifications, policies, best practices, service mapping, monitoring of service quality, support structures and aspects of portfolio management must be considered here.
- Identity and access management: This includes data-minimised authentication and authorization of users as well as management of identifiers, coordinated rights and role management for access to and management of research data and other resources.

- Long-term archiving and sustainable access: This includes the topics of data provenance and sovereignty, long term access and usability as well as security of data, tools and services, as well as persistent identifiers (e.g. DOIs) and the certification of archives.

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. Significant invests have been made by these organisations 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. This implies that 2linkNFDI might organise the use of potentially the entire set of IT services and infrastructures provided by the constituents of DFN, DINI, DBV and ZKI in order to support and extend the NFDI.

Service institutions – in particular, the computing 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, DBV and ZKI together are operating a total amount of about 40 working groups and special 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 two workshops were organised in 2019 with BRIDGE4NFDI, NFDI4RSE, CompeNDI, NFDI4HPC, NFDI4CS4NFDI and NFDI Web.

Subsequently, these cross-cutting initiatives together invited planned NFDI consortia to a coordination meeting in Berlin on 25 February 2020. The intense discussions by 36 representatives from 19 consortia resulted in an idea for a joint position paper on cross-cutting topics in the NFDI. After an open consultation process this paper was published on 15 June 2020 as "Leipzig-Berlin-Erklärung zu NFDI-Querschnittsthemen der Infrastrukturentwicklung" (<http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3895208>).

In addition to the joint formulation of most relevant cross-cutting topics, the document also contains four variants of how cross-cutting initiatives can contribute to their implementation within the framework of NFDI – whether in the form of cross-cutting consortia or other funded

forms of participation, in each case in close coordination with the disciplinary NFDI consortia, the NFDI Directorate, the NFDI Expert Committee and, if applicable, the DFG.

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 is a cross-cutting oriented initiative and maintains its objectives as expressed in the extended abstract submitted to the NFDI conference 2020. Its main task areas as already elaborated in section 3 are:

- Qualification and teaching of data literacy & data management
- IT service management & support structures
- Identity and access management
- Long-term archiving and sustainable access

As also expressed under section 3 this list is subject to growth and consolidation in consultation with other consortia but also to the form of potential participation in the NFDI. Prioritization and selection of topics will consider requirements by first projects granted this year 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.