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1st NFDI Conference, 13–14 May 2019

Purpose and Vision of a National Research Data Infrastructure

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National Research Data Infrastructure

Purpose of the NFDI

Aim of the NFDI

... to systematically manage scientific and research data, provide long-term data storage, backup and accessibility, and network the data both nationally and internationally.

... by means of a coordinated network of consortia tasked with providing science-driven data services to research communities.

► Address the needs of researchers

- in line with the subject-specific and/or methodical needs of the research community
- by enabling subject-specific tools and support structures

► Facilitate easy access to data

- by identifying and addressing academic research needs
- by indexing, securing and FAIR handling of research data for re-use

► Foster sustainability

- by providing long-term data storage, backup and accessibility
- by enabling reliable and sustainable RDM services tailored to the needs of researchers

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Vision of the NFDI

► **Communicative and well-organised**

- acceptability of processes and procedures for handling research data
- cross-consortia dialogue

► **Connected and coordinated (not competitive)**

- network the data at national and international level
- cooperation as the basis for a common national effort
- common pursuit of objectives
- close collaboration by users and information infrastructures

► **Based on proven practices**

- responsibilities, processes und procedures, data collections

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General information on the NFDI Programme

- ▶ Decision by the Joint Science Conference (GWK) on 16 November 2018
- ▶ Initial funding of approximately €85 million per year (incl. 22% overhead)
- ▶ Project funding for 10 years; decision on continued financing in 2026
- ▶ Expected to fund approximately 30 consortia, selected in 3 calls according to the criteria stated in Federal-State Agreement of November 2018
- ▶ Only consortia with a clear funding recommendation based on the review and evaluation process can receive funding
- ▶ Final funding decisions will be made by the GWK, first decisions are expected to be made in June 2020

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Role and tasks of the DFG in the establishment of the NFDI

- ▶ All DFG tasks relate mainly to consortia
 - Conceptional design and approval of the call for proposals
 - Organization of the review process for proposals for consortia
 - Evaluation of the proposals and funding recommendations to the GWK
 - Regular evaluation of consortia after 5 years

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New challenge: Joint action is needed, not competition

▶ **Meshed structure**

- Vertical challenge: subject-specific or methodical **consortia**
- Horizontal challenge: data-related and **cross-consortia** topics

▶ **Inward-outward cooperation**

- Inward challenge: represent and connect a research community
- Outward challenge: work jointly together with other consortia

▶ **Joint development and review of both the structure and the cooperation**

- Review both how consortia plan to engage within the meshed structure and how consortia plan to cooperate inwardly and outwardly
- Foster the structure and the cooperation of consortia
- The selection process does not aim to fund the ONE best proposal

▶ **Development of a process to deal with future challenges**

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How to foster structure and cooperation?

► Establishment phase

- Main issue: governing bodies, i.e. Consortia Assembly, Scientific Senate and Directorate, have not yet been established
- Exceptional challenge: How to coordinate cross-cutting topics among consortia?

► Conference objectives

- Discuss what individual consortia can contribute to the NFDI
- Draft an overview of relevant cross-cutting topics and areas of joint action (but implementation and organisation remain the responsibility of the Directorate)
- Build a common understanding of cross-cutting topics that consortia can and should address themselves, but also identify topics that need to be addressed otherwise

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Important dates

- ▶ First call for proposals in June 2019
- ▶ Submission of **non-binding** letters of intent for all three calls(!) by the end of June 2019
 - The Expert Committee will consider using the Lol as another way to encourage cooperation between consortia
 - This will be done by publishing the Lol openly and to include information on who will be involved and how other interested parties and initiatives could get involved
- ▶ Proposals to be submitted for the first call in October 2019
- ▶ Review and assessment of proposals from November 2019 to April 2020
- ▶ Funding decision by GWK in June 2020
- ▶ Details will be updated regularly at <http://www.dfg.de/nfdi/en>

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- ▶ The conference is not part of the DFG's selection process, it is meant to encourage networking among potential consortia
- ▶ The review criteria are identical to those defined in the Federal-State Agreement of November 2018 (Bund-Länder-Vereinbarung)
- ▶ Key funding criteria include means of addressing the needs of scientific users and measures for collaboration across consortia

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1st NFDI Conference – Four important points

▶ (1) Considerable challenges for all stakeholders involved

- For consortia: It's not about the funding of an independent proposal, but the joint action of all consortia to setup the NFDI
- For the governing bodies yet to be established: Inclusion of subject-specific needs as well as joint establishment of cross-cutting topics and generic tasks
- For DFG's selection process: Taking into account the quality of individual consortia as well as their inward-outward cooperation and the meshed structure as a whole

▶ (2) The number of consortia

- 57 extended abstracts in relation to a maximum of 30 consortia within the NFDI
- Open communication and cooperation – not competition – is required to address this numeric difference

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1st NFDI Conference – Four important points

▶ (3) The year of the proposal submission does not matter

- The maturity of a proposal depends to a large degree on the inward-outward cooperation
- It is not important to be the first, it is important to work together
- The funding of approximately 5 to 8 consortia within the first call would be seen as a success

▶ (4) What will make the conference successful?

- You will have learned about other consortia in similar areas
- You will have found opportunities for cooperation
- You will have received stimuli to be discussed in your consortia and reflected back to your communities
- You will have identified cross-cutting topics
- You will have an open mind for working together



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Many thanks for your attention!