

## Call for Proposals

No. 56

30 June 2023

### German-African Cooperation Projects in Infectiology

Drafts Infectiology 2024

The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) calls for draft proposals of joint research projects between researchers in Germany and Africa.

#### The scope of the call includes:

- The investigation of neglected tropical infectious diseases in humans and animals including social and behavioural aspects. "Neglected" in this context means that for basic research into these diseases, only very limited funding is available.
- The establishment or strengthening of mutually beneficial equal partnerships that allow African researchers to investigate topics of local significance and that open up research opportunities in Africa for German researchers in the long term.
- Providing support and funding for the academic and professional careers of young African researchers in their home countries in order to contribute to building research capacities in Africa.
- Strengthening research networks within Africa, therefore, several African partners may participate in one project.

The DFG primarily seeks to encourage researchers in human and veterinary medicine to apply for funding of projects on the investigation of neglected tropical infectious diseases. Projects researching AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis will only be considered in the scope of the call if they study mechanisms of virulence or the immune response against them. Draft proposals may also refer to the topic of co-infections. Projects with a social and behavioural approach will be considered if they investigate consequences or conditions of neglected tropical infectious diseases.

#### The scope of the call excludes:

- funding of research infrastructure (necessary additional equipment can be applied for, though)
- clinical trials;
- development of diagnostic procedures;
- search for novel pharmacological substances without primarily investigating their mechanisms of action;
- product development;
- epidemiological surveys that do not aim directly at establishing virulence mechanisms;
- projects limited to collecting and/or sequencing of samples or isolates.

### **Eligibility**

The principal investigator submitting the proposal must be integrated into the German research system and is in charge of the project. Funding for the African co-applicants has to be applied for within the proposals later on. For grant eligibility on the German side, the usual DFG rules apply.

For researchers at non-university institutions, the rules on mandatory cooperation apply as well. More information can be found in the current version of the Guidelines Research Grants Programme (linked below).

Submissions by researchers who are not integrated into the German research system cannot be accepted for legal reasons. At least one partner must be a researcher working in Germany.

Salary supplements for African principal investigators cannot be applied for. Funding can only be allocated to project partners in Germany and Africa. The participation of researchers from other countries is possible, but must be funded from other sources.

### **Format of draft proposals**

Project proposals should initially be submitted as draft proposals in the following mandatory format:

- Only up to six pages per draft proposal (non-negotiable).
- Curricula vitae of all prospective German and African applicants: up to two pages & up to twenty publications per CV. Please also refer to DFG Guidelines for Preparing Publication Lists (see link below).
- Each CV must be uploaded in elan as single file. It is mandatory to use the current DFG form 53.200 (Curriculum Vitae).
- Only CVs of applicants should be submitted.  
(*Applicants are those researchers who can apply for funds in case of an invitation to submit a proposal.*)

### **Draft proposals have to include:**

- an overview of all prospective applicants including the institution where their project part will be conducted;
- the scientific description of the project;
- the cooperation scheme;
- a strategy for the training of researchers in early career phases at the African location;
- a brief description of the African project partners' current infrastructure;
- if project-specific publications are available, they may be listed in the six-page draft proposal;
- for all cited publications, only manuscripts that have been published or accepted for publication in peer-reviewed journals may be listed.

### **Please note:**

- The concepts of the project should initially be outlined for a project duration of three years, but should contain a longer-term perspective. It will be possible to submit renewal proposals according to the established DFG procedures.
- German and African partners form a consortium. Project funds will be allocated to the respective partners in the proposals according to the project requirements.

- Draft proposals must be written in English and submitted by the German project partner(s).
- African project partners cannot submit proposals independently without German researchers.
- There is no template for draft proposals in elan.
- Annexes submitted in addition to the above-mentioned application documents (draft proposal plus CVs) will not be forwarded to the members of the review panel.
- A detailed breakdown of expected costs is not required at this stage. Indicating an estimated overall amount is sufficient.
- Due to the goal of strengthening research capacities at the African sites, it is intended to allocate the majority of funding to the African partners.

### **Procedure**

Draft proposals will be evaluated by an international review panel. After competitive assessment, the most convincing concept consortia will be invited to submit proposals.

The German principal investigators will be notified of the selection results usually in early summer of the following year and are requested to pass on this information to the African and German partners.

### **Deadline**

Draft proposals must be submitted via the DFG's electronic proposal processing system elan by **30 October 2023**.

First steps in elan: After Log-In > Proposal Submission > Individual Grants Programme > "Draft Proposal for a Research Grant"> Start online form). Please select the call "Drafts Infectiology 2024".

If the draft proposal is your first proposal to the DFG and you do not yet have a user account for the elan portal, you must register to submit the draft proposal in order to obtain a user account. Your elan registration request for a user account will be validated by the DFG and confirmation will usually be provided by the following business day.

At this stage, the registration step is not required for the partners in Africa.

Please note that according to a decision by the DFG General Assembly, as of 1 August 2019, DFG funding may only be awarded to institutions that have implemented the guidelines laid down in the Code of Conduct for Safeguarding Good Research Practice in their own regulations in a legally binding manner.

This means that also for international proposals, funding from the DFG can only be received if the guidelines for safeguarding good research practice (see link below) have been implemented by the German applicant's institution. If you have any questions on this subject, please contact the Research Integrity team at the DFG Head Office (see contact below). Further information regarding the implementation can be found on Research Integrity website (see link below).

## Further information

To ensure quick responses, queries should be submitted in writing to [infectiology@dfg.de](mailto:infectiology@dfg.de) exclusively. Enquiries directed to other addresses cannot be processed.

Please click here for the German or French version:

German Version:

[www.dfg.de/download/pdf/foerderung/internationales/kooperation\\_afrika/2024\\_call\\_infectiology\\_de.pdf](http://www.dfg.de/download/pdf/foerderung/internationales/kooperation_afrika/2024_call_infectiology_de.pdf)

French Version:

[www.dfg.de/download/pdf/foerderung/internationales/kooperation\\_afrika/2024\\_call\\_infectiology\\_fr.pdf](http://www.dfg.de/download/pdf/foerderung/internationales/kooperation_afrika/2024_call_infectiology_fr.pdf)

The electronic portal elan with proposal instructions and guidelines can be found at:

<https://elan.dfg.de/en>

DFG form 50.01\_en "Guidelines Research Grants Programme" is available at:

[www.dfg.de/formulare/50\\_01](http://www.dfg.de/formulare/50_01)

DFG form 1\_91\_en "Guidelines for Preparing Publication Lists" is available at:

[www.dfg.de/formulare/1\\_91](http://www.dfg.de/formulare/1_91)

DFG form 53\_200\_elan "Curriculum Vitae" is available at:

[www.dfg.de/formulare/53\\_200\\_elan](http://www.dfg.de/formulare/53_200_elan)

Please note the DFG's data protection notice on research funding, which can be viewed and downloaded at [www.dfg.de/privacy\\_policy](http://www.dfg.de/privacy_policy). If necessary, please also forward this information to those individuals whose data will be processed by the DFG due to their involvement in your project.

Guidelines for Safeguarding Good Research Practice – Code of Conduct:

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3923601>

Information on the implementation of the Guidelines for Safeguarding Good Research Practice (Code of Conduct):

<https://wissenschaftliche-integritaet.de/en/notes-on-implementation>

Contact of the DFG's Research Integrity team (Good Research Practice): [gwp@dfg.de](mailto:gwp@dfg.de)

The DFG strongly welcomes proposals from researchers of all genders and sexual identities, from different ethnic, cultural, religious, ideological or social backgrounds, from different career stages, types of universities and research institutions, and with disabilities or chronic illness. With regard to the subject-specific focus of this call, the DFG encourages female researchers in particular to submit proposals. For further information, please refer to [www.dfg.de/diversity/en](http://www.dfg.de/diversity/en).

Contact for scientific queries:

Dr Andreas Strecker, phone +49 228 885-2530, [infectiology@dfg.de](mailto:infectiology@dfg.de)

Contact for formal queries and elan:

Christoph Höveler, phone +49 228 885-3196, [infectiology@dfg.de](mailto:infectiology@dfg.de)

Bettina Schilling, phone +49 228 885-2391, [infectiology@dfg.de](mailto:infectiology@dfg.de)