

## Germany – DFG & BMFTR/PtJ



### CONTACT

Country / Region	Germany	
<b>Funding Organisation Full Name (Acronym)</b>	<b>Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)</b> <a href="https://www.dfg.de/">https://www.dfg.de/</a>	<b>Bundesministerium für Forschung, Technologie und Raumfahrt (BMFTR)</b> <a href="http://www.BMFTR.de">www.BMFTR.de</a> <b>Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH – Projektträger Jülich (PtJ)</b> <a href="https://www.ptj.de">https://www.ptj.de</a>
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### Who is addressed by this information?

This document contains details of specific requirements for applicants submitting a proposal for *DFG* or *BMFTR / PtJ* funding. Please note that it is mandatory to follow the requirements set out below.

### Procedure

- Pre-proposals:

Pre-proposals submitted by applicants requesting funds from a German research funding organisation (DFG or BMFTR / PtJ) are assessed for eligibility.

If the pre-proposal is eligible for funding by one of these research funding organisations, general eligibility is established.

- Full Proposals:

All funding proposals submitted to a German research funding organisation and eligible for DFG or BMFTR / PtJ funding are processed according to a uniform procedure. In addition to mandatory submission of all full proposals to the Biodiversa+ Call Secretariat, full proposals must be submitted to the DFG via the [DFG elan portal](#) by 19 April 2026 at the latest. **Only in those (rare) cases where applicants have been informed** after the eligibility check of step 1 that they should not submit via elan - usually because they are not eligible to submit proposals to the DFG - they have to submit their full proposal to BMFTR / PtJ via [easy Online](#) in the funding portal of the German Federal Government (only upon request by PtJ, after selection of proposals for funding).

- Funding decision:

In case of a funding recommendation by Biodiversa+ and eligibility for funding by the DFG and the BMFTR, the two funding organisations will jointly decide which organisation will fund a project. For some applicants it may therefore be necessary to submit their full proposal via the DFG's elan portal and subsequently via easy Online.

## Technical advice

- Submission via the EPSS portal of Biodiversa+: pre-proposals and full proposals

The cost calculation for pre-proposals and full proposals must be carried out in the EPSS applications in accordance with the BMFTR funding guidelines.

Please specify in the application form in EPSS under “Explanation and/or remarks concerning the proposed budget” the staff you wish to apply for, e.g. 1 PhD, 36 months, 65%; student and research assistants: €5,000.

- Submission via the DFG’s electronic proposal processing system (elan): only full proposals

Please note that prior to submission of the full proposal to the DFG, applicants must be registered in the elan system. Registration in elan is required no later than three weeks prior to the deadline for submitting full proposals.

The proposal form (= the same file containing your full proposal as submitted to EPSS) must be submitted via elan, the DFG’s electronic proposal processing system ([www.dfg.de/elan/en](http://www.dfg.de/elan/en)). Do NOT use the DFG template “Project Description – Project Proposal”, 53.01).

Please select as follows:

- Proposal Submission/New Project (*Antragstellung/Neues Projekt*)
- Individual Grants Programme (*Einzelförderung*)
- Proposal for a Research Grant (*Antrag auf eine Sachbeihilfe*)
- Start online form (-> *Online-Formular starten*)
- Select the appropriate call “BiodivConnect 2025/2026”

More detailed information on how to submit a proposal under the BiodivConnect call is available on [DFG – BiodivERsA/Biodiversa+](#). Since there are certain peculiarities to be considered when submitting a proposal under the BiodivConnect call, please ensure to check this information before starting the proposal submission even if you are familiar with the elan system.

## Calculation of costs in EPSS and elan

**Personnel costs (Post doc, PhD etc.):** Please note that the calculation of personnel costs differs between the DFG (see DFG [form 60.12 “DFG Personnel Rates”](#)) and [BMFTR funding guidelines, as both are based on different average rates. In elan, the same personnel categories with duration and percentage must be selected as those requested in the EPSS, e.g. in both portals one PhD position \(= Doctoral Researcher or Comparable\) for 36 months and 65%.](#)

**Miscellaneous staff, direct project costs, instrumentation:** These costs must be applied for in identical amounts in EPSS and elan. The names of these costs in EPSS differ in some cases from those in elan. Subcontracting costs (EPSS) should be applied for in elan under other costs. For all other costs, it is sufficient to select a suitable category in elan at your best discretion; it should therefore not be necessary to contact the DFG Head Office for clarification.

[In consequence, the total amounts \(excluding overheads\) in EPSS and elan differ if personnel have been requested. In some cases, this will result in elan in a total amount exceeding €210,000 \(excluding overheads\). This is permitted, provided that the funds from EPSS have been correctly transferred to elan.](#)

- Submission via easy Online in the funding portal of the German Federal Government for BMFTR / PtJ

Please select as follows:

- “New form” (*Neues Formular*)

- Under the relevant funding ministry “BMFTR”, select “Fördermaßnahme” and “BiodivConnect” as the funding programme
- Please select the form according to your institution (e.g. AZAP for universities)
- Start online form
- Important note: If you interrupt data entry in the electronic form system and leave the portal, be sure to save your file – if you wish to continue data entry, click on “continue editing draft” (*Entwurf weiter bearbeiten*) → accept the terms of use and then upload the file you have started in the subsequent screen and complete data entry. If you have any problems, click on the “Contact/Support” button at the top right of the screen. You will receive support promptly.

For further information on easy Online and access to the system:  
<https://foerderportal.bund.de/easyonline>

## FUNDING CONTRIBUTION AND BUDGET CAPS

	DFG	BMFTR/PtJ
Funding contribution to the Call (in EUR)	€1,500,000	€ 2,000,000
Minimum amount of funding per awarded partner or project (in EUR)	De minimis limit of € 350 per applicant	€ 50,000 per partner
Maximum amount of funding per awarded project (in EUR)	<b>Regulations for consortia with one German partner:</b>	
	Maximum amount: €210,000 per project, excl. overheads or other flat rates in EPSS, calculated in accordance with BMFTR funding guidelines.  The maximum amount refers to the sum of all costs applied for by all researchers and partners seeking German funding for a project, excl. overhead costs.	
	<b>Maximum budget including overheads:</b>	
	No maximum amount of funding incl. overheads (= Programmpauschale) has to be considered, as overheads will be calculated automatically in case of funding in accordance with DFG rates applicable at the time of the grant.	<b>The maximum amount of funding incl. overheads or other flat rates (total funding amount) for research institutions who apply for a grant on a cost basis should not exceed € 250,000 per project.</b> Please consider that no cost overrun will be allowed.
	<b>Regulations for consortia with several German partners:</b>	
	The number of partners from Germany in a consortium is not limited; the budget may be divided among them as desired, however, the total amount may not exceed the maximum.  Please note that consortia recommended for funding with partners from companies, SMEs, municipalities, authorities, civil society organisations will typically be funded by the BMFTR and not by the DFG. Consortia will be informed if submission of their full	<b>Up to two German partners in a consortium are eligible.</b> The prerequisite for two German partners in a consortium is that <b>at least one partner can be classified as a stakeholder or end-user</b> (e. g. companies, SMEs, municipalities, authorities, civil society organisations, etc.). If there is no German stakeholder or end-user in the consortium, only one German partner per consortium can participate - either as a coordinator or partner. The distribution of funds between the partners is left up to them but has to consider the minimum amount of funding per awarded partner.

	proposal via elan is therefore not required.	<p>In the case of two German partners within a project, the maximum amount of funding incl. overheads or flat rates must not exceed 250,000 €. No cost overrun will be allowed.</p> <p><b>The maximum amount of funding incl. overheads or other flat rates (total funding amount) for partners, which can be classified as a stakeholder or end-user (e. g. companies, SMEs, municipalities, authorities, civil society organisations, etc.) is limited to € 150,000.</b></p>
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#### GENERAL ELIGIBILITY RULES

	DFG	BMFTR/PtJ
<b>Eligible environment(s)/realm(s)</b>	All (no restrictions)	
<b>Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution</b>	Please note that Institutes of Forschungszentrum Jülich are not eligible to this call to avoid any Col with PtJ as a Biodiversa+ partner and therefore cannot apply for funding.	
	<p>Qualified researchers (as a rule, those holding a doctorate) working in any discipline at a German research institution are eligible for funding.</p> <p>In the case of researchers who are employed at one of the institutes or member organisations of the Max Planck Society, Fraunhofer, Helmholtz Association or Leibniz Association, researchers working at a publicly funded institute associated with one of these research institutions, and researchers working at international research organisations located in Germany, please note</p>	<p>Applications may be submitted by German institutions of higher education and non-university research institutions as well as by commercial companies, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SME), which are headquartered and exploit their results primarily in Germany. Also local authorities, non-profit organizations or associations are eligible for funding. Individual persons are not eligible for funding.</p>

	<p><b>that the duty to cooperate does not apply to this call. (<i>“Es gilt keine Kooperationspflicht.”</i>)</b></p> <p>Researchers working at institutions which serve purely commercial purposes or those who are not permitted to publish findings in a generally accessible form are not eligible to apply.</p> <p><b>Important:</b> For collaborations with commercial partners in your consortium, the results of the planned projects must be in the <b>pre-competitive range (TRL 7 maximum; see <a href="#">h2020-wp1415-annex-g-trl_en.pdf</a>)</b>.</p> <p>Furthermore, a <b>collaboration agreement</b> must be concluded between the scientific and the commercial partners. The <b>“Framework for state aid for research and development and innovation (2022/C 414/01)”</b> must be taken into account. We recommend using the DFG model agreement (cf. DFG form 41.026). As an alternative, the DESCA Model-Consortium Agreement can be used; however, it should be noted that with regard to the granting of rights of use to the work results achieved by the respective funding recipient in the funded project – at least in the</p>	
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	<p>case of the granting of rights of use to commercial partners for the purpose of exploiting their own work results from the project - so-called fair and reasonable conditions are to be agreed upon, namely by agreeing on the so-called financial terms variant (see section 9.4.1 Option 1 of the DESCAs model contract in conjunction with Annex 5 of the Annotated Grant Agreement (Specific Rules on IPR)). In principle, the market value of the work results achieved by the funding recipient should be taken as a basis.</p>	
<p><b>Eligibility of costs, types and their caps</b></p>	<p><b>Subcontracting</b> is possible according to the general rules for research grants (for details see <a href="#">DFG form 52.01</a>).</p>	<p>Eligible costs can be applied for personnel cost, travel cost, sub-contracting, equipment, consumables, overheads (not included: building investments).</p> <p>Please consider the BMFTR guidelines when calculating personnel costs.</p> <p>Grants will be awarded in accordance with BMFTR funding regulations, sections 23 and 44 of the "Bundeshaushaltsordnung" (BHO), associated administrative regulations as well as the BMFTR "Guidelines for Grant Applications on an Expenditure Basis (AZA)" and/or "Guidelines for Grant Applications on a Cost Basis (AZK)".</p> <p>All forms and guidelines are available on the federal</p>



		<p>funding portal  (<a href="#">"Formularschrank für Fördervordrucke des Bundes"</a>).  Please make sure that the calculations in the AZA(P) and AZK form correspond to the calculations in the work plan of the project description (costs/expenses and person months).</p> <p>Please note that applicants from non-university institutions determine their own respective project allowances (i.e. "Gemeinkosten", "Infrastrukturpauschale" etc.). These may differ significantly from the rates for overheads ("Projektpauschale") for universities. Please include these project allowances and overheads respectively within the requested funding sum, <b>but take into account that the maximum funding amount per project is not exceeded.</b> Universities may use the AZAP form and apply for 20 % of direct costs as project allowance / overheads within the easy Online form.</p> <p>Subcontracting:  To EU countries: Possible.  To non-EU countries: Possible.  Teams from third countries or international organisations may be funded for minor tasks within projects if they are subcontracted by a German applicant. Cooperation with developing countries is acceptable.  The BMFTR does not fund subcontracted teams from industrial countries or emerging economies such as China, Brazil, etc.</p>
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Should VAT be included in the budget figures provided?	Yes	Please check the respective form within the <a href="#">federal funding portal</a> for more details.
<b>Additional specific eligibility rules</b>	Applicants have to commit especially to Annex 5 of the Horizon Europe Annotated Grant Agreement: <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/aga_en.pdf">https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/aga_en.pdf</a>	Up to two German partners in a consortium are eligible (conditions see above).  Research institutions that receive joint basic funding from the Federal and State Governments can only be funded in addition to the joint basic funding <b>under certain conditions</b> . In particular, these base-funded non-university research institutions are expected to link the content of the project funding topics to the institutionally funded research activities and dovetail the two.

<b>INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT:</b>	<a href="#">DFG - Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft - BiodivERsA/Biodiversa+</a>	<a href="#">BMFTR – Biodiversa+</a>
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#### OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

	DFG	BMFTR/PtJ
<b>Submission of the pre-proposal and full proposal, and other administrative requirements to be completed at the national/regional level</b>	<p>Please select both German funding organisations in Biodiversa+'s EPSS, regardless of which one might fund your project.</p> <p>The cost calculation for pre-proposals and full proposals must be carried out in the EPSS applications in accordance with the BMFTR funding guidelines.</p> <p><b>Pre-proposals:</b> Submit pre-proposals to the Biodiversa+ Call Secretariat only. No documents or information are required for the pre-proposal stage at national level. However, specification of staff in the EPSS under „<b>Explanation and/or remarks concerning the proposed budget</b>“ is required, e.g. 1 PhD 36 months, 65%; student and research assistants: € 5,000.</p> <p><b>Full proposals:</b> Full proposals must be submitted to the DFG via the <a href="#">DFG's elan portal</a>. <b>Only in (rare) cases where applicants have</b></p>	

	<p><b>been informed</b> that they should not submit via elan - usually because they are not eligible to apply to the DFG - they have to submit their full proposal to BMFTR / PtJ via <a href="#">easy Online</a> in the funding portal of the German Federal Government (only upon request by PtJ, after selection of proposals for funding). The deadline for submission to the Biodiversa+ Call Secretariat must be strictly observed. The mandatory <b>deadline for submission to the DFG is 19 April 2026</b>. For more information, see <a href="#">DFG – BiodivERsA/Biodiversa+</a> (“Elan Instructions and FAQs for German Applicants” is available for the full proposal stage).</p> <p>The mandatory <b>deadline for submission to BMFTR/PtJ will be communicated in due time after the funding decision</b>.</p>	
<b>Submission of financial and scientific reports at the national/regional level</b>	<p><b>Financial reports:</b> It is mandatory to submit a final financial report by the deadline as well as interim financial reports as applicable. You will be informed in writing of the deadlines: these will usually be tighter than the ones normally set for individual grants.</p> <p><b>Scientific reports:</b> Scientific reports have to be submitted to Biodiversa+ only. This will fulfil all scientific reporting obligations to the DFG.</p>	National rules apply for the provision of financial and scientific reports. Further information and templates are available on the <a href="#">federal funding portal</a> .
<b>Do you allow the addition of a new research partner between step 1 and step 2 at your national / regional level?</b>	<p>It is generally possible to replace a German partner who is no longer available, provided the new partner is eligible for funding: please inform DFG and PtJ as soon as possible.</p> <p>An extension of the consortium by a German partner has to be approved by the DFG and the PtJ and can be rejected if the German funders are among the oversubscribed institutions after step 1.</p>	
<b>Does your organisation request funded researchers to sign a consortium agreement?</b>	The DFG expects a consortium agreement to be concluded between all consortium members at the start of the project (e.g. DESCAs Model Consortium Agreement).	BMFTR/PtJ expects a consortium agreement to be concluded between all consortium members at the start of the project. The information about the agreement (not the agreement itself) has

		to be submitted four months after project start at the latest. An email containing this information is sufficient (no specific form necessary).
<b>Other important information</b>	<p><b>Privacy Policy:</b> Please note the DFG's Privacy Policy for research funding, which can be viewed and downloaded at <a href="https://www.dfg.de/en/service/privacy-policy">https://www.dfg.de/en/service/privacy-policy</a> If necessary, please forward this information to those persons whose data the DFG will process due to their involvement in your project.</p>	<p><b>Statement on Data Protection:</b> This <a href="#">statement on data protection</a> provides you with detailed information on which data is collected, for what purpose and on which basis, how you can contact the 'data controller' (the responsible entity) and the Data Protection Officer, and which kind of rights you have concerning the processing of personal data.</p>