BMBF Funding Opportunities

Research Funding Day for Junior Researchers 2019, Tübingen

Dr. Marijke Looman, DLR Project Management Agency
Our core competencies

- Analyses and strategic consulting
- Funding management
- Knowledge management, communication & dialogue
- Interdisciplinarity and internationality
Our clients and references

Federal Ministries, State Ministries, authorities

Foundations, associations, science organisations, research institutes, educational institutions, companies

European Commission, foreign governmental agencies
Organisation of funding in Germany

Federal Government
- Project funding
- Institutional funding

Federal States – Länder
- Project funding
- Institutional funding

German Research Foundation (DFG)
(project funding)

Universities
(main financial support from the Länder)

Helmholtz Association
(90% FG: 10% Länder)

Max Planck Society
(50% FG: 50% Länder)

Leibniz Association
(50% FG: 50% Länder)

Fraunhofer Society
(33% FG and Länder: 66% contract research)

Federal Research Institutes
(RKI, PEI, FLI etc.)

Institutes of the Länder
Organisation of funding in Germany

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**BMBF**

Your reliable partner for research, education and innovation.
Project funding

General requirements

• The project must be thematically, temporally and financially definable. Grants are provided for specific projects.

• Grants are earmarked and ring-fenced, this applies to any financial position, e.g. material and personnel costs and to the funding period.

• The project must not have started yet before the funding decision. You have to wait for the notification of funding (Zuwendungsbescheid) to start the (financial relevant parts of the) project.

Principle of subsidiarity – Funding will only be granted if necessary.

• The grantee has an self-interest in the project → grant vs. contract
BMBF – generation of research topics
decision levels

- Strategic processes of the Federal Government, e.g. High-tech strategy
- Funding strategy of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)
- Funding programs
  e.g. health research, humanities & social sciences
- Implementation of strategies and programs through
  funding guidelines / calls for funding
  (Förderrichtlinien / Bekanntmachungen)
Application for funding
Specific requirements

• Search for relevant funding guidelines.

• Read the guideline carefully:
  – Do your research interests fit the topic?
  – Does your (or any eligible) institution support you? → The institution is the grantee.
  – Are you eligible? (career stage / experience / relevant partners)
  – Deadline feasible?
  – Pre proposal, full proposal, templates?
  – Anything unclear? – call the contact indicated!

• Hand in your application and wait for the decision.
Application for funding
Structure of BMBF funding guidelines

1 Aim and purpose, topic – Förderziel, Zuwendungszzweck, Rechtsgrundlage
2 Object of funding – Gegenstand der Förderung
3 Grantee – Zuwendungsempfänger
4 Specific requisites for funding – Besondere Zuwendungsvoorüussetzungen
5 Type of funds, volume – Art und Umfang, Höhe der Zuwendung
6 Further requirements for funding – Sonstige Zuwendungsbestimmungen
7 Procedure – Verfahren
Application for funding
Structure of BMBF funding guidelines

7 Procedure – Verfahren
• Contact for advice
• Selection criteria e.g.
  – Does the application meet the specific requirements listed in no. 1, 2, 3 and 4?
  – Relevance of the research objectives in relation to the call?
  – Expertise of the project participants (principal investigator and partners)
  – Scientific and methodical quality of the approach
  – Interdisciplinary cooperation, participatory approach
  – Work plan, time schedule, mile stones, financial plan
Application for funding

Funding process

- Announcement of the funding guideline (several newsletter)
- Applications are written
- Review process – (international) peers are usually involved
- Funding decision of BMBF
- Administrative “fine tuning”
- Funding notification (Zuwendungsbescheid)
- Controlling – interims reports and final report
Application for funding

Review process

• Respect the precious time of the reviewer and your time
  – Have a plan
  – Use the template and stick to the recommendations
  – Never exceed the maximum number of pages
  – Write concisely
  – Write a comprehensive proposal, all relevant aspects must be planned and described
  – Submit a realistically calculated budget /financing plan
Time frame

e.g. health research – clinical trials

- Call launched: 02/2018
- Submission outline proposals: 05/2018
- Written pre-votes
- Review of outline proposals: 09/2018
- Invitation to submit full proposal
- Full proposal submission: 02/2019
- Pre-evaluation by panel members: 02/2019
- Review of full proposals: 03/2019
- Funding recommendation: 03/2019
Further information
In German

Forschungsprogramme des BMBF
https://www.bmbf.de/de/forschung-18.html

Aktuelle Bekanntmachungen von Förderprogrammen und Förderrichtlinien des BMBF: https://www.bmbf.de/foerderungen/


Geförderte Projekte im Gesundheitsforschungsprogramm:
https://www.gesundheitsforschung-bmbf.de/de/foerderkatalog-2435.php

Thank you for your attention!