

**Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)**

**Announcement**

**Regulations for funding African-German Research Networks for Health Innovations in Sub-Saharan Africa (RHISSA)**

**of 16 December 2021**

**1 Aim and purpose of funding, legal basis**

**1.1 Aim and purpose of funding**

Access to secure health care and protection against diseases are essential prerequisites for improving living conditions in Sub-Saharan Africa. Many people in this region do not have sufficient access to basic health services. Vaccines, medicines and other medical assistance are often unavailable or unaffordable for the affected population. Research and development in cooperation with partners in the affected countries can contribute substantially to building research infrastructures and translating results into practical applications in order to directly improve the health situation for local people.

The overall objective of the funding measure is to contribute to the lasting improvement of health care in Sub-Saharan Africa and to support the participating countries in achieving the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#), in particular Goal 3 “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”. The funded health research projects are intended to help realize the right of access to health services and in this context strengthen fragile health and research systems.

Joint action and innovative approaches are urgently required to foster societal and economic development and thus political stability. The support for excellent application-oriented research is intended to enable German and African partners in the funded networks to jointly pursue a research topic which addresses the needs of health research in the African partner countries. The measure will help to ensure the sustainable establishment and development of intensive and long-term cooperation between researchers from Germany and Sub-Saharan Africa and to strengthen administrative as well as scientific and medical capacities in Sub-Saharan Africa.

This call follows up on the ongoing funding measure "Research Networks for Health Innovations in Sub-Saharan Africa" and the preparatory phase of the "Research Networks for Health Innovations in Sub-Saharan Africa". This call is therefore restricted to the following research networks, which are already being funded:

- The [networks funded since 2016](#) of the first round of funding: ANDEMIA, CEBHA+, CYSTINET-Africa, TAKEOff and TB Sequel

- The currently funded networks of the preparatory phase arising from the call of [regulations for funding a preparatory phase of African-German Research Networks for Health Innovations in Sub-Saharan Africa](#)

## 1.2 Legal basis

The Federal Government will award grants in accordance with these funding regulations, sections 23 and 44 of the Federal Budget Code (BHO) and the administrative regulations adopted thereunder as well as the BMBF's regulations governing applications for expenditure-based grants (AZA) and/or cost-based grants (AZK). There is no legal entitlement to a grant. The granting authority will decide freely after due assessment of the circumstances within the framework of the budget funds available.

These funding regulations apply in conjunction with the Health Research Framework Programme

[https://www.gesundheitsforschung-bmbf.de/files/Rahmenprogramm\\_Gesundheitsforschung\\_barrierefrei.pdf](https://www.gesundheitsforschung-bmbf.de/files/Rahmenprogramm_Gesundheitsforschung_barrierefrei.pdf)

and are carried out within the framework of the [Strategy of the Federal Government for the Internationalization of Education, Science and Research](#). In addition to this, the current [Africa Strategy of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research \(BMBF\)](#) aims to strengthen cooperation with African partners in tackling global challenges, establishing long-term and high-quality infrastructures for scientific work, strengthening regional and continental collaboration, developing innovation potential and new markets and in enhancing the profile of the Federal Republic of Germany as a key partner for Africa in the fields of education and research. The funding measure is also part of the BMBF's ["Global Health in the Focus of Research"](#) funding scheme and based on the Federal Government's Global Health Strategy. The funding measure contributes to the implementation of the African Union's [Agenda 2063](#) and its Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024 ([STISA 2024](#)).

## 2 Object of Funding

Under this call, funding will be provided for the establishment and expansion of African-German research networks for health innovations as well as their cooperation with other relevant stakeholders.

The basic idea behind this funding measure is to enable joint action by African and German partners from the outset. Major topical research issues will be studied and care will be taken to ensure the integration of the results of the projects into the African partner countries' science and health systems by involving relevant ministries and political representatives.

The networks must primarily deal with research topics which meet the particular needs of the African partner countries. Furthermore, they should build on existing structures and involve the national and/or regional health and research strategies or agendas of the participating African countries already at the stage of the networks' formation.

All areas of health research may be addressed, that is, biomedical research including all steps of the translation chain, public health research and health system research.

Funding will be provided for schemes that pursue clear and sound application objectives (e.g. development of products, treatments, guidelines, advisory strategies for decision-makers) whose realization is addressed during the project period.

The proposed schemes should deal with one or several of the following areas:

- Research to treat and prevent diseases which place a particularly high burden on the African partner countries (such as poverty-related and neglected infectious diseases, antimicrobial resistance and non-infectious diseases) or which have a special impact on the health system
- Public health and systems research to improve disease prevention and accelerate the transfer of new therapeutic approaches into health care (with the involvement of the social sciences, for example) or to adapt existing approaches to local conditions
- Holistic research approaches (e.g. One Health)
- Epidemiological research to collect and process health data

The projects should pursue realistic and sustainable capacity development goals in their full proposals and make verifiable contributions to the initial and advanced training of scientific and medical staff as well as research management staff (e.g. project managers, funding managers).

Funding will not be provided for proposed schemes which exclusively pursue basic research approaches or whose application aspects can either not be addressed at all or only to a minor extent during the project period.

Cooperation with other, preferably European and/or African stakeholders with similar thematic and/or regional relevance is desirable.

The projects must take due account of gender-specific aspects, both biological and social, wherever possible. Where relevant and applicable, gender-specific differences are to be addressed methodically within the research projects (taking account of intersectionality where applicable). Furthermore, wherever possible, there should be a gender balance in the choice of senior and administrative staff as well as of the early-career scientific and medical staff within the network. In both cases, explicit reasons must be provided for deviations from this requirement and non-applicability/relevance.

Further information about addressing sex and gender aspects can be found at the following websites:

<https://www.eubuero.de/fif-tools.htm>, <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-019-1657-6>

### **3 Funding Recipients**

Applications for funding may be submitted by state-funded and state-recognized universities and non-university research institutions from Germany and countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

German research institutions which receive basic funding from the Federal Government and/or the *Länder* can only be granted project funding supplementary to their institutional funding to cover additional project-related expenditure or costs under certain conditions.

Applications may not be submitted by institutions or companies engaged in economic activity. However, they may participate as external partners in a network provided that their funding is otherwise secured. If an institution is both commercially and non-commercially active, it is eligible to submit an application if its non-commercial and commercial activities and its costs, funding and profits can be clearly distinguished from each other, so that there can be no possibility of cross-subsidization of its commercial activities.

In addition, the following requirements are expected to be fulfilled by the partners from Sub-Saharan Africa:

- Guarantee of proper management, in particular observance of generally accepted accounting principles (GoB)
- Guarantee that the funds awarded will be used with due economy and care for the intended purpose and that evidence of this will be provided in accordance with contractual provisions

Furthermore, the parts of the proposed scheme involving specific partners should include statements on how the legal and commercial execution of tasks by the network partners can be ensured. The following topics should be addressed:

- Accounting systems used and how exact project accounting can be ensured by trained staff
- Description of the contract awarding procedures (including how much time they will take)
- Description of internal and external control systems
- Information on previous experience with the processing of international grants
- Anti-corruption statement: The organization, members of the executive bodies and executive managers have not in the past five years been the subject of accusations or investigations with regard to legal violations, corruption or other criminal offences (e.g. fraud, embezzlement, breach of confidence). Has an effective system to prevent and combat corruption been established and is it rigorously applied?
- Statement on environmental awareness and equal rights: declaration by the partner that the planned project will have no negative impact on the environment or the climate and that it takes account of human rights and gender equality. If agreements on these issues exist in the partner institutions, these should be submitted together with the application documents.

#### **4 Special prerequisites for funding**

The consortium of a research network will comprise at least one but no more than two German partners and at least two but no more than eight partners from Sub-Saharan Africa.

African administrations and research institutions/organizations outside Sub-Saharan Africa and Germany can participate in networks with their own funds.

African and German partners must plan project implementation jointly in every respect with consideration for the principle of African leadership and ownership. An African partner will provide the network's Director; a German partner will provide its Co-Director. The two directors will draft the application documents together with their network partners.

All partners must confirm their interest in participation in the project by way of a draft Declaration of Collaboration and all the partner institutions involved must provide Letters of Support.

The involvement of representatives from politics and civil society is explicitly desired. Relevant decision-makers of all the African partner countries of a network, e.g. those in research and health ministries, must be involved at an early stage and listed in the proposal together with their contact details. The application must include a separate work package relating to "Policy Engagement & Research Transfer" together with milestones.

The application must also include a separate work package relating to capacity building and strengthening together with milestones. In-kind and cost-share contributions, e.g. junior scientific and medical staff funded by the institution, are desirable.

Applicants whose proposed projects overlap thematically with the EU-African programme European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP, [www.edctp.org](http://www.edctp.org)) must check if the involvement of further European partners in the network or cooperation with such partners outside the network is useful.

#### Previous work:

The network partners must have published previous research and development work on specific topics related to their project proposals or in the areas of disease addressed therein.

It would be desirable for the German project managers to be members of the [German Alliance for Global Health Research](#) (GLOHRA).

#### Cooperation:

The networks must involve all the partners from science and practice who are required to carry out the project work. This also includes patients or their representatives. The partners in a collaborative project will set out the terms of cooperation in a written agreement (Declaration of Collaboration). All the collaboration partners including those which are research institutions within the meaning of Article 2 (83) GBER must ensure that companies do not receive any form of indirect aid as part of the collaboration. The provisions of Section 2.2 of the EU Community Framework for State Aid for R&D&I are to be observed. Before a funding decision on a collaborative project is taken, the cooperation partners must prove that they have reached a basic consensus on specific criteria stipulated by the BMBF (cf. BMBF leaflet No. 0110<sup>1</sup>). A draft Declaration of Collaboration will be part of the application.

The outline must show clearly how all the partners will participate in the project's tasks and results. The Director must be involved in important decisions concerning thematic and financial

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<sup>1</sup> [https://foerderportal.bund.de/easy/easy\\_index.php?auswahl=easy\\_formulare](https://foerderportal.bund.de/easy/easy_index.php?auswahl=easy_formulare)  
under "BMBF" / "Allgemeine Vordrucke und Vorlagen für Berichte".

matters. The planned governance structure must be set out in the application. The protection of intellectual property also plays an important role in this context.

With regard to a collaboration with other relevant stakeholders outside the network, applicants are required to set out the nature, scope and funding (see No. 5 below) of this cooperation on the basis of a stakeholder analysis. Reasons must be given for abstaining from cooperation beyond the network.

#### Scientific standards:

Applicants must adhere to national and international standards for quality assurance in preclinical and clinical research. This applies in particular to biomaterial banks, patient registers, IT networks, animal studies and clinical trials.

Funding applications for clinical (pilot) trials will be subject to the following international standards in their applicable version: [Helsinki Declaration](#), ICH Guideline for Good Clinical Practice ([ICH-GCP](#)), Good Clinical Laboratory Practice Guidelines ([GCLP](#)), EU Directive [2005/28/EC](#), EU Regulation [536/2014](#), [CONSORT](#) and [STARD](#) statements.

Funding applications for systematic reviews must take account of the [PRISMA](#) statement.

Funding applications for animal studies must be based on the [ARRIVE](#) and [PREPARE](#) guidelines and the rules of Good Laboratory Practice ([GLP](#)) in the applicable version. In addition, the Guidance on Good Cell Culture Practice ([GCCP](#)) applies with regard to cell cultivation.

#### Quality of the applied methods:

The provision of funding depends on the high methodological quality of the proposed project. Project planning must take appropriate account of the national and international state of research. The validity of survey methods must be guaranteed with regard to the selected research topic. The continuous involvement of methodological expertise must be ensured throughout the project.

#### Accessibility and long-term storage of research data and results

Access to scientific findings and data is a major prerequisite for research, development and innovation. Long-term storage and provision of research data contribute to verifiable and high-quality scientific work. Consequently, the following terms apply:

- Where such studies are planned: the registration of confirmatory pre-clinical studies and systematic reviews and meta-analyses in appropriate registers is recommended.
- Research results generated in the context of this funding measure must be published even if the study hypothesis is not confirmed (null results).
- Research/study results must be published in open access form (see also No. 6 below).
- The original data relating to the publications must be accessible for re-use (in accordance with the FAIR principles, in digital form, safeguarding the rights of third parties, particularly regarding data protection and copyright).

- The funding application must contain information on the proposed data management in line with the grant application guidelines.

The funding recipients undertake to make available the data collected during their project work, including information about the instruments and methods used as well as documentation, without delay and in a re-usable form through a suitable facility, e.g. a relevant research data repository or research data centre, in order to enable long-term data storage for replication or, if required, secondary analysis in accordance with good science practice. Repositories should comply with current data publication standards (FAIR data principles) and support data description with metadata and vocabularies as well as persistent identifiers (for example DOI, EPIC Handle, ARK, URN). They must archive and document the data and make them available to the scientific community on request. The funding recipients should comply with the standards of research data management in order to ensure that the data can be disclosed to a suitable institution.

#### Potential for exploitation and utilization:

The projects are expected to generate specific new knowledge which will help to improve health promotion, prevention and treatment in the future. The planned exploitation, the transfer of results into practice and strategies for sustainable implementation must be addressed in the design of the proposed project and described at structural and process level.

### **5 Type, scope and rates of funding**

Funding will be awarded in the form of a non-repayable project grant.

Non-commercial applicants will receive funding to cover project-related additional expenditure such as staff, equipment and travel expenses as well as (in well-founded exceptional cases) project-related investments for items which do not form part of the applicant's basic equipment.

Funding for the research networks can normally be provided for a period of up to five years.

Expenses/costs for the following are eligible for funding:

#### 1) Staff (full and part-time)

- One project leader ("Principal Investigator") at each network partner; (the two Directors are also Principal Investigators)
- In the case of the partners who provide the network's Director and the Co-Director: one position for network management (project management; up to full time (100%) for the African institution, up to half a post (50%) for the German institution)
- Scientific staff
- Replacement staff for scientists from hospitals who are to be fully or partly released from their routine tasks in health care to conduct research and for whom replacements must be recruited
- Non-scientific staff (e.g. technical assistants, study nurses, and transport staff)

African partner institutions may receive additional funding to cover the following:

- One administrative position per Principal Investigator. Support for accounting/financial management is mandatory. Possible options include the employment of two part-time assistants for financial management and project management.
- Masters and PhD students

2) Commissioning the services of third parties

- Providers of services (e.g. external non-scientific personnel)
- External scientific experts and advisors

3) Travel costs/transport costs/event costs

- Training programmes, conferences
- International and national travel
- Annual network meetings
- Local activities necessitated by the project
- Expenditure for events such as workshops, meetings and other events (incl. location hire, meals and refreshments, equipment)

4) Purchase of equipment and materials

- Consumables
- Laboratory equipment which is needed for the planned research tasks, e.g. reagents, and is not part of the basic equipment

Only African partner institutions may receive additional funding to cover the following:

- IT equipment, e.g. computers, software, licences and accounting software which is needed in addition to the basic equipment to carry out the planned research tasks
- Further equipment where indispensable for the fulfilment of the envisaged project tasks

5) Other costs

- Fees charged for the open access publication of project results during the project period
- Preparation of project-specific research data (as open data) for reuse by other scientists within the duration of the funding

Only African partner institutions may receive additional funding to cover the following:

- Costs for translation and interpreting services
- Printing costs

- Rent for external premises and ancillary costs (e.g. for heating, water and electricity)
- Costs relating to cooperation with relevant stakeholders outside the network. These include costs for travel and events relating to cooperation with third parties (who are not eligible for funding under this measure), as well as in well-founded exceptional cases for personnel and materials needed for carrying out pilot projects with third parties. The costs must be entered in the financial plan of the institution which provides the Director.
- Costs for the Good Financial Grant Practice (GFGP) certification, up to Platinum tier  
<https://www.globalgrantcommunity.com/>)

6) Other project-related costs if adequately justified

The basis for calculating the grants for higher education institutions, research and science institutions and similar establishments which do not fall into the category of economic activities is the eligible project-related expenditure (in the case of the Helmholtz centres and Fraunhofer, eligible project-related costs), which can receive up to 100% coverage in individual cases, taking into account state aid legislation.

In the case of non-commercial research projects at German higher education institutions and teaching hospitals, a flat-rate grant amounting to 20% of total expenditure will be awarded in addition to the eligible expenditure funded by the BMBF. African partner institutions may apply for funding to cover indirect costs (overhead; supporting/administration costs).

As a rule, no funding will be provided to cover any costs of the participating institutions' normal basic equipment.

Expenditure which applicants incur for the drafting of the ethical vote by the university's ethics commission is considered to be basic expenditure and is not eligible for funding.

## 6 Other terms and conditions

Notification of award for grants on an expenditure basis will include the *Nebenbestimmungen für Zuwendungen auf Ausgabenbasis des Bundesministeriums für Bildung und Forschung zur Projektförderung* (NABF) (Auxiliary Terms and Conditions for Funds Provided by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research for the Promotion of Projects on an Expenditure Basis) and the *Besondere Nebenbestimmungen für den Abruf von Zuwendungen im mittelbaren Abrufverfahren im Geschäftsbereich des BMBF* (BNBest-mittelbarer Abruf-BMBF) for the drawdown of funds.

The *Nebenbestimmungen für Zuwendungen auf Kostenbasis des Bundesministeriums für Bildung und Forschung an gewerbliche Unternehmen für Forschungs- und Entwicklungsvorhaben* (NKBF 2017) (Auxiliary Terms and Conditions for Funds Provided by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research to Commercial Companies for Research and Development Projects on a Cost Basis) will be part of the notification of award for grants on a cost basis.

For the purpose of conducting progress reviews within the meaning of administrative regulation (VV) 11a pertaining to section 44 of the Federal Budget Code (BHO), funding recipients are

required to provide the BMBF or reviewing institutions with the data necessary for the progress review without delay. The information will be used exclusively for the purposes of supporting research and any subsequent evaluation; it will be treated confidentially and published in anonymized form, making it impossible to trace it back to individual persons or organizations.

Funding recipients are expected to ensure open electronic access if they publish the results of the research project in a scientific journal. This can be done through publication in an electronic journal which is accessible to the public free of charge. If the results are not initially published in a journal which is electronically accessible to the public free of charge, they must be made publicly available free of charge by electronic means, following a suitable embargo period where appropriate (secondary publication). Embargo periods for secondary publication must not exceed 12 months. The BMBF expressly welcomes secondary open access publication of scientific monographs resulting from the project.

## **7 Procedure**

### **7.1 Involvement of a project management organization, application documents, other documents and use of the electronic application system**

The BMBF has currently entrusted the following project management organization with implementing the funding measure:

DLR Projektträger (DLR-PT)  
– Health division –  
Heinrich-Konen-Strasse 1  
53227 Bonn  
Germany

Phone: +49 228 3821-1210

Fax: +49 228 3821-1257

Contact persons:

Dr. Manuela Rehtanz, Dr. Jeannette Endres-Becker und Dr. Theresa Köbe

Phone: +49 228 3821-2491, email: [HealthNets@dlr.de](mailto:HealthNets@dlr.de)

Internet: <http://www.gesundheitsforschung-bmbf.de>

Applicants are recommended to contact the project management organization for advice on applications. The organization will provide further information and details.

Any relevant changes will be announced in the Federal Gazette (*Bundesanzeiger*) or in another suitable form.

Forms for funding applications, guidelines, leaflets, information and auxiliary terms and conditions are available online at

[https://foerderportal.bund.de/easy/easy\\_index.php?auswahl=easy\\_formulare](https://foerderportal.bund.de/easy/easy_index.php?auswahl=easy_formulare)

or can be obtained directly from the above-mentioned project management organization.

The "PT-Outline" electronic tool must be used for drafting project outlines

<https://ptoutline.eu/app/rhissa>)

and the "easy-Online" electronic application system must be used for drafting formal applications

<https://foerderportal.bund.de/easyonline>).

This portal enables the electronic submission of the application which must be submitted in writing. An electronic document that bears a qualified electronic signature is sufficient for electronic submission.

## **7.2 Two-stage application procedure**

The application procedure consists of two phases.

### **7.2.1 Submission and selection of project outlines**

In the first phase, project outlines must be submitted in electronic form to the responsible project management organization

by 14:00 CEST on 31 March 2022 at the latest.

The project outlines must be submitted in consultation with the proposed Director of the network.

The deadline for submission is not a cut-off deadline. However, it may not be possible to consider project outlines received after the above date and time.

It is essential to note that the project outlines including German and English summaries must not exceed 50 pages (format: A4, Arial 11, 1.15 line spacing, 2.0 cm margins). Two annexes (comprising one file each) are permitted as follows:

Annex 1 (in PDF format)

- Draft Declaration of Collaboration between the partners
- Letters of Support from the partner institutions
- Letters of Intent from cooperation partners/stakeholders
- CVs of the Principal Investigators
- The two statements on anti-corruption and on the environment and equal rights

Annex 2 (in Excel format)

- Budget table

The project outline should include the following aspects of the project:

- An informative summary (goals, research priorities) in German and English

- Relevance of the project to the cooperation objectives mentioned in the call, in particular to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and to the health strategies of the African partner countries
- Description of the network, its partners and the planned governance structure for the network including a communications plan and all regular processes and responsibilities. Description of the envisaged multilateral partnerships
- Presentation of the added value of international cooperation and for the target region(s)
- Description of an innovative and unique research approach aimed at improving health care provision in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Presentation of the work plan of the network, including milestone planning
- Description of an own work package on "Policy Engagement & Research Transfer" including milestone planning, in which the process of involving relevant ministries, political representatives and interest groups in the transfer of scientific research results to practical application/healthcare provision is set out
- Description of an own work package on "Networking" including milestone planning
- Description of an own work package on "Capacity Building" for the network, for example to foster young research talent, including milestone planning
- Elaboration of a sustainability strategy for the following priority areas: research infrastructure, policy engagement and transfer of knowledge and translation into practice
- Financial plans for all the participating partners (Sub-Saharan Africa and Germany)
- Verifiable description of the abilities of each network partner in order to ensure an auditable use of funds
- Measures to ensure gender equality in research topics (if applicable) and staff appointments

The details of requirements for the project outline together with additional information are set out in a guide for applicants:

([https://projekttraeger.dlr.de/media/gesundheit/leitfaden/RHISSA\\_guidelines.pdf](https://projekttraeger.dlr.de/media/gesundheit/leitfaden/RHISSA_guidelines.pdf))

Project outlines which do not meet the requirements set out in the guide can be rejected without further consideration.

In view of the international composition of the networks and the international evaluation procedure, the project outlines must be submitted in English.

The project outlines must be submitted electronically using the electronic PT-Outline tool

(<https://ptoutline.eu/app/rhissa>).

Instructions for submitting the project outlines can be found at the website portal.

Submission by email or fax is not permitted.

A signature sheet must be added which bears the legal signatures of representatives of all the project partners (usually the Principal Investigators) confirming their knowledge and the correctness of the information supplied in the outline. This sheet must be integrated into the PDF file to be uploaded.

The evaluation of the project outlines will involve external experts and be based on the following criteria:

- Relevance of the topic to the aim of funding (see No. 1 above)
- Compliance with the object of funding (see No. 2 above) and the prerequisites for funding (see No. 4 above)
- Originality, uniqueness and innovativeness of the scientific approach
- Scientific and methodological quality
- Expertise of the project team and quality of the project management
- Establishment or consolidation of multilateral partnerships
- Realistic work and time schedule
- Establishment of the governance structure with partners on an equal footing under African leadership
- Support for young researchers
- Quality and appropriateness of the strategy for the transfer of the research results into practical application with a special focus on links to national strategies and the involvement of national/regional/local African authorities
- Robustness of the capacity and sustainability plans (with regard to personnel, research infrastructure, Policy Engagement & Research Transfer and networking of the stakeholders)
- Appropriateness of the financial plans
- Auditable use of funds by all partners
- Consideration of gender aspects in research topics, if applicable, as well as with regard to the composition of the network personnel.

Suitable project outlines will be selected for funding on the basis of the above criteria and evaluation. Applicants will be informed in writing of the result of the selection.

The project outlines and any other documents submitted in this phase of the procedure will not be returned.

### **7.2.2 Submission of formal proposals and decision-making procedure**

In the second phase of the procedure, the applicants whose project outlines have been given a positive evaluation will be invited to submit formal proposals (project description and formal application) by a specified deadline.

The "easy-Online" electronic application system

(<https://foerderportal.bund.de/easyonline>)

must be used for drafting formal applications (taking into account the requirements set out in the Annex).

This portal enables the electronic submission of the application which must be submitted in writing. An electronic document that bears a qualified electronic signature is sufficient for electronic submission.

The funding applications must be submitted in consultation with the proposed network Directors.

It may not be possible to consider applications received after the date specified in the letter of invitation to submit the formal proposal.

The formal applications must include the following information which is supplementary to the project outline:

- Detailed financial plan of the project
- Detailed utilization plan
- Presentation of reasons for funding requirement
- Detailed work plan including project-related resources and milestone planning

Any requirements resulting from the evaluation in the first phase of the application procedure must be observed. More detailed information on requirements will be provided when applicants are invited to submit formal proposals.

The proposals received will be carefully reviewed in accordance with the criteria of the first phase, including consideration of the fulfilment of any requirements resulting from the first phase. The following additional criteria will be applied in the review and evaluation:

- Necessity and appropriateness of and eligibility for the requested funding
- Quality and significance of the utilization plan, also in terms of the objectives of this funding measure

After final consideration of the application, a funding decision will be taken on the basis of the above criteria and evaluation.

### **7.3 Provisions to be observed**

The approval, payment and accounting for the funds as well as the proof and examination of the proper use and, if necessary, the revocation of the award and the reclaiming of the funds awarded are governed by sections 48 to 49a of the Administrative Procedure Act (VwVfG),

sections 23 and 44 of the Federal Budget Code (BHO) and the related general administrative regulations, unless deviation from the general administrative regulations is allowed under the present funding regulations. The *Bundesrechnungshof* (Germany's Supreme Audit Institution) is entitled to carry out audits in accordance with section 91 of the Federal Budget Code (BHO).

## **8 Term of Validity**

These funding regulations will enter into force on the day following publication in the Federal Gazette (*Bundesanzeiger*).

These funding regulations will be valid until 30 June 2030.

Bonn, 16 December 2021.

Federal Ministry  
of Education and Research (BMBF)

Andrea Spelberg

The text of this announcement including the links to other relevant documents is available at <https://www.gesundheitsforschung-bmbf.de/de/13911.php>.