

1 Funding purpose, legal basis

1.1 Intended Purpose

By 2050, 70% of the world's population will live in cities. Already today it is more than 50% and the trend towards urbanization is unbroken, especially in developing and emerging countries. 80% of the energy and resources used worldwide is consumed in urban areas and more than three quarters of global emissions are generated there. Cities need to become "sustainable cities" in order to achieve the United Nations' post-2015 goals and the implementation of the Paris climate agreement.

As a rule, sustainability problems are concentrated in fast-growing cities, their surrounding areas and urban regions because political, economic and civil society institutions can only gradually adapt to the challenges of urbanization. The problems include overstretched infrastructure systems and ecological risks such as air pollution, the overloading of drinking water and sewage systems or the volume of traffic and waste. In accordance with rapidly changing requirements, cities are in a constant process of reconstruction.

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) intends, on the basis of the framework program "Research for Sustainable Development" (FONA ³) and in implementation of the "Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations (SDGs)", the internationalization strategy of the Federal Government and the "New Urban Agenda" to promote R&D [1 projects on the topic of "Sustainable development of urban regions"](#).

The aim of the funding measure is to develop, test and implement locally adapted solution strategies for the sustainable development of urban regions, which lead both to an improvement in ecological factors (emissions, energy and resource efficiency, etc.) and to an increase in the resilience of cities To set impulses for a permanent implementation of the strategies.

1.2 Legal Bases

The federal government grants the grants in accordance with this guideline, §§ 23 and 44 of the Federal Budget Code (BHO) and the administrative regulations issued for it as well as the "Guidelines for grant applications on an expenditure basis (AZA)" and/or the "Guidelines for grant applications on a cost basis (AZK)" of the BMBF. There is no legal entitlement to a grant. The granting authority decides at its own discretion within the framework of the available budget.

Funding under this guideline meets the requirements of Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 of the EU Commission of June 17, 2014 to determine the compatibility of certain categories of aid with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of Works of the European Union ("General Block Exemption Regulation" – AGVO) (OJ L 187 of 26.6.2014, p. 1) and is therefore compatible with the internal market within the meaning of Article 107 paragraph 3 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the

European Union and of the Notification requirement according to Article 108 paragraph 3 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union exempted.

Pursuant to Article 1(4)(a) and (b) GBER, companies that have not complied with a recovery order based on an earlier Commission decision declaring that aid is illegal and incompatible with the internal market will be excluded from funding.

2 Subject of funding

Initiatives for sustainable urban development and a corresponding public infrastructure will only have a long-term preventive and sustainable effect in both industrialized and developing countries if the decision-makers have solid practical knowledge. Research can help to clarify the circumstances and conditions under which successful models can be generalized and applied to a specific problem. Here, technological solutions for improved energy and resource efficiency, for reducing CO₂ emissions and concepts for sustainable new infrastructure systems (energy supply, transport systems, etc.) as well as social innovations for dealing with the resulting changed living conditions must be developed.

In implementation-oriented research projects in fast-growing cities and urban regions, appropriate solution strategies should therefore be developed, tested and implemented by local decision-makers in close cooperation between science and practice.

2.1 International cooperation

The funding is aimed in particular at cooperation with fast-growing cities and urban regions in developing and emerging countries.

This announcement is initially limited to the target regions of Southeast Asia and China. Further announcements with a different regional focus (Africa, Latin and South America) will follow.

The partner institutions of the respective country are to be included in the planning as equal partners during the definition phase. The implementation of the project must be carried out jointly at eye level. The aim is to strengthen problem-solving skills in the partner countries.

The partners in the target region are expected to make a substantial contribution to the projects themselves. Foreign cooperation partners in industrialized and emerging countries cannot be funded. Service contracts with the cooperation partners are also excluded.

In the case of cooperation with developing countries, (partial) financing of the partners by awarding subcontracts is possible.

As part of the project, project offices/coordination offices are to be set up on site in the partner cities in order to ensure local anchoring.

2.2 Research Topics

As part of the overarching objective of "sustainable urban regions", projects that serve to increase the "resilience of cities, their environs and urban regions" are to be promoted in particular. Innovative concepts for reducing emissions in urban areas (e.g. sustainable mobility concepts, energy-efficient heating and air conditioning of buildings) and improving the resilience of cities are therefore the focus of this call for tenders. The research work can focus on the following areas:

- integrated urban planning, e.g. B. for energy- and resource-efficient construction, growing and resilient infrastructure systems and sustainable mobility;
- Reduction of greenhouse gas and pollutant emissions in companies, households and in transport;
- Risk management for extreme weather events and natural disasters in fast-growing cities, their suburbs and urban regions.

The points mentioned are to be understood as examples and do not rule out further questions relating to the resilience of cities. Topics such as governance structures and participation, training and further education of specialists as well as availability and management of planning-relevant data can be taken into account in the projects, but should not be the sole research topic due to the implementation orientation of the funding measure.

None of the proposals may produce "island solutions". Rather, the implementation goals should be coordinated with existing urban development and climate protection plans and integrated into them. The effects of the planned measures on the surrounding area (relationship between the city and the hinterland) should also be taken into account.

Applicants who, with reference to the research project, would like to provide additional vocational training measures for the training of required skilled workers based on the German dual model can apply for this project component via the following BMBF funding announcement: <https://www.bmbf.de/foerderungen/Announcement-1253.html>.

2.3 Structure and orientation of the projects

In order to ensure the early and comprehensive involvement of practitioners, implementation orientation and flexibility in the projects, funding is provided in several phases, each of which must be applied for separately:

1. Preparatory work for the R&D phase (18 or 24 months)
 1. Initiation phase (duration six months);
 2. Definition phase (duration 18 months).
2. R&D phase (duration four years, milestone assessment after 24 months)
3. Implementation phase (duration: two years).

For projects in the target region of Southeast Asia, optional initiation projects with preparatory trips and workshops can be carried out to prepare the first application and to involve cooperation partners in the project design (initiation phase I letter a). For details on

the funding procedures, see Numbers 7.2 and 7.3. An initiation phase is not planned for cooperation projects with the target region of China.

2.4 Scientific monitoring, networking, transfer

The funding measure is to be supported by a networking and transfer project that is responsible for both content and organizational tasks. The main goals of the networking and transfer project are the cross-project synthesis of results and solution strategies, the support of the transfer and application of results, the networking of projects and the visibility of the funding measure. This is intended to enable the funded projects to communicate and collaborate efficiently and smoothly beyond the project boundaries. The implementation of the networking and transfer project is carried out in close coordination with the BMBF and the project management agency and includes the following tasks in detail:

- Synthesis of findings from the funded projects;
- ongoing support of learning processes in the funded projects;
- Support in preparing results for relevant target groups of sustainable urbanization and in developing transfer and implementation strategies;
- Impact analysis of the results and planning mechanisms implemented on site, including the development of indicators for the impact analysis;
- Development of a concept and construction of a transfer and demonstration platform for using the results;
- content-related and organizational work to network the funded projects with each other and with relevant national and international specialist groups;
- Concept for communicating the results to relevant stakeholders, including for later implementation.

A term covering all phases of the research projects plus six months for project completion is planned.

3 grant recipients

Eligible to apply are municipal and state institutions, universities, non-university research institutions as well as companies – especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) – and social organizations such as e.g. B. foundations, clubs and associations.

In addition to their institutional funding, research institutions that receive basic funding from the federal and/or state governments can only be granted project funding for their additional project-related expenses or costs under certain conditions.

In particular, it is expected of these core-financed non-university research institutions that they link the project funding topics with the institutionally funded research activities and that they dovetail the two.

4 Eligibility Requirements

In the R&D phase, only joint projects are funded in which universities or non-university research institutions work together with institutions and organizations from politics, administration, civil society (in the target region) and, if necessary, business. The applicants must be willing to work out comprehensive solutions to problems within the framework of a regional joint project in a collaborative manner and in partnership. In order to achieve the project goal, the best possible composition of the network should be selected. The participation of German municipalities as cooperation partners is welcomed.

The partners in a joint project regulate their cooperation in a written cooperation agreement. Before the funding decision on a joint project is made, a basic agreement on certain criteria specified by the BMBF must be proven.

Details can be found in the "Information sheet for applicants/beneficiaries on cooperation between partners in joint projects", which applicants and beneficiaries must observe (BMBF form no. 0110; [https://foerderportal.bund.de/easy/easy_index .php?wahl=easy_formulare](https://foerderportal.bund.de/easy/easy_index.php?wahl=easy_formulare) ; BMBF area – general forms and templates for reports).

In the definition phase, the consortium does not have to be fully composed. However, at least one German university or research institute and a relevant partner from the target region must be involved when submitting the outline.

5 Type, scope and amount of the benefit

The grants can be granted in the form of project funding as non-repayable grants.

The assessment basis for universities, research and scientific establishments and comparable institutions is the eligible project-related expenses (in the case of Helmholtz centers and the Fraunhofer Society, the eligible project-related costs), which can be individually funded up to 100%.

For research projects at universities, a project allowance of 20% is granted in addition to the eligible expenses.

The assessment basis for municipalities is usually the eligible project-related expenses. Municipal applicants are encouraged to contribute their own money, but this is not a necessary requirement for funding.

The assessment basis for grants to commercial companies are the project-related costs eligible for grants, of which up to 50% can usually be partially financed - depending on the application of the project. The AGVO must be taken into account when assessing the respective funding rate. The AGVO allows differentiated surcharges for SMEs, which may lead to a higher funding rate. The EU SME definition applies.

Personnel expenses/costs are only eligible if they are not already covered by third parties from public budgets. If existing staff is to work on the project, the expenses/costs for a substitute who temporarily takes over the previous area of responsibility of the project employee may be eligible for a grant.

For partners in developing countries, if no other funding is available, personnel, material and travel costs can be applied for in a subcontract (does not apply to emerging countries).

In any case, only the eligible expenses or costs actually incurred can be settled.

6 Other Grant Provisions

The general ancillary provisions for grants on a cost basis from the BMBF to commercial companies for R&D projects (NKBF98) are part of a grant notice on a cost basis.

The general ancillary provisions for grants for project funding (ANBest-P) and the special ancillary provisions for grants from the BMBF for project funding on an expenditure basis (BNBest-BMBF98) as well as the "Special ancillary provisions for the retrieval of grants in the indirect retrieval procedure in the business area of the BMBF" (BNBest-indirect access BMBF), provided that the funds are provided in the so-called access procedure.

In the case of grants to local authorities, the general ancillary provisions for grants for project funding to local authorities and associations of local authorities (ANBest-GK) are part of the grant notices.

In addition, other ancillary provisions and information from the BMBF on this funding measure may become part of the grant notifications.

If the grantee publishes the results of the research project as an article in a scientific journal, this should be done in such a way that the public can access the article electronically free of charge (Open Access). This can be done by publishing the contribution in an electronic journal that is accessible to the public free of charge. If the article does not initially appear in a journal that is electronically accessible to the public free of charge, the article should be made available to the public electronically free of charge (secondary publication), if necessary after a reasonable period of time (embargo period). In the case of a second publication, the embargo period should not exceed twelve months.

7 procedures

It is recommended to contact the commissioned project management agency before submitting the documents. More information is available there.

The optional initiation phase for Southeast Asia is handled by the International Office of the BMBF.

7.2 Two-stage funding process

The selection procedure for the requested preparatory work (initiation and definition phase) is structured in two stages, ie sketches must first be submitted (see number 7.3.1).

The application procedure for the subsequent R&D phase and the final implementation phase are each designed in a single stage, ie full applications must be submitted directly (see numbers 7.3.2 and 7.3.3).

7.3 Selection and decision-making process

The funding is divided into the project phases specified in number 2.3 Structure and orientation of the projects. After an optional six-month initiation phase for the target region Southeast Asia, initially only the 18-month definition phase is applied for and funded. In this phase, the selected and approved projects have the opportunity to put the project into concrete terms. The participation of all partners, the definition of common goals as well as scientific and practical methods and work steps are central. The application for funding of an R&D phase is the result of this phase. Finally, before the end of the R&D phase, an optional implementation phase can be applied for. Particularly innovative concepts are selected for this phase.

The process is open and competitive.

No legal entitlement to funding can be derived from the submission of funding applications.

7.3.1 Submission and selection of project outlines

In the first stage of the process, the coordinating network partner must first submit a project outline.

The project outline is generally submitted electronically via the Internet portal PT-Outline.

In order for the online version of the project outline to become valid, it must also be signed and submitted to the DLR project management agency responsible for processing this funding measure by the deadline specified below, together with the forms generated via PT-Outline. The signature of the coordinating network partner is sufficient.

Submission of sketches for the initiation phase:

The application process for initial projects with partners in Southeast Asia (exploratory measures and feasibility studies) is structured in two stages. The initiation projects should run for up to six months and receive a maximum of EUR 40,000 in support. Travel expenses, personnel costs and other project costs are eligible for funding.

The project applications must be submitted in German or English (a German summary is mandatory).

In the first stage of the process, the project sponsor has **until April 25, 2017 at the latest**

first submit project outlines in written and electronic form using the outline tool PT-Outline https://secure.pt-dlr.de/ptoutline/app/urban_sea. The outline must be accompanied by a cover letter/cover sheet for submission, on which representatives of all project partners confirm acknowledgment and the correctness of the information given in the outline by signing with a legally binding signature. Project outlines received after the above date may not be considered.

The project description is to be structured with a maximum length of ten pages (Arial font, font size 11, 1.5 lines) according to the following structure:

- Cover sheet: Topic of the intended project, information on the total costs and expenses and the amount of funding applied for as well as the duration of the project (in each case related to the initiation projects), postal address, telephone number and e-mail address of the applicant(s);
- summary of the project (maximum one page);
- Description of the problem: Presentation of the need for action, taking into account the existing regional conditions, presentation of the state of the art and technology as well as own preparatory work; relation of the project to the funding policy goals of the announcement;
- Goals, excellence and originality of the project (overall goals of the project; working goals of the initiating project; scientific excellence and originality of the intended joint project);
- Initial situation – State of the art in science and technology (state of the art in science and technology; initial situation in the target country; previous cooperation experiences of the applicant in the target country);
- detailed description of the methodology and the work plan (methods, project-related resource planning for the initiation project);
- Benefit and usability of the results of the intended joint project;
- Cooperation with third parties (presentation of the intended cooperation partners involved in the project; qualifications of the applicant and the intended national and international cooperation partners involved);
- Attachments (curriculum vitae, list of relevant publications).

The project applications received will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- thematic reference of the pursued research topic to the present announcement;
- Quality and relevance of the intended research approach (e.g. contribution to sustainable development);
- qualification and cooperation, qualification of the project partners and quality of the desired cooperation; recognizable added value for the German partner institution(s);
- Feasibility and prospects of success, opportunity-risk assessment, prospects of success and sustainability of project initiation, stakeholder involvement, applicability and transfer of results;

- Profitability and efficiency of the initiation project.

The project ideas suitable for funding are selected according to the criteria given above and their evaluation. The selection result will be communicated to the interested parties in writing.

In the second stage of the process, the authors of the positively evaluated project outlines are asked to submit a formal application for funding, which will be decided upon after a final examination. In addition to the project outline, the formal application for funding must contain the following information in German:

- detailed description of the planned work packages
- detailed work plan,
- detailed schedule,
- detailed financial planning.

It is evaluated according to the following additional criteria:

- quality of the detailed work plan;
- feasibility of the work plan within the time frame;
- Adequacy of the requested funding.

The formal funding applications are to be created using the electronic application system "easy-Online". Guidelines, leaflets, notes and ancillary provisions can be found at the Internet address:

It is intended to decide on the project applications within three months after the deadline.

At the end of the initiation projects, the project managers must submit a project outline for the definition phase as part of this announcement or explain in a detailed final report why an application for project funding is not considered sensible. The conditions explained in number 7.3.1 apply to the submission and selection of a project outline.

Templates of sketches for the definition phase:

The project description is to be structured with a maximum length of 15 pages (Arial font, font size 11, 1.5 lines) according to the following structure:

- Cover sheet: Topic of the intended project, information on the total costs or expenditure and the amount of funding applied for as well as the duration of the project (in each case related to the definition phase), postal address, telephone number and e-mail address of the applicant(s);
- summary of the project (maximum one page);
- Description of the problem: Presentation of the need for action, taking into account the existing regional conditions, presentation of the state of the art and technology as well as own preparatory work;
- Explanation of the objective and the approach pursued, indicators for the (quantitative or qualitative) description of the project success and, if applicable, also the indirect economic, social and/or political effects;
- relation of the project to the funding policy goals of the announcement;

- Description of the planned research work and the work program for the definition phase, including the presentation of methods that are to be used or developed and a milestone plan;
- planned cooperation and division of labor: concept for transdisciplinary and, if necessary, interdisciplinary cooperation, description of the planned network structure and project management, strategy for bundling and integrating the various knowledge bases and for dealing with potential conflicts;
- Expected result, application potential and intended use of results, including individual use plans for each project partner (structure: economic prospects of success, scientific prospects of success, scientific and economic connectivity);
- Time and financing plan for the definition phase and roughly for the R&D phase.

The project outline must be submitted in English using the PT-Outline outline tool https://secure.pt-dlr.de/ptoutline/app/urban_chn. In addition, a German summary with a maximum length of five pages must be submitted.

Lists of references and CVs can be attached as an appendix.

The documents must be self-explanatory and allow an assessment without further information or research. The applicants are free to add further points within the scope of the given scope, which they believe are important for an assessment of the project. In any case, only the above-mentioned documents are permitted as attachments.

The deadline for submitting outlines for cooperation projects with China (definition phase) is **April 25, 2017**.

The deadline for submitting outlines for cooperation projects with Southeast Asia (definition phase) is **April 25, 2018**.

The submission deadline does not count as a cut-off deadline. However, project outlines that arrive late may no longer be considered. Compliance with the formal and content-related requirements is a prerequisite for the consideration of a sketch.

No legal entitlement to funding can be derived from the submission of a project outline. The applicant has no legal right to the return of a submitted sketch.

It is recommended to draw up the sketch, in particular the problem and possible solutions, together with the foreign partner. A separate initiation phase (see above) can be applied for for projects with partners in Southeast Asian countries.

The project outlines that have been received and are capable of being reviewed will be evaluated with the participation of external reviewers according to the criteria listed below. On the basis of the evaluation, the project ideas suitable for funding are selected and a formal application for funding is requested. The result will be communicated to interested parties in writing.

The evaluation is based on the following criteria:

- Adequacy to the subject areas of the announcement;
- Relevance and suitability of the project focus for the region;
- Scientific and technical quality of the concept and, if applicable, of the preliminary work, originality of the research approach;
- Appropriateness and quality of the trans- and possibly interdisciplinary concept (composition of the research team, design of the research process);
- Competence of the applicants, including experience of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary collaboration;
- adequacy of financial planning.

In addition to evaluating the documents submitted in writing, the BMBF and the project management agency reserve the right to invite the applicants to a personal interview and to incorporate the knowledge gained from this into the selection.

In the second stage of the process, the authors of the positively evaluated project outlines are asked to submit a formal application for funding for the definition phase via the Internet portal easy-Online <https://foerderportal.bund.de/easyonline>. In addition to the project outline, this must contain the following information in German:

- detailed description of the planned work packages
- detailed work plan,
- detailed schedule,
- detailed financial planning.

It is evaluated according to the following additional criteria:

- quality of the detailed work plan;
- feasibility of the work plan within the time frame;
- Adequacy of the requested funding.

The definition phase is granted for a period of 18 months. Goals are:

- assembling a suitable consortium;
- stakeholder analysis;
- binding involvement of the relevant stakeholders;
- Involving other scientific partners if this is necessary as a result of the work;
- Specification of the problem definition and the research idea together with all partners (including stakeholders);
- Specification and, if necessary, examination of methodological approaches;
- Specification of the interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary way of working in the project;
- Creation of a data management concept;
- Creation of a "capacity building" concept to anchor the solution strategies in the target region even beyond the funding period.

A full application for the main phase must be submitted twelve months after the start of the project. The project application for the definition phase must already contain a work plan for the remaining six months. In addition, the definition phase must be designed in such a way that usable concepts are created even in the event of no further funding.

7.3.2 Application for the R&D phase (main phase)

For the maximum four-year R&D phase, appraisable, formal funding applications must be submitted to the project sponsor by the end of the twelfth month of the definition phase in coordination with the intended network coordinator.

The joint project description should build on the project description for the definition phase and make it more concrete. In particular, changes compared to the original planning and the results in relation to the efforts to build up the association partnership and in relation to the analysis of the regional conditions are to be presented and reflected on. For each project partner, a description of the sub-project must also be included (details on the structure and scope of the applications will be announced when the definition phase is approved).

When evaluating and selecting the applications, the BMBF and the project sponsors seek advice from external appraisers and experts. The applications received will be evaluated and checked according to the following criteria:

- Relevance and suitability of the project focus for the region;
- Scientific and technical quality of the concept and, if applicable, of the preliminary work, originality of the research approach;
- Appropriateness and quality of the interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary concept (composition of the research team, design of the research process);
- Competence of the applicants, including experience of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary collaboration;
- systemic approach, flexibility and adaptability of the proposed solutions;
- Implementation-oriented project design, prospects for use and further implementation after the end of funding;
- Potential for transferability to other regions and fields of action;
- Effectiveness and efficiency of the proposed organization and management of the collaborative project;
- adequacy of financial planning.

In addition to evaluating the documents submitted in writing, the BMBF and the project management agency reserve the right to invite the applicants to a personal interview and to incorporate the knowledge gained from this into the selection.

The projects in the main phase are funded for four years.

7.3.3 Applying for the implementation phase

If results are achieved in the funded R&D phase that can be implemented shortly with the involvement of German and/or local companies, it is possible to apply for a separate implementation phase with a maximum duration of two years. This phase aims at the practical implementation and/or transfer of the results to other cities or city-regions. Interested parties will be informed of the exact modalities in good time before the end of the R&D phase. The aim is seamless follow-up funding for particularly promising implementation projects.

7.4 Application and funding procedures for the networking and transfer project

The accompanying project should cover the task areas described in number 2.4. Informal, reviewable project outlines in German can be submitted by **May 30, 2017**

submitted to the project sponsor in PT outline https://secure.pt-dlr.de/ptoutline/app/urban_vt.

The submission deadline does not count as a cut-off deadline. However, late applications may not be considered.

If necessary, the networking and transfer project can also be taken over by a network of a maximum of three partners. In this case, the interested parties must submit a joint project outline in coordination with the intended network coordinator.

The project outline must not exceed 20 pages (Arial font, size 11, 1.5 lines) and must be structured as follows:

- Cover sheet: Topic of the intended project, information on the total costs or expenditure and the amount of funding applied for, postal address, telephone number and e-mail address of the submitter;
- summary of the project (maximum one page);
- Execution of the concept or the conceptual building blocks of the networking and transfer project;
- Rough description of the work program including the presentation of the methods to be used and a milestone plan;
- Previous experience and qualifications of the project team, any planned cooperation and division of labor;
- Strategies for the transfer and utilization of results (in relation to the findings of the networking and transfer project);
- Scheduling and expense/cost estimation.

The project outlines received will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Quality of the overall concept for the scientific support;
- Competence and experience of the submitter, especially with regard to the topics of sustainable urban and regional development, resilience and adaptation to climate change as well as methods of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research, synthesis research and the transfer of results into practice;
- Experience of the applicants with international research projects, also in a difficult intercultural environment;
- Effectiveness and efficiency of the proposed organization and management of the project, also with regard to the lowest possible additional effort for the research projects to be accompanied;
- adequacy of financial planning.

In addition to evaluating the documents submitted in writing, the BMBF and the project sponsor reserve the right to invite interested parties to a personal interview and to incorporate the knowledge gained from this into the selection. The concept suitable for funding is selected according to the criteria given above and their evaluation. The selection result will be communicated to the interested parties in writing. There is no legal entitlement to the return of a submitted project outline and any other documents submitted as part of this stage of the process.

In a second stage of the process, the authors of the positively evaluated project outlines are asked to submit a formal application for funding via the Internet portal easy-Online <https://foerderportal.bund.de/easyonline>. In the case of joint projects, the funding applications must be submitted in coordination with the intended joint coordinator. The project description must not exceed 50 pages (Arial font, size 11, 1.5 lines). In contrast to the project outline, the project description should detail the work program in particular and conceptually substantiate the building blocks of the project.

The submitted application will be evaluated and checked according to the following criteria:

- Coverage and qualitative design of the individual tasks;
- quality of the concept for synthesis research;
- quality of the concept for supporting learning processes in the projects;
- Quality of the concept for supporting result transfer and implementation;
- Quality of the concept for building a transfer and demonstration platform.

According to the above criteria and their evaluation, a decision on funding will be made after the final application review.

7.5 Regulations to be observed

The administrative regulations on Section 44 of the Federal Budget Code and Sections 48 to 49a of the Administrative Procedures Act apply to the approval, payment and accounting of the grant as well as to the proof and verification of the use and any necessary cancellation of the grant notice and the reclaim of the grant granted deviations have been permitted in this funding guideline.

8 Period of validity

These funding guidelines come into force on the day after publication in the Federal Gazette and are valid until December 31, 2026.