

Guidelines

Priority Programmes



A Establishing a Priority Programme

I Programme Information

1 Objective

A Priority Programme is a funding programme with an open call for proposals aimed at the following objectives:

1.1 Funding of projects characterised by high originality and quality in terms of their topic and/or methodology.

This programme objective may be fulfilled if, for example:

- the Priority Programme deals with topics that are currently of paramount importance (emerging fields), and/or
- the Priority Programme explores new, even bold methods and approaches, and/or
- it establishes new avenues of research which may influence other research areas, and/or
- the Priority Programme is likely to have a lasting impact on the scientific landscape, also at the international level.

Priority Programmes will not be announced for research areas that are already well established and currently receive adequate funding from other sources.

1.2 Added value through interdisciplinary cooperation (interdisciplinarity)

1.3 Added value through cooperation between different locations (networking)

1.4 Support for early-career researchers participating in the projects

1.5 Gender equality measures tailored to the Priority Programme

2 Proposals

2.1 Eligibility

All researchers who work in Germany or at a German research institution abroad and have completed their training, usually with a doctorate, are eligible to participate in the preparation of an establishment proposal.

From the group of participants, a — typically interdisciplinary — programme committee is formed (maximum five individuals). Committee membership should reflect the relevant subject areas.

The programme committee determines which member will be responsible for coordinating the preparation of the establishment proposal and, if applicable, the Priority Programme during the funding periods (cf. A I 4).

2.2 Format and deadline

For the description of your project, please use the appropriate template in German or English provided in the elan portal. The description may comprise up to 25 pages. Please note that proposals may only be submitted via elan

elan.dfg.de

The CVs and publication lists of the programme committee members must be attached as one PDF file.

Both the publication lists that accompany the scientific CVs and the topic-related publication lists of the programme committee members (part of the project description) are subject to the guidelines for publication lists (DFG form 1.91).

www.dfg.de/formulare/1_91

Proposals must be received by the DFG Head Office no later than 15 October of any given year.

The Senate decides on the establishment of new Priority Programmes once each year on the basis of recommendations prepared by the members of the review boards at a meeting.

3 Duration

The maximum funding duration is 6 years. This period can be divided as follows: 6 x 1 year, 2 x 3 years, or 3 x 2 years.

4 Participants and Coordination

The coordinator may hold a roundtable discussion in preparation of the establishment proposal. For more information, contact the relevant programme office at the DFG Head Office.

Following the Senate's decision to establish a Priority Programme, the coordinator takes on a guiding role for the programme as a whole to ensure that the programme's objectives will be met. During the review of individual project proposals, he/she is the responsible contact person for the members of the review panel.

During the funding phase, the coordinator supports the individual project leaders in an advisory capacity.

The coordinator submits a progress report on the overall development of the Priority Programme at each project renewal review and is also responsible for submitting the final report. The coordinator is authorised to obtain the information required for this purpose from the project leaders.

Funding for coordination tasks can be requested by submitting special modules (cf. B II).

II Obligations

In submitting a proposal to the DFG, you

1. agree to adhere to the **principles of good scientific practice**.¹

The principles of good scientific practice include, among others: maintaining professional standards, maintaining strict honesty with regard to one's own contributions and those of third parties, documenting results and rigorously questioning all findings.

2. recognise the DFG's **Rules of Procedure for Dealing with Scientific Misconduct** (Verfahrensordnung zum Umgang mit wissenschaftlichem Fehlverhalten - VerfOWF)² as legally binding.

In the draft proposal stage, the coordinator obtains signed Declarations of Obligation of Compliance from the members of the programme committee

www.dfg.de/formulare/80_02

and keeps these on file for ten years following submission of the draft proposal. Should allegations of scientific misconduct arise, upon request the spokesperson will forward the relevant declaration to the DFG Head Office.

Scientific misconduct is defined as the intentional and grossly negligent statement of falsehoods in a scientific context, the violation of intellectual property rights or impeding another person's research work. The circumstances of each case will be considered on an individual basis. In cases where scientific misconduct has been established, the DFG may impose one or more of the following sanctions in accordance with its Rules of Procedure, depending on the nature and severity of the scientific misconduct:

- issuing a written reprimand to those involved;
- exclusion from the right to apply for DFG funds for a period of one to eight years, depending on the severity of the scientific misconduct;

¹ The principles of good scientific practice can be found in detail in the DFG [Code of Conduct - Guidelines for Safeguarding Good Research Practice](#) and in the [Funding Guidelines: General Terms and Conditions of DFG Grants](#) (DFG form 2.00).

² [DFG Rules of Procedure for Dealing with Scientific Misconduct, DFG form 80.01](#)

- revoking funding decisions (full or partial termination of the grant contract, demanding repayment of funds spent);
- demanding that those concerned either retract the discredited publications or correct the falsified data (in particular by publishing an erratum), or appropriately indicate the DFG's retraction of funding in the discredited publications;
- exclusion from serving as a reviewer for a period of one to eight years, depending on the severity of the scientific misconduct;
- exclusion from membership in DFG bodies and committees for a period of one to eight years, depending on the severity of the scientific misconduct;
- denying voting rights and eligibility in elections for DFG bodies and committees for a period of one to eight years, depending on the severity of the scientific misconduct.

The DFG expects that the findings of the projects it funds be made available to the public.

B Individual Projects within Existing Priority Programmes

I Programme Information

1 Objective

As a topic-oriented funding programme with an open call for proposals, Priority Programmes provide the opportunity for interdisciplinary networking and nationwide coordination of research projects in fields of current research interest.

Once the DFG Senate has reached a decision to establish a Priority Programme, the DFG will announce it to the German research community by way of a nationwide call for proposals.

2 Proposals

2.1 Eligibility

Researchers in Germany, or those working at a German research institution abroad, who have completed their academic training (a doctorate as a rule) are eligible to submit proposals.

Proposals may also be submitted by researchers working at a non-university research institution without being subject to a cooperation requirement regarding the individual proposal.

Participation by researchers based outside Germany is possible if their project is of added value to the Priority Programme at large. This must be explained in the proposal.

2.2 Format and deadline

The coordination proposal and project proposals can only be submitted via [elan](https://elan.dfg.de)
elan.dfg.de

in accordance with the instructions for project proposals.

www.dfg.de/formulare/54_01

The submission deadline is stated in the call for proposals. The length of the funding period is also stated in the call for proposals.

II Proposal Modules

As part of your research project proposal under a Priority Programme, you may submit one or more of the modules listed below. Please see the respective guidelines for additional information on the modules.

1 Basic Module

Use the basic module to request funding for direct project costs, project-specific staff, and instrumentation necessary to carry out the project.

www.dfg.de/formulare/52_01

2 Temporary Positions for Principal Investigators

If you would like to propose a position for yourself as the leader of this project, use this module to request funding for your temporary position as principal investigator.

www.dfg.de/formulare/52_02

3 Replacements

If your project requires that you be released from teaching or administrative duties, you can use this module to request funding for a replacement to take over these responsibilities.

www.dfg.de/formulare/52_03

The following modules can be submitted by the project leaders for the individual projects in conjunction with the modules above, or by the coordinator for the entire Priority Programme within the coordination proposal:

4 Temporary Substitutes for Clinicians

If this project requires that clinicians conduct research, you can use this module to request funding for temporary substitutes to take over their patient-care responsibilities.

www.dfg.de/formulare/52_04

5 Project-Specific Workshops

If you would like to conduct workshops for your projects or for the entire Priority Programme, you may request funding to help you do so.

www.dfg.de/formulare/52_06

Please use this module to request funding for all workshops and colloquia that you will conduct within the funding period or for a concluding colloquium. In general, it is not possible to submit a request for colloquium funds at a later date.

6 Mercator Fellows

This module enables you to pursue an intensive and long-term exchange with researchers in Germany and abroad. Fellows will partially be on site but will remain in contact with the Priority Programme even after their stay.

www.dfg.de/formulare/52_05

7 Public Relations

To enable you to present your work to the general lay public, you can request funding for public relations.

www.dfg.de/formulare/52_07

The following modules can only be submitted by the coordinator on behalf of the entire Priority Programme within the coordination proposal:

8 Coordination

This module enables the spokesperson to

- apply for the funds needed to coordinate the various projects and work within the network (coordination funding), and, irrespective of that, to
- apply for gender inclusion funding for individual and subject and/or project-related activities serving to facilitate the coordinator's new role in conjunction with being in an underrepresented gender at the project management level in the relevant field or discipline. This module generally addresses spokespersons, except in the case of Priority Programmes, in which the role of coordinator is used.

The coordinator may apply for funds needed to coordinate the various projects within the network.

www.dfg.de/formulare/52_12

9 Network Funds

Use this module to request funds for the entire network.

www.dfg.de/formulare/52_13

10 Start-Up Funding

Through this module, research networks can receive funds to help promising early career researchers pursue independent projects.

www.dfg.de/formulare/52_11

11 Standard Allowance for Gender Equality Measures

This module enables research networks to implement targeted measures to promote gender equality in science and academia and to make jobs in science and academia more family friendly.

www.dfg.de/formulare/52_14

A total of €15,000 per year may be requested.

III Special Provisions

Association of Emmy Noether Independent Junior Research Groups

Priority Programmes may associate Emmy Noether Independent Junior Research Groups that investigate related topics. In this case, the Priority Programme proposal and the Emmy Noether proposal should refer to each other. Decisions on both proposals will be made independently of each other. If both the Priority Programme and the Emmy Noether group are established, the junior research group leader will participate in the Priority Programme's shared events. The association can also be established afterwards at the coordinator's discretion.

IV Obligations

In submitting a proposal to the DFG, you

1. agree to adhere to the **principles of good scientific practice**.³

The principles of good scientific practice include, among others: maintaining professional standards, maintaining strict honesty with regard to one's own contributions and those of third parties, documenting results and rigorously questioning all findings.

2. recognise the DFG's **Rules of Procedure for Dealing with Scientific Misconduct** (Verfahrensordnung zum Umgang mit wissenschaftlichem Fehlverhalten - VerfOwF)⁴ as

³ The principles of good scientific practice can be found in detail in the DFG [Code of Conduct - Guidelines for Safeguarding Good Research Practice](#) and in the [Funding Guidelines: General Terms and Conditions of DFG Grants](#) (DFG form 2.00).

⁴ [DFG Rules of Procedure for Dealing with Scientific Misconduct, DFG form 80.01](#)

legally binding.

Scientific misconduct is defined as the intentional and grossly negligent statement of falsehoods in a scientific context, the violation of intellectual property rights or impeding another person's research work. The circumstances of each case will be considered on an individual basis. In cases where scientific misconduct has been established, the DFG may impose one or more of the following sanctions in accordance with its Rules of Procedure, depending on the nature and severity of the scientific misconduct:

- issuing a written reprimand to those involved;
- exclusion from the right to apply for DFG funds for a period of one to eight years, depending on the severity of the scientific misconduct;
- revoking funding decisions (full or partial termination of the grant contract, demanding repayment of funds spent);
- demanding that those concerned either retract the discredited publications or correct the falsified data (in particular by publishing an erratum), or appropriately indicate the DFG's retraction of funding in the discredited publications;
- exclusion from serving as a reviewer for a period of one to eight years, depending on the severity of the scientific misconduct;
- exclusion from membership in DFG bodies and committees for a period of one to eight years, depending on the severity of the scientific misconduct;
- denying voting rights and eligibility in elections for DFG bodies and committees for a period of one to eight years, depending on the severity of the scientific misconduct.

By accepting funding, the recipient agrees to

3. use the grant exclusively and in a targeted manner to realise the funded project. The use and accounting of funds must conform to the relevant regulations of the DFG.
4. submit progress reports on the research according to the dates specified in the award

letter and to present financial accounts to the DFG detailing the use of funds.

The DFG expects that the findings of the projects it funds be made available to the public.

V Publication of Data on Grant Holders and Research Projects

The data necessary for processing your proposal will be stored and processed electronically by the DFG.

By submitting a proposal you agree that, if the proposal is approved, your work address and contact details (name, institution and location, phone, fax, e-mail and website) as well as information about the content of the project (e.g. topic, summary, keywords, subject area, DFG programme, funding period, international connections) will be published in the GEPRIS information system

gepris.dfg.de/en

and may be published in other, non-commercial publications and databases created in cooperation with the DFG.

You may withdraw your consent to full/partial publication at any time, without affecting the lawfulness of any processing carried out prior to your withdrawal. If you would like to withdraw your consent, please notify the responsible DFG programme contact, preferably in electronic form.