

Federal Ministry of Education and Research
Announcement within the framework of the Federal Government's Strategy for the
Internationalization of Science and Research
Regulations Governing the Funding of
Scientific and Technological Cooperation (STC)
With Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education
14. 01. 2020

1 Funding purpose and legal basis

1.1 Funding purpose

Based on the agreements reached in the German-Palestinian Steering Committee meetings at ministerial and working level which have taken place since 2010, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education hosted a joint workshop in 2011 in Ramallah to promote and expand bilateral cooperation in science and research and to define effective instruments for strengthening the joint activities of German and Palestinian researchers.

This third joint German-Palestinian announcement aims at intensifying and expanding the German-Palestinian cooperation in the field of science and research.

The announcement is based on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in Education, Science and Research between the Federal Ministry of Education and Research of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Palestine Liberation Organization for the benefit of the Palestinian Authority of 19 March 2014.

Both sides intend to attach particular importance to supporting joint research activities of young scientists.

1.2 Legal basis

On the German side:

Project grants will be awarded in accordance with the present announcement, the BMBF's standard terms and conditions for grants on an expenditure or cost basis and the administrative regulations under sections 23 and 44 of the German Federal Budget Code (BHO). Applicants have no legal claim to a grant. The funding provider will make a decision at its own proper and dutiful discretion and within the framework of the budget funds available.

2 Object of funding

The aim of this third joint announcement is to develop and deepen bilateral scientific cooperation between German and Palestinian research institutions, universities and innovative enterprises in the field of science and research. Thus, the announcement aims at supporting cooperation between German and Palestinian institutions in the fields of scientific research and technological development through funding

Joint innovative German-Palestinian application-oriented research projects

Based on the bilateral agreements reached within the framework of the meetings of the German-Palestinian Steering Committee and the joint workshop in Ramallah 2019 the two sides will accept submissions of research proposals in all thematic areas of joint interest. Applicants are particularly encouraged to submit proposals in the following fields:

- *Material Sciences*
- *Agricultural Science/ Natural Resources Management*
- *Renewable Energy*
- *Environmental issues including Climate Change*
- *Information and Communication Management and/or Digitalization*
- *Health Sciences*
- *Interdisciplinary and Applied Social Sciences including Cultural Heritage*
- *Educational and Pedagogical Sciences*

Emphasis is given to joint projects including an interdisciplinary dimension and studying also the economic and social dimension of the aforementioned fields.

Young and female and disabled researchers and scientists are encouraged to submit proposals.

Special emphasis is put on cooperation between different partners in the area of R&D, their scientific qualifications, and the participation of industry (SMEs) and business partners.

For this reason, project consortia should, if possible, include universities, public authorities, R&D institutions and companies in charge of the commercial application of applied research results.

In addition, project proposals should incorporate the following components respectively cross-cutting issues (not compulsory):

- IT Management
- Application-oriented apprenticeship/training
- Communication and Networking

Also the cooperation of more than one, but not more than three project partner(s) on Palestinian side will be encouraged.

Mobility measures should be implemented obligatorily as part of research projects: It should be organized at least 1 joint workshop per year, i.e. one workshop in Germany and one workshop on Palestinian side as far as possible.

3 Funding recipients

On the German side:

German universities, non-university research institutions and other institutions contributing to research as well as commercial companies headquartered in Germany - particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), located in Germany, are eligible for funding.*

Research institutions that receive joint basic funding from the Federal Government and the Länder can only be granted project funding supplementary to their basic funding to cover additional project-related expenditure under certain preconditions.

On the Palestinian side:

Palestinian universities, non-university research institutions and other institutions contributing to research including commercial companies in Palestine - particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that are located in Palestine, are eligible for funding.

* In accordance with the EU's definition of SMEs: The category of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is made up of enterprises which employ fewer than 250 employees and which have an annual turnover not exceeding € 50 million, and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding € 43 million. Within this category the following definitions apply: small enterprises are defined as enterprises which employ fewer than 50 persons and whose annual turnover and/or annual balance sheet total does not exceed € 10 million. A micro-enterprise is defined as an enterprise which employs fewer than 10 persons and whose annual turnover and/or annual balance sheet total does not exceed € 2 million. In general, most SMEs are autonomous since they are either completely independent or have one or more minority partnerships (each less than 25%) with other enterprises, which have one or more minority stakes (see 2.3.1, p. 16). If that holding rises to no more than 50%, the relationship is deemed to be between partner enterprises (see 2.3.2, p.20). Above that ceiling, the enterprises are linked (see 2.3.3, p.23). Source: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise_policy/sme_definition/sme_user_guide_de.pdf and http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/facts-figures-analysis/sme-definition/index_en.htm

The German-Palestinian project Consortium

The Consortium shall consist of one representative from the German side and up to 3 research institutions from Palestinian side that may – to the extent possible – include higher education institutions, universities, research institutions as well as the companies or public bodies involved in utilizing the results of the applied research.

If there is more than one researcher from the Palestinian side, they must determine one fund holder/contact person (coordinator) who is responsible to contact the Palestinian Ministry and the German partner. The Palestinian contribution will be transferred to his/her institution account. And an internal and signed agreement between the researchers should be included with the proposal

The project outline must be submitted by the applicant on the German side together with the Palestinian coordinator.

Special emphasis is put on cooperation between different partners in the area of Research and Development (R&D), their scientific qualifications, and the participation of industry partners.

Projects proposed for funding under this call should document their potential for longer-term sustainable cooperation in the Palestinian Territories.

4 Funding type, scope and amount

For the German side:

Funds can be granted through project funding as non-repayable subsidies.

Applicants are advised to familiarise themselves – in their own interests – with the EU's Research Framework Programme in the context of the planned national project. They should examine whether the planned project includes specific European components which make it eligible for exclusive EU funding. Furthermore, they should examine whether an additional application for funding can be submitted to the EU in the context of the planned national project. The outcome of this check should be described briefly in the national application.

Grants for industrial companies are calculated on the basis of the eligible project-related costs, which are generally financed up to 50% depending on how practically oriented the project is. The BMBF's policy requires that these companies contribute at least 50 % towards the eligible costs incurred.

Grants for universities, research and science institutions and similar establishments are calculated on the basis of the eligible project-related expenditure (grants for Helmholtz centres and the Fraunhofer Gesellschaft (FhG) are calculated on the basis of the eligible project-related costs) that can be individually funded up to 100 %.

The European Commission's Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development must be taken into account when calculating the respective funding ratio. This Community Framework allows a differentiated bonus arrangement for collaborative projects involving applicants in the new German Länder and for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which may result in a higher rate of funding.

For the German and the Palestinian side:

The maximum amount of funding applied for in total:

Joint German-Palestinian application-oriented research projects with a maximum funding duration of 24 months should not exceed

- € 60,000 per project, in case that a total of 3 Palestinian research partners /partner institutions will be involved in the joint project
- € 50,000 per project, in case that a total of 2 Palestinian research partners /partner institutions will be involved the joint project
- € 40,000 per project, in case that a total of 1 Palestinian research partner /partner institute will be involved in the joint project

The total funding volume (€40,000 or €50,000 or €60,000) will be allocated for the German research partner by the German BMBF.

The Palestinian partners will contribute in kinds (e.g. for their own personal costs on Palestinian side). This contribution will be given by the Palestinian MOEHE.

Measures for the promotion of export activities will not be funded under this call.

Following expenditures will be eligible for funding:

Joint German-Palestinian application-oriented research projects, the expenditures specified at Paragraphs 4.1 to 4.6 will be eligible for funding.

Paragraphs 4.1 to 4.5 below apply to the German side only; Paragraph 4.6 applies to the Palestinian side only.

4.1 The following applies to the funding of travel expenses of German project scientists and experts:

Travel expenses including visa (air tickets: economy class) to and from the location of the project partner in the Palestinian Territories.

Daily allowances and project-related domestic travel expenses: as a rule, a fixed lump-sum of €107 per day and/or €2,392 per month (for stays from 23 up to 31 days) will be paid annually for stays of up to 3 months in Palestine under the funding agreement.

These lump sums cover contributions to health insurance and, if applicable, other types of insurance, which must therefore be paid by the grant recipients themselves.

4.2 The following applies to the funding of travel expenses of Palestinian project scientists (allocated by the German side):

Travel expenses, including air tickets (economy class) and travel costs for using King Hussein Bridge (Palestinian Partners) to and from the location of the project partner in Germany.

Daily allowances and project-related domestic travel expenses: as a rule, a fixed lump-sum of €104 per day and/or €2,300 per month (for stays from 23 up to 30 days) will be paid annually for stays of up to 3 months in Germany under the funding agreement by the German side.

These lump sums cover contributions to health insurance and, if applicable, other types of insurance, which must therefore be paid by the grant recipients themselves.

4.3 Equipment

Project-related grants for non-cash resources (such as expendables, appliances, phone and office supplies, transport, literature, rent, orders etc.) can be provided.

4.4 Workshops:

Workshops with already known partners or workshops aimed at opening up new cooperation potential can be supported in the following ways:

Grants will be provided towards material expenses incurred in the organisation of bilateral workshops in Germany including the accommodation of foreign guests, the transfer within Germany, the preparation of the workshop, entertainment and the rental of the venue. The amount of the grant depends on the size of the workshop and the number of foreign guests. No daily allowances (cf. 4.1) will be paid in such cases.

4.5 Staff

Staff: Project-related costs for students, administrative and/or scientific staff are eligible for funding.

Flat-rate grants cannot be awarded to universities and university hospitals.

4.6 Palestinian side:

On the Palestinian side for Palestinian project scientists, the following project-related expenditures will be eligible for funding respectively supported by contribution in kinds:

- Project-related laboratory equipment and software
- Project-related costs for consumables; obligated conference fees and publication costs

5 Procedure on the German and Palestinian side

5.1 On the German side - Involvement of the International Bureau (IB) and request for documents

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) has commissioned with processing the funding measures:

Projektträger
im Deutschen Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V. (DLR)
Europäische und Internationale Zusammenarbeit
Heinrich-Konen-Str. 1
53227 Bonn
Internet: <http://www.internationales-buero.de>

Scientific officer at the International Bureau:
Susanne Ruppert-Elias
E-Mail: Susanne.Ruppert-Elias@dlr.de
Phone: +49 (0)228 3821 1487
Fax: +49 (0) 228 3821 1490

Administrative contact at the International Bureau:
Grazyna Sniegocka
E-Mail: Grazyna.Sniegocka@dlr.de
Phone: 02 28-38 21-1811
Fax: 02 28-3821-1490

On the Palestinian side the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research is responsible.

Scientific contact person on the Palestinian side:

Prof Dr Jamil Harb
Department Biology and Biochemistry at Birzeit University
E-mail: jharb@birzeit.edu
Tel: +970 2 298 2162
Fax: +970 2 2982084
Mobile: 0599 350 713

Applicants are advised to contact the project management organizations on both sides to obtain advice on how to apply and for any further information.

5.2 Submission of funding applications and decision-making procedure

The procedure consists of two stages:

In the first stage, draft proposals are to be submitted in English **by 30 of April 2020** at the latest, using the electronic system PT-Outline (<http://www.pt-it.de/ptoutline/application/PALGER2019>). A legally binding and signed version of the draft proposal (a pdf-document of the proposal is created by PT-Outline) is also to be sent to the International Bureau and

By the Palestinian side to the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research using Ministry website: www.mohe.pna.ps

The deadline for submission is a cut-off date. Applications received after this date will, as a rule, not be considered.

The submission of a project description does not establish a legal entitlement to a grant. Applicants have no legal claim to the return of their project outlines.

The English draft proposal should be structured as follows:

Part A) Information for administrative purposes: These data fields are regular components of all calls and are entered in an internet form.

Part B) An individual, call specific project description, with the following topics:

- I. Objectives, excellence and originality of the proposal
- II. Status of science and technology; previous work/research
- III. Comprehensive description of methodology and work plan
- IV. Benefits and utilization of results
- V. Previous experiences of cooperation with other partners
- VI. Need for project support
- VII. Financial sheet
- VIII. Annexes (CV from the principal Investigator; Publication list etc.)

The project description (Part B) can be uploaded only as a single document in PT-Outline (word or pdf-document).

The draft proposal is matter for the scientific and specific evaluation of the project. The project description should therefore contain comprehensive evidence to all positions of the outline (see structure for project description above). The description should not exceed 10 pages (Arial 11, 1.5 line spacing, 2 cm margin, excluding publication list and other annexes).

An abstract in German language must be included.

Received project proposals will be evaluated by independent and external experts on the German as well as on the Palestinian side.

For the German side

In the second stage, applicants whose draft proposals have been evaluated positively (and confirmed from both sides) will be invited to submit - in coordination with the designated project coordinator - a formal application for funding on which a decision will be taken after a final evaluation. To draft formal applications for funding, applicants must use the BMBF's electronic application system "easy". Forms for funding applications, guidelines, instructions, information and supplementary provisions can be found under <http://www.kp.dlr.de/profi/easy/index.html> or can be obtained directly from the project management organisation.

The application is to be sent to the following address (taking into account the deadline for submission:

Projektträger
im Deutschen Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V. (DLR)
Susanne Ruppert Elias
Europäische und Internationale Zusammenarbeit
Heinrich-Konen-Str. 1
53227 Bonn

For the Palestinian side

In the second stage, applicants whose draft proposals have been evaluated positively (and confirmed from both sides) must send a hard copy for their proposals with a formal letter and a financial sheet explains the Palestinian contribution distribution, stamped and signed by the institution's manager, to the following address

Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MoHESR)
Dr Ihab Qubbaj/ Assistant Deputy for Higher Education
Ramallah - Almasayon

Phone: +970 2 298 2604

E-mail: ihab.qubbaj@mohe.pna.ps

5.3. Examples for evaluation criteria

Received applications for funding will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Compliance of the project with content-related focus areas and with formal requirements
- Scientific excellence and originality of the project
- Quality of the planned utilization of the results
- Potential scientific impact
- Prospects for the realization of the aspired objectives
- Quality of cooperation and added value of partner institutions
- Initiating new partnerships and promoting young / female scientists
- Appropriateness and necessity of funding applied for

Funding decisions will be made after a final review of the applications based on the evaluation criteria mentioned above. Only applications approved by both sides will receive funding. Applicants will be informed in writing about the result of the selection process.

6 Other grant regulations

The General Auxiliary Conditions for Grants Provided for Projects on an Expenditure Basis (ANBest-P) and the Special Auxiliary Terms and Conditions for Funds provided by the BMBF for the Promotion of Projects on Expenditure Basis (BNBest-BMBF98) will form part of the notification of award of grants on an expenditure basis. The Auxiliary Terms and Conditions for Funds provided by the BMBF on a Cost Basis (NKBF 98) will be part of the notification of award for grants on a cost basis.

The BMBF reserves the right to stipulate regulations in the grant agreement which deviate from paragraph 7 and 8 of the BNBest-BMBF 98 or paragraph 12 and 13 of the NKBF 98 when transferring the right of use of the research results.

7 Entry into force

This announcement will enter into force on the date of publication in the Federal Gazette (Bundesanzeiger).

Bonn, Ramallah, Januar 2020

Federal Ministry of Education and Research

Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education and
Scientific Research

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