



RUSSIA'S WAR ON UKRAINE: Consequences for the region and for international peace and security policy

FUNDING AREA 3: THEMATIC FUNDING LINE | CALL FOR FUNDING

The German Foundation for Peace Research (DSF) invites tenders for funding in “Funding Area 3: Thematic funding line” with the aim of initiating research activities and scientific projects that address the causes, the course and the consequences of Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine. The call facilitates prompt submission of applications for smaller funding formats such as pilot projects, research networks and conferences, which are not subject to a deadline. Applications for funding larger research endeavours such as cooperation projects and profile projects are subject to a deadline. The funding line is aimed at researchers from different disciplines and research areas who address relevant issues of peace and conflict research. The Federal Ministry of Education and Research is supporting the call for proposals with a grant of 750,000 euros.

1. Objectives of the call

The aim of issuing calls for funding in Funding Area 3 is for DSF to provide new impetus to the thematic advancement of peace and conflict research. The objectives of the support measure are to respond to current challenges for the research field; open up potentially important research areas; and strengthen cooperation with related research areas.

The call

“RUSSIA’S WAR ON UKRAINE: CONSEQUENCES FOR THE REGION AND FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY POLICY”

seeks to provide impetus for

- identifying new research needs resulting from the war and elaborating original research projects,

- encouraging interdisciplinary research collaboration and developing interfaces with related research fields,
- establishing or developing national and/or international research collaboration,
- generating knowledge that is transferable to politics and society.

The call is generally open to problems from different disciplinary and/or interdisciplinary perspectives. In particular, it should also contribute to linking social scientific, historical and international-law peace and conflict research with research on Eastern Europe and Russia.

Where possible, DSF also urges applicants to involve researchers from the conflict region in their planned project. The “cooperation project” funding format also offers the option to apply for fellowship funding.

DSF will conclude the funding line with an international symposium, with the main aim of enabling the results of the funded research projects to be presented for discussion.

Thematic framework

In the light of Russia’s offensive war against Ukraine, the country’s aggression against its neighbouring country, which began in 2014 in violation of international law, has taken on a new dimension. As far as peace and conflict research is concerned, the question arises as to the causes of the extreme escalation of violence, and why attempts to establish a stable political order at the pan-European level have failed. Further research topics emerge from the conflict dynamics observed to date. These include questions of international law, in particular the breach of international treaties and the numerous documented war crimes, the role and effects of political and economic sanctions imposed as non-military means of pressure, as well as the problems of economic entanglement and disentanglement. In addition, aspects of human security, flight, expulsion and deportation, as well as persecution and repression, can also be the subject of research projects. Furthermore, analysis of conflict dynamics should also generate insights into the conditions and opportunities for action for de-escalatory conflict intervention.

The war has also called into question the previous foundations of the peace and security order in Europe. Even if the further course and outcome of the war cannot yet be foreseen, peace and conflict research faces the challenge of developing scientifically sound plans of action to secure future peace in Europe. Moreover, the war may have far-reaching implications at the global level, e.g. in the areas of conflict management and cooperative security, arms proliferation and arms control, human rights and food security. Important new research questions also emerge in this context.

Within the framework of the call for funding, the Foundation especially supports research projects on the following thematic fields:

- Causes and dynamics of the war
- Conditions and opportunities for action to de-escalate and contain the violence
- Social and economic consequences of the conflict
- Potential for peacekeeping and conflict management
- Questions concerning the future peace and security order in Europe
- Global implications of the war for peacekeeping, arms control and human security

2. Funding formats

DSF offers a variety of application procedures for smaller and larger funding formats in the context of the call. There is no deadline for submitting applications for smaller projects requiring funding up to €50,000. The Foundation makes funding decisions on an ongoing basis, based on the evaluation procedure.¹

Larger research projects with a funding volume of up to €300,000 are subject to a deadline. DSF decides in a simultaneous decision-making process which research projects are to receive funding. The application deadline is 1 March 2023.

Funding formats without a deadline for submission

Objectives: Start-up funding for research projects, initiation of project developments and cooperative research processes, interdisciplinary and cross-cutting cooperation

Pilot projects

Funding volume (max.):	€50,000
Standard duration:	12 months

¹ The period of the supporting measure is determined by the volume of approvals.

Research networks

Funding volume (max.):	€30,000
Standard duration:	24 months

International conferences

Funding volume (max.):	€20,000
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Funding formats subject to a deadline for submission

Objectives: Opening up of new research topics, cooperative interdisciplinary and cross-cutting research projects, synthesis of knowledge, generation of results for knowledge transfer

Cooperation projects

Funding volume (max.):	€300,000
Standard duration:	30 months

Profile projects

Funding volume (max.):	€150,000
Standard duration:	30 months

Application guidelines for the thematic funding line provide further information on the conception and basic design of applications. They also state cases where it is possible to apply for additional programme allowances.²

3. Funding criteria and evaluation procedure

Fulfilment of the funding criteria is an important prerequisite for DSF's evaluation and decision-making process. The funding criteria are divided into core criteria and more specific additional criteria:

Core criteria

- Scientific relevance
- Quality of the research design
- Specialist qualifications of the applicant or project team

² The guidelines are available on the DSF website at: <https://bundesstiftung-friedensforschung.de/downloads/>

- Potential for knowledge transfer in politics and society

Additional criteria

- Promotion of early career researchers
- Collaborative research projects
- Interdisciplinary orientation
- Diversity

The core criteria define the Foundation's basic qualitative requirements for project proposals. The additional criteria refer to other important funding objectives.

The Foundation subjects all project funding applications under the thematic funding line to an external peer review. DSF obtains at least two expert opinions in the case of cooperation projects, profile projects and pilot projects. Research networks and international conferences are assessed on the basis of a single expert opinion. The DSF Executive Board makes funding decisions on the basis of the expert reviews and the fulfilment of the funding criteria.

4. Application deadlines

All project funding applications must be submitted to the DSF Office in Osnabrück in digital form only.

Applications for funding up to €50,000 are not subject to a deadline and can be submitted on an ongoing basis as soon as the call is announced.

Applications for funding cooperation projects and profile projects can be submitted by the following deadline:

1 March 2023

Further information on the call for funding and the application procedure can be obtained from the DSF Office (phone: +49 541 600 35 42 or info@bundesstiftung-friedensforschung.de).

Osnabrück, September 2022