

RESPONSES TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS: IMPLICATIONS FOR PEACE AND SECURITY

FUNDING AREA 3: THEMATIC FUNDING LINE | CALL FOR FUNDING

The German Foundation for Peace Research (DSF) invites tenders for funding in the "Funding Area 3: Thematic Funding Line" with the aim of initiating research and scientific projects that address the impacts of responses, strategies, and measures related to the climate crisis and the effects on peace and security. The call for proposals facilitates prompt submission for smaller funding formats such as pilot projects, research networks, and international 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 various disciplines and research areas dealing with relevant issues in peace and conflict research. The Federal Ministry of Education and Research is supporting the call with a grant of 750,000 euros.

1. Objectives of the call for proposals

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 measures are to respond to current challenges for the research field; open potentially important research areas; and strengthen cooperation with related research areas.

The call "Responses to the Climate Crisis: Implications for Peace and Security" seeks to provide impetus for

- identifying relevant research needs on the topic and develop original research projects,
- encouraging interdisciplinary research collaboration and developing interfaces with related research fields,
- establishing, or expanding national and/or international research collaborations,
- generating knowledge that is transferable to politics and society.

The call is generally open to problems from different disciplinary and/or interdisciplinary perspectives. It should also contribute to linking peace and conflict research with research on impacts of climate change, environmental conflicts, and sustainability issues.

Where possible, DSF also urges applicants to involve researchers from the regions involved in their planned project. The “cooperation project” funding format 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.

2. Thematic Framework

Existing research has shown that the advancing climate change has a high potential to exacerbate existing societal conflict and violence dynamics, particularly concerning the access, distribution, and utilisation of natural resources. Less explored, however, is how responses, strategies, and measures to address the climate crisis themselves affect peace and security. The concepts of mitigation and resilience have acquired an almost paradigmatic character with the adaptation concept to contain and control the increasing risks of climate change as well as the associated uncertainties. As a result, there is political pressure to force societal adaptation processes. These may, on the one hand, lead to in-depth interventions in economic, socio-cultural, and political structures, causing new or exacerbating conflict dynamics. On the other hand, change processes may also open spaces for new forms of cooperation and action concepts that have conflict-preventive effects or enable peaceful coping strategies.

Therefore, the central focus of this call for proposals in the field of peace and conflict research is the question of conflict and violence risks and opportunities for peaceful conflict resolution associated with responses to the climate crisis and the already occurring impacts of climate change. Response modes and adaptation processes at local and international levels are often connected with problems of availability of strategic resources (such as in the energy and agricultural sectors) that can lead to competition as well as distribution and access conflicts. They are also marked by political and socio-economic power asymmetries and conflicting interests of the actors involved. Lack of conflict sensitivity and political governance problems can contribute to triggering resistance and exacerbating conflicts. Furthermore, acute violent conflicts and their effects on the social and ecological environment can limit the possibilities of constructive and sustainable coping with the consequences of climate change.

Furthermore, research projects of interest may also focus on the peace-promoting effects of response modes and adaptation processes. These include, for example, new forms of cooperation, conflict management, and conflict resolution at local and international levels, for which concepts in the field of environmental peacebuilding and international

development cooperation, especially in fragile societal and state contexts, play an important role. Questions of inclusivity, conflict sensitivity, reflexive resilience, and justice arise equally for societies of the "Global South" and the "Global North."

Questions for peace and conflict research also arise from the examination of political responses to the impacts of climate change and from the accompanying discursive processes. These questions cannot be discussed separately from the increasing influence of geopolitics on international climate and sustainability policies.

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

- Interactions between the social, economic, and cultural responses and adaptation processes to the consequences of climate change and the risks of conflict and violence
- Governance problems and conflicts resulting from adaptation strategies (e.g., conflicts of interest, inclusion, maladaptation)
- Cooperative, conflict-sensitive, and violence-preventive action concepts in the context of adaptation processes
- Responses to the climate crisis and their effects on societal vulnerabilities (e.g., environment, migration, inequality, gender, marginalized groups)
- Influences of geopolitical factors on adaptation conflicts and cooperation potentials

The call for proposals lies at the interface of various disciplines and particularly addresses socio-economic as well as socio-cultural and societal research, dealing with relevant issues in peace and conflict research.

Furthermore, the topic enables linkages to area studies and related research fields such as migration and refugee studies, as well as sustainability and climate impact research. Additional points of connection include research on societal transformation processes, economic, social, and legal developments, environmental peacebuilding, as well as disaster prevention and risk research.

The call also aims to initiate interdisciplinary research contexts approaching research issues from different perspectives.

3. Funding Formats and Application Procedures

Within the framework of the call, the DSF offers a variety of application procedures for smaller and larger funding formats.

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	Research networks	International conferences
Funding volume (max.): €60,000	Funding volume (max.): €30,000	Funding volume (max.): €20,000
Standard duration ¹ : 12 months	Standard duration: 24 months	

Applications for funding up to €60,000 are not subject to a deadline and can be submitted on an ongoing basis as soon as the call is announced.

Funding Formats Subject to a Deadline for Submission (1st November 2024)

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

Cooperation projects	Profile projects
Funding volume (max.): €250,000	Funding volume (max.): €175,000
Standard duration: 30 months	Standard duration: 30 months

Applications for funding of profile projects and cooperative projects can only be submitted by

November 1, 2024.

The DSF will decide simultaneously which research projects will be accepted for funding.

All project funding applications must be submitted exclusively through the online portal on the DSF website.

4. Funding Criteria and Evaluation Procedure

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

¹ Calculated based on a 65 percent position. The scope of the position and its duration can be flexibly determined within the budget limit.

Core Criteria

- Scientific Relevance
- Quality of the Research Design
- Professional Qualification of the Applicant or Project Team
- Potential for Knowledge Transfer in Politics and Society

Additional Criteria

- Promotion of early career researchers
- Research Collaborations
- Interdisciplinarity
- Diversity

The core criteria define the fundamental qualitative requirements of the foundation for project proposals. The additional criteria refer to further important objectives of the funding.

The foundation subjects all project funding applications within the thematic funding line to an external evaluation (peer review). For cooperative, profile, and pilot projects, it obtains at least two expert opinions. Research networks and international conferences are assessed by a single expert opinion. The DSF executive board makes funding decisions based on the expert reviews and the fulfilment of the funding criteria.

5. Additional Information

Guidelines for the thematic funding line provide instructions on the conception and design of proposals. They also state cases where it is possible to apply for additional programme allowances.

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

Osnabrück, May 2024