



# RESPONSES TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS: IMPLICATIONS FOR PEACE AND SECURITY

COOPERATION PROJECT | PROFILE PROJECT | PILOT PROJECT  
RESEARCH NETWORK | INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

## Research Network - Guidelines for Applications

These guidelines are intended as a guide for preparing an application for funding a research network in “*Funding area 3: Thematic funding line*”. They provide information on the different ways of interpreting the funding format and explain the basic requirements to be met when submitting an application. The guidelines are based on the DSF funding objectives and criteria, which are set out in the Funding Concept “*Research Innovation, Network Formation and Knowledge Transfer. Bringing new impetus to peace and conflict research*”<sup>1</sup> and are the determining factors for the evaluation and decision-making process. In addition, for each call specific requirements and offers for proposals may have to be considered.

### RESEARCH NETWORK

<i>Funding amount:</i>	<i>€30,000</i>
<i>Standard duration:</i>	<i>24 months</i>
<i>Application deadline</i>	<i>without deadline</i>

Applications for funding of Research Networks can be submitted to DSF without a deadline. They should be submitted at least six months before the planned start of the project.

The aim of the funding offer is to initiate Research Networks addressing disciplinary or interdisciplinary topics in the field of the call. Funded networks should open up perspectives for the further development of a research field by bringing together research on the topic at a national and/or international level and facilitating a structured exchange. The proposal should be oriented towards specific objectives, which may, for example, consist of the establishment of further research collaborations, the development of new research projects and science-based cooperation with practical fields. The results of Research Networks should be made publicly accessible in a suitable form.

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<sup>1</sup> The DSF Funding Concept is available at <https://bundesstiftung-friedensforschung.de/foerderkonzept/>

The call is aimed at researchers from different stages of their career, and from different disciplines and specialisations. Research networks offer design flexibility.

### **Application requirements**

Applications for funding can only be submitted by researchers who belong to or are directly affiliated with a higher education institution, a non-university research institution or a scientific institution recognised as a non-profit organisation<sup>2</sup>. It is not possible to provide direct financial funding to private individuals.

The minimum requirement for submitting an application is having completed a doctorate. Exceptions can only be made for researchers who can demonstrate that they have been engaged in scientific activities for many years and have published relevant articles in the field of research.

The Foundation only accepts applications for project funding submitted by scientific institutions within Germany. It generally only approves funding to domestic institutions. However, this does not exclude the possibility of using funding for international scientific cooperation.

Institutions that receive DSF funding are required to ensure that the funding is administered professionally.

It supports research work for a limited funding period. Institutional funding measures are not provided.

### **Basic requirements**

DSF only funds networking projects that are thematically related to the research field of peace and conflict research. Relevance shall be adequately substantiated in the application for project funding.

For the application, a structured and comprehensible network concept must be submitted to the Foundation, which provides a comprehensible and sufficient basis for the professional assessment of the project. Care should be taken to ensure that the objective and relevance of the project, the classification of the topic in the state of research and development, as well as the information about the project structure, the speakers and participants are all given appropriate consideration.

In the case of funding, the Foundation assumes that the organisation receiving funding will provide the infrastructure and basic equipment required to implement the proposed project. Overhead costs may not be claimed.

The organisation receiving funding assumes the role of employer for the duration of the project; it is therefore responsible for the proper management of labour costs.

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<sup>2</sup> Where applicable, relevant supporting documents shall be enclosed with the application.

## Funding criteria

When assessing applications for project funding, the Foundation distinguishes between four core criteria and four additional criteria<sup>3</sup>:

Adequate consideration must be given to the *core criteria* – scientific relevance, quality of the project design, specialist qualifications of the project team, and potential for knowledge transfer – in all project proposals. Their fulfilment is a prerequisite for a positive funding decision.

Not all of the four *additional criteria* – promotion of early career researchers, national and international research collaboration, interdisciplinary orientation, and diversity – have to be met, depending on the project design. However, the applicant should assess how significant the additional criteria may be to the project when preparing the concept. The Foundation expects applications to contain statements on the relevance or non-relevance of each criteria. The fulfilment of additional criteria has an impact on the overall assessment of applications for funding.

## Costs eligible for funding

DSF provides funding for project-related labour and material costs. Their utilisation is tied to the defined funding period.

Personnel funds can be used to provide organisational support for the preparation, follow-up and implementation of the Research Network. This includes, in particular, expenses for student assistants and other work services (e.g. translations). The appropriateness of awarding contracts for work to third parties must be justified in the application.

Material costs include expenses for flights/travel and accommodation (overnight stays, hospitality) of the speakers, the moderators, the active scientific participants and those involved in the organisation of the project. The current rates of the Federal Travel Expenses Act (BRKG) shall apply to the calculation of travel expenses.

For the creation of project publications and materials for knowledge transfer (print and digital), a funding amount of 1 thousand euros can be included in the project budget. This is available exclusively for editorial work.

The budget items must be adequately justified in the application's accompanying text. Funding requirements shall be calculated according to the principle of proportionality. The Foundation reserves the right to adjust cost estimates.

The overviews in *Appendices 1a/b* provide information on possible uses and the underlying cost estimates.

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<sup>3</sup> See the conceptual definitions in the Funding Concept.

## Application documents

The Foundation requires the following documents in order to process applications for project funding:

- COVER LETTER | A signed letter from the applicants to the Foundation (as a scan or with a digital signature)
- SUMMARY/ABSTRACT | A separate one-page summary of the project (approx. 1,800 characters including spaces, at least 11-point font size)
- LONG VERSION | A presentation of the concept for the networking project (Topic and objectives, state of research, structure of the conference, information about the contributors, cost plan, list of references<sup>4</sup>) with a maximum of 10 pages (approx. 20,000 characters including spaces, at least 11-point font size)  
*Supplementary appendices:* CVs of the applicants and project staff (maximum of 2 pages each<sup>5</sup>), a list of own publications relevant to the project<sup>6</sup> (maximum of 2 pages), cost estimates for third-party services, cooperation agreements, etc.
- COST PLAN | An additional cost breakdown (see the *template Excel file*)

A suggested list of possible bullet points is attached to these guidelines as *Appendix 2*. The Foundation reserves the right to return applications that exceed the specified number of pages for reworking.

All applications must be submitted to the Foundation in a digitised version. To do this, the application form<sup>7</sup> on the Foundation's website must be completed and four separate files (3 PDF, 1 Excel) – cover letter, the long version of the application (including annexes), the summary and the additional cost plan - must be attached.

## The evaluation and decision-making process

Applications for funding of Research Networks are reviewed externally.

The decision on funding is made by the DSF Board.

In the event of a positive decision on the award of funding, the Foundation reserves the right to issue a final approval only after a written statement has been submitted on the points of criticism and follow-up questions.

Post-qualification of a Research Network in the current application process is not possible.

As a matter of principle, the Foundation only makes the expert evaluation available in anonymised form.

DSF approves funding to the applicant's research institution. This entails the compulsory recognition of the Foundation's approval regulations by the management of the institution and the project owner. Further details can be found in the approval regulations for Research Networks.

Osnabrück, July 2024

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<sup>4</sup> The reference list of research literature can also optionally be added as an appendix (maximum of 2 pages).

<sup>5</sup> The two-page CV should only contain information on professional credentials that is directly relevant to the application. Lists of lectures, memberships, etc. are not desired.

<sup>6</sup> A complete list of the applicant's own publications cannot be attached to the application.

<sup>7</sup> The form is available at <https://bundesstiftung-friedensforschung.de/e-antrag/>

APPENDIX 1A | RESEARCH NETWORK: INFORMATION ON DRAWING UP A COST PLAN

*When drawing up the cost plan, the following points must be observed:*

- DSF does not assume any overhead costs of the organisation receiving funding. It assumes that the infrastructure (e.g. Conference rooms and technology, access to software licences) is provided by the organisation receiving funding as its own contribution. For this reason, any material costs listed that count as part of a re-search institution's basic equipment require special justification.
- In the event of incorrect calculations of personnel and material costs, the Foundation will not grant any additional funding. It is recommended that a safety margin of 5% be added to the personnel costs in order to compensate for ongoing pay rises.
- Lump sums with no mention of a specific intended use will not be granted.
- Individual cost items should be rounded up to the nearest €10.
- Please note that a cost plan with the necessary explanations must be included in the long version of the application.

*Rates for hospitality expenses:*

- The Foundation will cover the costs of hospitality for
  - speakers,
  - presenters and
  - those directly involved in the organisation (e.g. student assistants).
- The following grants can be applied for per day towards the costs of hospitality:
  - For one meal (half day)
    - maximum of €25 per person and day
    - additional: maximum of €5 per person and day for conference drinks
  - For two meals (whole day):
    - maximum of €50 per person and day
    - additional: maximum of €10 per person and day for conference drinks

APPENDIX 1B | RESEARCH NETWORK: INFORMATION ON DRAWING UP A COST PLAN

COST ITEM	INFORMATION	REMARKS
<b>LABOUR COSTS</b>		
Student assistants	Hourly rate (including ancillary wage costs) Duration of employment Monthly working hours	
Contracts for work and services with third parties	Scope, remuneration and basis of assessment	Justify the appropriateness of awarding the contract. Attach tenders if applicable
Fee contracts	Basis of assessment	Attach tenders if applicable
<b>TRAVEL COSTS</b>		
Flight and travel costs for speakers and presenters	Target number of participants Breakdown into expected individual items (travel/accommodation costs) Local transport costs	
Accommodation costs for speakers and presenters	Type of accommodation, Hospitality costs	The applicable rates of the BRKG apply. Hospitality costs are based on the <i>rates for hospitality expenses</i> .
<b>MATERIAL COSTS</b>		
Conference rooms and technology, access to software licences (hybrid and online formats)	Justification why not available through the basic equipment of the funded institution	
Consumables and conference materials, communication	Lump-sum amount	
Grant for project publications (maximum of €1,000)	Details of the expected purpose of use, e.g. editorial work on publications (digital and print), proofreading in foreign languages, knowledge transfer publications	Subsidies for publishing costs are excluded.

APPENDIX 2 | RESEARCH NETWORKS: LIST OF POSSIBLE BULLET POINTS IN THE LONG AND SHORT VERSION OF THE APPLICATION<sup>8</sup>

**Short version (summary of the project)**, a separate 1-page

- Topic, objectives and expected project results
- Scientific relevance of the project and classification in the state of research
- Concept and structure of the project
- Selection of participants
- Duration
- Application volume

**Long version of the application for project funding**

(maximum 10 pages; approx. 20,000 characters including spaces, at least 11-point font size)

*a. General information (in tabular form<sup>9</sup>)*

- Funding format
- Name of the applicant
- Institution/organisation/department
- Topic of the project
- Expected date of implementation
- Application volume
- Business address and contact details (phone, email address)

*b. Detailed presentation of Research Networks*

- Topic, objectives and expected outcomes
- Relevance and classification in the international state of research
- Concept and structure of the project
- Selection and listing of speakers and participants
- Expertise of the project team and own preparatory work
- Exploitation of results and intended publication format

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<sup>8</sup> This list is a non-binding outline suggestion. The order and choice of points may vary depending on the application.

<sup>9</sup> You can find an example of a tabular list in our download area under “Example of a cover sheet”.

### FUNDING AREA 3: THEMATIC FUNDING LINE | RESEARCH NETWORK

- Potential for knowledge transfer (possible target groups and transfer formats)
- Schedule and work plan
- List of relevant research literature
- Detailed cost plan (see also Excel file as a download) stating information about the institution's own contribution / justification of individual items in the application text, Excel file with numerical values additional
- Declaration that the application, or a similar application, has not been submitted to any other funding body (date and signature)

c. *Appendices*

- Information on the applicants in the form of a CV and a list of own publications relevant to the project (maximum 4 pages)
- Other documents such as short biographies of speakers, call for contributions  
Cost offers for third-party services (please keep to the essentials)