

**GERMANY**  
**Federal Ministry of Education and Research - BMBF**

Before a consortium submits a complete application, German applicants are advised to contact the National Focal Point. The eligibility who may apply and which costs are eligible should be examined. Furthermore, German applicants are strongly recommended to read the German call text in the Federal Gazette "Bundesanzeiger" ([www.bundesanzeiger.de](http://www.bundesanzeiger.de)) which is more exhaustive than this short English version and which might include additional requirements that have to be followed.

**Eligibility**

Eligible thematic area:

Research proposals may be submitted in the thematic area of **Circular Economy**.

Eligible organisations:

Research proposals may be submitted by German (based in Germany)

- Research institutions,
- Universities and
- SMEs

In specific cases, research institutions that receive basic funding from the Federal Government or the Länder can receive funds to cover extra expenditure in addition to their basic financing.

- In case of **private research entities (SMEs)** only 50% of the project-related costs are eligible. According to BMBF principles, at least 50% of the project-related and fundable costs should be financed through own resources.
- In case of **public research institutes** 100% of the eligible project-related costs can be funded.

Additional requirement:

Funding recipients are required to plan and present suitable measures for science communication in connection with their research process and research results.

In the case of joint research projects, the collaborative partners should develop a joint strategy for science communication.

Commercial enterprises (including start-ups and SMEs) are encouraged to implement science communication measures without this being taken into account as a criterion in the funding decision of the funding body.

Science communication is the generally understandable, dialogue-oriented communication and communication of research and scientific content to target groups outside the scientific community.

Funding limit:

In general, funding is limited to a maximum of 100,000€ per project and to a duration of 36 months.

**Funding modalities**

For researchers funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, the funding is limited to:

- a. **Personnel costs:** personnel to carry out scientific activities or research  
Project related expenditures / costs for student and / or scientific personnel are subsidized up to 36 person months.

- b. **Research materials and small-scale research equipment** (no basics, e.g. Computer hard- or software, office supplies, etc.): only on a limited scale and if its need is demonstrated.
- c. In well-justified cases **sub-contracting** is eligible (Proven need to achieve the project's goals and applicants cannot carry out the work on their own. Good justification why it would not make sense to take the subcontractor as partner on board of the project.).
- d. **Mobility:**
- 1) For scientists from the institution from Germany applying for funding:
    - Travel is in principle covered in Germany and to partners of the project.
    - Flights: economy class flight
    - Train journey: 2<sup>nd</sup> class
    - Visa costs
    - Transfer to and from the airport / train station (train ride 2<sup>nd</sup> class / public transport): on real costs upon presentation of a receipt
    - Accommodation / daily allowances are covered based on the rules of the applying institution.
  - 2) For project partners from Cambodia and Lao PDR:

In exception of Cambodia and Lao PDR all partner countries cover the costs for their participants based on their respective national regulations.

The travel costs for researchers from Cambodia and Lao PDR to Germany can be covered. In well-justified cases also the travel to other partner countries can be covered.

(for basic conditions see **Funding of Researchers from Cambodia and Lao PDR**). The same rules as for travel of German researchers apply.

e. **Workshops**

1) in Germany:

Expenses for the organisation and implementation of scientific events (including invitation of external experts):

- room rent
- all costs necessary for the implementation of the conference / workshop
- publications
- travel costs and accommodation for external experts based on the regulations above.

The costs for the event have to be requested by the project partner in the hosting country.

Please note that daily subsistence allowance is never covered for participants of workshops or conferences.

2) in Cambodia and Lao PDR:

In principle the hosting country of a workshop covers the costs. An exception can be made for Cambodia and Lao PDR. If a researcher from these countries organises a workshop in his country, the costs can be included in the budget of the German partner if the conditions in section **Funding of Researchers from Cambodia and Lao PDR** are fulfilled.

Please note that daily subsistence allowance is never covered for participants of workshops or conferences.

f. **Indirect costs: Overheads**

Overhead costs are eligible depending on the type of institution as well as on the respective accounting system.

Universities (public / non-public) and university hospitals (regardless of their legal status) can apply for a lump sum of 20% (Projektpauschale) of the requested funding for research projects. It is conditioned that the indicative overall financial plan includes cost categories such as personnel, awarding contracts, rents and / or investments. The Projektpauschale / lump sum has to be included in the maximum funding of 100,000 Euros.

**g. Funding of Researchers from Cambodia and Lao PDR**

German researchers can use up to 15% of the budget they apply for to support partners from the above mentioned countries (travel and workshops). The condition is that these partners guarantee that they can contribute the work effort on the project (personnel costs) in-kind with a Letter of Commitment.

**Additional national eligibility criteria for the proposal beyond the general criteria in Terms of Reference of the Joint Call**

Please consult the German Call text in the Bundesanzeiger and on the homepage of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) at [www.bmbf.de](http://www.bmbf.de).

**Submission**

In case of a positive evaluation of the research proposal German applicants will be asked to hand in an official application through the easy online webtool which is subject to final approval.

**For more information, please contact:**

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