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DFG Argentinean-German Collaboration in Research, deadline: 01. December 2023

The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) and the National Council for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICET) are pleased to announce the fourth call for proposals to fund joint German-Argentinean research projects in the following areas:

- Physics
- Chemistry
- Materials Science and Engineering
- Geosciences
- Neurosciences
- Molecular and Clinical Infectiology and Immunology
- Social Sciences and Humanities

The proposals for German-Argentinean research projects have to be submitted to the DFG according to the following rules:

- Researchers may apply for a funding period of up to three years.
- Researchers in Germany must submit their proposals under the DFG's Research Grants Programme in compliance with the guidelines outlined in DFG form 50.01 (see link below). This includes the eligibility criteria for applicants to be funded by the DFG.
- Proposals have to be written in English and must be submitted to both organisations in parallel in accordance with the proposal preparation instructions of each side.
- The scientific content of the proposals submitted to the DFG and CONICET should be identical.
- The joint proposal should contain an abstract, the scientific description, the goals and tasks as well as the justification of the requested cost items according to DFG form 54.01.
- Researchers in Argentina and Germany must submit their proposals to CONICET and the DFG, respectively, by 1 December 2023.
- In addition to the guidelines of the DFG, the following considerations have to be taken into account:
- The scientific level of the projects should be high in international comparison.
- Although the scientific quality of the proposals is the decisive criterion, joint projects must also demonstrate a clear added value to the applicants' cooperation beyond what could be achieved individually.
- There are no separate funds available for this initiative; proposals must succeed based on the strengths of their intellectual merit and teams in competition with all other proposals in the funding programme "Sachbeihilfe/Research Grants".
- Funding of the joint research projects is contingent upon positive assessment by both funding organisations. Joint German-Argentinean projects will be co-funded by the Argentinean funding organisation; unilateral funding of only one part of the project is not possible.

All requested cost items must be in accordance with the respective national administrative regulations. At the DFG, only costs for the German share of the projects are eligible. At CONICET, only costs of the Argentinean share of the projects are eligible according to the regulations of CONICET. The "Guidelines Research Grants Programme" (DFG form 50.01, see link below) and the respective modules apply for applicants to be funded by the DFG.

Applicants for a bilateral collaborative project within this call must submit their joint proposal to their national funding organisation. Argentinean principal investigators (PIs) submit their documents to CONICET, German PIs to the DFG, following the formal requirements of their respective funding organisation. All documents must be written in English. Please note that the documents submitted to the DFG and CONICET must not differ with regard to the scientific content of the proposal and with regard to the applicants involved. Proposals that arrive late and/or do not fulfil the national requirements will not be considered. No legal entitlement can be derived from the submission of a project description.

At the DFG, all proposals must be submitted through the DFG's electronic proposal processing system elan by 1 December 2023.

Further Information:

https://www.dfg.de/foerderung/info_wissenschaft/ausschreibungen/info_wissenschaft_23_67/index.html

BMBF Women Involvement in Science and Engineering Research (WISER)

Indo-German Science & Technology Centre (IGSTC), established by the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Government of Germany invites applications from women researchers in India/Germany to participate and collaborate in an ongoing R&D project without applying for fresh project grant in partnering countries.

Women researchers are still underrepresented in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) due to varied reasons. The situation has improved to a certain extent over the last few years, but an imbalance remains. Keeping in view the above scenario, this scheme intends to build scientific capacity, retain and promote women researchers in India/Germany by utilising complementary expertise in science, technology, innovation and research partnerships.

Overview of program:

- Through this scheme, women researchers/entrepreneurs holding a regular position in academic/research institutions/industrial research organisations in India/Germany may apply to be a part of an ongoing R&D project of interest with acceptance from the host team.
- The programme is open to all the areas of STEM.
- The grant includes funding for basic project requirements.
- The tenure will be for a period of 3 years or till completion of the project whichever is earlier and will cover one visit per year for short stay up to 1 month.

The grant will cover basic project assistance (including research staff*, consumables and contingency) for the awardee in the parent country and one month research stay in host country (single round-trip airfare, visa fee, medical insurance, per diem for the stay). The maximum grant for three years will be up to 39 lakhs/€ 48000.

Who can apply?

- Women holding regular/long-term research position in academia or research institute/industry.
- No age limit (Preference to Early/Mid-career researchers).

Applications accepted throughout the year.

Further Information:

<https://www.igstc.org/home/wiser>

HORIZON EUROPE Expanding translational knowledge in minipigs: a path to reduce and replace non-human primates in non-clinical safety assessment, deadline: 08. November 2023 17:00 Brussels time, 1. Stage

Expected Outcome:

- Obtain and share biological knowledge of minipigs, thereby facilitating the development of innovative solutions by improving the translational understanding between minipigs versus NHPs and humans, including further understanding of the minipig immune system, with the overall aim to replace, reduce and refine the use of animals in non-clinical safety assessment.
- A regulatory pathway for nonclinical safety assessment of biologicals and other new therapeutic modalities in minipigs with the potential to impact regulatory strategies.
- Publicly available databases and software for physiological, genomic, transcriptomic, metabolomic, proteomic and epigenetic minipig data to understand underlying mechanisms of disease/toxicities and find new mode of actions for pharmaceutical interventions.
- Characterised and validated genetically modified minipig models:
 - genetically modified minipig models based on the CRISPR/Cas9 gene-editing technology.
 - minipigs with 'humanised' immune system components and effectors for testing biologicals.
 - small-sized micropig for efficacy/safety assessment to facilitate compound availability in pharmaceutical R&D.
- Assessment of the utility of the minipig as a relevant toxicology species for immuno-safety testing using therapeutics which have been tested preclinically and clinically. Assisting and synergising the already existing translational and regulatory efforts related to immunological safety evaluation. Developing validated antibodies and in vitro immunoassays to characterise the immune system and assess the immuno-safety of therapeutics in minipigs.
- Minipig-specific technology for automated study data: validated medical devices, biosensors, algorithms, software, and digital animal housing. Machine learning and artificial intelligence (AI)-based tools to monitor abnormalities in behaviour and physiological systems in undisturbed animals.

To ensure long-term sustainability, all the interdisciplinary science-based knowledge obtained and generated in the project arising from this topic will be shared, integrated, digitalised, and published in peer-reviewed journals, encouraging industry and academia to develop innovative medical science solutions and technologies, such as scientifically and ethically sound an-

imal models, assays, biomarkers, monitoring devices, biosensors for normal physiological behaviour, and algorithms. Based on the close collaboration with regulatory bodies, the knowledge generated in the project is further expected to impact regulatory guideline strategies. All outputs will require long-term sustainability and maintenance to fulfil the scope of the project.

Challenges:

- Increasing need to find alternatives to testing in NHPs in line with EU legislation.
- Almost no precedence in minipig use for safety testing of biologicals and new therapeutic modalities [e.g., oligonucleotides, small interfering RNAs (siRNAs), crystallisable fragments (Fcs), antigen-binding fragments (Fabs), single-chain variable fragments (scFvs), monoclonal antibodies (mAbs), vaccines, gene-editing and cell-based therapies].
- Lack of scientific knowledge to scientifically justify a de-selection of NHPs in the non-clinical safety assessment of new therapeutics. Lack of public minipig reference 'omics' with good quality annotation: Full genome sequencing, in parallel with baseline transcriptomics, proteomics, metabolomics and epigenetic information.
- Lack of 'humanised' and genetically modified models available for efficacy/safety testing, including genetically modified smaller micropigs to address cases of limited substance supply.
- Significant knowledge gap on the minipig immune system and reduced number of laboratory tools and reagents when compared to other toxicology species (rodent and non-rodent).
- Lack of widespread use of biosensors, medical devices, 'intelligent' animal housing for automated data collection and analysis in minipig studies.

The overall objective of this topic is to characterise the minipig for use in R&D of new therapeutics and innovative medical technologies. The knowledge generated in this proposal may facilitate innovative health solutions and improve disease understanding and human predictions. The goal is to advance biomedical R&D by generating background scientific data to evaluate if the minipigs could be a viable and feasible alternative to NHPs in key therapeutic areas, with a special focus on translatability from minipigs to humans.

Key activities:

- Compile and publish existing historical safety data in minipig biomedical R&D and discuss data with regulators.
- Evaluate the translatability of minipigs in human risk assessment following treatment with biologicals and new therapeutic modalities, and discuss future perspectives of the minipigs with regulatory agencies, e.g., by requesting regulatory interactions with European Medicines Agency (EMA) such as scientific advice and/or novel methodology qualification advice to understand possible regulatory hurdles in using minipigs for safety assessment.
- Minipigs multi-omics and imaging: Generate omics reference data (genomics, transcriptomics, proteomics, metabolomics, and epigenetic information) to enable translational research in minipigs. To further characterise the minipig, imaging technologies such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT) scans and positron emission tomography (PET) scans are also of interest.
- Genetically modified pig models including the micro-pig: Characterise and validate humanised and genetically modified minipig models, including the micropig to generate translatable animal models in non-clinical safety assessment.
- iPig: Digital technologies, clinical data collection and AI: Create, validate, qualify, and benchmark digital solutions that can objectively measure clinically relevant and functional biomarkers in minipigs for use in preclinical toxicity studies in line with the regulatory agencies' requirements.
- Minipig immune system: validate reagents, assays, and biomarkers for immunological investigations: Conduct investigative studies in minipigs to support their translational significance in immuno-safety assessments and validate reagents/assays.
- Project management: Compile, digitalise, and publish existing and newly-produced data.

Further Information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-ju-ih-2023-04-01-two-stage;callCode=null;freeTextSearchKeyword=;matchWholeText=true;typeCodes=1,2,8;statusCodes=31094502;programmePeriod%202027;programCcm2Id=43108390;programDivisionCode=null;focusAreaCode=null;destinationGroup=null;missionGroup=null;geog>

HORIZON EUROPE Sustainable circular development and manufacturing of healthcare products and their quantitative environmental impact assessment, deadline: 08. November 2023 17:00 Brussels time, 1. Stage

We expect all of the following outcomes to be generated from the topic.

- Generation of novel, process-intensified manufacturing methods and unit operations according to safe and sustainable by design (SSbD) principles with the following goals.

- Reducing solvent volumes in chemical synthesis and cleaning operations: Large volumes of pure and high-quality organic solvents are required for pharmaceutical manufacturing without ever being reused or recovered. The goal is to identify ways to either eliminate solvents, by increasing the usage of water-based reactions; reuse solvents; or more preferably avoid entirely the use of high solvent volumes. Innovative methods (e.g. surface functionalisation) of cleaning and rinsing techniques (equipment, medical devices) need to be developed to minimise solvent waste.
- Replacement of substances of concern:
 - by either replacing reagents with less toxic chemicals, e.g. replacements of chlorinated solvents, toxic reagents, heavy metal based homogeneous catalysts;
 - by identifying alternative routes to target the chemical transformation, e.g. through catalytic or biocatalytic rather than stoichiometric chemical transformations, or by reducing the overall number of steps (e.g. through cascade reactions) with a significant impact on the use of solvents and chemicals.
- Reducing total water volumes in fermentation processes (both upstream and downstream) by innovative fermentation designs, e.g. continuous manufacturing, perfusion technology and reusable downstream processing aids, or preferably by reducing or recycling the purified water (PW), and particularly high quality water (e.g. sterile water for injection (WFI)) volumes.
- New fermentation/cultivation and purification technologies (e.g. alternatives to chromatography or innovative chromatography technologies, buffers and resins) with reduced water and energy demands.
- Reducing energy consumption in chemical or biotechnological processes: Heating, cooling and sterilisation / cleaning in place (CIP/SIP) operations are energy intensive. Use of alternative chemical transformation steps or sterilisation techniques should help to reduce energy consumption.
- Harvesting new sources of raw materials other than fossil sources to have reliable access to readily available starting materials, solvents, reagents, homogeneous catalysts (where possible transition metal based or, if necessary, rare-earth metal based) or biocatalysts (enzymes for catalytic chemical transformations).
- Changing biomanufacturing¹: Many biotechnological manufacturing processes rely on single-use equipment, consumables and materials, and this contributes to an increase in solid waste generation, especially plastics. Novel single-use materials will be developed from renewable sources with the possibility of recovering valuable materials like transition metals/rare earth metals from electronic components of single-use equipment (single-use reactors, electrodes, probes etc.) or using single-use equipment manufactured from renewable resources.
- According to the World Economic Forum 2022 report, the pharmaceutical industry is fuelling the climate crisis where the sector is responsible for 4.4% of global emissions and its CO₂ footprint is forecast to triple by 2050. Reducing the generation of greenhouse gases (mainly CO₂, methane, nitrous oxide) is a key element to preventing climate change. Any attempt to improve the efficiency and environmental compatibility of a manufacturing process under development is expected to reduce the generation of GHGs everywhere on the planet. A thorough assessment of the origins and the life cycles of all chemicals, reagents, solvents and API (active pharmaceutical ingredient) drug substances procured must be performed to have a complete cradle-to-gate analysis of the GHG generation to be measured as GHG footprint per mass/dose/treatment. All changes in manufacturing processes should include considerations of the economic impacts. This includes the development of thresholds for the recovery and reuse of solvents.
- All aspects of process designs should be quantified in standardised assessment systems comprising as many influence factors as possible to describe the full environmental impact of a single drug product on everybody's environment. Artificial intelligence (AI) / machine learning (ML) driven technology should help to sharpen the full picture of the environmental impacts from material supplies via manufacturing to the consumer and waste (= cradle-to-gate analysis). A publicly accessible digital toolbox will be developed that guides development chemists, biotechnologists and engineers to create the best possible manufacturing processes that produce safe and high-quality products with the minimum environmental impact possible.
- The harmonisation of assessment systems across the healthcare industry is expected to be incorporated into European environmental guidelines, and standards aligned with existing standards outside the scope of the EC.

Further Information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-ju-ih-2023-04-06-two-stage;callCode=null;freeTextSearchKeyword=;matchWholeText=true;typeCodes=1,2,8;statusCodes=31094502;programmePeriod%202027;programCcm2Id=43108390;programDivisionCode=null;focusAreaCode=null;destinationGroup=null;missionGroup=null;geog>

HORIZON EUROPE Innovation Action in Low Latency and High Bandwidth Interconnects, deadline: 31. January 2024 17:00 Brussels time

Expected Outcome:

- Contribution towards European technological sovereignty, by establishing, maintaining and implementing a strategic R&I roadmap that fosters the European capabilities to design, develop and produce inter-node interconnects.
- Delivering scalable energy efficient inter-node interconnect for exascale and post exascale supercomputers. The development of European interconnect should prepare the technology for its future uptake and integration in post-exascale supercomputers to be acquired at a later stage by the EuroHPC JU targeting systems incorporating European technologies.
- A suitable software stack, including configuration, installation and management tools.

The aim is to support the R&I technology development of innovative and competitive European HPC inter-node interconnect technology.

- Develop a roadmap for European scalable inter-node interconnects targeting HPC exascale and post-exascale systems. The roadmap should take into account the EuroHPC supported work in this area such as the components being developed in the EUROHPC RED-SEA project as well as in the area of processors and accelerators.
- Develop the inter-node interconnect hardware addressing design, development, testing and tape-out as well as integration in test-beds. The work should foster synergies with the EuroHPC supported work in the area of processors and accelerators.
- Develop the software, installation, configuration and management tools for the developed interconnect, driven by the needs of relevant HPC workflows and application requirements.
- Address issues like high bandwidth, low latency, power efficiency, virtualisation, scalability, reliability, security, etc.

Proposals should clearly demonstrate that all partners in the consortium have a significant and justified role, including appropriate deliverables under their responsibility which cover the specific contributions of each partner. Due to the specific focus of the action, the consortium is expected to include not more than five partners to ensure an efficient and effective implementation and delivery of the objectives.

The JU considers that a contribution from the JU of up to EUR 30 million, matched by the Participating States with a similar amount, and a duration of 3 years would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nevertheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals with another duration or requesting other amounts.

Further Information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-eurohpc-ju-2023-inter-02-01;callCode=null;freeTextSearchKeyword=;matchWholeText=true;typeCodes=1,2,8;statusCodes=31094502;programmePeriod=202027;programCcm2Id=43108390;programDivisionCode=null;focusAreaCode=null;destinationGroup=null;missionGroup=null;geo>

HORIZON EUROPE Next Generation Innovation Talents, deadline: 04. October 2023 17:00 Brussels time

The objective of the 'Next Generation Innovation Talents' scheme is to enable researchers and aspiring innovators to better understand and gain direct experience of the complex process of taking innovation beyond invention and help them develop their entrepreneurial mindset. At the same time, this scheme aims to provide innovative start-ups with access to new ideas and insights from the cutting edge of research, thus accelerating the development of their breakthrough products and services.

The scheme will allow eligible researchers to carry out an innovation internship in a hosting company, and will be open to:

- As hosting companies: start-ups and SMEs supported by the EIC Accelerator (including H2020 SME instrument), EIC awarded Seal of Excellence companies, SMEs/ start-ups in EIC Transition; as well as start-ups/SMEs supported by EIT-KIC innovation and business creation services, including those created as a result of receiving support from KICs; the startups / scaleups that have been created out of KICs Innovation activities; the startups / scaleups / SMEs that have been partners of KICs for Innovation activities; the startups / scaleups that have at least one co-founder who is an EIT Alumni member.
- As researchers eligible for internships: PhD candidates and postdoctoral researchers participating in: projects funded by the European Research Council (ERC); the EIC Pathfinder; the Marie Skłodowska Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) postdoctoral fellowships, doctoral networks and COFUND programmes; the Research Infrastructures part of Horizon Europe, and relevant students in (and graduates from) EIT Label Masters and Doctoral programmes, EIT Alumni and EIT Jumpstarter beneficiaries and participants from other postdoctoral training programmes supported by the EIT KICs.

Additional partner programmes, including international partner programmes, may be included in eligibility for the internship in agreement between the Commission, the beneficiary of this call and the partner programme.

The winner of this call (hereafter 'Beneficiary') can be a single legal entity or a consortium of legal entities. The scheme will be implemented by the beneficiary in close cooperation with each of the original funding schemes (partner programmes) of the researchers (MSCA, EIT, ERC, EIC Pathfinder, the Research Infrastructure part of Horizon Europe). The costs of the internships will be covered by the partner programmes (with exception of ERC), in line with their work programmes. The hosting companies will not provide any direct payment to the interns. It is expected that approximately 600 innovation internships will be supported under this action, of approximately three to six months each, over a two-year period.

The Scheme has two main streams:

- Deep tech talents: Internship duration of 3 to 6 months open to PhD candidates and postdoctoral researchers currently working for ERC, EIC Pathfinder, MSCA, EIT and Research Infrastructure actions. These internships will be dedicated to highly specialised work on specific project or assistance to a senior executive (CEO, CTO, CSO) as requested by the hosting company.

- Aspiring innovators: Internship duration of up to 6 months open to relevant students in (and graduates from) EIT Label Masters and Doctoral programmes, EIT Alumni, EIT Jumpstarter beneficiaries. These internships are for less specialist work experience in the host organisation.

The actions under this call should include as minimum the following key tasks:

- Support to the preparation and implementation of call(s) for expression(s) of interest to eligible researchers/ research organisations and eligible companies in coordination with the EU partner programmes;
- Creation of a matchmaking IT platform between interested researchers (candidate interns) and companies;
- Provision of guidance and support for candidate interns and companies;
- Handling of agreements with the research institutes and the companies, including standard agreements on intellectual property, conditions of work etc.;
- Follow up on any practical issues related to the internships;
- Organisation of information and dissemination campaigns;
- When relevant, organisation of financial support to internships to cover additional costs of interns (financial support to third parties, see below);
- Regular reporting back to each respective EU funding programme, companies and interns;
- Provision of feedback on the effectiveness and impact of scheme (e.g. through surveys, focus groups);

The selection of internships to benefit from this action should include the following procedure:

Step 1: call for expression of interest to eligible companies to host internships. The proposed internships must be assessed for their suitability and relevance to the objectives of this scheme

Step 2: call for expression of interest to eligible researchers to participate in the proposed internships.

Step 3: matchmaking between the researchers and the internship positions in the host companies. Applicants must specify in their proposals how they intend to undertake this matchmaking (which criteria, how to ensure a geographical and gender balance, etc). The application and matchmaking process must be lean and agile, creating as less as possible administrative burden for the applicants and the companies.

The interns selected for the internships must have the necessary approvals from their institutions and project leaders/ Principal Investigators to participate in the scheme (when relevant).

Financial support to third parties:

The reimbursements of the internship expenses for the researchers funded by MSCA, HE Research Infrastructure, EIT/EIT KICs will be borne by the respective partner programmes.

The beneficiary may provide financial support to third parties (ERC and EIC Pathfinder researchers).

At least 50 percent of the total budget for this action must be allocated through financial support to third parties in form of grants (lump sums). The maximum amount to be granted to a third party is EUR [15 900].

For researchers working on ERC actions, the expenses incurred for the internship will not be eligible under the ERC grant, and all costs will be reimbursed as financial support to third parties under this action. The amount will be a flat monthly reimbursement of EUR 4300 for PhD students and EUR 5300 for Postdoctoral researcher for a maximum period 3 months (the internships may be of a longer period but without additional reimbursements through this action).

For researchers working on EIC Pathfinder actions, the personal costs are eligible under the Pathfinder grant (as specified in Section II). An additional mobility allowance will be reimbursed as financial support to third parties under this action. To be eligible for this mobility allowance, the location of the internship must be more than [150km] from the location of the normal place of work of the researcher. The amount will be a flat monthly allowance of EUR 2300 per month for a maximum period of 3 months (the internships may be of a longer period but without additional reimbursements through this action).

The beneficiary must ensure sound financial management and applicants must specify in their proposals how the management and control of this financial support will be organised in an effective and efficient way, including avoidance of any abuse.

Further Information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-eic-2023-talents-01-01;callCode=null;freeTextSearchKeyword=;matchWholeText=true;typeCodes=1,2,8;statusCodes=31094502;programmePeriod=20202027;programCcm2Id=43108390;programDivisionCode=null;focusAreaCode=null;destinationGroup=null;missionGroup=null;geog>

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Horizons Focused Investments RFP, deadline: 22. September 2023

The Washington State team at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is seeking to support three regional partnerships in Washington State who are working to support high school to postsecondary transitions, with a particular interest in partnerships focused on serving Black, Latino, and Indigenous students and students from low-income communities. The amount awarded per partnership will be approximately \$5.4 million over the grant cycle (SY 2024–25, SY 2025–26, SY 2026–27), with up to \$1.8 million distributed each year. Per-year dollar amounts listed are estimated and are subject to change. Grantees can receive funding to: 1) build awareness and support adoption of strategies to support postsecondary enrollment, including but not limited to high-quality advising supports implementation; 2) improve partnership and intermediary capacities; 3) improve regional data capacity; 4) support learning across the state.

The backbone organization or the organization fulfilling the backbone role should complete the application. We encourage you to complete your application with your team in the collaborative Google document before having a designated representative upload your completed responses to this portal. We estimate that the application will take no more than 20–25 hours to complete.

Final applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. PT on Friday, September 22, 2023.

The application consists of five sections:

- Minimum Eligibility Requirements Screener, which includes a series of yes/no questions to ensure your partnership is eligible for consideration.
- Partnership and Organization Information, which includes a series of multiple-choice, select-all and fill-in-the-blank questions.
- Narrative Questions, which include 17 open-ended questions.
- Budget information that supports and is aligned with the planning outlined in the narrative question responses.
- Site Visit Availability, which includes indication of availability for potential site visits between late October to mid-November

Further Information:

https://submit.gatesfoundation.org/prog/horizons_focused_investments_rfp/

Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds PhD fellowships, deadline: 01. October 2023

A Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds (BIF) PhD fellowship offers a competitive monthly stipend. It is initially granted for 2 years and may be extended once for up to 1.5 years.

In addition, you receive travel allowances, e.g. for scientific conferences, and participate in tailor-made seminars for BIF fellows and alumni.

As a BIF fellow, you also become part of a lively and worldwide network built on trust, helpfulness, and many personal encounters. No matter which challenges lie ahead, you will find an open ear and individual advice from like-minded peers or the BIF's staff.

Your monthly stipend may come with a country-dependent premium. The final sum usually also includes a fixed monthly amount to cover minor project-related costs. Together, they add up to, e.g. 2,100 euros in Germany, 2,000 euros in Spain, 2,450 euros in Austria, 2,600 euros in the Netherlands, 2,570 euros in the United Kingdom, and 3,500 euros in the USA and Switzerland. The stipends are usually tax-free.

We advise applicants wishing to work in countries where stipends are subject to strict legal or tax regulations, e.g. Austria, Denmark, Norway, and Switzerland, to refer to our PhD fellowship conditions.

Depending on your personal situation, you may receive additional monthly benefits, e.g. a child care allowance of up to 500

euros and/or a spouse allowance of 200 euros.

In addition to the monthly stipend, you can receive funds to:

- Present your data at international scientific conferences
- Participate in methods courses useful for your PhD project
- Perform research in cooperating laboratories.

At the BIF, we put people first. We meet our fellows face-to-face whenever possible. This enables us to support you individually. Whether you have questions concerning career choices, face hurdles during your PhD, or need advice on other topics, we will listen to you and offer our expertise. We operate as flexibly and unbureaucratically as possible, so that you can concentrate on your PhD.

You will profit from tailor-made BIF seminars during and after your fellowship – for scientific exchange, communication training, and networking. We are present at all seminars and encourage an open, friendly, and constructive atmosphere. At our seminars, fellows and alumni have started scientific cooperations, discussed career options, and forged lifelong friendships.

At the deadline:

- Your first university entrance qualification (secondary or high school leaving certificate, A-levels, or entrance/access test for first university studies after finishing school) must not have been completed more than 8 years, i.e. 96 months ago.
- Natural scientists should have been awarded their last university degree before embarking on their PhD (BSc, diploma, MSc, or equivalent). If you have not yet finished your MSc studies and/or have not received your MSc degree certificate by the deadline, you can submit it up to four months after the deadline.
- Physicians, veterinary surgeons, and pharmacists should have passed their state examinations.

Candidates from the same laboratory:

If two candidates from the same laboratory apply for a PhD fellowship at the same time, only one of them may receive a fellowship. We, therefore, recommend that they apply at different deadlines.

Timing of application:

You should apply when you are about to start, or have just started, your PhD project, no preliminary results are expected. If you have begun your project more than six months prior to the deadline, you are no longer eligible to apply.

Definition of the start of a PhD project

- If you continue to work in your MSc/BSc thesis research group: the date at which you obtained your highest degree (e.g. BSc, MSc, diploma, DEA, licenziatura, laurea) before embarking on your PhD.
- If you change the research group: the month of arrival at the laboratory in which you pursue your PhD project, irrespective of the project you started to work on.
- If your PhD programme requires initial lab rotations and your last lab rotation is in your PhD lab: the end of your lab rotation period.

In other cases, e.g. when participating in MSc/PhD programmes or graduate schools without an official final examination prior to the PhD project,

We support only experimental projects in basic biomedical research, including in silico projects.

For example:

- Analysis of RNA polymerase I structure and transcription regulation
- The role of spontaneous activity in the development of neural circuits
- Intestinal symbionts induce distinct populations of regulatory T cells
- Heterochromatin protein 1 secures survival and transmission of malaria parasites
- Epigenetic reprogramming in the maternal germ line.

The project proposal consists of documents 1–3 and must be written by the applicants themselves. However, we strongly recommend that applicants discuss their draft proposal with their scientific supervisors and read our guide on how to write a research proposal.

Further Information:

<https://www.bifonds.de/fellowships-grants/phd-fellowships.html>

Helmholtz Stiftung Helmholtz AI projects 2023 call, deadline: 01. December 2023

The objective of this fifth call for Helmholtz AI projects is to initiate and facilitate activities that address cross-center challenges and methods; it aims at several smaller collaborative projects with the potential to facilitate larger follow-up projects; it fosters co-development of solutions with potential users and encourages the practical implementation of science-based

know-how outside the scientific community (e.g. with companies & non-profits).

In addition, this year's project call includes an opportunity for projects generating AI-related use cases for quantum computing (see section thematic criteria and general requirements): up to three projects can be funded.

For all projects, first results are expected by mid-2025, i.e., one year after funding starts. The results shall contribute to the vibrant Helmholtz AI community, fertilize cross-center collaborations, incentivise transfer activities and contribute to international visibility.

A Helmholtz AI project addresses two overarching goals:

- exploit innovative Machine Learning, Statistical Learning and Artificial Intelligence approaches and solutions in the applicants' research field(s), and
- foster interaction and method transfer between application domains, research fields (in and between Helmholtz Research Fields), and sectors (with industry or other partners).

In order to allow for vigorous exploration of new approaches and to encourage transformative ideas, Helmholtz AI projects explicitly call for proposals of 'high risk, high gain' projects and projects that choose to fail fast over safe incremental advances. Projects should address, if appropriate, reproducibility and explainability. Where applicable, projects are co-created and iteratively developed with users and further stakeholders (including universities and entities from outside the scientific community). Activities within projects should strongly impact research at participating Helmholtz centers and should contribute to the overall development of the Helmholtz AI community within Helmholtz and transfer activities (e.g. with external application-oriented partners).

Projects shall be aligned with the goals formulated in the Helmholtz AI concept. Applications that meet the following criteria will be evaluated based on the award criteria (see below in "Evaluation process, selection, and award criteria").

- Thematic criteria

Projects shall focus on data analysis, method application and method development (or similar activities) in line with the above goals. Projects with a substantial share of or focus on data collection, data preparation/ cleaning, validation or labeling are not eligible for funding.

- Ambition

Helmholtz AI projects are high risk, high gain i.e. they have the potential to result in significant scientific breakthrough but can also carry a high degree of uncertainty and risk. Projects should be seed-like, collaborative and have the potential to quickly generate larger follow-up projects. Scientific breakthroughs can be either in the scientific domain or in the ML methodology or both.

- Applicants and Eligibility

Helmholtz AI projects shall combine substantial and reasonably balanced contributions from scientists from at least two Helmholtz centers.

For those applying for the add-on opportunity this year, Helmholtz AI projects one partner must, at minimum, contribute guaranteed compute time on quantum machines and implementation support i.e. interface development.

Ideally, the proposal should name, where appropriate, candidates for intended positions. The proposal shall describe how the AI/ ML expertise needed for the project will be provided (e.g. Helmholtz AI consulting, in-house through proposed PIs or new hires, or through the involvement of external partners).

- Budget

Helmholtz AI projects can apply for a total volume of €500k or more for a running time of 2-3 years. A maximum of € 250k can be applied for from the INF, and matching financing of at least the same amount must be provided by the participating centers themselves. The latter has to be confirmed with a signed letter from the board of directors (DE: "Vorstand") when submitting the application.

For projects applying for AI-based use cases for quantum computing, a maximum of €250k can be applied for from the INF, and matching financing of at least the same amount must be provided by the participating centers themselves. The latter has to be confirmed with a signed letter from the board of directors (DE: "Vorstand") when submitting the application.

A maximum of 70% of the INF funding can be assigned to one Helmholtz Center.

Helmholtz AI projects aiming for the add-on opportunity shall include significant contribution by one partner in monetary value or in-kind contributions, which, at minimum, will constitute guaranteed compute time on quantum machines and implementation support e.g. interface development. If this is an external partner, they must submit a letter of support (LoS) stating their knowledge of and commitment to the project and to their guaranteed contributions.

Funding will be provided only for Helmholtz centers; in clearly documented cases of indispensable expertise, funding may also be provided for a highly qualified university partner (within Germany).

Staff, travel expenses and cost for consumables are eligible for funding; investments are excluded. The draft financial plan shall cover the full running time of the project.

Further Information:

<https://www.helmholtz.de/forschung/aktuelle-ausschreibungen/ausschreibung/foerderung-innovativer-ki-projekte-helmholtz-ai-projects-2023-call/>

Cogeril The Martin Buber Society of Fellows in the Humanities and Social Sciences, deadline: 18. September 2023

The Martin Buber Society of Fellows aims at fostering interdisciplinary academic discourse at the highest level among outstanding young scholars (post-doctoral). Candidates who have completed their PhD at an Israeli or German university, as well as citizens of Israel or Germany who have received their PhD in any country, are eligible to apply. Applicants must have their PhD degree in hand no earlier than October 1st, 2019, and no later than July 1st, 2024. 1 Application is open for those specializing in all fields of the Humanities and the Social Sciences. 2 We are looking for creative humanists and social scientists with broad intellectual horizons. No connection of the subject matter to Jewish studies or Israel is required. This year the Academic Committee of the Martin Buber Society of Fellows will select up to eight exceptionally gifted young scholars (up to four from Israel and four from Germany). Fellows receive a monthly stipend of approximately 9000 NIS. They are expected to be in residence and asked to spend at least 4 days a week at the office. The fellows are also encouraged to move to Jerusalem, and those who do receive an additional housing subsidy that can be used either for apartments in the university's Student Village (on campus) or to help with rental costs elsewhere in town. Non-Israeli fellows who move to Jerusalem with their family are eligible for additional support.

Fellows have the opportunity to pursue their individual research under optimal conditions for the term of their fellowship and are expected to become part of the vibrant scholarly community in Jerusalem, reflecting the widest possible disciplinary spectrum in the Humanities and the Social Sciences and embodying a spirit of shared intellectual adventure. They are obliged to participate in biweekly colloquia, workshops, lectures, study excursions, and other cultural and academic activities of the MBSF. Discussions in the Martin Buber Society take place in English (not in Hebrew or German).

Scholarships are granted for a maximum of four years, beginning October 1, 2024 (subject to review at the end of each year), on the basis of a detailed proposal of a research project of major scope and innovative character. Indeed, an imaginative proposal (no longer than 5 pages) that proves the applicant's ability to carry out cutting-edge research in her or his field is the most important part of the application. The deadline for applications for 2024-2025 is September 18, 2023.

Further Information:

https://www.cogeril.de/de/martin_buber_fellows_call_fuer_das_akademische_jahr_2024-2025.php

Sonstige EU GREEN - Cluster 2 „Agriculture, food and environmental sustainability“, Termin: 06. September 2023 um 13 Uhr

Am 06.09.2023 führt von 13:00 Uhr - 14:00 Uhr die Stabsstelle Forschungsförderberatung die Veranstaltung „EU GREEN — Die europäische Hochschulallianz als Chance für gemeinsame Forschung“ HYBRID durch.

Mit dieser Veranstaltung möchten wir Sie für unsere Vision einer europäischen Hochschule begeistern, die vor dem Hintergrund der Sustainable Development Goals der europäischen Union in den Bereichen Forschung, Innovation, Bildung und Gesellschaft gemeinsame europäische Strukturen aufbauen will.

Einen bedeutenden Teil dieser europäischen Hochschulallianz nimmt der Bereich der Forschung ein. Deshalb ist es uns als Forschungsförderberatung/EU-Hochschulnetzwerk besonders wichtig, Sie in diesem Change Prozess als Mitgestaltende im Bereich der Forschung zu gewinnen. Mit acht weiteren europäischen Universitäten verfügt EU GREEN über ein Netzwerk aus Forschenden, die motiviert sind, Ihre Expertise zu teilen und gemeinsam Projektideen zu entwickeln und umzusetzen. Als wissenschaftliche Mitarbeitende und als Professor*in möchten wir Sie deshalb über die unterschiedlichen Forschungsbereiche innerhalb von EU GREEN informieren und Ihnen die Möglichkeit geben, zum Thema „Agriculture, food and environmental sustainability“ zu erfahren, welche Kooperationsmöglichkeiten bestehen und wie Sie EU GREEN nutzen können.

Die Agenda:

- EU GREEN im Überblick — Chancen und Challenges
- Forschung innerhalb der Allianz
- Mögliche Kooperationen

Die Veranstaltung findet im Tagungsraum der Universitätsbibliothek (Campus Universitätsplatz) in Magdeburg sowie über

Zoom statt. Der Tagungsraum befindet sich im Foyer der Universitätsbibliothek, auf der linken Seite. Es gibt auch die Möglichkeit online an der Veranstaltung teilzunehmen. Der Link wird kurz vor dem Termin per E-Mail zu geschickt.

Kontakt: Lisa Westphal, Telefon: +49 (0) 391 67 57593, E-Mail: lisa.westphal@ovgu.de

Weitere Informationen:

<https://www.ovgu.de/Forschung/Beratung/Forschungsf%C3%B6rderung/News/Veranstaltungen/EU+GREEN+%E2%80%94+Die+p-134342.html>

Sonstige Contact Research Funding Advice of the Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg

For questions about funding opportunities, specific calls for proposals, help with submitting applications and project support, please contact the department for Research Funding Advice/EU-University Network of Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg.

Information on current events, funding structures and contact online at:

<https://www.ovgu.de/en/ContactResearchFundingAdvice>

<https://www.euhochschulnetz-sachsen-anhalt.de/en/>