

Guidelines

Research Cooperation with Developing Countries (DFG-BMZ Programme)

I. Type of Support and Programme Objectives

The DFG and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) provide joint support for projects that are conducted by German scientists in cooperation with researchers or research institutions in developing countries. The goal is to contribute to strengthening the research capacity and scientific efficiency in the developing countries, thereby helping to solve some of the developmental problems in these countries.

The DFG provides the funds necessary for the German share of the project, generally in the form of research grants for equipment, travel, personnel, consumables and miscellaneous expenses, while the BMZ covers costs incurred by the cooperating partner in the developing country in connection with the implementation of his/her share. Specifically, the BMZ may provide financial support for the purchase of scientific materials, e.g. consumables and scientific equipment, for local casual labour, and for journeys the co-worker may need to undertake in his/her own country or to Germany.

Funding for the personal wages of the cooperating partner and his/her scientific staff cannot be provided within this programme. However, in connection with a supported project, training for further qualifications of young researchers in the partner's country can be funded. If the project leaders in both countries agree to supervise a postgraduate student, funds from the BMZ can be used to provide remuneration in accordance with standard local rates. Support will usually be granted for the duration of the project.

Furthermore, costs of publishing research results in a language accessible to the host country will be covered. Support may also be provided for the organisation of scientific meetings (such as workshops or symposia), which may also include the participation of scientists from neighbouring countries, in order to disseminate the results of the projects more widely in the partner country and the region.

The share to be financed by the BMZ should not exceed €35,000 per proposal. However, the amount may be raised to €70,000, when equipment in excess of €10,000 (purchase price including value added tax) is requested. In this case the proposed equipment must be proven to increase the research capacity in the partner country.

The DFG will, on request, provide information regarding possibilities for BMZ-funded assistance for special research programmes, such as Priority Programmes or Collaborative Research Centres. Projects that essentially serve to transfer or apply research results that are already known are not eligible for support under this programme.

Assistance can only be provided for projects involving scientists from developing countries that are partners in Germany's development cooperation scheme. A list of eligible countries may be found on the DFG website. It is advisable to make enquires with the DFG during the preparatory phase of a collaborative project as to whether or not the envisaged proposal is generally eligible for support.

When a cooperative research arrangement is being considered, it is possible to invite the prospective partner to Germany for a preparatory visit, in order to plan the joint project in detail. Travel expenses may be covered by funds provided by the BMZ. The DFG may similarly cover travel expenses for a German scientist during the preparatory phase of a cooperative research project. In both cases applications for the necessary funds must be made by the German project partner and submitted to the DFG. They should contain adequate indications that the proposed topic and collaboration are of such nature that a subsequent cooperative proposal is likely to receive a positive recommendation during peer review.

II. Proposals

Proposals, which may be written in German or in English, must be submitted in triplicate and forwarded exclusively to the DFG. The DFG, after peer review, will make the final decision on whether or not the project will be funded.

Each proposal must be submitted by the German applicant, who is solely responsible to the DFG for the complete execution of the project and for the financial resources provided. However, the application must be conceptually developed jointly by the partners involved and must contain a mutually agreed work plan. The proposal has to be prepared according to DFG form 1.02e. Apart from the standard information outlined in the form, the following additional points need to be addressed with regard to the following sections:

1:

Information on the funding programme (i.e. DFG/BMZ Programme) and the partner country.

1.1:

Information on the collaborating scientist(s) including the official address and the country of residence (preferably including fax and e-mail addresses).

1.2 - 1.6:

The topic, keywords, subject, specific research area and summary must be submitted in German and English.

2.2:

Please provide CVs and lists of scientifically relevant publications for all cooperation partners. Additionally, details about former and future collaborations between both partners should be outlined, together with a detailed working schedule explaining the scientific input of each partner. Cooperation on an equal basis is considered essential.

3.1:

Please include item 3.1.1, which should describe the developmental relevance of the project for the country of the cooperation partner(s). The anticipated increase in the scientific capacity of the participating institutes must be explained. The anticipated practical significance of the cooperation, and later practical application of expected research results, should also be mentioned.

4:

The application must specify those parts of the project which are intended to be financed by the DFG and the BMZ, in both German and English, according to the instructions given in DFG form 1.02e.

4.1:

Personnel requirements for the partner have to be declared, bearing in mind the limitation that postgraduate students (e.g. doctoral students) from the participating country are eligible for financial support only if their further qualification is part of the project's aims. BMZ funding allows support of such young academics for the duration of the project, according to local remuneration standards, which should be outlined in this section. Additionally, only temporary casual labour can be supported within this programme. Please specify the required duration of employment of such staff, the necessary number of hours on a monthly basis, as well as the local hourly rate.

5.3:

Please indicate whether the work will be conducted partially or exclusively in the host country, and whether other cooperation is anticipated in that country or in another country (apart from the collaboration with the direct project partner). If the latter should be the case, the type of cooperation needs to be specified (e.g. fieldwork, studies in libraries or archives, full scale cooperative projects, joint data analyses, assistance during execution of projects), and the names of institutions or scientists concerned, including addresses and positions, must be provided.

Proposals are reviewed by the DFG according to its usual scientific criteria as well as the project's developmental relevance for the host country.

The evaluation process leading to the decision generally takes approximately six months. The DFG then informs the applicant of the final decision.

III. Implementation and Financial Management

If the application is approved, the DFG will provide the German scientist with the funds needed for the implementation of the project by both partners in accordance with its standard procedures. The German scientist is solely responsible to the DFG for the execution of the project according to plan and for the proper use of funds. The DFG's guidelines on the use of funds apply to the project accounting (DFG forms 2.01, 2.02, 2.021).

Equipment purchased with BMZ funds will generally remain in the host country. Such items will normally be bought at the partner's request by the institution of the German collaborator, unless alternative arrangements have been made.

The DFG expects the German scientist and the cooperation partner to implement the project jointly in the manner set forth in the proposal. Scientific results of the cooperation should be published in a language accessible in the host country. Joint publications are desirable.

A final joint report must be submitted upon completion of the project. In addition to describing the scientific and developmentally relevant results, the report should also contain information as to the manner in which the results were made known in the partner country and what follow-up measures may be necessary. These reports should be submitted to the DFG in triplicate.