

Questions

for a preliminary review session of a proposed
Collaborative Research Centre

I. Questions on the overall concept of the proposed Collaborative Research Centre

1. What is your assessment of the research topic with regard to

- topicality, originality and relevance;
- relevance to basic research and long-term prospects (ten to twelve years);
- prospects for application (e.g. regarding social, economic, medical, ecological and cultural developments)?

2. What is your assessment of the scientific quality considering the following criteria:

- qualification of the researchers involved;
- the outline's conclusiveness;
- feasibility within the framework provided by the Collaborative Research Centre's programme;
- the current state of research and prospects for going beyond it;
- the initiative's position and prospects in national and international competition?

3. How would you assess the planned Collaborative Research Centre's coherence?

- Is the research programme well-focused and structured?
- Do the individual project sections clearly fit in with the overall goals?
- What, in your opinion, are the chances of cooperation between the individual project sections? Do collaborations currently exist?
- Do plans include multi- or interdisciplinary collaboration? Is there a general concept for such collaborations?
- Is synergy expected between the various project sections?

- In case a Transregional Collaborative Research Centre is proposed: Are the plans for communication between the different locations convincing?

4. What is your assessment of the planned Collaborative Research Centre considering the following structural criteria:

- suitability of the location; conditions with regard to laboratory/office space, technical equipment, information and library services, etc.;
- sufficient critical mass; possibilities of reinforcement and expansion through the inclusion of other research areas, professorial appointments, etc.;
- planned focal points at the university;
- In case a Transregional Collaborative Research Centre is proposed: Please consider the criteria mentioned above for every location involved. In addition, please consider the following aspects: Is the choice of locations convincing? Are the locations already interconnected, how will the network develop? Should other or additional locations be integrated into the Transregional Collaborative Research Centre?
- Is the proposed Centre differentiated from other thematically similar research collaborations located elsewhere?

5. How would you assess the following aspects:

- situation and planned support of young researchers;
- equal employment in this area of science;
- cooperation with external partners (i.e. outside the Collaborative Research Centre) within Germany and abroad as well as in industry/private sector?

II. Questions on the outline of project sections

1. How would you assess the scientific quality considering the following criteria:

- project sections leader's qualifications, preliminary work and publications;
- the current state of research;
- conclusiveness, feasibility and long-term prospects;
- originality, degree of innovation and risk;
- prospects for new discoveries for this research area, other research areas, or for practical application?

2. How would you assess the integration of the planned Collaborative Research Centre?

- Is the project section closely linked to the Collaborative Research Centre's programme, or does it lie outside the programme's scope?
- Which close links exist to other project sections? How will the project sections work together?

III. Questions on the Integrated Research Training Group (if applicable)

Please assess the following:

- Suitability of the qualification programme and concept, including relevant preliminary work, underscoring efforts to promote young researchers;
- Integration into the (non-) university environment, in particular in relation to existing qualification structures or established forms of doctoral training;

IV. Overall assessment

- Do you recommend the submission of a full proposal for a Collaborative Research Centre? Please comment on the prospects.
- Would an application to another DFG funding programme or another institution be more promising?