

Funding announcement

Measures for the preparation of joint applications by German research institutions and their partners from the Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) within the framework of the European Research Framework Programs and other European research initiatives (Bridge2ERA-EaP)

from 05.12.2023

Unofficial summary in English language

Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine have been associated with the European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation “Horizon 2020” and “Horizon Europe” in recent years. Nevertheless, the participation of these countries in the European framework programmes is still relatively low. This applies all the more to Azerbaijan, which is not one of the countries associated with the framework programme.

The aim of the funding announcement is to better integrate research partners from the Eastern Partnership countries into the European Research Area (ERA) through joint research and innovation projects. This should contribute to the creation of a common knowledge and innovation area between the EU and the official and potential accession candidates as well as other Eastern Partnership countries. This goal can be supported through networking and cooperation with experienced and innovative partner institutions.

The funding announcement is part of the Federal Government's strategy for the internationalisation of education, science and research on the basis of the guidelines for funding projects in research and innovation cooperation with the countries of the Eastern Partnership and Central Asia (framework announcement; <https://www.bmbf.de/forschungsperspektiveost>). Specifically, exploratory and networking measures are to be funded in accordance with Module 4 of this framework announcement.

This funding announcement therefore supports international projects that enable the cooperation partners to form bilateral or multilateral consortia on the basis of joint research and innovation activities. The latter should pursue the goal of preparing applications within the European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation or other European research initiatives (e.g. EUREKA). In addition to at least one international partner from the countries addressed in this call for proposals, the participation of partners from third countries is generally possible.

The following expenses and costs are therefore eligible for funding:

- Travel and visits by researchers and experts from Germany and abroad
- Expenses/costs for workshops or other appropriate exchange formats (including online workshops or virtual mobility measures)
- Funds for personnel required for the project

- Project-related material resources (consumables, business supplies, equipment, literature, rents, transportation costs for materials, etc.), funds for equipment and funds for contracts with third parties
- Travel funds for participation in international events

The grants are awarded by way of project funding as a non-repayable subsidy. As a rule, a maximum grant of € 40,000 per project is awarded for a period of generally 24 to a maximum of 36 months.

In the first stage of the procedure, project outlines must be submitted by the following deadlines at the latest:

13 March 2024

25 September 2024

The project outline must be submitted by the German applicant with at least one or more scientific institutions in the above-mentioned Eastern Partnership countries. The following aspects of the measure must be described in the outline:

The project outline should contain the following information and generally not exceed ten pages (excluding attachments):

- Information on the project coordinator and the German and foreign project partners (please enclose letter of intent)
- Description of the project objective
- Statement as to which calls for proposals or funding opportunities at European level could be considered for a subsequent application as a result of the project
- Information on the state of the art in science and technology at the funding applicant
- Description of the work plan for the collaboration
- Assessment of the exploitation/application possibilities
- Estimated expenditure/costs and funding required.