

**Information for
Applicants 104**

Trilateral Partnerships – Cooperation Projects between Scholars and Scientists from Ukraine, Russia and Germany

Next Deadline: 2 September 2019

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I. Objectives

Recent events in Ukraine and the military conflict persisting in its Eastern part since March 2014 have had a severe impact on the political situation in Europe. This has not only led to an open conflict between Ukraine and Russia, but also triggered substantial tensions between the EU and Russia bringing back memories of the Cold War in the 1950s and 1960s. It is against this background that the Foundation wants to strengthen cross-border cooperation between scholars, scientists, and academic institutions from the countries involved in this conflict. Thereby, it intends to contribute to building rapprochement, confidence, and understanding in the region and to maintain a dialogue with colleagues in Germany, too.

The call is open to researchers from all scientific disciplines, i.e. natural, life and engineering sciences as well as humanities and social sciences who have already been collaborating successfully in the past. There are no preferences in terms of topics to be addressed.

II. Funding Opportunities

Funding may be provided for three-year research projects with an amount of up to 300,000 EUR. Within this scope, funding may be requested for:

- personnel expenses for PhD students or postdocs / coordinators and possibly additional project staff (according to local standards),
- travel expenses for research stays with the partners, visits to project workshops and conferences as well as possibly the inclusion of additional scientists from other countries providing added value for the project,
- other recurring non-personnel expenses for workshops and soft-skill courses, consumables / research costs, specific administrative costs (up to 9,000 EUR) as well as
- non-recurrent expenses for equipment, literature and publication costs.

The budget should ideally be evenly distributed between the partner groups from the three countries. However, the share of the German partner group may be higher due to the higher personnel costs for PhD students (65 % TV-L E13 for 3 years) compared to the Russian and Ukrainian partner groups. Their share should not fall below 85,000 EUR. Overall, junior scientists from the countries participating should be adequately involved in all activities.

III. General Conditions

Researchers from all disciplines who are holding a doctoral degree are eligible to apply. The main applicant needs to be employed at an institution in Germany; the partners from Russia and Ukraine are considered as co-applicants (with their own budget). It is expected that the projects are developed and implemented in close cooperation between all partners.

The Volkswagen Foundation can award grants to academic institutions only. Applicants outside of universities and well-known research institutions are asked to provide details on the legal status, statutes, trustees and boards, charitable/non-profit status, budgeting and auditing of the institution to be funded. An annual report of the applying institution should also be included.

The Foundation will not process applications that have been submitted in identical or similar form to another funding institution. Please also note that institutional overhead costs will not be covered.

IV. Application and Selection Procedure

Applications from the humanities and the social sciences should, those from the natural, life and engineering sciences must be submitted in English. The Foundation expects that applications be submitted jointly by all responsible cooperation partners. In case a proposal is approved the academic institution of the German main applicant will be the recipient of the grant.

Please submit your application via the electronic application system of the Volkswagen Foundation. The forms provided there must be filled in with information on the applicants, institutions (grant recipient), project (title, duration, and overall costs), and budget.

Applications have to be submitted by 2 September 2019. Following a formal check by the Foundation staff the project proposals will be reviewed comparatively by an interdisciplinary expert panel. Decisions are to be expected at the end of 2019.

V. Application Checklist

The following information has to be provided as pdf attachments via the electronic application system:

- Cover letter, including explanation of the previous trilateral cooperation
- Summary (in German and English, max. 1 page)
- Project description (max. 12 pages): state of the art including own preliminary results from the existing cooperation, rationale and objectives, hypotheses, methods, expected outcome
- Time and work schedule including distribution of tasks between the research groups involved
- Specification and justification of all budget items for all participating institutions, divided into personnel expenses, recurring nonpersonnel costs, and non-recurrent expenses, in Euros
- CVs, list of relevant publications incl. joint papers (max. 2 pages per person altogether)
- Statements of foreign partner institutions (containing information on structural support, possible financial contributions as well as conformity of salaries with local standards)
- Statement of German partner institution (concerning transfer of funds to the foreign partners / institutions)
- Bibliography

Information

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Additional Information

[Electronic Application System – Instructions and Tips](#)

[Application FAQs](#)

[Website Trilateral Cooperations](#)