

## Call for Proposals, 24 October 2017

### Helmholtz European Partnering

#### Supported by the Initiative and Networking Fund of the President

International research cooperation is an important pillar of the Helmholtz Association's strategy, with a special emphasis on European collaboration. The Helmholtz Association strives to make a valuable and lasting contribution to the development and the cohesion of the European research area. In order to realize this, the new funding program '**Helmholtz European Partnering**' is launched in the Initiative and Networking Fund. The program targets cooperation projects with partners from Central, Eastern and Southern European countries.

#### Aim of the funding measure

The Helmholtz Association aims at extending and intensifying its research cooperation within Europe. Through the collaboration with countries particularly from Eastern, Central and Southern Europe, an important contribution to the development and advancement of the respective research systems is made. This in turn strengthens the European research landscape and the performance of Europe in Sciences and Innovation as a whole, thus enhancing Europe's ability to compete worldwide.

The goal of the funding program is **two-fold**: Joint **research projects** should be at the core of the cooperation. These can comprise, e.g., mobility programs for scientific staff, joint events and joint publications. Especially talented young academics should profit from the cooperation and should be supported through mobility, research and qualification programs. A second, complimentary goal of the program is the contribution of the Helmholtz Center to the **development and advancement** of the partner institution's (research) strategy, management structures and/or infrastructures. Knowledge exchange and dissemination are realized through, e.g., reciprocal visits of management and administrative staff, training events, and joint participation in management teams and advisory boards. If the project is successful, a long-term institutional partnership is expected to commence.

#### Subject and duration of funding

Helmholtz Centers can partner with organizations from one of the following countries:

- Bulgaria
- Czech Republic
- Greece
- Hungary
- Italy
- Croatia
- Malta
- Poland
- Portugal
- Rumania
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain

Eligible for funding are:

- Joint research projects;
- Joint set-up of infrastructures;
- Exchange programs of PhDs, Post-Docs and administrative staff as well as all costs related to the stay and advanced training of guest researchers;
- Measures and events which benefit the development of the project, e.g. joint workshops, strategy meetings, conferences, publications, databases etc.;
- Material expenses.

Only the project share residing in Germany will receive funding from the Initiative and Networking Fund. The funding of the international cooperation is based on reciprocity. It is expected that costs arising outside of Germany will be covered by the partnering institution itself, a funding organization based in the respective country or other types of third-party funding.

There will be **three calls** for proposals for the Helmholtz European Partnering program (2017, 2018, 2019). Per call **up to three initiatives** can be funded in total. The project duration should be **three years**. Following a successful evaluation, an additional period of **two years** may be funded. The maximum amount of funding that can be requested from the Initiative and Networking Fund is **250.000 € per year**. It is expected that the Helmholtz Center matches the requested amount on equal level. It is appreciated if the international partner institution can also provide matching; however, also in-kind contributions are possible. This should also be the basis for the joint acquisition of third-party funding, e.g. EU funding.

### Target group

This call for proposals addresses researchers from all Helmholtz Centers who intend to initiate or intensify cooperation with a partner institution from one of the European countries listed above. This cooperation shall be both of scientific and strategic importance. Ideally, the collaboration is based on already existing interactions. Participation of additional Helmholtz Centers and universities is possible. This call for proposals is open to all Helmholtz research areas.

### Conditions for funding

The following criteria must be met:

- The partner institution is an officially recognized i.e. certified research institute or organization that receives public or private funding.
- The potential of the partner institution has been checked and verified by the Helmholtz Center through, e.g., already existing contacts and cooperation projects, publications etc. so that sufficient scientific quality can be ensured and confirmed.
- The proposed project is innovative and has the potential to positively shape and add to the development of the science and innovation system of the respective country.
- The joint project has the mid- or long-term potential to acquire third-party funds (e.g. EU-funding).

The proposal must contain the following elements:

- Description of the proposal, including work packages and milestones
- Explanation of the strategic additional value on both sides of the partnership:
  - In what way does the project contribute to the strengthening of the European research area in general? And more specifically, how does it add to the further development of the science system of the respective country or region?
  - What is the 'value added' for the Helmholtz Association? What is the scientific incentive for the respective Helmholtz Center to engage in this cooperation?
- Contribution to the promotion of young scientists
- Frameworks for monitoring and evaluation
- Perspectives for the sustainability and continuation of the cooperation, including the possibility of acquiring third-party funding
- Timeline
- Budget for the initial funding period of three years (see attachment 1): Costs and expenses that are directly project-related, including annual indications for the three categories personnel costs, material costs and travel expenses (Helmholtz Center) i.e. personnel costs, material costs and travel expenses (partner institution). Overhead costs are not eligible for funding.
- The partner institution must be based in one of the countries listed further above.
- Applicants should take note of the assessment sheet that will be used in the peer review (see attachment 2).

### **Application and selection procedure**

The proposals must be submitted via the **Executive Board** of the Helmholtz Center to the President of the Helmholtz Association. Every Helmholtz Center is permitted to submit **one application only**.

The proposals must be submitted electronically by **28 February 2018** to Ms. Alexandra Rosenbach, [alexandra.rosenbach@helmholtz.de](mailto:alexandra.rosenbach@helmholtz.de). In addition one signed hardcopy must be sent to the Head Office of the Helmholtz Association, attn. Dr. Rainer Nicolay, Ahrstrasse 45, 53175 Bonn, Germany,

The assessment and selection procedure consists of two steps: For every proposal two peer reviews, submitted by independent external experts, will be obtained. On the basis of these reviews, an internal selection will take place. All applicants who successfully passed the first internal selection round will be invited for a presentation session in Berlin. The applicants will be invited to present their proposal to the review committee, which is chaired by the President. The review committee will then decide on the proposals that are to receive funding from the Initiative and Networking Fund. It is expected that at least one representative of the international partner institution will be able to participate in the presentation session in Berlin.

For further questions please contact Ms. Alexandra Rosenbach, International Relations at the Head Office in Berlin:

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