

Second Call for Proposals, 21 November 2018

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 funding program '**Helmholtz European Partnering**' has been implemented 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 Central, Eastern 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**:

In addition to a joint research project, the respective Helmholtz Center actively provides the partner institution with its expertise to **strengthen local structures**. The work program must include specific components that address this. Not only should the partner institution be sustainably strengthened in the long term, but the country's entire science system should ideally receive a noticeable positive effect. This can be accomplished through, for example, contributions to the development of strategically important (research) projects, management structures and / or infrastructures. Knowledge transfer takes place through mutual visits, joint training events, consulting activities and participation in management teams and advisory boards. The aim is to build a **long-term institutional partnership** that goes beyond the initial project. The 'Helmholtz European Partnering' instrument provides the necessary momentum for this by supporting the commitment of both sides and increasing the visibility of the cooperation.

Within the framework of a **joint research project**, a number of activities are developed and carried out, for example mutual shorter or longer research stays, joint symposia and joint publications. In particular, early-career researchers should be supported through mobility, research and training/qualification programs in order to strengthen the promotion of this target group and create career perspectives in the country.

Subject and duration of funding

Helmholtz Centers can partner with organizations from the following countries:

- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Czech Republic
- Estonia

- Greece
- Hungary
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Malta
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain

Eligible for funding are:

- Joint research projects;
- Joint set-up of infrastructures;
- Exchange and mobility 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, for example 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 partner institution. In particular, it is expected that the partner institution will also receive institutional support from within its country.

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, for example 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 potential of the partner institution has been checked and verified by the Helmholtz Center through, for example, 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. Moreover, it helps to create career perspectives for early-career researchers in the country.
- The proposal contains clear components to strengthen the structure of the partner institution, for example via management training, staff exchange (researchers and administrators), consulting activities, activities aimed at early-career researchers etc.
- The joint project has the mid- or long-term potential to acquire third-party funds (for example EU-funding).
- There is a clear future perspective for sustainable institutional cooperation from which both sides can benefit and which goes beyond the proposed project.

Application and selection procedure

The proposals must be submitted via the **Board of Directors** of the Helmholtz Center to the President of the Helmholtz Association. The attached **template** (available for downloading on the call website) must be used, with the total page number not exceeding 20 pages. Every Helmholtz Center is permitted to submit **one application only** per call.

Up to **six independent reviewers** for the proposal must be suggested including full contact details. It must be declared that there are no conflicts of interest. Reviewers located at a Helmholtz Center may not be named.

The proposals must be submitted electronically by **28 February 2019** to Ms. Alexandra Rosenbach, 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**, which will take place on **28 August 2019**. 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:

Phone: +49 30 206 329 135

E-mail: alexandra.rosenbach@helmholtz.de