

(Inter-)national cooperation projects

Perspectives on Wealth: Repercussions of Wealth

Profile area: Societal Transformations

Next deadline: 8 May 2024 (2 pm CEST)

Extremely unequal income and wealth conditions are a recurring source of conflict and an ongoing hindrance to human development. Scientific research into the phenomenon of wealth is therefore a central element in understanding social transformation processes. With the funding initiative "Perspectives on Wealth", the Volkswagen Foundation aims to initiate a shift of perspective from poverty research to facets surrounding the phenomenon of wealth.



Humanities, cultural and social sciences, economics (lead); cooperations with natural, life, data, and technical science possible



(Inter-)national cooperation projects with up to 5 partners



(Inter-)national consortia with lead in Germany; collaborations with partners from LMICs preferable, transdisciplinary consortia possible



Up to 1.5 mio Euros for big international consortia



Up to 4 years



Additionally: funding for science communication

Additionally: funding for Data Reuse (Open Science)

Networking-workshop for all funded projects; accompanying scientific research (evaluation) planned

1 Objectives

In the profile area "Social Transformations", the Volkswagen Foundation supports research that addresses diverse aspects of transformation processes. It encourages cross-border and multi-perspective approaches and aims to open up new ways of contributing to actively shaping social transformations. Against this backdrop, the funding initiative "Perspectives on Wealth" aims to initiate the beforementioned shift of perspective from poverty research to facets surrounding the phenomenon of wealth.

Following the first call on the "(re-)production of wealth", this current call for applications focuses on "**repercussions of wealth**". The central question is what impact wealth has on societal transformation processes at a regional, national, and global level. How does wealth influence, steer or inhibit change and what social, cultural, ecological, economic, and political effects can this have? The funding offer aims to generate new conceptual, methodological, and empirical insights on the "repercussions of wealth". Furthermore, we are looking for new perspectives and approaches to wealth studies that contribute to a multidimensional understanding of wealth and help developing options for societal interventions.

Possible research questions and topics include, but are not limited to:

- What impact does wealth have on (infra-)structures, organizations, and political and economic systems? What impacts can be observed with regard to individuals' lived realities, societies and (social, geographic) mobility?
- What impact does wealth have on self-perceptions and the perception of others? How is wealth presented, put in scene, or hidden and what repercussions does this have? How is wealth effectively (or not effectively) put to use (e.g. in philanthropy, CSR)?
- Other possible topics: (global) financial markets and flows, (global) elites, entrepreneurship, and trickle-down effects.

2 Scope of Funding

2.1 Target group

The funding offer is open for **(inter-)national research groups of up to five equally participating partners**. The main applicant has to have completed their PhD degree in either a humanities, a social or cultural science subject or economics and has to be affiliated to a German university or research institution. An interdisciplinary cooperation with partners from natural, life, data or engineering sciences is possible. A cooperation with international partners from LMICs is explicitly welcomed but not a formal requirement of the call. It is furthermore possible to cooperate with non-scientific actors such as NGOs, societies, local authorities, civil society actors, schools, other educational institutions, and small and medium-sized enterprises. It is possible to hire project coordination or so-called integration experts (facilitators), if the benefit of having such position is demonstrated and justified in the application. The Foundation expects cooperation on equal footing between all inter- and possibly transdisciplinary actors.

2.2 Framework

The **project duration** can be up to four years, with a maximum budget of 1.5 Mio. EUR for large, international research cooperations. The budget can be used to fund **personnel** (scientific, technical, and administrative staff; if applicable integration or coordination experts) based on local standards and rules of the respective institutions, **travel costs**, other **recurrent or non-recurrent expenses** (e.g. consumables, fees, service contracts, technical equipment, data acquisition or generation), **publication costs** and, (if applicable) a 10% lump sum (**overheads**). Non-academic partners can be funded in form of service contracts or submit an individual budget plan, which must be integrated into that of the main applicant.

All **cost positions** have to be justified with respect to the project's requirements as well as in light of the already existing equipment.

A positive evaluation of the research project requires a responsible **personnel concept** that is in line with the four principles of funding of the VolkswagenFoundation. Job descriptions for all positions that will be funded have to be specified and justified in the context of the proposed research project. A template for the personnel concept can be found [here](#); further information on personnel costs can be found [here](#).

The Foundation is especially interested in projects that dare to take **scientific risks** in their methodological and thematic choices, whenever doing so is necessary and sensible. We encourage applicants to think "outside of the box" and to choose innovative (conceptually/methodologically/empirically) and multiperspectival approaches. It is both possible to generate new data (qual., quan., mixed) and to (newly) interpret existing data (sets). Expected project outcomes are scientific publications as well as knowledge transfer measures such as science communication formats, citizen science, innovative teaching concepts and school or civil society projects. We encourage research groups to reflect on the potential transformative impact of their project from the outset and include this in the application.

Further information

A separate budget plan is required for each cooperation partner (see 4.2.2)

The funds for partners who are affiliated to institutions outside of Germany have to be applied for and managed by the German main applicant.

The maximum budget for international cooperation projects does not include overheads.

Overheads

State and state recognized universities and universities for applied sciences can apply for 10 % overheads. For more information on overheads, see "Information on lump sum for overheads", which is provided in our [download-section](#).

Open Science

The Foundation is committed to Open Science ([Open Science Policy](#)). It is therefore expected that project results will be published open access and that data collected will be made available for scientific use via recognized repositories (see [NFDIs](#), [re3data](#), and [RIsources](#)). If data collection is intended, the essential information is to be presented in a data management plan ([basic](#)

[data management plan](#) of the foundation or a more detailed data management plan of the respective discipline). In case no data is generated in the project, this needs to be explicitly stated in the application.

Note: For the later preparation of the project's research data, in the case of a grant, the offer '[Data Reuse - Additional funding for the preparation of research data](#)' is available.

Science communication

In order to communicate research findings to the wider public and non-academic target groups – and in turn constructively incorporate their questions, concerns, and ideas – project teams which successfully received funding in this call can apply for „[Additional Funding for Science Communication](#).“ Please note, however, that the incorporation of science communication has already be integrated in the original research proposal (see 2.2).

General information

The Foundation cannot be held responsible for any obligations entered into prior to the receipt of grant approval.

Applications that have been or are intended to be submitted in this or a similar form to another funding organization will not be processed by the Foundation. Applications that do not meet the formal requirements will not be submitted for review. The Foundation can only award funds to scientific institutions.

3 Application and Selection Procedure

3.1 Time schedule



3.2 Procedure

Applicants can submit their **full proposals** via the electronic application portal. The processing of the application – from the deadline to the communication of a decision – will take about eight months and includes a formal evaluation and pre-selection by the Foundation staff, a review of the applications by an interdisciplinary, international jury of experts as well as project presentations of the pre-selected research groups. Based on the reviews, the Foundation staff will make funding recommendations. The final decision will be made by the VolkswagenFoundation's board of trustees.

The Foundation offers **online info sessions** before the deadline to answer questions about the funding offer as well as the application and selection procedure. The date of these sessions will

be published on the webpage of the funding offer in due course. We highly recommend those who are interested in applying to attend one of the info sessions. Should there be further questions afterwards, we offer individual telephone appointments.

Review criteria

- Scientific quality of the research design: convincing theoretical framework, coherent methodology and critical reflection
- Relevance of the project for the topic and for an understanding of societal transformation processes
- Conceptual, methodological and (if applicable) empirical innovation of the project
- Fit of the application to the call
- Composition of the project team (see also the Volkswagen Foundation's strategy papers on diversity and on responsible personnel planning), quality of the cooperation and extent to which partners interact on equal footing
- Feasibility of the project
- Transformative impact of the project and quality of the concept for a target group specific production and transfer of knowledge

4 Application Checklist

4.1 Electronic Application – Instructions

Please read the information about the electronic application system on the website of the Volkswagen Foundation prior to submitting your application. Information can be found in the document "[Electronic Application System – Instructions and Tips](#)". It is important that applicants register all involved parties early on in the process. Without a user profile it is not possible to invite co-applicants or to submit an application.

If you have technical questions about using the electronic application system, please contact support@volkswagenstiftung.de.

4.2 Application documents

The following documents are required:

1. Project description (English) ([template](#))
2. Summary (German *and* English)
3. Budget plan (per cooperation partner) (online form in the application portal)
4. Narrative CVs of all applicants ([template](#))

5. Personnel concept ([template](#))
6. Data management plan (if applicable) ([template](#))

4.2.1 Project description (template) and summary

Please only use the [template](#) provided for your **project description**. The project description with bibliography must not exceed 10 pages of length (Arial 11pt; bibliography 9pt).

In addition to the project description, we require a lay **summary in German and English** (each 200 words max).

4.2.2 Budget Plan

To submit the budget plan, we kindly ask you to fill out an **online form** in the application portal. Each academic partner has to submit an individual budget plan. A separate form will be generated automatically for each co-applicant. Non-academic partners can also submit a separate budget plan, but these funds have to be estimated by an academic applicant. In case of a successful application, the academic applicant's institution has to pass on the funds to the non-academic partner based on the respective institution's regulations. All costs have to be justified individually.

All cost positions have to be listed according to the following categories:

- Funds for (scientific and further) personnel
- Travel costs (e.g. for work meetings, conferences, workshops, research stays)
- Other reoccurring costs (e.g. consumables, fees, software, licenses, service contracts)
- Non-recurring costs (e.g. technical devices, data, and literature acquisition)
- Publication costs (scientific publications only, open access)
- Lump sum for overheads (if applicable)

4.2.3 Curriculum Vitae of every applicant

All members of the project team are required to submit a narrative CV. Please use the [template](#) provided.

4.2.4 Further information

Project descriptions have to be written in English and submitted with all additional documents via the electronic application portal of the Foundation. Templates are provided for the project description, the narrative CVs, the personnel plan and – if applicable – data management plan.

5 Contact

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6 More Information

- [Website VolkswagenStiftung](#)
- [FAQs for applicants](#)
- [Application System](#)
- [Electronic application made easy - instructions and tips](#)
- [Useful Information and downloads](#)
- [Recommendations for sustainable traveling](#)
- [Influence of generative models of text and image creation in research and in the funding activities of the Volkswagen Foundation](#)