

Information for Applicants 78e

Call for Applications

Europe and Global Challenges

Deadline for research groups

30 April 2010

Information

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1. Objectives

Today, problems ranging from regional conflicts, migration, and terrorism to pandemics and financial instabilities are perceived as “global challenges”. We Europeans share these problems with the rest of the world, but do we also share a knowledge base to address them through collective action? In order to explore concrete answers to this question the European foundations **Compagnia di San Paolo** in **Turin**, Italy, **Riksbankens Jubileumsfond** in **Stockholm**, Sweden, and **VolkswagenStiftung** in **Hanover**, Germany, have joined together in a continuation of the successful cooperation started in 2004 with the programme “European Foreign and Security Policy Studies”. Based on the experiences of the former research and training programme the three partner foundations extend the joint activities of research funding and networking in scope and scale to encourage transnational and transdisciplinary research groups.

Applications must be submitted by research groups comprising participants from at least two research environments in different geographical regions (e.g. Europe and Latin America). The core of the research groups should be based in Europe. At least one of the research environments involved has to be located outside Europe.

The disciplinary focus within each research group should be on the social sciences in a broad sense. Inputs from other areas of knowledge, e.g. the humanities, science or medicine, might be included to address some of the issues under examination.

The issues studied should be a shared concern for the European Union (EU) as a global actor and for its partners in other regions of the world. Preference will be given to proposals integrating contributions from various disciplines being innovative and covering new ground. It is up to the applicants to show why and how their proposals are feasible and why this particular research formation is appropriate for the research questions envisaged.

Postdoctoral researchers and early to mid career practitioners should play a major role among the participants. However, more experienced and established researchers will not be excluded. Given these limitations, the three foundations will exercise a flexible attitude to different formations and ways of organising research.

From the end of 2010 onwards the joint venture of the three foundations will make it possible for up to 10 research groups to conduct research on “Europe and Global Challenges”. It is envisaged that each such formation could receive up to 1,000,000 Euro in total for two or three years. The foundations expect that the average amount granted will stay well below the upper limit. Funds can be provided for the items specified below in the list referring to the budget in section 2.

2. Submission of applications

All applications will be dealt with jointly by the three foundations. In 2010 the **VolkswagenStiftung** serves as **central mail box for this call for applications**. Therefore **applications** together with the information listed below **must be submitted** (by e-mail only) **by 30 April 2010** (date of arrival) to schmidt@volkswagenstiftung.de. There is no application form. Please state “Research group application” as subject in all correspondence.

Under the terms of this call for applications, **one** of the group members has to act as **applicant** for the whole research group. She or he should serve as correspondent in the communication between the research group and the foundations. All funds granted can only be paid via one Europe based research institution or university which will administer the grant for the whole research group. The foundations assume that the applicant will see to the administration of the grant in case of funding, if no other responsible person is nominated as recipient of grant.

All applications are to be written in English and have to be sent by e-mail, **in two files, PDF format**, structured in the following way:

The **front page of the first PDF file** should contain the following information:

- full name and address of the applicant
- recipient of grant in case of funding (if different from applicant: institution, name and position of responsible person, contact address)
- indication of whether this or a similar application has been submitted to any other funding institution

The next page of the **same PDF file** should provide:

- brief significant title of the research group's project
- total budget in Euro and funding duration of this project
- abstract of the project (up to 150 words)

Please add a detailed **description of the research group's project** (up to 20 pages or 10,000 words, including a list of quoted literature, time schedule and budget) in the **same PDF file**. The text should cover the following items:

- aim of the project
- research questions to be dealt with
- significance for the research field of "global challenges"
- relevance for EU policy and collective action on global level
- theoretical base and methodological approach
- key participants and their expertise (a brief curriculum vitae and a selected publication list can be enclosed in a separate file)
- organisation of group and expected synergy
- working programme and time schedule
- **budget** (in Euro), to be itemized as follows:

Research personnel
Scholarships
Other personnel
Travel and accommodation
Consumables, copies, telecommunication
Acquisition of data and literature

The budget must not exceed the upper limit of 1,000,000 Euro.

Please use a **separate PDF file** for **brief CVs** of the applicant and other key participants (up to 1 page for each CV).

3. Processing of applications

Please note the upper limits for the abstract (150 words), the description of the research group (10,000 words) and the CVs (1 page each). Applications that exceed these limits will not be processed.

The foundations do not consider applications which are pending at another funding institution, neither in the identical nor in a similar form.

An international panel of experts will review the applications using criteria which will include the academic potential and originality of the project as well as the qualifications of the applicants and envisaged group members. They will also assess the importance of the topic as a global challenge, its relevance both for policy making in the EU and for collective action on the global level, the synergies of transnational collaboration among European and non-European group members, and the feasibility of the project within the budgetary limits.

By 20 September 2010 representatives of shortlisted research groups will be invited to present their projects to the panel of experts. The panel meeting will be held in Hanover, Germany, on 1 and 2 November 2010. Afterwards each foundation will decide on grants in compliance with its own rules for making grants by early 2011.