

FUNDING INITIATIVE

Additional Funding for Science Communication

Deadline for workshop registration: June 1, 2023.

Deadline for applications: September 14, 2023



All disciplines



Funding area: Innovative measures for science communication



Max. 150,000 EUR



Max. 1,5 Years



Requirements: Current funding by the Volkswagen Foundation. Applications can be submitted up to 6 months after the end of the funded project.



1 OBJECTIVES

Multiple crises are currently demonstrating the need for fact-based science communication oriented toward the common good – not least, because of the trust it creates among target groups. This is the prerequisite for science to maintain its independence and fulfill its role in shaping the future. With the growing number of social transformation processes, there is now increasing pressure on the science system to defend its relevance and legitimacy and to have a voice in more and more arenas of discourse, including digital ones.

This poses enormous challenges for science communication – challenges that the Volkswagen Foundation also seeks to address. This funding program therefore aims to promote innovative projects that not only make science and research more comprehensible and generally accessible, but above all give selected target groups the opportunity to effectively enter into dialog with science and generate new impetus with their own ideas and suggestions. The goal is not simply more science communication, but better science communication.

Therefore, the foundation also supports competence building in the field of science communication: Applicants are invited to participate in a workshop on the conception and implementation of science communication projects before submitting their application.

2 SCOPE OF FUNDING AND GENERAL CONDITIONS

All scientists and scholars currently funded by the Volkswagen Foundation are eligible to apply. In the case of synergies in terms of content, applications can also be submitted for collaborative projects involving different grantees who are/will be funded in different initiatives or with different projects.

Funding will be provided for innovative, especially dialogic and participatory science communication projects up to a **maximum amount of 150,000 euros**. The requested funding amount should be in relation to the total funding allocation of the main project. The Foundation encourages applicants to seek cooperation with private and institutional partners from civil society as well as with professional science communicators (e.g., press offices, specialized agencies, cultural institutions). The latter should be capable of enabling an exchange of experience and knowledge and thereby contribute to increasing the quality and sustainable success of science communication.

The Foundation also encourages its grantees to apply for the funding of science communication projects that address ethical issues in the research process.

Part of the funding offer is the attendance in a pre-application workshop conducted by the National Institute for Science Communication (NaWik). The following aspects of a science communication project are addressed:

- Conception and implementation of science communication projects;
- Involvement of practice partners in the conception, creation and dissemination of communication measures (project management);
- Planning of costs and capacities;
- Difficulties and risks of science communication projects: What causes science communication to fail?
- Development of criteria for measuring success/effectiveness.

Funding can be applied for:

- Personnel costs (N.B. not to include doctoral positions)
- Remuneration for the work of practice partners integrated in the project (in the case of funding approval, this is covered by work contracts or subcontracts).
- Ongoing non-personnel costs (travel expenses, all project-related costs for events)

- One-time material costs, such as purchase of equipment, development of apps, platforms, exhibitions, etc.

Please note that the following formats are excluded from funding:

- Research projects on science communication
- Children's and school universities
- Projects in the thematic areas of didactics and adult education/further education
- Lecture series
- Introduced science events (such as "Long Night of Science")
- Creation and maintenance of open access journals.

In addition, please see the general [FAQs for Applicants](#).

3 APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE

We recommend that all grantees who wish to apply for additional funding for a science communication project attend one of the workshops offered in advance of the deadline. The workshop will be held over two half days and on each of the following dates:

Jul. 10 & 11, 2023, 9.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. each day (digital, in German)

Jul. 12 & 13, 2023, 9.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. each day (digital, in English)

Only **one person** from each project can attend the workshop. The max. number of participants per workshop is **9 persons**.

Applications submitted by the deadline will be reviewed by an external, transdisciplinary panel of researchers and practitioners according to the following criteria:

- Quality and originality of the project
- Congruence of measure(s) and selected target group
- Relevance for the selected target group
- Coherence of the intended approach in conception, implementation and dissemination of the measures
- Plausibility of impact criteria

4 APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Please submit your proposal online via the application portal of the Volkswagen Foundation and use the template linked under point 5 and on the website.

The following information must be uploaded as attachments (pdf files) in the application portal:

- **Proposals to be written in German or English (template "Proposals", max. 4 pages)**
- **Budget plan**
- **Offers / calculations from external partners** (optional)
- **Miscellaneous** (optional)

Upon successful pre-selection and invitation to submit a full proposal, you will be provided with further information and a template for the full proposal.

Before actually formulating your application, please first inform yourself about the application portal of the Volkswagen Foundation. Information can be found in the document "Electronic application made easy – instructions and tips" (see point 5). If you have any difficulty in using the portal, please contact support@volkswagenstiftung.de.

5 CONTACT AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Contacts

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More information

- [Website Additional funding for science communication](#)
- [Template "Proposals" \(Download\)](#)
- [FAQs about the application](#)
- [Electronic application – instructions](#)
- [Application system of the Volkswagen Foundation](#)