

Information for Applicants 78h

Call for Applications

Europe and Global Challenges – 4th Call

Deadline

1 September 2016

Information

Riksbankens Jubileumsfond
www.rj.se

Dr. Fredrik Lundmark
Phone: +46 8 50626421
E-mail: fredrik.lundmark@rj.se

VolkswagenStiftung
www.volkswagenstiftung.de

Dr. Wolfgang Levermann
Phone: +49 511 8381212
E-mail: Levermann
@volkswagenstiftung.de

Wellcome Trust
www.wellcome.ac.uk

Philomena Gibbons
Phone: +44 20 7611 8492
E-Mail: p.gibbons
@wellcome.ac.uk

1. Background

One of the major aims of *Europe and Global Challenges* is to stimulate collaboration between researchers based in Europe and researchers from other parts of the world on an important global issue. Each research group should therefore include at least two researchers or research groups from geographical regions outside Europe.

Based on the experiences of the hitherto 16 projects, this call aims to even further strengthen the international component of the programme, but also to limit the number of researchers within each project, hereby enabling new and creative research constellations with a better global representation, without requiring too much administrative effort.

2. Objectives

The *Europe and Global Challenges* initiative is looking towards the future of Europe and the challenges this continent is exposed to in an increasingly globalized world. Developed as a joint funding initiative between three European foundations, it reaches out to issues that are systematically interrelated and can only be dealt with collectively via supranational action on an international level. It is in this sense that the initiative addresses global challenges – not universal problems which might be shared globally, but can be dealt with by local actors and do not necessarily need a globally coordinated solution.

Current problems perceived as “global challenges” comprise a large spectrum of different issues and complex interrelations, from poverty, spread of infectious disease, global warming and water scarcity through to regional conflicts, migration and terrorism. Europeans share these and similar problems with the rest of the world, but they affect different parts of the world in different ways. A collective, interdisciplinary approach to these issues provides the link to address them at a global level. To explore such questions and encourage research on “global challenges”, three European foundations: Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, the VolkswagenStiftung, and the Wellcome Trust are hereby launching a joint call for applications within this initiative. In order to limit the

possible number of themes, this call will accept proposals related to the following global challenges:

- Climate change
- Global health
- Terrorism/Radicalization
- Migration
- Social inequality.

We hope to receive proposals that take innovative and interdisciplinary approaches to addressing these themes. The research groups are free to define their respective research topics and specific research questions within the given themes. While the disciplinary focus within the research groups should be on the social sciences, input from other disciplines is expected where this is necessary to the research topic or questions proposed.

One of the major aims of the initiative is to stimulate strong collaboration between researchers based in Europe and other parts of the world. We are therefore looking for research groups – ideally involving not more than four different institutions – from different geographical regions (e.g. Europe and Africa, or Latin America). The majority of the project participants should be working outside European Union countries. The foundations recommend participation of at least one principal investigator from Germany, Sweden, or the UK.

Preference will be given to proposals with a strong inter-regional collaboration, which include contributions from various disciplines and which have the potential to break 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 at hand.

Depending on the goals and scope of the projects, successful groups will receive between 500,000 – 900,000 Euros in total (gross amount) for up to four years of research. Funds can be provided both for non-personnel expenditure (including travel costs) as well as staff costs. The foundations envisage between eight and ten projects being funded.

3. The review process

This is a call for pre-proposals where the applicants are asked to present a short outline of the proposed research activities. An international review panel will consider the pre-proposals and recommend a shortlist of groups who will then be asked to develop their research ideas further. The international panel of experts will review the applications using criteria which include quality, potential, and originality of the project as well as the qualifications and track record of the applicants and group members.

Shortlisted groups will be invited to present and defend their projects in person at an interview with the international review panel, after which the three foundations will make their final decisions.

Time line

- April 2016: Call for pre-proposals
- 1 September 2016: Deadline for pre-proposals
- by mid-November 2016: Decisions on shortlisted pre-proposals
- 27 January 2017: Deadline for full proposals
- 2-3 March 2017: Interviews with shortlisted research groups (Stockholm)
- End of March 2017: Grant decisions

4. Submission and processing of applications

Electronic Application

Please use the Foundation's electronic application system in the internet.

portal.volkswagenstiftung.de

Please do not forget to print, sign and upload the scanned signature sheet. Instructions on the electronic application system are provided online and on the last page.

All applications will be dealt with jointly by the three foundations. The VolkswagenStiftung will be processing the applications via its electronic application system.

Applications must be submitted in English. Grants to successful applicants can only be paid via a research institution or university. Applicants who are not members of universities or well-known research institutions should supply details on the legal status, statutes, trustees, and boards, charitable/non-profit status, budgeting, and auditing procedures of the respective institution.

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

5. Checklist

Please submit your pre-proposal using the VolkswagenStiftung's electronic application system (<https://portal.volkswagenstiftung.de/vwsantrag/login.do>). Forms containing a legal statement and information on the applicants and their institutions (main applicant, co-applicants, recipient of the grant) as well as on the project (title, duration and total amount requested) are to be completed in the electronic application system. In addition, you will be asked to print the signature sheet provided, sign it and upload it as pdf-attachment.

The following four documents are requested as pdf-attachments:

- signature sheet (printed and signed)
- summary of the proposal (up to 1500 char.)
- description of the proposed research project (up to 5 pages or 17 000 char.). The text should cover the following items:

- aim of the project
 - research questions to be dealt with
 - theoretical base and methodological approach
 - significance for the research field
 - policy relevance and social impact
 - participants and their tasks within the project
 - organisation of group and expected synergy
 - work plan and grounds for the chosen project period.
- total budget (gross amount) in Euro (up to 1 page) including:
 - research personnel
 - other personnel
 - travel and accommodation
 - consumables
 - acquisition of data.

Unspecified or unexplained costs will not be approved.

Funds granted to successful applicants can only be paid via a research institution or university (grant administrator).

Deviations from these guidelines will result in immediate rejection.

This call for applications refers only to pre-proposals. The deadline is 1 September 2016.

6. Electronic Application – Instruction and Tips

Please note that only registered users of the electronic application system have access to application data and are able to submit applications and receive corresponding e-mail messages. Hence, it is required for all applicants with project responsibility to register himself/herself or to ask a co-worker to register in his/her name with the proper e-mail address.

Please follow the five steps to compile and submit your application:

- If you are a new user please **register** on the application portal with your name, your e-mail address and your own password. When registering you will be asked about your work address details. Subsequently, you must **activate** your account using the link sent by e-mail. If you already have a user account you can immediately **login** using your e-mail address and password.
- The **function new application** starts the selection of the corresponding funding initiative (here: Europe and Global Challenges), the application type, the grant receiving institution, and the language.

- Now – and later on – you can interrupt the completion of your application at any time. You can logout and login again as often as required.
- Please check whether the pre-filled data on the applicant are correct. Furthermore, we need application data (e. g. project title, duration) and the budget. The budget shall be uploaded as pdf-file under the heading “Other Enclosures”. You are asked to enter all information in the respective forms. Please note that the **save button** does not transfer any data to the Foundation. You are able to revise all data until the submission of your application. Please keep in mind to read and accept the legal statement. If you wish you can **generate** a PDF of the filled-in forms for verification and for your filing.
- Under enclosures you are able to **upload files** as required according to the checklist on the preceding page in the „Information for Applicants“. Only PDF files are accepted. Before submission all files can be exchanged for new versions.

Once your application is complete you can **submit** it electronically to the Foundation. Additionally, it is required to generate a **signature sheet** for print-out. Please do not forget to print, sign, and upload your **signature sheet**.

In the course of processing your application the Foundation might request additional information. The function **new supplement** is used to upload and submit the respective files.