

Global Issues – Integrating Different Perspectives on Cultural Heritage and Change

Frequently Asked Questions

2020-3-12

- **Please note:**
All co-applicants need to be registered in the Volkswagen Foundation's [electronic application system](#).
- **How do you distinguish between “High Income countries“ and “Low and Middle Income Countries”?**
We use the World Bank classification:
<https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519>.
- **How do you categorize “Upper-Middle Income Countries”?**
We merely distinguish between two categories “High Income Countries” and “Low and Middle Income Countries”. All “middle income countries” (classified as such by the World Bank) fall under the second category, no matter whether they are lower or upper middle income countries.
- **What is meant by “European Countries”?**
“Europe” is defined broadly geographically, including the EU countries, Switzerland, Norway, Liechtenstein, GB, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, North Macedonia, Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova and Russia. These countries cannot participate as LMIC partners in this call. This call is meant to connect different world regions and is not Europe-specific.
- **We plan a network of three partners with two partners based in the same Low Income Country (LIC). Is such a network seen as a bilateral partnership?**
A consortium making up a “bilateral partnership” (both in terms of cooperating countries, as well as PIs involved in the project) must be very well justified; they are only accepted if new connections and networks are established, rather than existing ones strengthened. We would strongly encourage you to seek another partner from a different LMIC rather than involving merely two partners from the same LIC; bringing together various partners from different countries (in general a minimum of three) is really the idea behind this call.
- **Is it possible for someone based at a university in a High Income Country outside Europe to apply?**
Yes, researchers based at universities in a High Income Country (classified as such by the World Bank) outside Europe can be part of this call. However, this important stipulation from the “information for applicants” needs to be met: “Each team may consist of up to five partners, consisting of (at least) one based in a European HIC and two based in LMICs. The number of partners in LMICs has to at least match (or outnumber) those in HICs.”
- **What is the deadline for submitting applications?**
Pre-proposals must be submitted by May 13, 2020, by 12pm Central European Time. Late submissions cannot be considered.
- **Is nationality a relevant category when applying for funding?**

No, it is not. Anyone can apply if they are based in a country relevant to the respective call as long as the criteria of the specific call are met.

- **Do the Foundations offer any help in finding academic partners?**

No, the responsibility for finding potential partners lies with the researchers.

- **Is it possible to be part of more than one project/working group in this call?**

It is generally possible for one applicant to be part of two projects (main applicant in only one proposal). However, in the application it needs to be explained in which way that person would be involved in each project and if he/she has sufficient time to work on both projects in case that both are selected for funding.

- **Is there a limit regarding the number of applications from one institution?**

There are no limits regarding the number of submissions made by one institution.

- **Who can apply?**

Every applicant must at least hold a PhD (or have equivalent academic experience, in case of doubt, please contact the Foundations) and must be affiliated to an academic institution (at the latest by the time when starting the research project).

In case a member of the research consortium is currently not employed at a university or research institution, a letter by the institution the scholar plans on working at needs to be included (at the stage of full proposals) in which the institution affirms its willingness to manage the grant and provide work space for the scholar. In the pre-proposal, the respective scholars should only mention the institution he/ she intends to pursue the research project at.

- **Are NGOs and think tanks eligible to receive funding?**

Grants can only be awarded to universities and research institutions. Criteria for being classified as a research institution include the following: The institution 1) pursues science and research according to its statutes, 2) employs academic staff, and 3) produces scientific output (scientific articles, monographs etc.).

In case of doubt, please contact the Foundations well ahead of your application.

- **What has to be on the “Signature Sheet”?**

The signature sheet should include the basic information of your project and the signatures of the max. 5 project partners (name of initiative; title; project duration; total budget; name and institution/country of the applicants; date and signature, electronic or scanned signatures are accepted; please upload it under “Other Enclosures”).

- **Is there a budget plan template?**

No, we do not provide budget templates. Please create your own budget plans with the following positions included: personnel costs (based on local standards; divided in academic and non-academic personnel), travel costs, science and communication measures, consumables, technical equipment/acquisition of data, and costs for outreach activities.

- **Can the budget of the pre-proposal be modified in the full proposal?**

Yes, budget plans can be changed when handing in the full proposal. The Foundations reserve the right to adjust/adapt budget plans.