

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

## **Data Reuse – Additional Funding for the Preparation and Storing of Research Data**

### Application at any time



Area of research: all subject areas



Type of funding: Preparation and Storing of Research Data



Up to EUR 100,000



Current projects and projects that have been funded approximately in the last 6 months are eligible.



Target group: current grantees of the Volkswagen Foundation



# 1 OBJECTIVES

Research data are at the same time starting point and the result of research. Its longterm storage and supply enables scientific progress as well as keeping up quality standards due to replication.

The concept of Open Data focuses on the “open” handling of research data as an important resource of science and humanities. Open Data asks for the commitment to the so-called FAIR principles – data needs to be Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable, for humans as well as machines<sup>1</sup>. The same applies for the CARE principles (“Principle of Indigenous Data Governance”<sup>2</sup>) and all relevant legal provisions. With the National Research Data Infrastructure (Nationale Forschungsdateninfrastruktur, NFDI) the cornerstone for an infrastructure of institutionally secured repositories in Germany has been created. In the field of research data, however, there is quite a large heterogeneity among the different disciplines, when it comes to data annotation, data processing and data storage. For example, in the field of high-energy physics there is already a clearly defined “data workflow”. Yet, in other disciplines, standards are still being fought over and routines need to be established and data stored in public, non-commercial, reliable repositories.

The leading concept of the Open Science Policy of the Volkswagen Foundation is that preferably research data generated within funded projects should be prepared for data reuse and made available as Open Data. To do so, grantees can apply for additional funds. With this program, the Volkswagen Foundation aims to highlight the importance of Open Science.

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<sup>1</sup> Wilkinson, M., Dumontier, M., Aalbersberg, I. et al. (2016): The FAIR Guiding Principles for scientific data management and stewardship. *Sci Data* 3, 160018. <https://doi.org/10.1038/sdata.2016.18> [25.2.2022]

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gida-global.org/care> [25.2.2022]

# 2 SCOPE OF FUNDING AND GENERAL CONDITIONS

Researchers generating scientifically relevant research data are eligible for funding if their projects are currently or have been funded in the last two years by the Volkswagen Foundation. The preparation and the storage of research data in public, non-commercial repositories are supported with funds up to EUR 100,000. The aim is to prepare the data and make it available for data reuse. The corpus of the data prepared for data reuse should generally contain research data funded by the foundation.

It is a precondition that the intended repository for the corpus of research data has already been decided upon. The applications should be submitted together with the repository as co-applicant. The data management plan (DMP) of the target repository should be part of the application documents.

It is recommended to consult experts from the field (professional societies, university service offices, repositories, etc.) for the selection of the target repository as well as the filling out of the DMP and the connected legal questions concerning the use of external data and the protection of own data rights. An overview over the already existing repositories is provided by the Directory of Research Data Repositories re3data (<https://www.re3data.org/>) as well as the DFG-Portal for research infrastructure RIsources (<https://risources.dfg.de/>). It is expected that the development of the legal framework for handling research data will be followed and taken into account.

Funds can be applied for:

- personnel costs (positions for doctoral students cannot be granted)
- recurrent means (travel costs, costs for software and licenses, etc.)

Please note that the following costs cannot be applied for:

- non-recurrent costs
- means for future storage of research data in the target repository
- means for purchasing external data

Just to summarize: The application cannot be considered if:

- there is no connection to a currently funded project by the Volkswagen Foundation or a project that has been funded up to six months ago
- the data material consists of less than two thirds of data generated within a funded project

- it is submitted without a target repository as co-applicant

Please consider, furthermore, the general list “What we do NOT fund”.

## 3 APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE

Applications can be uploaded at any time within the program “Data Reuse”. Please get in touch beforehand with your contact person at the Foundation for your current project or the contact person for data reuse.

The review process is based on written reviews by experts in the relevant discipline and in the field of data and archival work. The criteria for review are:

- scientific relevance of the data material
- the target repository’s fit for the data material
- commitment to disciplinary data standards with the digital concept (if available)
- consideration of relevant legal aspect in the digital concept
- feasibility of the digital concept

# 4 APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Please upload the application in electronic form via the application portal of the Volkswagen Foundation within the funding offer “Data Reuse”.

The following information has to be uploaded in the portal as enclosures (pdf files):

- **Cover letter**
- **Summary (German/English)**
- **Application text (in English) with the following information**  
(max. 8 pages):
  - Description of the data material and its generation process
  - Explanation for the decision of the target repository
  - Concept of data preparation for the data reuse
  - Critical analysis of the relevant disciplinary standards (if available)
  - Consideration of legal aspects
- **Time schedule and work plan**
- **Budget justification** (especially for personnel costs)
- **Data management plan of the target repository**
- **Short CV of the applicant(s)** (max. 2 pages)

Please inform yourself beforehand about the application portal of the Volkswagen Foundation. Information about the portal can be found in the document “[Electronic application made easy – instructions and tips](#)” (pdf). For technical questions concerning the use of the portal, please contact: [support@volkswagenstiftung.de](mailto:support@volkswagenstiftung.de)

# 5 CONTACT AND FURTHER INFORMATION

## Contact

### **Dr. Vera Szöllösi-Brenig**

E-Mail: [szoelloesi@volkswagenstiftung.de](mailto:szoelloesi@volkswagenstiftung.de)

+49 511 8381-218

For telephone appointments and administrative/organizational questions

### **Silvia Birck**

E-Mail: [birck@volkswagenstiftung.de](mailto:birck@volkswagenstiftung.de)

+49 511 8381-226

VolkswagenStiftung

Kastanienallee 35

30519 HANNOVER

GERMANY

[www.volkswagenstiftung.de](http://www.volkswagenstiftung.de)

## Further Information

- [Open Science: Open Access – Open Data – Open Source. Policy and Implementatio \(pdf\)](#)
- [What the Foundation does NOT support](#)
- [Electronic application made easy – instructions and tips](#)
- [Application portal of the Volkswagen Foundation](#)