

Call for proposals

Information for Applicants 78a

Welfare State Transformation: Bridging the Gap between Theory and Practice

General concept

To mark the event of its 40th anniversary in March 2002, the Volkswagen Foundation has introduced a program entitled **Future Issues of our Society – Analysis, Advice and Communication between Academia and Practice**. This funding initiative focuses on different aspects of the fundamental change facing Germany, as well as its European neighbors and most other states belonging to the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development at the start of the 21st Century. The purpose is to generate socio-political learning processes combined with application-oriented research, and to explore new forms of communication linking together academia, politics and the public sphere. The aim is to set up forms of cooperation between academia and practitioners with a view to creating mutual appreciation and understanding, thus establishing sustainable processes of learning and communication. In order to take into account the plurality of different viewpoints and to explore diverse ways of bridging the gap between academia and practitioners, this initiative will offer different calls for proposals concerning a number of specified “issues of our society”. The first call for proposals in this context refers to **Welfare State Transformation: Bridging the Gap between Theory and Practice**.

I. Objectives

Compared to other countries, like the USA for example, Germany lacks the same type of continual and commonplace interaction between academia and practice, marked by mutual exchange and permeability between the two spheres. This “**Bridging the Gap**” program is intended to contribute toward breaking down the conventional partitioning of career patterns already at an early age in favor of “interface-biographies”.

Successful cooperation between academia and practice can and must be approached from both sides. Therefore, this funding offer is aimed on the one hand at researchers, who, as a follow-up to thematically relevant re-

search work, are now interested in gaining in-depth experience in suitable government and non-government organizations. On the other hand, suitably qualified staff belonging to such organizations will also be given the opportunity to develop a deepened or new orientation by undertaking work at research facilities engaged in issue-related fundamental and strategic research. This offer is primarily intended for applicants between 30 and 45 years of age.

Although applications are invited from research scientists and practitioners of all nationalities, the funding is restricted to work stays in German organizations. Applicants of German nationality may also propose stays in European countries or in international organizations. The work stays should be planned for periods of at

least six months, but as a rule ought not to exceed a total of twelve months.

The subject matter under investigation during guest stays in each of the respective spheres must address issues surrounding transformation of the welfare state in Germany and within a global context. Potential link-ups between academia and practice could be, for example:

- The intersection between “classic” systems of social welfare and other fields of policy such as the labor market, education, family, finance and the economy;
- The relationship and the cooperation between state and private-sector institutions in this respect, as well as
- The interdependency of policy at domestic levels with European and global levels.

II. Funding possibilities

In connection with this call for proposals there will be five selection rounds from 2003 to 2007, as result of which funding will be allocated for between eight and ten work stays in each round. In the event that successful applicants are released by their home institution from other tasks and are to have their remuneration stopped, the Foundation will continue to pay current salaries inclusive of payroll contributions. Such compensation shall not be allowed to exceed the level of the respective current salary.

It is expected that the host institution will provide a workplace together with the usual infrastructure. Moreover, applications may be submitted for additional non-personnel expenditure up to a maximum of Euro 20,000 p. a. for travel and accommodation costs – including miscellaneous travel expenses – as well as for assistant staff, consumables, literature and the gathering of data. Travel costs for family members cannot be funded.

All funds granted to successful applicants can only be paid via an academic institution.

III. Applications

In order to be included in the last selection round in connection with this call for proposals, applications together with the information listed in the attached “Checklist” must be submitted to the Volkswagen Foundation by **March 15, 2007** (date of arrival of electronic version). Corresponding paper versions of the proposal and enclosures are also requested.

Once having initiated arrangements with a potential host institution, interested applicants may contact the Foundation prior to this date to clarify more precise details concerning the application procedure.

Applications will be selected on the basis of comparison by a panel comprising representatives of academia and practice. The panel may invite applicants to make a short presentation of their ideas. Successful applicants will be expected to commence their work stays in the autumn of 2007, following the funding decisions which will be made known by mid 2007.

Contact partner:

Dr. Alfred Schmidt
Telephone: +49(0)511-8381-237
Fax: +49(0)511-8381-344
E-Mail: schmidt@volkswagenstiftung.de

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VolkswagenStiftung
Kastanienallee 35
30519 Hannover
GERMANY

Phone +49-511-8381-0
Fax +49-511-8381-344
www.volkswagenstiftung.de

Checklist

Welfare State Transformation: Bridging the Gap between Theory and Practice

Applications are invited from persons belonging to the specified target groups. Since the Foundation is only able to allocate funds via academic institutions, applicants must seek the cooperation of a suitable institution before their application can be considered. So far as possible, applicants should submit corresponding evidence of this together with their application.

Applications can be written in English or German. They should be submitted **until March 15, 2007**. For processing the proposal a signed version via postal mail as well as the corresponding files via e-mail (pdf file, if possible, with separate files for enclosures) are needed. Applications should contain the following information:

- Concise, informative **title of proposed project**
- Outline (not more than six pages) of **objectives and substantiation** of the proposed work stay as well as expected results
- **Plan of implementation**, to include details of scheduling and proposed methodology, if applicable
- **Budget**, broken down into *personnel* and *non-personnel* costs, where applicable. Non-personnel costs should be calculated for travel and accommodation, as well as expected expenditure on assistant staff, materials, literature and the gathering of data
- **Declaration on the part of home institution** concerning the applicant's qualifications, the relevance of the project for the institution, as well as its willingness to grant successful applicants leave of absence to undertake the work stay
- **Proposal on the part of host institution** concerning how the applicant is to be integrated in concrete work contexts, as well as its preparedness to furnish a workplace and funds for non-personnel expenses, if necessary
- **Declaration on the part of an academic institution** to the effect that they are prepared to administer the funds for the applicant
- Indication of whether this or a similar **application** has been **submitted to any other funding institution**

Accompanying enclosures:

- **Curriculum vitae** containing details of applicant's status at home institution (copy of PhD award and list of publications, if applicable)