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Knowledge for Tomorrow – Cooperative Research Projects in Sub-Saharan Africa

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I. Objectives

The Foundation's funding initiative "Knowledge for Tomorrow – Cooperative Research Projects in Sub-Saharan Africa" was set up in 2003 and aims at contributing to the development of research and research capacity in Sub-Saharan Africa. Besides the African-German cooperation, a special focus has always been on the development, reinforcement, and extension of academic networks within and beyond the African continent, also extending beyond existing language barriers. Above all, the funding initiative aims at opening up future prospects for young African researchers in their home countries.

II. Funding Opportunities

Within this initiative, the Foundation currently provides **funding for workshops, symposia and summer schools** to be held in Sub-Saharan Africa. Support is available for events providing the opportunity to develop new ideas and cutting-edge research perspectives and promoting the discussion of topics and approaches that have not yet been addressed and are of relevance for the African continent. Workshops, symposia and summer schools should also aim to equip selected young academics (doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers) with new insights and knowledge important for the further development of a particular research area. The general idea is not only to extend the participants' knowledge, but also to enable them – at an early stage of their career – to develop and establish contacts beyond national borders and individual disciplines.

A series of up to three consecutive events which build on each other may also be eligible for support.

III. General Conditions

Funding can be made available for symposia, workshops (usually up to 50 participants) and summer schools (max. 60 participants). The initiative is thematically open and not confined to any particular subject area.

A basic requirement for funding is the cooperation between a German institution as the main applicant and a local research institution. In general, a substantial involvement of participants (junior and senior scholars) from different Sub-Saharan African research institutes other than the ones involved in the cooperation as well as a significant participation of German scholars is expected. Experts from other countries should also be invited to participate as speakers. A significant representation of women both as speakers and participants is expected.

Costs covered may include the following items:

- Expenses for catering and accommodation; rental of premises.
- Travel expenses for participants and speakers.
- Funds for preparing and running the event, including the costs for the compilation of working materials and their publication in the internet.

No funds can be provided for the following items:

- Flat-rate amount to cover general organizational expenses.
- Cost of honoraria and similar items.
- Expenses for accompanying persons or family members.
- Any supplementary programs or entertainment expenses for accompanying persons.
- Costs for participants from industry.

Furthermore, the following types of events are excluded from funding:

- Gatherings exclusively with participants who are already linked through existing cooperations.
- Meetings which are organized within the framework of established disciplines and research areas, and which are mainly limited to a discussion of the status quo or serve to elucidate the current situation in a given discipline.
- Follow-up events as well as regularly occurring meetings between largely closed groups of specific experts.
- Summer schools dealing with topics which are part of either regular or special teaching programs at universities.
- Events which are partially financed by other funding organizations or with a planned or pending application for funding elsewhere.

The funds for workshops, symposia and summer schools will be granted to the German partner institution, which will also be responsible for their administration. According to its statutes, the Foundation can only grant funding to universities and other scientific institutions.

IV. Application and Selection Procedure

In a first step, applicants are requested to send a **draft proposal** and discuss the proposed event's general suitability for funding with the program manager. The draft proposal (2-3 pages) should be a short version of the full proposal including information on the scientific topic and its relevance for Africa, the involved partners, a concept of the event and a preliminary budget. Having received a positive feedback from the Foundation, the applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal. Proposals should describe the event in such a way that adequate information is available for the scientific review.

Applications can be filed at any time but **at least eight months prior to the event date**. Applications are subject to written review and must be submitted in English, as they will be assessed by international experts.

V. Application Checklist

Applications must be submitted to the Volkswagen Foundation electronically via the [online application system](#). On the system, the following documents should be uploaded as "enclosures" (pdf-files):

- Description of the scientific topic (max. 5 pages) including references.

- Detailed budget and justification.
- CV (max. 2 pages) of the main applicant (German academic institution) and co-applicant (African academic institution).
- Description of cooperation between main applicant, co-applicant and involved partners.
- Preliminary list of participants (including speakers/lecturers and junior researchers).
- (Tentative) program of the event including details on the respective event formats (clearly indicating the role of junior researchers).
- Selection procedure of students and/or junior researchers.

Information about the electronic application portal of the Volkswagen Foundation via which you have to submit your application can be found in the document “Electronic application made easy – instructions and tips”.

Information

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Additional Information

[Electronic Application System – Instructions and Tips](#)

[Application FAQs](#)

[Information for Applicants from Abroad](#)

[Exclusion Criteria: What We Do NOT Fund](#)

[Website Knowledge for Tomorrow – Cooperative Research Projects in Sub-Saharan Africa](#)