

Procedure for awarding interdisciplinary and/or transdisciplinary networking projects (collaborative projects)

Preamble

The One Health Platform (OHP) is a statutory association of scientists from university and non-university research institutions in the field of One Health research as well as practitioners (public health services/veterinary services/environmental agencies) from all over Germany. The aim of the OHP is to promote inter- and transdisciplinary scientific exchange in the field of One Health, to link national and international initiatives, to provide impetus and to create space for identifying research gaps and needs. It also aims to promote a dialogue between science and practice.

The Münster office is responsible for submitting and organising the assessment of interdisciplinary and/or transdisciplinary networking projects within the framework of the OHP. The funds required to carry out the projects are granted by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)/Projektträger Gesundheitsforschung im Deutschen Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e. V., or, in the case of thematically suitable projects, by the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV), the Federal Ministry of Defence (BMVg), the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) or the Federal Ministry of Health (BMG).

Authorisation to apply

All members of the OHP are authorised to submit project applications and to be applicants for networking projects. Persons with guest status are authorised to participate in projects as cooperation partners. The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) is authorised to initiate projects. Applications can be submitted by the deadlines announced by the office. As a rule, grants can only be awarded within Germany. Foreign partners can be involved as subcontractors in justified exceptional cases.

Personnel funding can be requested for different job formats. We welcome the integration of early career researchers in interdisciplinary and/or transdisciplinary networking projects. For example, project leaders can apply for funding for three years for a doctoral candidate if both the project leader and the doctoral candidate are/will be members of the One Health Platform. In this case, the applicants must have a job commitment for the duration of the inter- and/or transdisciplinary networking project, or the prospect of such a commitment, in order to guarantee the supervision of the doctoral candidate for the duration of the project. The doctoral candidate must be able to prove that he/she is able to do a doctorate at his/her home university or a partner university and that he/she is integrated into an existing graduate programme or a formalised doctoral structure (minimum requirement: doctoral committee with annual meetings).

Type of projects

Interdisciplinary and/or transdisciplinary networking projects are consortia with at least two scientific partners at different locations and from different disciplines and/or sectors with a defined financial framework. They are intended to establish structures or sustainable networks

etc. that can be used by more than just the applicant research locations by the end of the funding phase at the latest. Networking projects are characterised by an interdisciplinary and/or transdisciplinary approach involving various institutes, disciplines and/or representatives of the responsible authorities or practice partners.

The relevance for One Health research must be demonstrated. This requires at least two disciplines (e.g. veterinary medicine, human medicine, biology, climate research, environmental research, social sciences, etc.) with relevance to One Health research to work together on a joint research question. In order to rule out any accusations of double funding, the distinction to existing funding programmes must be shown.

The project duration should not exceed 36 months. Each project partner can apply for a maximum of 300 000 € (the amount must be clearly justified by the project structure and expenditure). The maximum funding amount per network is limited to 1.2 million euros. The "Projektpauschale" may be added to this.

Each of the partners applies for a separate project on the joint research question of the consortium. The interaction of the sub-projects in the sense of the One Health idea must be presented in a "Mantelantrag" of the collaborative application. One of the partners is responsible for coordinating the consortium and submits the application.

Application procedure

Applications for project funding are submitted as part of the procedure described below.

1. Submission of the application to the Münster office

Project applications must be submitted to the One Health Platform office in Münster by the coordinator of the collaboration by the deadlines set by the office in consultation with the SAB. Submission in electronic form is mandatory. For better comparability and assessment of submitted project proposals, the OHP application documents are standardised for collaborative applications. You can obtain a corresponding template from the office or on the website <https://zoonosen.net/forschungsfoerderung/foerderung-durch-die-one-health-platform>

The planned procedure should be described in detail in the collaborative application. This should include the research question to be addressed by the consortium, the new scientific value, the added value for One Health research and the networking between the relevant disciplines and participants at different institutions. If a doctoral position is involved, the planned supervision concept must also be explained.

The formal structure of the application can be found in the relevant form, which can be downloaded at <https://zoonosen.net/forschungsfoerderung/foerderung-durch-die-one-health-platform>. The assessment procedure is a two-stage process.

The office checks the documents for formal correctness. If the formalities are not complied with, the applicant will be given the opportunity to submit the relevant documents at short notice. The office rejects formally incorrect applications. The decision is made at the office's discretion.

After a formal review, the head office sends all funding applications submitted on time to the members of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB). The members of the SAB, who are entitled to vote, examine the applications on a technical basis and draw up a ranking list of all applications

received for a project type based on a defined catalogue of criteria. Based on this ranking list, the top-ranked applications are admitted to the SAB meeting.

2. Review by the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB)

The coordinator is invited to a meeting of the SAB by the head office with reasonable notice. There, the coordinator or a nominated representative presents the project application. The voting members of the SAB discuss and evaluate the collaborative application and the respective collaborative projects. In justified exceptional cases, the SAB may also consult external experts to assess an application. External experts only have an advisory function and no voting rights.

The following evaluation criteria apply to interdisciplinary and/or transdisciplinary networking projects:

- Expertise of the applicants of the projects in the network with regard to the common research question of the network, necessary prior knowledge beyond the project idea and networking competence
- scientific new value and originality,
- Existence of a conclusive research question of the network, taking into account the One Health approach
- Realizability of the project
- Added value and reusability of the consortium or the results of the consortium for interdisciplinary One Health research
- Reasonableness of the time and financial framework presented
- Networking between research institutions from different disciplines and inclusion of disciplines relevant to One Health research in the network
- In the case of the integration of a doctoral position: supervision concept, integration into doctoral structures, as well as previous experience of the applicant in supervising theses

After examining the content and form of the joint application, the SAB can decide as follows:

- a) The joint application is generally assessed favourably and recommended for funding.
- b) The joint application is rejected.

A funding recommendation for a project application is approved or rejected by a simple majority of the voting members of the SAB. Bias must be excluded.

Bias

If members of the SAB are biased, they must leave the room during the discussion and voting on the application. Bias is deemed to exist if a member of the SAB is financially or substantively involved in the planned project or if the member is employed in the same institute or working group as the applicant(s). The members of the SAB are also requested to truthfully declare close cooperation with the applicant in thematically similar projects or competition and, if

necessary, to determine their bias. Employment in the same superordinate institution alone is not a reason for bias.

In addition, voting members of the SAB may abstain from voting, e.g. if there is insufficient expertise to assess an application.

3. Final review by the project organiser/the funding ministries

For the final funding decision, the office forwards the application documents and the minutes of the SAB review to the funding ministry or its designated project management organisation. The necessary application form for each project in the consortium is completed and submitted by the respective applicant. A binding funding commitment can only be issued after a final review of the documents by the respective project organiser/the respective funding ministry. Funding is provided in the form of a grant notification issued directly by the funding ministry or its project management organisation to the respective project leader(s) or institution(s).

4. follow-up applications

Subsequent applications are not permitted.

5. reporting obligation

There is an obligation to report to the sponsor, which can be found in the respective grant notification and is independent of the One Health Platform. The SAB is authorised to request written or oral interim or final reports on the projects. Short project reports can be presented at the annual "One Health Symposium".