



PRE- ANNOUNCEMENT GERF VI 2024

Regulations governing the funding of joint innovative projects in the field of applied research through the German-Egyptian Research Fund (GERF) within the framework of the Federal Government's Strategy for the Internationalization of Education and Research - Sixth joint call of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) of the Federal Republic of Germany and Science, Technology and Innovation Funding Authority, Egypt (STDF) of the Arab Republic of Egypt

(To be published in first quarter 2024)

Object of funding: Funding will be provided for collaborative projects in applied research which jointly address the following priority topics:

- **One Health:** *Human, animal and environmental health, including medical and veterinary research issues, environmental sciences, food-water-energy nexus, applied biotechnology and the health sector*
- **Green Transition:** *Resource-efficient economy in the context of ecological change, including smart cities / (digital) urban development, circular economy, energy research, green mobility / sustainable transportation*

Joint project proposals are expected to make innovative contributions to solving regional and/ or transregional challenges and to the further development of scientific and technological research on the above priority topics. Furthermore, they should be of great practical relevance and set out strategies for the political, societal and economic implementation of research findings. Special emphasis will be placed on cooperation between different partners in the area of R&D, on their scientific skills and on industry participation. Therefore, the project consortia should, if possible, include universities and R&D institutions as well as companies involved in the commercial application of the results of applied research.

Funding will take place **in two successive funding phases based on a (two-stage) application procedure:**

- **In phase 1** (usually up to 24 months), a *research-performing company partner (an SME in particular) must be involved on the German side at least, and is highly recommended to be included on the Egyptian side (2+1).*
- **In phase 2** (usually up to 18 months), the *involvement of research-performing company partners (SMEs in particular) is mandatory on both the German and the Egyptian side (2+2 format).*

Special importance is attached to the participation of junior researchers on both sides. Furthermore, it is desirable that the collaborative projects carry out high-profile measures to stimulate a discourse between the political and research communities, society and industry on research and innovation policy issues. No funding will be provided for export promotion measures under this call.

Funding recipients: Only bilateral projects are eligible for funding. The German-Egyptian project consortia must involve universities, teaching hospitals, non-university research institutions and other institutions contributing to research as well as commercial companies, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Applicants are required to have a plant or branch (company) or another entity to act as funding recipient (university, research institution) in Germany at the time of payment of the grant. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) within the meaning of these funding regulations are companies that meet the requirements of the EU definition of SMEs.



Further partners may participate in the research project if this benefits the project and if these partners contribute their own funds.

Projects proposed for funding under this call should document their potential for long-term sustainable cooperation with Egypt. The project teams are expected to include both a German and an Egyptian project leader; the latter's affiliation with an institution having Egyptian legal personality must be guaranteed on the Egyptian side.

Submission and selection of project descriptions:

The application procedure consists of *two phases*.

- In the **first phase**, jointly elaborated project outlines are to be submitted. The project outlines received will be evaluated.
- In the **second phase** of the procedure, applicant institutions whose project outlines have been reviewed positively will be invited to present a formal application for funding.

Prerequisites and eligibility for funding / type, scope and rates of funding:

Funding will be awarded in the form of a non-repayable project grant. Under these regulations, **funding for the German partner(s)** involves the award of

- a maximum of **up to EUR 450,000** as a rule for a period of **up to 24 months (funding phase 1)** as well as
- a maximum of **up to EUR 150,000** as a rule for further funding (**funding phase 2**) over a period **usually of up to 18 months**. In both funding phases the inclusion of industrial partners SMEs will be an indispensable precondition.

On Egyptian side the funding volume for each project involves the award of

- a maximum of **up to EUR 300,000 including an industrial partner** and a maximum of **up to EUR 150,000 in case of non-inclusion of an industrial partner** as a rule for a period of **up to 24 months in funding phase 1** as well as
- a maximum of **up to EUR 450,000** as a rule for further funding **including an industrial partner (funding phase 2)** over a period of **usually up to 18 months**.

Applications on the German side (for both funding phases) can cover:

- financial resources for staff required for the project;
- travel and stays by researchers and by experts employed with the German partner institutions
- workshops with existing partners or aimed at opening up new potential for cooperation
- project-related non-cash resources and funds for equipment (see guidelines for applicants)
- contracts: The costs/expenditure for necessary contracts awarded to third parties in Germany or Egypt may be eligible for funding in duly substantiated cases.

Advisory Service:

- **German side: Project Management Agency DLR-PT.de** | <http://www.internationales-buero.de> (contact: Mrs. Susanne Ruppert-Elias; Email: susanne.ruppert-elias@dlr.de)
- **Egyptian side: Science, Technology and Innovation Funding Authority (STDF)** | <http://www.stdf.org.eg> (contact: Dr. Esraa Mohamed; Email: esraa.mohamed@stdf.eg)