

German-Moroccan Cooperation in R&D and Innovation - PMARS IV -

1. Funding purpose

This call for projects is launched jointly by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Moroccan Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research (MENFPESRS) under the "Programme Maroc-Allemand de Recherche Scientifique" – PMARS.

On the German side, this funding programme is carried out under the German Federal Government's Strategy for the Internationalization of Science and Research (BMBF) and the Africa Strategy of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) with the aim of promoting joint research and innovation projects of mutual interest, thus contributing to intensified scientific and technological cooperation (STC) with Morocco.

On the Moroccan side, it is part of the 2017-2022 plan action for the higher education and scientific research department, which stems from the 2015-2030 strategic vision, particularly in the field of international cooperation for the development of science, technology and innovation.

The aim of this new edition is to build up and intensify bilateral application oriented scientific cooperation between German and Moroccan institutions. Under this call for proposals, funding can be provided for joint projects involving at least one German and one Moroccan research institution or university. Projects involving German and Moroccan companies will be given priority.

Joint innovation oriented projects would be highly welcomed. Innovation oriented projects are joint R&D projects designed to lead to innovative products, services or processes of significant economic and/or societal value.

Furthermore, the projects should contribute to achieving the following cooperation objectives:

- Strengthening the collaboration between scientific partners and industry, SMEs in particular in order to valorise research results into application in both countries,
- Support young researchers in Germany and Morocco,
- Encourage networking between Moroccan and German teacher-researchers to participate in international calls for projects.

2. Priority Themes

This call concerns on the following fields of research:

- Water and environment,
- Global change incl. climate change, biodiversity, sustainable land use,
- Food and agricultural sciences,
- Renewable energies and energy efficiency,
- Biomedical research (e.g. infectious diseases, oncology, metabolic disorders, neurosciences, etc.),
- Humanities and social sciences to master societal challenges,
- Artificial Intelligence.

3. Funding recipients

On the German side:

Recipients of funding may be universities or non-university research institutions as well as commercial companies that are active in Germany, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)* - as well as other institutions which provide contributions to research and fulfil the funding purpose and funding prerequisites.

On the Moroccan side:

This call for proposals is open to research teams from:

- Public universities,
- Non-university institutions Higher education institutions not belonging to universities,
- Public research institutions,
- Universities and establishments created within the framework of Public-Private partnership,
- Universities and private establishments recognized by the State.

* According to the EU's definition of SMEs: The category of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises consists of enterprises which employ fewer than 250 people and which have either an annual turnover not exceeding €50 million, or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding €43 million. Within this category, the following definitions apply: Small enterprises are defined as enterprises which employ fewer than 50 persons and whose annual turnover or annual balance sheet total does not exceed €10 million. Micro enterprises are defined as enterprises which employ fewer than 10 persons and whose annual turnover or annual balance sheet total does not exceed €2 million. In general, most SMEs are autonomous since they are either completely independent or have one or more minority partnerships (each less than 25%) with other enterprises (see 2.3.1, p. 16). If that holding rises to no more than 50%, the relationship is deemed to be between partner enterprises (see 2.3.2, p. 20). Above that ceiling, the enterprises are linked (see 2.3.3, p. 23).

4- Prerequisites for funding

- a) It is a prerequisite that projects include the participation of at least one German research institution/university and one Moroccan research institution/university.
- b) Projects involving German and Moroccan companies will be given priority.
- c) The involvement of junior researchers and doctoral students is required (at least one doctoral student).
- d) It is recommended that all project partners formalize their cooperation by concluding a cooperation agreement.

This applies even if more than two institutions or research-oriented SMEs from one country are taking part.

5- Type, scope and rates of funding

Funding will be awarded in the form of project grants.

The duration of the projects is 36 months

On the German side:

As a rule, German partner consortia that are eligible for funding can receive up to €150,000 (additional 20% flat rate).

The following expenditures/costs are eligible for funding German partners:

- a) Staff costs/expenditure

Project-related costs for student, administrative and/or scientific staff are eligible for funding.

- b) Equipment:

Project-related subsidies (e.g. for equipment, expendable transportation expenses, literature, rents, will be granted in justified cases.

- c) Exchanges of experts and researchers / cross-sectoral exchanges of research and innovation staff

The costs/expenditure for travel to and from the German project partner's location including the necessary visa (if by air: economy class) will be covered by the sending country; per diem allowances will be provided by the host country.

The following applies to funding for stays by foreign project researchers and experts:

Stays in Germany will be funded with a fixed rate of €104 per day or €2300 per month. Contributions to health insurance and, if applicable, other types of insurance are included in this allowance and must be paid by the foreign partner.

d) Workshops

Funding will be provided to cover the following expenditure and/or costs related to the organization of workshops: Accommodation of guests, transfers within Germany, provision of workshop documents, hospitality (usually up to €30 per person and meal including beverages) and rental of venue. The exact amount depends on the size of the event and the number of foreign guests. In such cases, no per diem allowances will be provided (see a) above).

e) Flat-rate project grants

Universities (both public and private) and university hospitals (irrespective of legal form) can additionally apply for a flat-rate project grant equivalent to 20% of the main grant.

As a rule, no funding will be provided to cover normal basic equipment such as:

- Expenses for office supplies, communication, etc.
- Laboratory and IT equipment

On the Moroccan side:

The budget allocated by the Moroccan side to each project is 400,000 Moroccan Dirhams (MAD) max, paid in two instalments, to cover the following eligible expenditures/costs:

- a) Two Flight tickets for two Moroccan researchers visiting German institutions: 5000 DH/ticket per year.
- b) Per diem of two stays in Morocco for German researchers: for each German researcher 750 DH/day for 14 days, per year in two visits.
- c) A scholarship awarded for the benefit of a Moroccan doctoral student preparing his doctoral thesis in joint supervision or joint supervision at the rate of 3000 DHS / month for a maximum of 36 months.
- d) Small laboratory equipment, products and other eligible costs required to achieve the project.
- e) The second tranche shall be conditional on a positive evaluation of the mid-term report drawn up by the coordinator.

All outputs and publications of funded projects (articles in journals or specialized journals, communications and posters in conferences and symposiums, reports, oral presentations, etc.) must explicitly mention the support of MENFPESRS, on the Moroccan side, and BMBF, on the German side, as well as the project code.

6. Submission the projects

- a) Each project will have two co-leaders, one from Germany and the other from Morocco.
- b) Jointly developed project must be submitted in English by a co-leader (coordinator of the project) until 1st of November, using the online project outline tool PT-Outline: https://ptoutline.eu/app/pmars_2020
- c) The paper proposal (paper) generated by the electronic application must be signed and then submitted by each of them to the relevant institutions:

in Germany:

to DLR Project Management Agency on the German side.

in Morocco:

At the Directorate of Scientific Research and Innovation (DRSI), Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research (MENFPESRS) at the following postal address: Annex of the MENFPESRS located at the Institute of Studies and Research in Arabization, Madinat Al Irfane BP. 4500, Rabat, and by e-mail in a single file in word format to the following address coopma@enssup.gov.ma.

The application must be signed by the Moroccan project co-leader, the head of the institution and the university president.

d) This must be done simultaneously, as proposals submitted in only one country cannot be considered.

e) For the German side: Applicant institutions whose project have been reviewed positively will be invited to present a formal application for funding.

f) Delayed proposals will be considered ineligible.

7-Description of the projects

The project must show how all partners are involved in the tasks and outcomes of the project. In this context, the protection of intellectual property (intellectual property) plays an important role.

It should include descriptions of the following aspects:

- I. Information about the German and Moroccan project coordinators and others researchers to be involved
- II. Meaningful summary (objectives, research priorities, exploitation of results)
- III. Detailed description of the proposed project
 - a. Planned measures and activities for the implementation of the objectives of the funding as specified in section 1 of the announcement
 - b. Presentation of the project goals
 - c. Information on the state of science and technology
 - d. Innovation: Degree of Innovation, geographical and sector Impact
 - e. Participation of further partners, if applicable
- IV. International cooperation within the framework of the project
 - a. Added value of international cooperation
 - b. Contributions from the Germans and Moroccan partners, access to international resources and networks

- c. Experiences of the partners involved in international cooperation, previous cooperation
- V. Sustainability of the measure / exploitation plan
 - a. Expected (scientific) results
 - b. Potential for the implementation of the project results
 - c. Plan for the continuance of the cooperation with partners in Morocco/ Germany
 - d. Planned cooperation in follow-up projects
 - e. Planned extension of cooperation to other facilities and networks
 - f. Potential scientific, economic and/or social impact of the expected results (patents, creation of start-ups, etc.)
- VI. Description of the planned work packages and tasks
- VII. Estimated expenses / costs
- VIII. Annexes

These appendices must include:

- CVs including the list of main publications, list of main joint publications,
- for the Moroccan side:
 - ✓ Letter(s) of commitment from the socio-economic partners involved in the project indicating the nature of their contribution for the Moroccan side
 - ✓ Signature page reserved for the president of the university, head of the institution and the Moroccan co-leader of the project

This project must be uploaded as a single document in PT-Outline (zip-archive or pdf- document). The project outline is the object of the scientific and specific evaluation of the project. The project description should therefore contain comprehensive information on all positions of the outline (see structure for project description above).

8-Evaluation and selection of the projects

The evaluation of the projects received will be conducted on the German side as well as on the Moroccan side according to the following criteria.

- I. Compliance of the proposal with the formal eligibility criteria
- II. Compliance with the funding objectives of the announcement as specified to in section 1 in this announcement
- III. Scientific and technical criteria
 - a. Quality and originality of the proposed project
 - b. Reference to the program of the BMBF / MENFPESRS in the specified topic(s)
 - c. Qualification of the German and Moroccan candidate coordinators and their other partners involved

- d. Scientific benefit Impact and usability of the expected results, quality of the description of the exploitation plan
- IV. Criteria of international cooperation
 - a. Experience of the applicant's coordinators in international cooperation
 - b. Quality of cooperation and added value for the partner institutions
 - c. Initiation / establishment of new international partnerships
 - d. Continuance of existing bilateral / international partnerships
 - e. Promotion of young scientists
- V. Plausibility and feasibility of the project (financing, working steps, time frame)

Funding decisions will be made after a final review of the applications based on the evaluation criteria mentioned above. Only applications that are approved by both sides will receive funding. Applicants will be informed in writing about the result of the selection process.

9. Official announcements in Germany and Morocco

The official version of the call text as published in the Bundesanzeiger is legally binding for German applicants.

Contact person for German applicants:

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) commissioned the DLR Project Management Agency (DLR PT) with the implementation of this funding announcement:

Dr. Naima Barouk
DLR Projektträger
Europäische und internationale Zusammenarbeit
Heinrich-Konen-Strasse 1
53227 Bonn, Germany
Phone: +49 2 28/38 21-2069
Telefax: +49 2 28/38 21-14 90
E-Mail: naima.barouk@dlr.de

Tiemo Pokraka
DLR Projektträger
Europäische und internationale Zusammenarbeit
Heinrich-Konen-Strasse 1
53227 Bonn, Germany
Telefon: +49 2 28/38 21- 2097
Telefax: +49 2 28/38 21-14 90
E-Mail: Tiemo.Pokraka@dlr.de

Contact person for Moroccan applicants:

The programme is monitored by the Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research (MENFPESRS) in partnership the National Centre for Scientific and Technical Research (CNRST).

At the Directorate of Scientific Research and Innovation:

Mme Hind EL GADARI

Head of the Research Promotion and Monitoring Division

Phone: +537217647/44/49

Fax: +537217670/50

E-mail: elgadarivet.h@gmail.com

At the National Centre for Scientific and Technical Research (CNRST):

Mme Amal Yacoubi

Head of Coopération service

CNRST. Angle Avenue Allal El Fassi et Avenue des F.A.R.

Rabat. Maroc

Responsable de la Coopération

CNRST. Angle Avenue Allal El Fassi et Avenue des F.A.R.

Rabat. Maroc

Tél: + 212 5 37 56 98 20 & + 212 6 00 01 94 33

Fax: + 212 5 37 56 98 21

Email: a.lyaakobi@cnrst.ma