

National Research Data Infrastructure: First-Round Funding Decisions on Consortia

30.06.2020

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On 26 June 2020 the German Joint Science Conference (GWK) made its final funding decisions in the first round of the National Research Data Infrastructure Programme (NFDI). The GWK resolution underscores the importance of research-driven process.

A total of nine consortia were chosen. In reaching this decision, the [Joint Science Conference \(GWK\)](#) followed the recommendation of the NFDI Expert Committee, which based its selection on the outcome of a rigorous review and evaluation process.

Funded Consortia

- NFDI4Culture - Consortium for research data on tangible and intangible cultural assets (humanities),
- KonsortSWD - Consortium for the social, educational, behavioural and economic sciences (social sciences),
- GHGA - German Human Genome Phenome Archive (medicine),
- NFDI4Health - National Research Data Infrastructure for Personal Health Data (medicine),
- DataPLANT - Data in Basic Plant Research (biology),
- NFDI4BioDiversity - Biodiversity, Ecology and Environmental Data (biology),
- NFDI4Cat - NFDI for Sciences Related to Catalysis (chemistry)
- NFDI4Chem - Chemistry Consortium within the NFDI (chemistry)
- NFDI4Ing - National Research Data Infrastructure for Engineering (engineering sciences).

In setting up a [national research data infrastructure](#), the DFG is responsible for the selection, review and evaluation of NFDI consortium proposals. The GWK is responsible for financial decisions. To be eligible for funding, proposals must receive a positive recommendation by the NFDI Expert Committee, which is composed of academic researchers and experts from research institutions.

"With this decision, the GWK underscored its commitment to establishing the NFDI in a research-driven process", said DFG President Professor Dr. Katja Becker. "Today's announcement highlights the significance of research-based criteria in each step of the process – from the formation of consortia to review by international review panels and evaluation by the interdisciplinary NFDI Expert Committee. This will help to ensure success in establishing the NFDI as a coordinated network of consortia tailored to meet the needs and requirements of their individual research communities."

Today's decision marks the end of the first funding round, in which 22 initial proposals were submitted. Two additional funding rounds will be held over the next two years. Overall, the NFDI programme envisages funding for up to 30 consortia. The second-round call for proposals was published on the DFG website in May 2020.

Source: German Research Foundation

Editor 30.06.2020 by Mirjam Buse, VDI Technologiezentrum GmbH

Countries / organization: Germany

Topic: Engineering and Production, Funding, Humanities and Social Sciences, Information and Communications, Life Sciences, Physical/Chemical Technologies, Strategic Issues and Framework

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