

Call for Applications

Europe and Global Challenges

Deadline

January 30, 2015

Information

Riksbankens Jubileumsfond
www.rj.se

Dr. Fredrik Lundmark
Phone: +46 8 50626421
E-mail: fredrik.lundmark@rj.se

VolkswagenStiftung
www.volkswagenstiftung.de

Dr. Wolfgang Levermann
Phone: +49 511 8381212
E-mail: Levermann@volkswagenstiftung.de

1. Background

In 2009 three foundations launched a joint research programme called Europe and Global Challenges. The first call for applications created a large interest in the research community. The aim of the programme was to inspire European researchers to collaborate with researchers from other regions of the world and to create new transdisciplinary research groups on challenges of a global nature. In addition, the programme had the ambition to bridge the gap between young and more senior researchers. In the first round six projects were granted.

One of the major aims of Europe and Global Challenges is to stimulate collaboration between researchers based in Europe and researchers from other parts of the world on an important global issue. In the second call in 2011 this aspect was emphasized even more and each research group had to include at least two research environments from different geographical regions (other than Europe). The call resulted in a large number of applications and in the end four highly international research projects were granted.

The ten groups presently financed within the framework of Europe and Global Challenges were all gathered in Hannover in the fall 2013. During the workshop each project presented its research findings and had the opportunity to interact with the other research groups.

Based on the experiences of the 10 ongoing projects, this call aims to even further strengthen the international component of the programme, and also to limit and restrict the number of researchers within each project, hereby enabling new and creative research constellations with a better global representation, without requiring too much administrative effort.

2. Objectives

The “Europe and Global Challenges” initiative is looking towards the future of the European continent and the challenges it is exposed to in an increasingly globalized world. Developed as a joint funding initiative between European foundations, it reaches out to those problems and issues that are systematically interrelated and can only be dealt with collectively via supranational action on an international level. It is in this sense that the initiative addresses global problems – not universal ones which might be shared globally, but can be dealt with by local actors and do not necessarily need a globally coordinated solution.

Current problems perceived as “global challenges” range from energy and food security, pandemics, water scarcity and climate change all the way through to regional conflicts, migration and terrorism as well as financial instabilities and economic uncertainties. Europeans share these and similar problems with the rest of the world, but do they also have the knowledge base to address them through collective action? To explore related questions and encourage research on “global challenges”, three European foundations, Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, the Wellcome Trust and the VolkswagenStiftung are hereby jointly launching the third call for applications within this initiative.

We hope to receive proposals that address their themes in a new and innovative way. The research groups are free to define their respective research topics and specific research questions within the broad theme of “global challenges”. While the disciplinary focus within the research groups should be on the social sciences, input from other areas of expertise, e.g. ecology, public health, environmental science, or the humanities, might be needed to address some of the issues explored.

One of the major aims of the initiative is to stimulate collaboration between researchers based in Europe and other parts of the world focusing on a pressing global issue. Each research group – ideally involving not more than 4 different institutions – must therefore include researchers from different geographical regions (e.g. Europe and Africa or Latin America). The majority of the project participants should be working outside European countries. The foundations recommend participation of at least one principal investigator from Germany, Sweden, or the UK.

Preference will be given to proposals with a strong inter-regional collaboration, which include contributions from various disciplines and which are innovative and cover new ground. It is up to the applicants to show why and how their proposals are feasible and why this particular research formation is appropriate for the research questions at hand.

Depending on the goals and scope of the projects, successful groups will receive between 500.000 – 800,000 Euros in total (gross amount) for up to three years of research. Funds can be provided both for non-personnel expenditure (including travel costs) as well as staff costs. The foundations envisage between 6-8 projects to be funded.

3. The review process

This is a call for pre-proposals where the applicants are asked to present a short outline of the proposed research activities. An international review panel will consider the pre-proposals and recommend a shortlist of groups who will then be asked to develop their research ideas further. The international panel of experts will review the applications using criteria which include quality, potential, and originality of the project as well as the qualifications of the applicants and group members.

Shortlisted groups will be invited to present and defend their projects in person at an interview with the international review panel. Based on that review process the three foundations will make their final decisions.

Time line

- October 2014: Call for pre-proposals
- 30 January 2015: Deadline for pre-proposals
- February 2015: Review of pre-proposals
- March 2015: Decisions on shortlisted pre-proposals
- 22 May 2015: Deadline for full proposals
- 16-17 June 2015: Interviews with shortlisted research groups
- End of June 2015: Grant decisions

Electronic Application

Please use the Foundation's electronic application system in the internet.
portal.volkswagenstiftung.de

Please do not forget to print, sign and upload the scanned signature sheet. Instructions on the electronic application system are provided online and on the last page.

4. Submission and processing of applications

All applications will be dealt with jointly by the three foundations. The VolkswagenStiftung will be processing the applications via its electronic application system.

Applications must be submitted in English. All grants to successful applicants can only be paid via a research institution or university. Applicants who are not members of universities or well-known research institutions should supply details on the legal status, statutes, trustees, and boards, charitable/non-profit status, budgeting, and auditing of the respective institution.

The foundations do not consider applications which are pending at another funding institution, neither in the identical nor in a similar form.

5. Checklist

Please submit your pre-proposal using the VolkswagenStiftung's electronic application system (<https://portal.volkswagenstiftung.de/vwsantrag/login.do>). Forms containing a legal statement and information on the applicants and their institutions (main applicant, co-applicants, recipient of the grant) as well as on the project (title, duration and total amount requested) are to be completed in the electronic application system. In addition, you will be asked to print the signature sheet provided, sign it and upload it as pdf-attachment.

The following 4 documents are requested as pdf-attachments:

- signature sheet (printed and signed)
- summary of the proposal (up to 1500 char.)
- description of the proposed research project (up to 5 pages or 17 000 char.). The text should cover the following items:
 - ❖ aim of the project
 - ❖ research questions to be dealt with
 - ❖ theoretical base and methodological approach
 - ❖ significance for the research field
 - ❖ policy relevance
 - ❖ participants and their tasks within the project
 - ❖ organisation of group and expected synergy
 - ❖ work plan and grounds for the chosen project period
- total budget (gross amount) in Euro (up to 1 page) including:
 - ❖ research personnel
 - ❖ other personnel
 - ❖ travel and accommodation
 - ❖ consumables
 - ❖ acquisition of data

No unspecified or unexplained costs will be approved.

All funds granted to successful applicants can only be paid via a research institution or university (grant administrator).

This call for applications refers only to pre-proposals. The deadline is 30 January 2015.

6. Electronic Application – Instruction and Tips

Please note that only registered users of the electronic application system have access to application data and are able to submit applications and receive corresponding e-mail messages. Hence, it is required for all applicants with project responsibility to register himself/herself or to ask a co-worker to register in his/her name with the proper e-mail address.

Please follow the five steps to compile and submit your application:

- If you are a new user please **register** on the application portal with your name, your e-mail address and your own password. When registering you will be asked about your work address details. Subsequently, you must **activate** your account using the link sent by e-mail. If you already have a user account you can immediately **login** using your e-mail address and password.
- The **function new application** starts the selection of the corresponding funding initiative (here: Europe and Global Challenges), the application type, the grant receiving institution, and the language.
- Now – and later on – you can interrupt the completion of your application at any time. You can logout and login again as often as required.
- Please check whether the pre-filled data on the applicant are correct. Furthermore, we need application data (e. g. project title, duration) and the budget. The budget shall be uploaded as pdf-file under the heading “Other Enclosures”. You are asked to enter all information in the respective forms. Please note that the **save button** does not transfer any data to the Foundation. You are able to revise all data until the submission of your application. Please keep in mind to read and **accept** the legal statement. If you wish you can generate a PDF of the filled-in forms for verification and for your filing.
- Under enclosures you are able to **upload files** as required according to the checklist on the preceding page in the „Information for Applicants“. Only PDF files are accepted. Before submission all files can be exchanged for new versions.

Once your application is complete you can **submit** it electronically to the Foundation. Additionally, it is required to generate a **signature sheet** for print-out. Please do not forget to print, sign and upload your **signature sheet**.

In the course of processing your application the Foundation might request additional information. The function **new supplement** is used to upload and submit the respective files.

