



Funding measure for research structures with Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Mexico

The Federal Government aims at strengthening the excellence of German institutions and facilitating the access to international innovation centres by funding global partnerships. The emerging countries in Latin America are particularly important for this process.

Germany is looking back on decades of successful cooperation with partner countries in Latin America. This scientific and technological cooperation shall be intensified in strategic areas agreed upon by the governments and research partners in the target countries.

With the funding measure **“Research structures with Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Mexico”**, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) aims at fostering the development of long-standing joint research structures. These will facilitate access to research objects, research networks and human and infrastructural resources in Latin America.

The research structures will assist in making the strategically important areas in the partner countries permanently accessible in the long-run and will strengthen partnerships with local centres of excellence. This cooperation will also facilitate access to research resources in the target region.

The BMBF is providing funds for German universities and German extramural research institutions to develop research structures in cooperation with leading research institutions in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Mexico in areas of mutual interest. This funding measure has been launched under the umbrella of the framework agreements on scientific and technological cooperation between Germany and Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico and a joint declaration of intent with Colombia to cooperate in the fields of education, science, research and innovation.

The BMBF particularly welcomes close cooperation between applicants and small/medium-sized enterprises (SME) and/or SME associations in Germany and the partner countries with the aim of building application-oriented linkages between business and science.

These research structures could, for example, be comprised of joint research groups, laboratories, test facilities, communication platforms, research stations, experimental facilities and cooperative networks with and in the respective country. Project proposals must include a concept of how the research structures could be financially maintained in the long-run once the BMBF stops providing funding.

The funding provides financial support for travel expenses of German scientists, costs of events related to networking and exploratory measures, and subsidies for the additional personnel costs of coordinating the international cooperation.

The goals of the foreseen activities are:

- to initiate and expand long-standing research infrastructures in cooperation with leading research institutions in the target countries



- to create permanent (also virtual) cooperative structures in the partner country or countries
- to facilitate the access to other funding opportunities (e.g. national programs in Germany and the partner country, EU programs, multilateral programs or contract research)
- to improve awareness of Germany's scientific excellence in the partner country
- to strengthen innovation in Germany and promote Germany as an innovation centre
- to recruit leading researchers for cooperation
- to advance the knowledge in a specific research area and the knowledge about the research related framework conditions in the respective partner country.
- to internationalise research in Germany.

In accordance with the bilaterally agreed on priority areas of scientific and technological cooperation, the thematic focus of the research structures must be included in the following areas of research:

Argentina: Bioeconomy, biomedicine, environmental research, geoscience, marine and polar research

Brazil: Bioeconomy, raw materials of strategic economic importance, marine research, climate research

Chile: Sustainable energy systems, raw materials of strategic economic importance, protection from natural hazards, health research

Mexico: Sustainable energy systems, health research

Colombia: Biotechnology, biodiversity, marine research, health research

The projects should be comprised of two phases: a setup-phase of up to two years, followed by a consolidation phase with a maximum duration of three years.

Funding for the consolidation phase will only be provided after the results of the setup-phase have been successfully evaluated.

The BMBF expects a substantial interest of the foreign partner in cooperating with the German institution, e.g. in-kind contributions such as the provision of infrastructural resources, personnel etc. A letter of Intent must be added to the proposal by the respective partners in the target countries. Funds provided by this grant may not be used to financially support foreign partners.

Universities based in Germany are eligible for funding, on condition of a close cooperation with at least one German extramural research institution when developing the research infrastructures.

Extramural research institutions based in Germany are eligible for funding as well, on condition of a close cooperation with at least one German university when developing the research infrastructures.



Important note: The international partners have to finance their project part by their own financial resources or secure funding by their own countries.

Deadline for submission of pre-proposals (“Skizzen”) is:

31st of October 2016

The full call text (in German) is available at:
<https://www.bmbf.de/foerderungen/bekanntmachung-1216.html>

The BMBF has assigned DLR Project Management Agency with the administrative handling of the call:

Contact:

Dr. Barbara Hellebrandt:

DLR Project Management Agency, European and International Cooperation

Heinrich-Konen-Str. 1, 53227 Bonn, Germany

Phone: +49-228-3821-1433

Fax: +49-228-3821-1444

E-Mail: barbara.hellebrandt@dlr.de