

## Information for Applicants

### Call for Applications

## Europe and Global Challenges

#### Deadline for planning grants

30 April 2009

#### Information

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### I. Objectives

Today, problems ranging from regional conflicts, migration, and terrorism to pandemics and financial instabilities are perceived as “global challenges”. We Europeans share these problems with the rest of the world, but do we also share a knowledge base to address them through collective action? In order to explore concrete answers to this question the European foundations **Compagnia di San Paolo** in **Turin**, Italy, **Riksbankens Jubileumsfond** in **Stockholm**, Sweden, and **VolkswagenStiftung** in **Hanover**, Germany, have joined together in a continuation of the successful cooperation started in 2004 with the programme “European Foreign and Security Policy Studies”. Based on the experiences of the former research and training programme the three partner foundations extend the joint activities of research funding and networking in scope and scale to encourage transnational and transdisciplinary research groups.

The focus of the research groups should be on policy issues which are of special concern for the European Union (EU) and for its partners in the neighbourhood as well as in other regions of the world. Procedural and organisational aspects of addressing policy issues might be covered along with the research issues themselves. Disciplines which are concerned with “global governance” will obviously contribute to the new programme. Inputs from other areas of knowledge, e.g. science and medicine, might be needed to address some of the issues under examination, but the disciplinary focus within each research group should be on the social sciences and the humanities.

Applications must be submitted by at least two research environments from different geographical regions (e.g. Europe and Latin America), of which at least one has to be located in Europe. The core of the research groups should be based in Europe.

The issues studied should be relevant for the EU as a global actor. Preference will be given to proposals which relate to contributions from various disciplines, 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.

Postdoctoral researchers and early to mid career practitioners should play a major role among the participants. However, more experienced and established researchers will not be excluded. Given these limitations, the three foundations will exercise a flexible attitude to different formations and ways of organising research.

From the end of 2010 onwards the joint venture of the three foundations will make it possible for up to 10 research groups to conduct research on “Europe and Global Challenges”. It is envisaged that each such formation could receive up to 1,000,000 Euro in total for two to three years.

## II. Funding possibilities

It is likely that such potential groups and networks will have to be created ad hoc. Therefore, seed money could enable a number of applicants to initiate new groups and networks, which are not yet ready to submit a full proposal. In a non-mandatory **first stage** the three foundations hold an **international contest for planning grants** of up to 50,000 Euro for one year.

Applications for planning grants have to meet the general criteria of this programme, as regards the geographic and disciplinary scope and issues raised. They have to be aimed at a full proposal for a research group within the programme. The planning grants can be used for meetings of coordination and/or preliminary studies (exploring, e.g., the policy and research field or suitable methods of transdisciplinary research). Funds can be provided to pay for non-personnel expenditure (including travel costs) as well as for staff costs.

**This call for applications refers only to planning grants. Closing date for this contest is 30 April 2009.**

## III. Submission and processing of applications

All applications will be dealt with jointly by the three foundations. In 2009 the **VolkswagenStiftung** serves as **central mail box for the contest for planning grants**. Therefore **applications** together with the information listed below **must be submitted** (by e-mail only) **by 30 April 2009** (date of arrival) to [schmidt@volkswagenstiftung.de](mailto:schmidt@volkswagenstiftung.de). There is no application form. Please state “Planning grant application” as subject in all correspondence.

All documents are to be written in English and have to be sent by e-mail, **in three files, PDF format**, structured in the following way:

1. The **first PDF file** should contain the following information on the front page:

- full name and address of the applicant
- intended recipient of grant (if different from applicant: institution, name and position of responsible person, contact address)
- indication of whether this or a similar application has been submitted to any other funding institution

The next page of the **same PDF file** should provide:

- brief informative title of the envisaged research group's project
- total budget in Euro and funding duration of this project
- abstract of the project (up to 150 words)

Please add an **outline of the research group's project** (up to 5 pages or 2,500 words) in the **first PDF file**. The text should cover the following items:

- aim of the project
- research questions to be dealt with
- significance for the research field
- relevance for EU policy and public debate
- theoretical base and methodological approach
- main participants and their expertise
- organisation of group and expected synergy

2. The separate **second PDF file** should give the following information on the intended **planning activities** (up to 5 pages or 2,500 words)

- type and aim of activities, e. g. preliminary studies
- significance for the proposed research group
- theoretical base and methodological approach
- participants
- working programme and time schedule

Please add the budget for planning activities (up to 50,000 Euro) in the **same PDF file**:

**Personnel funds**

Research personnel

Scholarships

Other personnel

**Non-personnel expenses**

Travel and accommodation

Consumables, copies, telecommunication

Acquisition of data and literature

**3.** Please use a separate **third PDF file** for **brief CVs** of the applicants and other group members (1 page for each CV)

**All funds granted to successful applicants can only be paid via a research institution or university.** Applicants who are not members of universities or known research institutions should supply details on legal status, statutes, charitable status, budgeting and auditing of the respective institution.

Please note the upper limits for the abstract (150 words), the outline of the research group (2,500 words), the related application for planning activities (2,500 words) and the CVs (1 page each). Applications that exceed these limits will not be processed.

An international panel of experts will review the applications using criteria which will include the academic potential and originality of the project as well as the qualifications of the applicants and envisaged group members. They will also assess the relevance of the applications both for policy making and public debate in the EU.

Based on the joint assessment, the planning grants will be made available by each foundation in accordance with their own rules for making grants in summer and fall 2009.

Providing funds for a planning grant does not in any way predetermine funding approval of the research group.

A separate call for full proposals will be made in early 2010. Applicants, who did not participate in the contest for planning grants, are invited to submit a full proposal at the later date, too.

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