

Grand Challenge: Pandemic Research

Short-term special call

Possibility to collect data on Social Cohesion and Global Health during the Corona Pandemic

The spread of the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 aka the corona pandemic is not only a great challenge from a medical point of view. It presents all societies worldwide with completely new challenges. Pandemic research beyond the field of medicine has not yet been established. There is now a short window of opportunity to obtain data on the individual, social, cultural, economic, political, legal, etc. consequences of a pandemic or the contact and curfew, closures and transformations that followed. This data can help to react more quickly and effectively, and possibly also more socially acceptable, in the event of future epidemics.

In order not to let this unique opportunity pass by, the Berlin University Alliance offers researchers from the four Alliance partners short-term assistance in collecting data that can only be collected immediately.

Eligibility to apply

The call is aimed at professors and postdoctoral researchers from the institutions of the Berlin University Alliance – Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität Berlin, Technische Universität Berlin and Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin. Each researcher may only participate in one project proposal.

Funding

Up to 100.000 Euro per application. A condition for funding a project is that the funds must be paid out before the end of this year (2020).

Submission of application

Applications can be submitted in German or English until May 5, 2020, 12pm (noon) under <https://portal.bihealth.de/Portal/SitePages/Home.aspx>.

Prerequisite is that at least two alliance institutions participate in the application.

Eligibility of projects will be assessed based on the following criteria:

1. Researching the current pandemic: Are the data collected with regard to the spread of the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 and related effects?
2. Urgency: This data can only be collected immediately, which is why this urgent application is needed.

3. Explanation/Description of the project: It is demonstrated that the project can contribute to a better analysis of the current pandemic and related societal (economic, political, social, environmental and other) impacts.
4. Societal benefits: It becomes clear how the analyses can contribute to the ability to react faster, more effectively and in a more socially compatible way in the light of future epidemics threats.
5. Long-term strategy: It becomes clear how the data are to be further processed in the long term.
6. Plausibility of the use of funds
7. Plausibility of the division of work between the applicants
8. Plausibility of the project plan (in particular with regard to outflow of funds in 2020)
9. Plausibility of the reference to the Grand Challenge "Social Cohesion" or "Global Health"

Applications must be submitted through the online portal (<https://portal.bihealth.de/Portal/SitePages/Home.aspx>).

For further information please contact Dr. Nicola Isendahl or Veronique Riedel through grand-challenges@berlin-university-alliance.de.

The Steering Committee 1 will discuss the applications. A final decision on which projects can be funded is expected by mid-May 2020.

The Berlin University Alliance is planning to network the applicants among each other so that the Grand Challenge of a pandemic can be met with united forces. Colleagues who are not submitting a rush application, but would like to be integrated into the networking activities, should also contact the scientific coordinators at grand-challenges@berlin-university-alliance.de.