

## Call for proposals within the Berlin University Alliance

### Objective 2: Fostering Knowledge Exchange

# Experimental Laboratories for Science Communication

Call for tender start date: **August 6, 2020**

Call for tender end date: **October 30, 2020**

Funding start date: **December 1, 2020**

### Term and volume of funding:

Funding line A: <i>Fast Approach</i>	Funding line B: <i>Long Road</i>
✓ Term: <b>12 months</b>	✓ Term: <b>3 years</b>
✓ Funding volume: <b>€25,000</b> to a maximum of <b>€50,000</b>	✓ Funding volume: <b>€50,000 up to a maximum of €250,000 p.a.</b> (in total €750,000)
✓ Number of projects funded: up to 6	✓ Number of projects funded: up to 6
✓ <b>number of applicants</b> must be at least <b>4</b> and is limited to 12	✓ <b>number of applicants</b> must be at least <b>6</b> and is limited to 12

*Type of funding: Equipment, human resources, investments*

## Research communication and *Knowledge Exchange* in the Berlin University Alliance

With the establishment of the Berlin University Alliance, Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Technische Universität Berlin, and Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin have set themselves the ambitious objective of collaboratively shaping Berlin as an integrated research and academic space. Central to their collaboration is joint research into major societal challenges, strengthening

the communication with society, the promotion of young researchers, questions of the quality and value of research as well as comprehensive projects in the areas of research infrastructure, teaching, diversity, equal opportunities and internationalization.

As part of **Objective 2: Fostering Knowledge Exchange**, the Alliance partners have set themselves the goal of strengthening the multidirectional exchange of knowledge between universities and other important figures and stakeholders. Unlike the concept of knowledge transfer, the Berlin University Alliance defines knowledge exchange as a multidirectional process through which scientific ideas and research results are transferred to the outside world and external perspectives and experiences flow back into research.

The Berlin University Alliance explicitly acknowledges its obligation to make insights gained from research, development and teaching visible and accessible to the general public. In this sense, knowledge exchange is understood as a process in which science systematically incorporates society as a source of ideas and a driving force for top-level research. In the same way, the Berlin University Alliance endeavors to contribute towards regaining trust which has been lost in science by communicating and providing scientific knowledge to society. The Berlin University Alliance will approach non-academic partners in order to transcend the boundaries between science and industry, politics, culture and other areas of civil society.

**Science Communication** is one of the three central pillars of the Berlin University Alliance's knowledge exchange strategy; it seeks to promote participation in the research process, increase the credibility of research and facilitate free access to research results. To this end, the core *Science Communication* formats of the Berlin University Alliance are focusing on offering interactive events, using digital media and training researchers at all career levels in science communication. Researchers are now discovering ways of promoting discussions and debates and bringing top-level research ideas into the non-scientific, public sphere in a more effective manner, both through the specific offer of advanced training formats in science communication and through the documentation of approved communication methods.

## Funding objective

The experimental laboratories of science communication described herein do not intend to answer new research questions; the aim of the funding is rather to develop and use experimental formats of science communication that take into account the Berlin University Alliance's Science Communication objectives. For this reason, focus is being placed on the development and implementation of **new models and methods of science communication** and addressing hitherto less reached target groups, something which can be quite variable, depending on the discipline.

The Experimental Laboratories of Science Communication funding line facilitates the experimental implementation of new science communication formats. **Thematic, yet cross-institutional**, these communication formats go far beyond the usual press relations work carried out by the Berlin University Alliance or events such as straightforward panel discussions. The aim is therefore to put new models and methods of science communication into practice with a truly experimental approach in a **thematic, yet cross-institutional context**.

The call is open to thematic research projects that are already working in consortia at the Berlin universities and Charité. These consortia are allowed, but are not obliged, to receive financial support from the Berlin University Alliance. Within the context of this call, applying consortia are expected to collaborate in experimental laboratories on the topic of cross-institutional science communication. The subsequent networking of the thematic experimental laboratories chosen by the Berlin University Alliance will allow those taking part to learn from each other methodically and to test **new formats in other scientific fields** – both independently and in exchange with the other laboratories.

### Objectives of the two funding lines:

**A)** The **Fast Approach** aims to promote innovative forms of science communication which can be launched after a short preparation period and should therefore be implemented swiftly. As a result, it can be expected that those involved in the Fast Approach will enter into a direct, daily discourse with society and other people in the respective target group.

**B)** The **Long Road** aims to develop and promote long-term approaches and methods of science communication. Project groups supported through this funding line should therefore drive forward the development of formats while incorporating scientific communication expertise and collaborating with the steering committee of *Objectives 2*. Here, for example, long-term experimental laboratories and other laboratory configurations are created as physical or online spaces in which exchange formats, for instance, can be repeatedly tested over a longer period of time with the involvement of important societal figures. Another decisive factor in this long-term funding line is that these funded projects format experiences and best practice examples, making them available to other members of the Berlin University Alliance partners and other experimental laboratories in particular.

### Purpose of the funding

Funding is provided for experimental science communication laboratories that test new and innovative methods, issues, working directions and approaches.

The funded experimental laboratories thus serve not only to present research results but also to discuss research questions that either remain unanswered or can only be answered through an open discourse with society. This multidirectional process whereby scientific concepts are communicated to society, which itself in turn benefits from this societal participation, should be explicitly taken into account during the funding application process.

The funded projects are aimed at the **experimental development and testing of new formats**. The approaches to science communication can include previously known formats such as the following (but can also go beyond these mentioned below):

- Open spaces, living labs, workshops as experimental spaces which, by way of example, provide insights into the research process or for the presentation and discussion of research questions and results with relevant industry figures, as well as those from politics and society.
- exhibitions and installations in a museum and/or digital space
- Online offers: Websites, apps, computer games, knowledge portals, interactive idea platforms
- Events such as hackathons, workshops, webinars, online meetings, learning workshops, parliamentary breakfast, start-up lunches, etc.
- Theater productions and performances, pop-up science
- Games, puzzles, etc. developed in the experimental laboratory
- Formats of deliberative / collaborative democracy such as citizens' conferences, participation salons, etc.
- Interventions, rallies/walk shops in public/non-university spaces
- Publications: Newspaper formats, picture books, textbooks, graphic recordings of events, etc.

On top of this, links between the Alliance's various objectives are expressly desired, for example in relation to the topics of *Open Science* and *Open Access* as well as the Berlin University Alliance's Cross-Cutting Themes of *Diversity and Gender*, *Teaching and Learning* and *Internationalization*.

Additionally, to the thematic connection between experimental laboratories and *Research Forums*, we are encouraging transdisciplinary collaboration in experimental laboratories and **networking with industry partners and partners from culture, politics and civil society**, as well as with other figures that would be relevant to the project in question.

## Type, scope and amount of funding

### Term and volume of funding:

Funding line A: <i>Fast Approach</i>	Funding line B: <i>Long Road</i>
✓ Term: <b>12 months</b>	✓ Term: <b>3 years</b>
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The funds are earmarked as budgetary resources in the Berlin University Alliance member institutions.

In accordance with the budgetary requirements of the respective Alliance institution, applications can be made with regards to human resources for both academic staff and non-academic staff (both including student staff), for material resources as well as investments (excluding construction costs) and rental costs. Networking and publicity activities can also be funded.

Human resources can be requested for the development and implementation of the experimental laboratory, the proposed formats as well as for project coordination.

Material resources can also be allocated, such as for technical infrastructure (e.g. IT, equipment for audio/video recording, etc.), experimental laboratory equipment, room rentals for events, publication costs, supplies for the implementation of formats, fees, contracts for work, etc.

Applications must be accompanied by a budget plan which specifies how the funds will be distributed among the Alliance institutions involved in the application.

## Requirements / Eligibility to apply

Those who are eligible to apply:

- Professors
- PhD researchers
- Research assistants / PhD students

who are working on joint research projects for the Alliance institutions, i.e. *Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Technische Universität Berlin* or *Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin*.

**Other employees (SoMis) are also eligible to apply.**

However, the applying consortium **may not consist exclusively** of SoMis.

Furthermore, the **spokespersons** of the applying consortium must come from the research group, i.e. **professors and WiMis**.

The **applying group** must be **affiliated** with **at least two of the four partners**.

The **number of applicants** must be **at least 4** and is limited to 12 in line A – **Fast Approach**, whereas in line B – **Long Road** it must be **at least 6** and is limited to also to 12.

Industry partners and researchers from both Germany and abroad may participate as co-applicants but are not entitled to funding. This also applies to members of non-university research institutions in Berlin, provided that they do not have any affiliation with one of the Alliance institutions. They can then participate in the project exclusively as self-funded cooperation partners. In the event that third parties act as co-applicants, must be stated in their financial contribution in the application (this may also be their own organization). Other external cooperation partners may also be designated, and their financial contributions do not have to be disclosed in advance. However, orders may be issued externally under the budgetary procurement guidelines of the relevant Alliance entity.

Institutions that are affiliated to the Alliance institutions are not eligible to apply by themselves. Individuals with an affiliation to an Alliance institution, e.g. professors of an affiliated institution, are eligible to apply.

We welcome both transdisciplinary concepts involving non-academic figures and applications for approved projects within the framework of *Pre Call Social Cohesion* and *Exploration Projects*.

Applicants may not be involved in multiple applications.

Berlin University Alliance plans to support the application process with information and networking meetings that will connect interested research projects with experts in science communication and industry partners.

## Application process

Applications can be submitted in English via the following online portal: <https://portal.bihealth.de/Portal/SitePages/Home.aspx>.

### The funding application must include:

**1 a) Project description** (*one document ; Long Road : max. 10 pages ; Fast Approach max. 5 pages ; 12pt, please download template from webpage listed below*)

- Description of the experimental laboratory concept including the objectives being pursued and a substantiated selection of target groups, its incorporation of the Berlin University Alliance *Knowledge Exchange* strategy and the planned measures and formats
- Explanation of strategies and measures in relation to the themes of *Open Access* and *Open Science* as well as to Berlin University Alliance's cross-cutting themes of *Teaching and Learning*, *Diversity and Gender Equality* and *Internationalization*.
- Brief description of the joint project to which the experimental laboratory and the proposed exchange formats relate.
- Embedding the concept in the latest research on science communication in the respective subject area (within the framework of interdisciplinary projects in the relevant subject areas)
- Information on quality assurance including verification criteria.
- Presentation of the "*Lessons Learned*" communication strategy for other members of the Berlin University Alliance
- Output and sustainability strategies

**1 b) Work packages of the respective applicants** (*one document each, please download template from webpage listed below*)

- Explanation of the proposed project, including time schedule and work package/contribution per applicant (*please download template from webpage listed below*)

## 2. Other documents

- Short biography of the applicants including a list of important publications (max. 5) and conducted outreach projects (*please download template from webpage listed below*)
- Costs plan including explanation and justification - this should also include designation of the co-financing by participating institutions and third parties where appropriate. (*please download template from webpage listed below*)
- List of cooperation partners
- For each applicant indication sheets from every dean's office or equivalent establishment providing the basic facilities (rooms etc.)

## Selection process

The selection will be made on the basis of written applications submitted by a relevant group of experts with members from the Berlin University Alliance and five to six external reviewers

## Funding criteria

The assessment criteria are as follows:

- Compelling presentation of the concept behind the experimental laboratory for science communication, including an appropriate manner of addressing the selected target groups
- Suitability of the research topic behind the joint project, the objectives of the chosen funding line and the planned science communication formats
- Application and testing of innovative formats and potential for involving less reached target groups
- Contributions to Berlin University Alliance's Objectives (e.g. to the themes *Open Science* and *Open Access*) and cross-cutting themes of *Teaching and Learning*, *Diversity and Gender Equality*, *Internationalization*.
- Effectiveness of the concept for the Berlin University Alliance and added value for the research network(s) to which the experimental laboratory is linked
- Adequate inclusion of junior researchers
- Plausible integration into the institutional structures and explanation of the mechanisms for coordination with relevant stakeholders (Communication Department of the Berlin University Alliance, press offices of the participating institutions and other figures relevant for the project)

- Application of quality assurance measures and evaluation of formats including presentation of the “*Lessons Learned*” communication strategy for other members of the Berlin University Alliance
- Plausibility of the submitted proposal

## Contact

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