

**Federal Ministry
of Education and Research**

Announcement

**within the framework of the Federal Government's Strategy for the
Internationalization of Research and Academia**

Partnerships for sustainable solutions with Sub-Saharan Africa

Regulations governing the funding of research measures

of 08 January 2020

1 Aim and purpose of funding, legal basis

1.1 Aim and purpose of funding

The Africa Strategy of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) published in November 2018 pursues three main goals: (1) to further advance the internationalization of education, science and research, (2) to boost future prospects and sustainable development opportunities in Africa with the methods and instruments of education, science and research and (3) to add a new dimension to cooperation and ensure coherence in the cooperation with Africa by increasing focus on synergies. The strategic project funding granted under this funding measure is aimed in particular at supporting junior researchers (Africa Strategy action area 2), strengthening employability (action area 3) and ensuring that research collaboration contributes to implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (action area 4).

The framework for the funding measure is provided by the Federal Government's Strategy for the Internationalization of Education, Science and Research (Internationalization Strategy, specifically Objective 1 "Strengthening excellence through worldwide cooperation", Objective 3 "Internationalising vocational training and qualification", and Objective 4 "Working with emerging and developing countries to shape the global knowledge-based society"). Furthermore, the funding measure contributes to the successful implementation of the Africa Strategy of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and Agenda 2063 and the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024 of the African Union.

Funding will be provided for collaborative projects involving German universities, non-university research institutions and companies and partners from Sub-Saharan Africa which contribute to the implementation of the BMBF's Africa Strategy. The focus is on projects which suitably combine joint work on a research topic and its practical application (Module 1 "Research" of present call) with measures for joint postgraduate

training and continuing training (DAAD call “Partnerships for sustainable solutions with Sub-Saharan Africa 2021-2024, Module 2: Postgraduate training and continuing training”).

The aim is to achieve the following objectives:

- Utilization of the results of the relevant research module, e.g. joint publications, filed patents/property rights/inventions;
- Development of quality standards in research and training;
- Sustainable networking with political and industrial players and stakeholders from NGOs;
- Joint follow-up research projects based on BMBF-funded cooperation.

The present call is part of a joint funding activity with the DAAD (see DAAD call “Partnerships for sustainable solutions with Sub-Saharan Africa 2021-2024, Module 2: Postgraduate training and continuing training”), is funded by the BMBF and implemented by the DLR¹ Project Management Agency (DLR-PT) and the DAAD². DLR-PT will run Module 1 “Research” of the present call, and the DAAD will run Module 2 “Training and continuing training”, published in the DAAD call as “Partnerships for sustainable solutions with Sub-Saharan Africa 2021-2024, Module 2: Postgraduate training and continuing training”. Both modules form an integrated whole and will therefore be taken into account and evaluated together.

1.2 Legal basis

The Federal Government will award grants in accordance with these funding regulations, sections 23 and 44 of the Federal Budget Code (BHO) and the administrative regulations adopted thereunder as well as the BMBF's regulations governing applications for expenditure-based grants (AZA) and/or cost-based grants (AZK). There is no legal entitlement to a grant. The granting authority will decide freely after due assessment of the circumstances within the framework of the budget funds available.

Under these funding regulations, state aid will be granted on the basis of Article 25(2)(a) fundamental research, (b) industrial research (c) experimental development of the Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 Declaring Certain Categories of Aid Compatible with the Internal Market in Application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (General Block Exemption Regulation – GBER) (OJ L 187 of 26 June 2014, p. 1) in the version of the Regulation (EU) 2017/1084 of 14 June 2017 (OJ L 156 of 20 June 2017, p. 1). Funding is provided in accordance with the Common Provisions set out in Chapter I GBER, in particular taking account of the definitions given in Article 2 of the Regulation (cf. Annex with regard to the requirements of state aid legislation applying to these funding regulations).

¹ DLR - German Aerospace Center

² DAAD - German Academic Exchange Service

2 Object of funding

Funding is provided for joint research activities, capacity building and utilization measures (Module 1). A project outline is only considered valid upon submission of a second proposal for postgraduate training and continuing training (Module 2, see DAAD call “Partnerships for sustainable solutions with Sub-Saharan Africa 2021-2024, Module 2: Postgraduate training and continuing training”).

The goal is to link the two components research and education to drive the provision of training at Sub-Saharan African universities for graduates working on the research topics below. Ideally, research and teaching capacities will be established and increased over the long term and thus integrated immediately in graduate training and capacity-building in the African partner country. Cross-cutting issues linking the three subject areas should also be addressed. On account of their great practical relevance, the funded projects will verifiably lead to innovative solutions to problems in the specified fields. The projects are expected to set out strategies for the implementation of research findings in policy-making, society and industry.

Funding will be provided in the context of this funding measure for both individual and collaborative research projects which, in line with the funding purpose described above, involve international cooperation with partners from Sub-Saharan Africa and address one or more of the following priority areas:

- Circular economy (waste disposal/material recycling): needs-based development of methods
- Food processing: innovative methods for the sustainable processing of food to meet the demand for high-quality foodstuffs
- Logistics and transport: technological/digital innovations for logistics systems (e.g. procurement; production, distribution and sales logistics) and transport (smart transport networks etc.)

Projects which cover several thematic priorities of the call and pursue an integrated approach are expressly welcome.

The project descriptions must clearly describe the overall and thematic goals pursued by the project and define measurable indicators of success. The defined objectives must be realistic and convincingly set out. An examination of the suitability of these plans for achieving the objectives will form an integral part of the evaluation of the project outlines. Where appropriate in terms of thematic focus, the projects should aim to involve the World Bank’s Africa Centres of Excellence (ACE), the DAAD Centres of Excellence and other relevant existing initiatives/projects.

Furthermore, the projects should contribute to achieving the following cooperation objectives:

- International networking in the stated thematic priority areas
- Preparation of follow-up activities (e.g. application for funding under specialist BMBF programmes, Horizon 2020 and similar programmes)

- Promoting young researchers
- Capacity-building of scientific partners in Sub-Saharan Africa

Projects proposed for funding under this call should document their potential for longer-term sustainable cooperation with the Sub-Saharan African region.

3 Funding recipients

Proposals may be submitted by German research institutions, universities and commercial companies (particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, SMEs) which apply for funding under the present call on behalf of a German-African research network. Small and medium-sized enterprises or SMEs within the meaning of this call are companies that meet the requirements of the EU definition of SMEs (cf. Annex I of the GBER or the Commission Recommendation of 6 May 2003 concerning the definition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (notified under document number C(2003) 1422 (2003/361/EC)). The funding recipient will declare its classification according to Annex I of the GBER or the Commission's recommendation to the granting authority in its written application for funding. Applicants are required to have a plant or branch (company) or another entity to act as funding recipient (research institution, university) in Germany at the time of payment of the grant.

The African partners in the project consortium may receive additional federal funds under transfer contracts. In such a case, the German grantee receives the funding including the grant for the foreign partners. The German funding recipient will conclude a contract with the African partner concerning the transfer of their grants in accordance with No. 12 of the administrative regulations pertaining to Section 44 of the Federal Budget Code (BHO). In accordance with No. 13a.2 of the administrative regulations pertaining to Section 44 BHO, funding recipients are not permitted to transfer a grant that is calculated on the basis of eligible project-related costs.

Research institutions which receive basic funding from the Federal Government and/or the *Länder* can only be granted project funding supplementary to their institutional funding to cover additional project-related expenditure or costs under certain preconditions.

Concerning the conditions for when state aid is or is not deemed to be involved, and the extent to which funding can be provided without constituting aid, please consult the Commission communication concerning the Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation of 27 June 2014 (OJ C 198 of 27 June 2014 p.1 ff); in particular Section 2.

4 Special prerequisites for funding

Each project outline must be submitted by at least one eligible institution headquartered in Germany together with at least one institution based and doing research in a Sub-Saharan country. Partners from South Africa or from countries in North Africa can only

receive funding if at least one other partner from a country in Sub-Saharan Africa is involved. Project outlines involving several German partners and partners from several countries in Sub-Saharan Africa are expressly welcome.

The participating institutions will entrust a German and an African partner with the joint coordination of the measure. Together with their consortium partners, the project leaders will draft the application materials for the institution based in Germany. When submitting the application, all partners must submit a Letter of Intent (LoI) confirming their interest in participating in the project.

The German partners in a collaborative project will set out the terms of cooperation in a written agreement. In addition, it is recommended that a cooperation agreement is concluded between the German and African partners. Collaboration partners which are research institutions within the meaning of Article 2(83) GBER must ensure that no indirect aid flows to companies under the collaboration. The provisions of Section 2.2 of the Commission communication concerning the Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation (OJ C 198 of 27 June 2014, p. 1) must be observed. Before a funding decision on a collaborative project is taken, the cooperation partners must prove that they have reached a basic consensus on further criteria stipulated by the BMBF (cf. BMBF leaflet No. 0110).³

5 Type, scope and rates of funding

As a rule, funding will be provided as non-repayable project grants amounting to EUR 400,000 (Module 1) for a maximum period of up to 48 months.

Grants for commercial companies and for projects of research institutions which fall into the category of economic activities⁴ will be calculated on the basis of the eligible project-related costs. As a rule, up to 50% can be covered by government grants, taking state aid legislation into account (see annex). The BMBF's policy requires an appropriate own contribution of at least 50% towards the eligible costs incurred.

The basis for calculating the grants for higher education institutions, research and science institutions and similar establishments which do not fall into the category of economic activities is the eligible project-related expenditure (in the case of the Helmholtz centres (HZ) and the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft (FhG), eligible project-related costs), which can receive up to 100% coverage in individual cases, taking into account state aid legislation.

In the case of non-commercial research projects at higher education institutions and teaching hospitals, a flat-rate grant amounting to 20% of total expenditure will be awarded in addition to the eligible expenditure. It should be noted that the flat-rate grant is not included in the above-mentioned maximum funding amount.

³ https://foerderportal.bund.de/easy/easy_index.php?auswahl=easy_formulare, header BMBF under "Allgemeine Vordrucke und Vorlagen für Berichte".

⁴ For the definition of economic activity, see no. 17 of the R&D&I state aid Framework.

The calculation of the respective rate of funding must take account of the GBER (see Annex).

Funding under Module 1 is available for:

- a. Staff resources required for the project;
- b. Project-related equipment and funds for equipment (see guidelines for applicants) for the German and African partners, on a limited scale where detailed reasons must be given to establish the need;
- c. In duly substantiated cases, funding for contracts with third parties;
- d. Travel and stays by German and African researchers and experts;

- The following applies to the funding of travel by researchers and experts on the German side: The costs/expenditure for travel to and from the African project partner's location (if by air: economy class) will be covered including the necessary visas and the expenditure/costs for the stays as well as travel within Germany in accordance with the applicable rules of the institution or company;

- The following applies to the funding of travel and stays by African researchers and experts: Funding is provided for the expenditure/costs (if by air: economy class), including necessary visas, to and from the destination in the countries of the project partners in Germany and Africa. Stays in Germany will be funded at a fixed rate of EUR 104 per day or EUR 2300 per month and a per diem rate of EUR 77 provided for any additional days in a subsequent month. See the homepage of the International Bureau for the flat-rate daily allowances paid in the African countries (https://www.internationales-buero.de/media/content/Tagespauschalen_IB_neu.pdf). The day of arrival and day of departure are counted together as one day. Contributions to health insurance and, if applicable, other types of insurance are included in this allowance and must be paid by the foreign partner.

- e. Travel expenses for international events

In duly substantiated cases, funds can be granted for travel to international, project-relevant conferences held in the home country or abroad.

- f. Workshops

Workshops with existing partners or aimed at opening up new potential for cooperation may receive the following support in Germany and in the partner country:

Funding will be provided to cover various expenditure and/or costs related to the organization of workshops. Grants can be provided towards expenses such as accommodation of guests, transfers, provision of workshop documents, adequate hospitality and rental of premises (as necessary). The exact amount of such support depends on the size of the event and the number of foreign guests. In such cases, no per diem allowances (see d. above) will be provided.

As a rule, no funding will be provided to cover the cost of the participating institutions' normal basic equipment in whole or in part.

The determination of the respective eligible costs must take account of the GBER (see Annex).

The terms and conditions of Module 2 are contained in the DAAD call "Partnerships for sustainable solutions with Sub-Saharan Africa 2021-2024, Module 2: Postgraduate training and continuing training".

6 Other terms and conditions

The *Nebenbestimmungen für Zuwendungen auf Kostenbasis des Bundesministeriums für Bildung und Forschung an gewerbliche Unternehmen für Forschungs- und Entwicklungsvorhaben* (NKBF 2017) (Auxiliary Terms and Conditions for Funds Provided by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research to Commercial Companies for Research and Development Projects on a Cost Basis) will be part of the notification of award for grants on a cost basis.

Notification of award for grants on an expenditure basis will include the *Nebenbestimmungen für Zuwendungen auf Ausgabenbasis des Bundesministeriums für Bildung und Forschung zur Projektförderung* (NABF) (Auxiliary Terms and Conditions for Funds Provided by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research for the Promotion of Projects on an Expenditure Basis).

For the purpose of conducting progress reviews within the meaning of administrative regulation (VV) 11a pertaining to section 44 of the Federal Budget Code (BHO), funding recipients are required to provide the data necessary for the progress review to the BMBF or the institutions charged with such tasks without delay. The information will be used exclusively for the purposes of supporting research and any subsequent evaluation; it will be treated confidentially and published in anonymized form, making it impossible to trace it back to individual persons or organizations.

Funding recipients are expected to ensure open electronic access if they publish the results of the research project in a scientific journal. This can be done through publication in an electronic journal which is accessible to the public free of charge. If the results are initially published in a way which does not provide the public with free electronic access, the article must be made publicly available free of charge by electronic means following an embargo period where appropriate (secondary publication). Embargo periods for secondary publication must not exceed 12 months. The BMBF expressly welcomes secondary open access publication of scientific monographs resulting from the project.

7 Procedure

The present call is part of a joint funding activity with the DAAD. This is the BMBF announcement for Module 1 “Research”. In parallel, the DAAD will announce a call for Module 2 “Postgraduate training and continuing training” (see DAAD call “Partnerships for sustainable solutions with Sub-Saharan Africa 2021-2024, Module 2: Postgraduate training and continuing training”). The two modules are components of ONE overall project and will be taken into account and evaluated on that basis. Only projects which receive a positive evaluation of both modules are eligible for funding.

7.1 Involvement of a project management organization, application documents, other documents and use of the electronic application system

The BMBF has currently entrusted the following project management agency with implementing the funding measure (Module 1):

DLR Project Management Agency

European and International Cooperation

Heinrich-Konen-Straße 1

53227 Bonn

Web: <http://www.internationales-buero.de>

Contact persons:

For subject-related information please contact:

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The contact person for Module 2 is named in the DAAD call “Partnerships for sustainable solutions with Sub-Saharan Africa 2021-2024, Module 2: Postgraduate training and continuing training”.

Any relevant changes will be announced in the *Bundesanzeiger* (Federal Gazette) or in another suitable form.

Application forms, guidelines, leaflets, information and auxiliary terms and conditions are available online at

https://foerderportal.bund.de/easy/easy_index.php?auswahl=easy_formulare

or can be obtained directly from the above-mentioned project management organization.

The DAAD call for Module 2 is here: <https://www.daad.de/projektfoerderung>.

Applicants must use the 'PT-Outline' electronic tool for drafting project outlines (https://ptoutline.eu/app/ssa_2020) and the 'easy-Online' electronic application system for drafting formal proposals (<https://foerderportal.bund.de/easyonline>).

7.2 Two-phase application procedure

The application procedure consists of two phases.

7.2.1 Submission and selection of project outlines

In the first phase, project proposals for Module 1 are to be submitted to the project management organization by 2 April 2020 at the latest, in electronic form using the PT-Outline tool (see above).

In the case of research collaborations, the project outlines must be submitted in consultation with the proposed collaboration coordinator.

The deadline for submission is not a cut-off deadline. However, it may not be possible to consider project outlines received after the above date.

Module 1 of the project outline should be no longer than six pages (Arial 11; including attachments).

The outline should include the following aspects of the project:

- I. Information on the project coordination and partners

- II. General outline of overall project: Interaction of the two modules 'Research' (Module 1) and 'Postgraduate training and continuing training' (Module 2; see DAAD call "Partnerships for sustainable solutions with Sub-Saharan Africa 2021-2024, Module 2: Postgraduate training and continuing training")
- III. Description of the scientific objective of the project (Module 1 only)
- IV. Information on the state of the art (including the applicant's previous work, experience and findings)
- V. Assessment of potential for exploitation and application/Involvement of third parties
- VI. Estimated expenditure/costs (prospective funding requirement)

A legal claim to funding cannot be derived from the submission of a project outline.

The outline must show clearly how all the partners will participate in the project's tasks and results. The protection of intellectual property also plays an important role in this context. In order to facilitate coordination with the African partners, the project outline may be submitted in English. In this case, the outline must be accompanied by a one-page summary in German.

A description of the overall project must be filed using both portals (PT-Outline and DAAD application portal), namely Module 1 as per the present announcement and Module 2 as per the DAAD call. Project outlines are only considered complete when all project details have been entered and uploaded on both portals.

The project outlines received for Module 1 will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

- I. Fulfilment of the formal prerequisites for funding
- II. Compliance with the funding aims of the call stated in section 1 above and the object of funding stated in section 2 above
- III. Scientific criteria
 - a. Scientific quality and originality of the project
 - b. Compliance with BMBF funding objectives – Benefit for the respective national, regional or Pan-African development strategies
 - c. Expertise of project leader(s) and participating German and African partners
 - d. Relevance to political, societal and economic development (regional and cross-regional)
 - e. Scientific benefits and prospects for the exploitation of the expected results

IV. Criteria concerning international cooperation

- a. Initiation/development of new partnerships
- b. Experience of the project leader(s) in international cooperation
- c. Creation of lasting bilateral/international partnerships
- d. Quality of the cooperation and added value for the partner institutions
- e. Support for young researchers

V. Plausibility and feasibility of the project (financing; milestones; time frame)

Suitable project outlines will be selected for funding on the basis of the above criteria and evaluation. Applicants will be informed in writing of the result of the selection process.

Applicants have no claim to the return of their project outlines and of any other documents which they may have submitted in this phase of the procedure.

7.2.2 Submission of formal proposals and decision-making procedure

In the second phase of the procedure, the applicants whose project outlines for Module 1 have been successful will be invited to submit formal proposals. An application for funding is only considered complete if at least the requirements of Article 6(2) GBER (cf. Annex to these funding regulations) are fulfilled.

In the case of collaborative projects, the funding applications must be submitted in consultation with the proposed collaboration coordinator.

The 'easy-Online' electronic application system must be used for drafting formal applications (taking into account the requirements set out in the Annex) (<https://foerderportal.bund.de/easyonline>).

The structure of formal applications is specified and prescribed in the regulations governing grants on the basis of expenditure or cost and applicable for proposals as of 19 April 2018 (<https://foerderportal.bund.de/>, 'Formularschrank', click on 'BMBF'). Guidelines, leaflets, further information and auxiliary terms and conditions are also available online at the 'Formularschrank'.

It is imperative for applicants to include a project description in German in their formal proposals. The description should be no longer than twelve pages (Arial 11; including attachments). If the project description is submitted in English, applicants must attach a one-page summary in German.

The DAAD portal (<https://portal.daad.de/portal.daad.de>) must be used for drafting formal applications for Module 2.

Formal proposals must include:

- I. A detailed project description (see 7.2.1)
- II. Cooperation objectives
- III. Planned activities for implementing the goals of the funding measure mentioned in Section 1
- IV. Added value of international cooperation
 - a. Contributions of the international partners, access to international resources
 - b. Relevance of the project to the cooperation-policy objectives of the funding measure
 - c. Cooperation experience, previous collaborations
- V. Detailed work plan for the cooperation
 - a. Work steps of the cooperation project, milestone plan (achievements, deadlines)
 - b. Project-based resources planning
- VI. Detailed information about the financing of the project
 - a. Appropriateness and need for the requested amount of funding
 - b. Guarantee of overall financing during the entire project period
- VII. Utilization plan
 - a. Lasting consolidation of the cooperation with the African partners
 - b. Plans for cooperation in follow-up projects
 - c. Plans for expansion of cooperation to other institutions and networks
- VIII. Reason(s) for funding requirement

The work and financing schedules will be mainly evaluated in accordance with the criteria listed under 7.1.2.

The formal proposals must observe and fulfil any thematic or funding requirements and/or the evaluators' recommendations for the implementation of the project.

A funding decision will be taken after final consideration on the basis of the stated criteria and evaluation.

The BMBF reserves the right to seek advice from experts before making the final decision on funding.

A claim to funding cannot be derived from the submission of a formal proposal.

7.3 Relevant regulations:

The approval, payment and accounting for the funds as well as the proof and examination of the proper use and, if necessary, the revocation of the award and the reclaiming of the funds awarded are governed by sections 48 to 49a of the Administrative Procedure Act (VwVfG), sections 23 and 44 of the Federal Budget Code (BHO) and the related general administrative regulations unless deviation is allowed from the general administrative regulations under the present funding regulations. The *Bundesrechnungshof* is entitled to carry out audits in accordance with Section 91 of the Federal Budget Code (BHO).

8 Validity

These funding regulations will be valid until the day of expiry of their legal basis for state aid, the GBER, to which a six-month adaptation period is added, that is, until 30 June 2021. If the period of the GBER is extended without relevant amendments concerning state aid rules, the duration of these funding regulations will be extended accordingly, though not beyond 31 December 2026. If the GBER is not extended but replaced by a new GBER or if relevant amendments are made to the content of the currently applicable GBER, follow-up funding regulations will be adopted which will comply with the then applicable exemption provisions and remain effective at least until 31 December 2026.

Bonn,

Federal Ministry

of Education and Research

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(Name des Unterschriftsberechtigten eintragen)

Annex: Requirements of state aid legislation

Annex

The following requirements of state aid legislation apply to these funding regulations:

1 General prerequisites for funding

The aid is only lawful if all the prerequisites of Chapter I GBER and the prerequisites in Chapter III applicable to the designated category of state aid are fulfilled in line with Article 3 GBER and the national courts are obliged to order the repayment of unlawful state aid in accordance with the rulings of the European courts.

In applying for funding under these funding regulations, applicants commit themselves to actively cooperate in complying with the requirements of state aid legislation. Thus, applicants must, upon application or subsequently, provide information and documentation requested by the funding provider as evidence of credit worthiness and conformity with state aid requirements. Furthermore, applicants must cooperate within any procedures of or at the European Commission and comply with all requirements of the Commission.

A prerequisite for the granting of state aid under an aid scheme exempted by the GBER is that this has an incentive effect within the meaning of Article 6 GBER. State aid is considered to have an incentive effect if the beneficiary has submitted a written application for the aid in the Member State concerned before work on the project or activity starts. The application for aid must include at least the following information: name and size of the undertaking; description of the project including its start and end dates; location of the project; the costs of the project; type of aid (e.g. grant, loan, guarantee, repayable advance payment or capital injection) and level of the public financing needed for the project.

State aid on the basis of the GBER will not be granted if there are grounds for exclusion under Article 1(2 to 5) GBER; in particular this applies if the undertaking is subject to an outstanding recovery order following a previous Commission decision declaring an aid illegal and incompatible with the internal market or the undertaking is an “undertaking in difficulty” as defined in Article 2(18) GBER.

European legislation requires that every individual aid exceeding EUR 500 000 must be published on a special website (cf. Article 9 GBER).

In individual cases, the funding received may be monitored by the Commission in line with Article 12 GBER.

State aid is granted under these funding regulations in the form of grants in accordance with Article 5(1 and 2) GBER.

The GBER restricts the granting of state aid for economic activities in the following areas to the corresponding maximum amounts stated below:

- EUR 40 million per undertaking, per project which mostly involves fundamental research (Article 4(1)(i)(i) GBER); that is the case where more than half of the eligible costs of the project are incurred through activities which fall within the category of fundamental research;
- EUR 20 million per undertaking, per project which mostly involves industrial research (Article 4(1)(i)(ii) GBER); that is the case where more than half of the eligible costs of the project are incurred through activities which fall within the category of industrial research or within the categories of industrial research and fundamental research taken together;
- EUR 15 million per undertaking, per project which mostly involves experimental development (Article 4(1)(i)(iii) GBER); that is the case where more than half of the eligible costs of the project are incurred through activities which fall within the category of experimental development.

The rules concerning cumulation set out in Article 8 GBER must be observed when determining whether these maximum amounts ('notification thresholds') are respected. The maximum amounts may not be circumvented by artificially splitting up projects with related content. Partial approval up to the notification threshold for an aid is not permitted.

2 Scope/rates of funding, cumulation

The following provisions of the GBER apply to these funding regulations, in particular concerning eligible costs and state aid intensities. The following eligible costs and intensities set out the overall thresholds within which eligible costs and rates of funding for projects involving economic activity can be granted.

The aided part of the research project must fall completely within one or more of the following categories:

- Fundamental research
- Industrial research

- Experimental development

(cf. Article 25(2) GBER; definitions according to Article 2(84 et seqq.) GBER).

For the purpose of classifying research work as fundamental research, industrial research, and experimental development, please refer to the relevant information in no. 75 and footnote no. 2 of the R&D&I state aid Framework.

The eligible costs of each research and development project must be allocated to the relevant research and development categories.

Eligible costs are: Eligible costs in accordance with Article 25(3) GBER are:

- Staff costs: for researchers, technicians and other supporting staff to the extent employed on the project (Article 25(3)(a) GBER);
- Costs of instruments and equipment to the extent and for the period used for the project. Where such instruments and equipment are not used for their full life for the project, only the depreciation costs corresponding to the life of the project, as calculated on the basis of generally accepted accounting principles are considered as eligible (Article 25(3)(b) GBER);
- Costs of contractual research, knowledge and patents bought or licensed from outside sources at arm's length conditions, as well as costs of consultancy and equivalent services used exclusively for the project (Article 25(3)(d) GBER);
- Additional overheads and other operating expenses, including costs of materials, supplies and similar products, incurred directly as a result of the project (Article 25(3)(e) GBER).

Pursuant to Article 25(5) GBER, the aid intensity for each beneficiary must not exceed the following rates:

- 100% of the eligible costs for fundamental research (Article 25(5)(a) GBER)
- 50% of the eligible costs for industrial research (Article 25(5)(b) GBER)
- 25% of the eligible costs for experimental development (Article 25(5)(c) GBER)

The aid intensities for industrial research and experimental development may be increased up to a maximum 80% of the costs eligible for state aid as follows if the prerequisites stated in Article 25(6) are fulfilled:

- by 10 percentage points for medium-sized enterprises
- by 20 percentage points for small enterprises
- by 15 percentage points if one of the following conditions is fulfilled:
 - The project involves effective collaboration
 - between undertakings among which at least one is an SME, or is carried out in at least two EU Member States, or in a Member State and in a Contracting Party of the EEA Agreement, and no single undertaking bears more than 70% of the eligible costs, or
 - between an undertaking and one or more research and knowledge-dissemination organisations, where the latter bear at least 10% of the eligible costs and have the right to publish their own research results;
 - The results of the project are widely disseminated through conferences, publication, open access repositories, or free or open source software.

Article 7(1) GBER requires that the eligible costs be supported by documentary evidence which must be clear, specific and contemporary.

For the purposes of calculating aid intensity and eligible costs, all figures used must be taken before any deduction of tax or other charge.

For the purposes of complying with the maximum permissible aid intensity, the rules concerning cumulation set out in Article 8 GBER must be observed:

The cumulation of several aid measures for the same eligible costs/expenditure is only allowed in exceptional cases as specified as follows:

Where European Union funding centrally managed by the institutions, agencies, joint undertakings or other bodies of the Union, which is not directly or indirectly under the control of Member States and therefore does not constitute state aid, is combined with state aid (which includes resources from the European Structural and Investment Funds), only the latter may be considered for determining whether notification thresholds and maximum aid intensities or maximum aid amounts are respected, provided that the total amount of public funding granted in relation to the same eligible costs (including centrally managed Union funds) does not exceed the most favourable funding rate laid down in the applicable rules of European Union law.

Aid with identifiable eligible costs exempted by the GBER may be cumulated with: (a) any other state aid, as long as those measures concern different identifiable eligible costs; (b) any other state aid, in relation to the same eligible costs, partly or fully overlapping, only if such cumulation does not result in exceeding the highest aid intensity or aid amount applicable to this aid under the GBER.

Aid without identifiable eligible costs may be cumulated with any other state aid without identifiable eligible costs, up to the highest relevant total financing threshold fixed in the specific circumstances of each case by the GBER or a decision adopted by the Commission.

State aid exempted under the GBER may not be cumulated with any de minimis aid in respect of the same eligible costs if such cumulation would result in an aid intensity or aid amount exceeding those laid down in Chapter III of the GBER.