Objective

The “Research Projects” funding scheme supports excellent scientific and innovative projects at the Cluster of Excellence “The Politics of Inequality” that meet the highest international standards. We particularly encourage the development of ambitious high-risk high-gain projects and ideas.

The cluster offers funding for projects that address one or several of the following research areas:

- Research Area “Perceptions”,
- Research Area “Participation” and
- Research Area “Policies”.

Cluster projects typically consist of 2-4 Principal Investigators (PIs) from different disciplinary backgrounds and/or research fields (plus doctoral, post-doctoral researchers, and research assistants).

Given the Cluster’s current project portfolio, proposals in the research area of participation and projects that strengthen cross-country comparative research will be particularly welcome. We also invite proposals in the Cluster’s envisioned future domains of inequality, namely health and environmental inequality.

Applications for additional modules for existing cluster projects (from the previous calls) will also be accepted.

Guidelines for Application

Letter of Intent

Interested researchers must send a short letter of intent announcing their intention to apply for a proposal. This letter should include the name of the applicants, a short abstract, and the expected financial volume of the project.

This letter should be sent as soon as possible, but no later than 7th of January 2022 to application.inequality@uni-konstanz.de

Eligibility

All researchers of the University of Konstanz with a doctoral degree, in particular in one of the disciplines associated with the Cluster of Excellence The Politics of Inequality (political science, sociology, economics, linguistics, psychology, law, and education studies), are eligible to submit a project proposal.

The Cluster encourages the formation of mid-scale project teams (usually 2-4 people) from different disciplinary backgrounds or research fields. The project team may also invite external cooperation partners as PIs in the team.

Application language

English

Structure of the proposal

The cluster proposal must be comprised of two sections:
Part A: Basic Information and key figures for the project team and the proposed research project. Please fill in the provided application form (Form A).

Part B: Summary of the research project (not exceeding 5 pages in Form B, not including Appendix and References) as well as a detailed budget plan (template is provided). This outline should be a concrete and succinct summary of the project in its entirety (i.e. not a rough sketch or idea). Please use the template (Form B) to write a summary of the research project.

Format
Arial font, size 10, 3 cm margin right, 2 cm margins left/bottom, 2.5 cm margin top, 1.15 line spacing.

Funding Period
The maximum duration of the project is linked to the funding period of the Cluster, until 31st of December 2025. Hence, projects may start already in June 2022, but no later than the 1st of October 2022.

Submission
The application (Form A and B) and the budget plan (separate Budget Form Excel file) must be submitted using the online form on the Cluster website.

Proposals must be submitted no later than the 4th of February 2022.

All potential applicants can attend an application workshop via Zoom on the 20th of January 2022.

Selection Criteria
According to Cluster Bylaws, proposals need to meet the following criteria:

- The clear connection between the project and the Cluster’s research focus
- Fit with research areas and empirical domains of the cluster
- Proven interdisciplinarity, demonstrated either through persons involved and/or through the content of the proposal
- General quality and novelty of the project idea (the novelty of Research Question, Theory, Research Design, Adequacy of Methods)
- Feasibility of the project
- Adequate relationship between the proposed budget and content of the project

Funding Guidelines
Cluster projects are supported with regard to staff, materials and equipment, travel funds, and other project-related costs such as for surveys, field or archival work, and other forms of data collection.

Project funding does not cover general spending on IT or other infrastructure (the Cluster provides office space for researchers working on the project as well as IT equipment), except in the case this is required for specific project-related needs.

Furthermore, the project budget cannot include funding for:
- replacements or temporary substitutes for PI's (who are encouraged to apply to the Cluster’s funding scheme for internal senior fellows instead),
- long-term visiting fellowships for external researchers (who are encouraged to apply for the Cluster’s funding scheme for external senior fellows instead); however, project budgets may
include funding for short-term visitors and external cooperation partners (max. of 2,500 Euro per month for accommodation and travel)

- overhead funds

Please plan your budgets based on real offers, in particular, if you plan to conduct surveys. For the personal expenditures the Budget Form we provided you with the call will calculate the costs automatically.

*Selection Procedure*

The selection of projects for funding consists of two stages.

In the first stage, the Board will screen the submitted project applications regarding their fit with the above-mentioned criteria. It chooses the projects to be invited for the second stage (meeting on the 14th of February 2022).

The second stage is a workshop, where shortlisted projects are presented for review. The workshop will take place on the 7th and 8th of March 2022.

Project proposals will be presented and discussed in detail at the workshop, building on the submitted summaries.

*Selection Committee*

The Board will invite external reviewers to attend the review workshop. The members of the Clusters’ Board and the external scholars will constitute the selection panel. At the end of the workshop, the Board will convene to consolidate the individual reviews of the projects and decide upon the project funding.

The final list of projects to be funded will then have to be approved by the Rectorate for projects larger than 125,000 EUR.

*Results*

There are three possible outcomes of the process:

- funding is granted as applied for
- funding is granted under certain conditions („unter Auflagen“)
- funding is not granted

The outcome along with a summary of the discussions in the selection board will be provided to the project applicants as soon as possible after the workshop.

*Reconsideration/ Rebuttal*

Following the workshop, there will be no further opportunity for rebuttals or reconsiderations. Resubmission of rejected proposals to future project calls is possible.

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