

## Call for Applications

# Europe and Global Challenges

### Deadline for Research Groups

15 September 2011

### Information

**Compagnia di San Paolo**  
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## 1. 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 Italy, **Riksbankens Jubileumsfond** in Sweden, and **VolkswagenStiftung** in Germany, launched the research programme “Europe and Global Challenges” in 2009. The three foundations are hereby issuing a second call for applications within this programme.

The research groups are free to define their respective research topics and specific research questions within the broad theme of “Global Challenges”, i.e. issues that are commonly shared in large parts of the world. The disciplinary focus within each research group should, however, be on the social sciences and/or the humanities. Inputs from other disciplines, e.g. science and medicine, might be needed to address some of the issues under examination, and can in that case be included in the application.

One of the major aims of the programme is to stimulate collaboration between researchers based in Europe and researchers from other parts of the world on a pressing global issue. Each research group must therefore include at least two research environments from different geographical regions (e.g. Europe and Latin America), of which at least one must be based in Europe. Preference will be given to proposals with a substantial inter-regional collaboration, which include contributions from various disciplines and which are innovative in covering 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 towards different formations and ways of organizing research. It is estimated that each successful research group can receive up to Euro 1,000,000 in total for up to three years of research. Funds can be provided to pay for non-personnel expenditure

(including travel costs) as well as for staff costs.

## 2. The Review Process

Note that this is a call for pre-proposals where the applicants are asked to present a short description of the proposed research activities. A review panel will then consider the pre-proposals in fall 2011 and recommend a short list of groups which will be asked to develop their proposals further. The 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.

The deadline for full proposals will be in spring 2012. The review panel will then choose the most promising groups and invite them to present their projects in person at a "hearing". Based on that review process the three foundations will make their final decisions in fall 2012.

## 3. Submission and Processing of Applications

All applications will be dealt with jointly by the three foundations. The **VolkswagenStiftung** will be processing the applications via its electronic application system.

Applications must be submitted in English. All grants to successful applicants can only be paid via a research institution or university. Applicants who are not members of universities or well-known research institutions should supply details on the legal status, statutes, trustees and boards, charitable/non-profit status, budgeting, and auditing of the respective institution.

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

## 4. Checklist

Please, submit your pre-proposal using the VolkswagenStiftung's electronic application system. The following data and documents (pdf-files) are requested:

- Full name and office address of the applicant, intended grant administrator (one institution), indication of whether this or a similar application has been submitted to any other funding institution
- Brief informative title of the project and total budget
- Summary of the proposal (up to 1500 char.)
- Description of the proposed research project (up to 5 pages or 17000 char.):
  - Aim of the project
  - Research questions to be dealt with
  - Significance for the research field
  - Policy relevance
  - Theoretical base and methodological approach
  - Participants and their tasks

### Electronic Application

Please use the Foundation's electronic application system in the internet.

[portal.volkswagenstiftung.de](http://portal.volkswagenstiftung.de)

Please remember to print the cover sheet provided, sign it and send it to us. Instructions on the electronic application system are provided online and on the following page.

- Organization of group and expected synergy
- Work plan
  
- Budget in Euro (up to 1 page) including:
  - Research personnel
  - Other personnel
  - Travel and accommodation
  - Consumables
  - Acquisition of data and literature

**This call for applications refers only to pre-proposals. Closing date is 15 September 2011.**

## Electronic Application Made Easy – Instructions

The Volkswagen Foundation accepts applications via its electronic application system [portal.volkswagenstiftung.de](http://portal.volkswagenstiftung.de). Please note that only registered users of the electronic application system have access to application data, can submit applications and receive corresponding e-mail messages. Hence, it is required for applicants with project responsibility to register him/herself or to ask a co-worker to register in his/her name with the proper e-mail address.

Please follow the six steps to compile and submit your application:

- If you are a new user please **register** at the application portal with your name, your e-mail address and your own password. When registering you will be asked about your work address details. Subsequently, you must **activate** your account using the link sent by e-mail. If you already have a user account you can immediately **login** using your e-mail address and password.
- The function **new application** starts the selection of the corresponding funding initiative (here: Free-electron laser science, the application type (here: Fellowship application or symposium, the grant-receiving institution, and the language.
- Now – and later on – you can interrupt the compilation of your application at any time. As required you can logout and login again.
- Please check whether the pre-filled data on the applicant are correct. Furthermore, we need application data (e. g. project title, duration) and the budget. The budget shall be uploaded as pdf-file under the heading “Other Enclosures”. You are asked to enter all information in the respective forms. Please note that the **save** button does not transfer any data to the Foundation. You are able to revise all data until the submission of your application. Please keep in mind to read and **accept** the legal statement. If you wish you can generate a PDF of the filled-in forms for verification and for your filing.
- Under enclosures you are able to **upload files** as required according to the checklist on the preceding page in the „Information for Applicants“. Only PDF files are accepted. Before submission all files can be exchanged for new versions.
- Once your application is complete you can **submit** it electronically to the Foundation. Additionally, a PDF generation of a **cover sheet** for print-out is required. Add your **signature** and send it by postal mail.

In the course of processing your application the Foundation might request additional information. The function **new supplement** is used to upload and submit the respective files.

### Technical Support

Please contact  
[support@volkswagenstiftung.de](mailto:support@volkswagenstiftung.de)  
for any technical questions when  
using the electronic application  
system