



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR **FUTURE VIABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY**

Call for

INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATIONS

Deadline for the third round of applications:

APRIL 30TH 2017

“Crossing boundaries! Start-Up Funding for Interdisciplinary and Collaborative Projects in Future Viability and Sustainability” – following this motto the center for a Sustainable University (KNU) at the Universität Hamburg is offering funding to support researchers preparing and developing inter- and transdisciplinary research applications for submission to external funding bodies (for example DFG, EU, BMBF or foundations).

OVERVIEW OF CALL FOR “INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATIONS”

Objective	Interdisciplinary collaboration leading to the development of an external funding application in a topic related to sustainability and/or future viability.
Target Group	Researchers at the Universität Hamburg from at least three discrete academic fields.
Funding Amount	A maximum of €150,000 (basic funding) per project for a maximum of 18 months . Further interim funding (max. €50,000) is available under the provision that the application for external funding has been submitted to a funding body.
Application	An application/proposal of max. 10 pages in accordance with the guidelines provided.
Selection Procedure	Two-step procedure: 1. Preliminary selection through expert evaluation, 2. Presentation
Deadline	April 30th 2017 . Please submit applications via email to knu@uni-hamburg.de .

The Universität Hamburg's **strategic concept** “*University for a Sustainable Future*” firmly posits the idea of sustainability at the center of the University's plans for the future. In establishing the Center for a Sustainable University (KNU) in 2011, the University laid the institutional foundations for a sustainable future. The purpose of the KNU is to contribute to the Universität Hamburg's transformation into a sustainable university and to assist in cementing its future viability in research, teaching, education, and university governance. The KNU thus provides

start-up funding for interdisciplinary collaborative projects related to future viability and sustainability.

PURPOSE OF CALL

With this new line of funding—Cross Boundaries! Start-Up Funding for Interdisciplinary and Collaborative Projects in Sustainability and Future Viability—the KNU can for the very first time offer a funding scheme that paves the way for **cooperation between researchers working in different academic fields**. For it is precisely those central issues relating to our society, its sustainability and its future viability, that do not obediently respect the boundaries of the individual academic disciplines; they demand instead interdisciplinary responses. Yet there is still a lack of effective funding incentives for researchers to embark on **large-scale collaborative projects capable of tackling sustainability in all its complexity** and clearing the way for new perspectives through joint research efforts.

The KNU offers financial support for researchers to design and develop **realizable funding proposals** for large-scale collaborative projects in the area of sustainability. To be eligible for funding, projects must cross disciplinary boundaries and muster various different disciplines for the purpose of jointly pursuing research questions. Such proposals can, for example, foresee the establishment of research areas and research groups (clusters), collaborative research centers (SFBs), research training groups (GRKs), or junior research groups. Relevant funding bodies include the European Union (EU), the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), the German Research Foundation (DFG), other state funding bodies (federal and state ministries), as well as large, private (national and international) charitable foundations.

FUNDING AIM AND AMOUNT

The aim of providing funding is to enable researchers to **develop proposals for external funding**.

The **base rate of funding** per project is

(max) **€ 150,000**

over a period of max 18 months. Provided the funding application has been submitted to one of the relevant external funding bodies within the 18-month period, **interim funding** worth a maximum of **€50,000** for a further six months may be granted.

REQUIREMENTS FOR FUNDING

Projects teams from all academic disciplines may apply for start-up funding, provided they take an **interdisciplinary and collaborative approach** to tackling fundamental questions and issues in sustainability and future viability. In order to best encourage creative potential among researchers, the program does not apply any *thematic* restrictions. Rather the basic requirement for funding is *structural*, i.e., the project must comprise researchers from a **minimum of three** of the following five **academic areas**:

- humanities and behavioral sciences / human sciences
- economics, law, and social sciences
- life sciences
- natural sciences
- engineering¹

¹ As engineering is not represented at the Universität Hamburg, researchers are able to enter into (cost-neutral) collaboration with researchers at other Hamburg universities.

Only **researchers at the Universität Hamburg** may apply. Applicants must employ an interdisciplinary and collaborative approach to investigating questions and issues in sustainability and apply this approach in a jointly prepared external funding application for a relevant large-scale project alliance.

Researchers working at other Hamburg higher education institutions (for example, those in engineering, which is not represented at the Universität Hamburg but which is vital to sustainability research) may come on board as collaborative partners without funding. **It is expected that the participating faculties contribute appropriately according to their individual means.**

Applications for staffing resources presuppose that research will be bound to the institution for the term of the project stipulated in the application and that those persons/staff in the application are/is legally eligible to work at the Universität Hamburg for the duration of the project.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The research proposal must contain information necessary for academic review and should be set out as follows:

1. Title, topic, and aims of the interdisciplinary project
2. Relationship to sustainability and future viability
3. Interdisciplinary orientation and academic fields / institutions involved
4. Current state of research (on a national/international level)
5. Intended spectrum of methods
6. Position of project in sustainability discourse and expected contribution of project to the advancement of sustainability
7. Project schedule (including details of task allocation)
8. Outline of proposal for external funding application (including details of chosen funding body)
9. Cost calculation for requested start-up funding, taking into account a contributions from faculties, chairs, researchers etc.
10. CVs and publication lists for main researchers contributing to the project

We expect researchers to jointly offer thematically related courses at the University that actively involve students in the project research.

The proposal (PDF format, max 10 pages, accompanied by CVs and publication lists) and the application form should be sent to the Center for a Sustainable University (KNU) (Mittelweg 177, 20148 Hamburg) **by April 30th 2017**. Please submit proposals via email to knu@uni-hamburg.de with the **reference “Application for Föli 1”**.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

The selection procedure is a **two-stage process**. Applications are initially **shortlisted** on the basis of the written documents submitted. Researchers involved in the shortlisted applications are then invited to **personally present** their proposals.

Applications are reviewed in both stages by an interdisciplinary and, where necessary, international selection committee of external researchers. **Funding decisions** are reached by the Presidium of the Universität Hamburg, based on recommendations made by the KNU.

Should you require further information or have any queries, please contact the KNU at knu@uni-hamburg.de or call us during our **office hours for funding matters** on **Mondays 2–4 pm** at +49 40 42838-5580.