

CLIENT II – International Partnerships for Sustainable Innovations

Funding measure within the Framework Programme “Research for Sustainable Development (FONA³)” of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)

*Note: The **Amending Announcement of 02.05.2017 (BAnz AT 15.05.2017 B2)** replaces the announcement of regulations governing funding of “CLIENT II – International Partnerships for Sustainable Innovations” within the framework programme on “Research for Sustainable Development” – FONA³ of 19^oDecember 2015 (BAnz AT 30.12.2015 B6).*

Summary

The target of funding under the “CLIENT II – International Partnerships for Sustainable Innovations” programme is to support international partnerships in the areas of climate, environment and energy. The programme plays a significant role in the implementation of the “Research for Sustainable Development (FONA³)” framework programme. The “CLIENT II” funding programme of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) supports the international research and development projects of commercial companies, higher education institutions, non-university research institutions, as well as municipal and Land institutions and relevant associations headquartered in Germany. The foreign project partners from selected countries (see Annex 1) must contribute their own financing for their project module or source the necessary funding in their country of origin.

CLIENT II puts a spotlight on **demand-oriented research and development collaborations with select newly industrializing and developing countries** with interesting markets for German suppliers of technology. The envisaged projects are to give an effective impetus to reduce environmental pollution in the partner countries, to use natural resources both wisely and economically, to supply safe, clean and affordable energy to all segments of the population, and to make advances in global climate protection and in the adaptation to climate change and natural hazards. This may be accomplished by increasing resource and energy efficiency, through sustainable land use, or by reducing harmful emissions to the air, water and soil. The topics investigated in the project should be important enough for the outcome to have a significant impact at local level and demonstrate relevance to similar conditions in other regions.

Funding is provided to collaborative research and development (R&D) projects which are carried out jointly by science, industry and other practitioners. The projects must also provide evidence of their links to stakeholders and activities in the partner country which can commercialize the project results. International interdisciplinary/transdisciplinary cooperation is expected. The strong involvement of companies and a clear focus on commercialization of results is aimed in particular at strengthening the economic competitiveness of Germany and the associated partner countries.

The “CLIENT II” funding measure covers sustainable technologies and services in the following **focal areas**:

- Resource efficiency and sustainable resource technologies
- Water management
- Climate protection / energy efficiency
- Adaptation to climate change
- Land management
- Sustainable energy systems
- Natural hazards

Interdisciplinary collaborative projects which focus on several of the focal areas above and their interfaces are expressly welcome.

Details concerning the content of the focal areas and the targeted priority countries are contained in Annex 1. Funding for projects from other countries is possible in exceptional cases.

Funding is provided to **R&D collaborative projects** which run for a period of three years (as a rule). Preceding **definition projects** with a running time of up to six months which are aimed at preparing subsequent R&D projects are also eligible for funding. Definition projects can be user-oriented needs and market analyses, research into country-specific conditions, or the recruitment of suitable partners, to name but a few.

*CLIENT II summary for foreign-language announcements in partner countries
related to the amending announcement (BAnz AT 15.05.2017 B2)*

In a first step, project proposals for international R&D projects should be submitted by the German project coordinator to the BMBF's project management agency. The following deadlines apply:

30 June 2016 (completed)

30 November 2017

31 May 2019

Project proposals are to be developed jointly with project partners and relevant stakeholders from the respective partner country or region. Evaluation of the project outlines received will be carried out by external experts. In a second step, the collaboration proposals competitively selected will be requested to submit a **formal application for R&D projects**. A decision will be taken pending a final evaluation and possibly another external evaluation.

Prerequisites for project funding include:

- Relevance and a demonstrated urgent need for R&D in the partner country (e.g. by superordinate programmes at ministerial and/or regional level),
- Proof of adequate own financing by cooperation partners in the respective partner countries,
- Involvement of at least one, ideally several, institutions in the partner country: (preferably research institutions as well as companies with independent research and development activities) and at least one stakeholder (e.g. public authority) crucial to project implementation, or other institutions in the partner country which may include those which do not carry out research activities, in the interest of sustainable opportunities for commercialization.
- Signature of a written agreement between all collaboration partners concerning rights and duties within the bilateral project, competences, terms and conditions of the collaboration, how to handle data, publication procedures, etc. (to be signed six months after project launch, at the latest).

The **application procedure for definition projects** is single-tiered. Applications will be evaluated according to an established catalogue of criteria. If the evaluation produces a positive result, definition projects will be funded pending a final review. Submission of an R&D project outline is expected at the conclusion of the definition project.

The selected definition projects and R&D collaborations will be supported by further **networking and transfer activities**. These include the establishment of **regional project offices which coordinate activities across disciplines** to effectively network projects and their environments and thereby strengthen the implementation and innovative power of the projects. **Subject-specific supportive research measures** will evaluate the outcome, approaches, and transferability with a view to ensuring both as widescale commercialization of results as possible and the greatest possible effectiveness of the funding activity itself.

Interested applicants should contact the BMBF's project management agency:

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More information about the funding measure is available on the www.fona.de/client_II webpage or here:
www.bmbf.de/foerderungen/bekanntmachung-1355.html.

Annex 1

Topic descriptions and respective priority countries under the BMBF's "CLIENT II" funding measure:

- **Resource efficiency and sustainable resource technologies:** Securing the supply of raw materials of strategic economic importance as laid out in the BMBF's 2012 research and development programme "Raw materials of strategic economic importance for high-tech made in Germany"; innovations to increase raw materials productivity; sustainable raw materials extraction and management; increasing resource efficiency (raw materials, material); substitution of scarce raw materials; completion of raw materials cycles and recycling; sustainable raw materials extraction and directly related aspects of sustainable land/water management;
 - ↳ **South America (in particular Brazil, Chile, Peru), Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Vietnam**
- **Water management:**
 - ↳ **Cooperation with China:** Both sides agreed in 2016 to refocus STC in China under the country's megawater programme for the treatment and containment of water pollution. Bilateral research projects will focus on the two priority regions of the megawater programme Jing-Jin-Li (= Beijing metropolitan area) and Lake Tai. Priority areas of cooperation are: technologies and strategies for water pollution control; implementation of the "sponge cities" concept; efficient waste water treatment and reuse as well as sewage sludge recycling; industrial effluent treatment for selected key industries; drinking water supply and safety.
 - ↳ **Cooperation with Vietnam:** Future STC with Vietnam in the area of water management will focus on only a few regions, namely in the Mekong Region in the country's south where activities are in progress for the long-term development of the delta area, in particular with regard to the following aspects: land subsidence; salinization of soils and aquifers; management of ground- and surface water and run-off; erosion and coastal protection; integrated planning approaches and socioeconomic aspects. Practical problem-solving approaches – preferably with a demonstration character – must complement the spectrum of existing projects or of R&D measures which are in the preparation stage. The focus in northern Vietnam is expected to be on the Red River (greater Hanoi in particular). The key areas of focus here are management and consumption of water resources, drinking water supply and safety, and industrial and agriculture water use.
 - ↳ **Cooperation with Kazakhstan:** R&D outline proposals in the area of water management will now be accepted only until the second deadline date. Therefore, no further definition projects will be considered for the second deadline. The outline proposals should focus on the area of urban water management.
- **Climate protection / Energy efficiency:** Mitigation of climate gas emissions (CO₂ and other greenhouse gases), e.g. by increasing energy efficiency in commercial enterprises, along value chains and in the use of products; energy-efficient infrastructures; climate-friendly energy and cross-cutting technologies and services;
 - ↳ **Southern and Western Africa** (the countries involved in the SASSCAL and WASCAL Service Centres), **Central Asia** (including the Central Asian regions of China and Russia) as well as **Vietnam, Jordan and Morocco**
- **Adaptation to climate change:** Technologies and innovative infrastructures to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience to the impact of climate change. Relevant fields include: coastal protection, land use and the management of hazardous weather incidents, and so-called 'climate services' associated with the practical use of climate data and information;
 - ↳ **Southern and Western Africa** (the countries involved in the SASSCAL and WASCAL Service Centres), **Central Asia** (including the Central Asian regions of China and Russia) as well as **Vietnam, Jordan and Morocco**
- **Land management:** sustainable land management, also in the context of the use and production of biotic resources and the conservation of ecosystem services; remediation of contaminated and heavily degraded soil; brownfields redevelopment technologies; recycling of agricultural waste; urban agriculture which takes account of pollutants and lack of space;
 - ↳ **Southern and Western Africa** (the countries involved in the SASSCAL and WASCAL Service Centres), **Central Asia** (including the Central Asian regions of China and Russia) as well as **Vietnam, Jordan and Morocco**

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- **Sustainable energy systems**: Identification of the relevant demand for research and knowledge in the energy sector which pertains to all societal groups in the respective priority countries (e.g. through scoping processes); assessment of the energy system (including specific strengths, challenges, general conditions, systemic evaluation of the local energy system from generation to consumption); development of options for the sustainable design of a local energy system (including proposals for concrete R&D collaborations in the area of energy). Projects which address several or all of the above aspects are welcome.
 - ↳ **Africa** (in particular the countries of North Africa and countries involved in the SASSCAL and WASCAL Service Centres), **China**, and the **Islamic Republic of Iran**
- **Natural hazards**: Multi-risk analyses taking in account cascade effects in natural and anthropogenic systems; risk assessment of urban areas including remote sensing technology and geological engineering expertise; vulnerability assessment of regions prone to earthquakes, to flooding and mass wasting / landslides;
 - ↳ **Andes region, Western and Central Asia**

Disclaimer: Please note that in case of questions which may arise as a result of translation the German text of the announcement, published in the Federal Gazette (*Bundesanzeiger*) on 15 May 2017, is authoritative.