



Deutsche Stiftung Friedensforschung

*german foundation for peace research*

**Principles**  
**of the German Foundation for Peace Research**  
**for the Funding of Scientific Projects**

**A. Preamble**

The German Foundation for Peace Research (DSF) funds scientific research on key issues related to social conflict constellations and the challenge to secure and build peace. In particular, it supports peace and conflict research in Germany.

The currently globalizing world is marked by a continuing fragility of order systems on an international level and by various interstate and inner-societal conflict constellations. In some cases these constellations have already led to acute violent conflicts and in other cases they bear a considerable risk of escalation into violence. Therefore, the research funded by the Foundation shall generate research-based knowledge about the conditions contributing to the escalation of social conflicts into violence and about the possibilities and means to prevent such dynamics with peaceful measures. Furthermore, funded research is expected to analyze possible approaches to constructive conflict resolution and forms of sustainable management dealing with the consequences of violent conflict. With regard to these objectives it is necessary to examine the political, economic and legal structures influencing conflict constellations on various interstate and inner-societal levels as well as the social, cultural and environmental processes and interrelationships. With a view to peace policies and international strategies to contain violent conflict research on the dynamics of arms control and disarmament and on societal capacities to peacebuilding is also of major importance.

The Foundation accepts proposals with a conceptual focus on basic research as well as on applied research. They can be anchored in diverse academic disciplines dealing with questions of peace and conflict studies. The Foundation also welcomes projects with trans-disciplinary or interdisciplinary research concepts. In addition, it seeks to foster the dialogue between the scientific, political and the public sphere. The relation of projects – but also their critical distance – to political practice is therefore of importance for the funding policy.

The Foundation Council has defined the following framework and criteria for its funding policy. They are considered to be fundamental for research proposals as well as for the review process and the funding decisions:

## B. Types of funded projects

The Foundation offers funding for the following types of projects:

### 1. Research projects

- Explorative studies (pilot studies) with a total funding amount up to 20.000 € and period of funding up to 12 months
- Standard projects with a total funding amount up to 100.000 € and a period of funding up to 24 months
- Post-doc research projects with a total funding amount up to 150.000 € and a period of funding up to 30 months

### 2. Scientific conferences

- Scientific workshops with a total funding amount up to 10.000 €
- International scientific conferences with a total funding amount up to 20.000 €

### 3. Networking and knowledge transfer projects

- Networking projects with a total funding amount up to 10.000 €
- Knowledge transfer projects with a total funding amount up to 5.000 €

### 4. Exceptional projects

- Projects with a special significance for Peace and Conflict Studies (only on demand)

The Foundation provides financial resources for **personnel, travel expenses and material costs** that are required for the realization of **research projects, conferences and networking and knowledge transfer projects**. Special guidelines are available explaining how to structure the project proposals. They inform on the expected scope and structure of proposals as well as on the terms of funding. Furthermore, the office team is ready to support the applicants.

The foundation offers the opportunity to revise rejected research proposals and submit them for a second evaluation procedure.

## C. Dates of application

Research proposals can only be submitted on **1st November** and **2nd May** of each year.

Proposals for the funding of conferences, networking and knowledge transfer projects are not bound to fixed dates of application. However, they have to be submitted at least six months before the planned date or start of the project.

## D. Peer review process and funding criteria

### 1. Procedure of the review process

All research proposals and proposals for scientific conferences are subjected to an external peer review process.

- Research projects are evaluated by at least two reviewers. In case of differing funding recommendations a third evaluation statement will be obtained.
- Research proposals that are submitted by proposers, whose institutions are represented in the Executive Board or the Foundation Council, are subjected to an obligatory third evaluation. The Foundation requests in this case the expertise of an active or former reviewer of the German Research Foundation (DFG).
- Scientific conferences are generally evaluated by one reviewer.
- Networking projects, whose amount of funding exceeds 5.000 €, are also evaluated by one reviewer. Networking and knowledge transfer projects with total funding amounts less than 5000 € are evaluated case-by-case, dependent on the expertise required. Repeatedly funded projects can be subjected to an ex post evaluation.

The Foundation seeks to make its funding decisions as transparent as possible. For this reason, it provides the anonymised review statements to the proposers either in full length or in extracts.

### 2. Funding and evaluation criteria

The Foundation funds exclusively scientific projects that convincingly explain what their innovative contribution to the field of peace and conflict research will be. Relevant proposals can be anchored in different academic disciplines or based on trans-disciplinary or interdisciplinary research concepts. The Foundation accepts

proposals with a conceptual focus on basic research as well as on applied research.

The following evaluation criteria are of fundamental importance for the proposal review. Their positive evaluation is essential for the funding of a project:

- Scientific relevance and originality:  
Probability of new research findings, originality of the – eventually interdisciplinary oriented – research questions and/or the methodical approach, compatibility to current (international) strands of research
- Quality of the proposal and the research design:  
Theoretical and methodological reason of the research conception, suitability of research methods and techniques, methodological and/or empirical validity of the expected research results, conclusiveness of work and time scheduling
- Qualification of the proposer:  
Professional expertise (according to the stage of career), international visibility, relevant preliminary research (if available)
- Significance for research-based knowledge transfers:  
Appropriate (normative) generation of knowledge, significance for current (international) discourses on peace policies

In case, all fundamental criteria are evaluated positively, the following additional funding criteria may become important for the funding decision of the Foundation Board:

- Generation of factual knowledge for practitioners:  
Transfer potential of research findings into peace policies, cooperation (also in terms of action research) with NGOs, Civil Peace Services, national and international peacebuilding organisations, development aid organisations, local peace actors; compilation of materials for practitioners, for example policy papers, or for educational institutions
- National and international scientific cooperation:  
Project-related cooperation with national and international (also non-university) research facilities and/or with regional institutions located in the area/country of research
- Involvement and promotion of junior researchers

The proportionality of the financial resources requested will also be checked in the peer review process; where necessary the budget plan will be adjusted.

## **E. Review**

The principles for the funding of scientific projects will be reviewed periodically.

Osnabrueck, June 2013