Grand Challenge: Pandemic Research

Short-term special call

Possibility to collect data on Social Cohesion and Global Health during the Corona Pandemic

The spread of the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 aka the corona pandemic is not only a great challenge from a medical point of view. It presents all societies worldwide with completely new challenges. Pandemic research beyond the field of medicine has not yet been established. There is now a short window of opportunity to obtain data on the individual, social, cultural, economic, political, legal, etc. consequences of a pandemic or the contact and curfew, closures and transformations that followed. This data can help to react more quickly and effectively, and possibly also more socially acceptable, in the event of future epidemics.

In order not to let this unique opportunity pass by, the Berlin University Alliance offers researchers from the four Alliance partners short-term assistance in collecting data that can only be collected immediately.

Eligibility to apply

The call is aimed at professors and postdoctoral researchers from the institutions of the Berlin University Alliance – Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität Berlin, Technische Universität Berlin and Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin. Each researcher may only participate in one project proposal.

Funding

Up to 100,000 Euro per application. A condition for funding a project is that the funds must be paid out before the end of this year (2020).

Submission of application

Applications can be submitted in German or English until May 5, 2020 under https://portal.bihealth.de/Portal/SitePages/Home.aspx.

Prerequisite is that at least two alliance institutions participate in the application.

The applications must include an informal justification:

- why data collection is only possible now and therefore requires an urgent application
- how the survey can contribute to a better analysis of the current pandemic (also interdisciplinary) and how the data should be further processed in the long term
- what financial support is needed and how it should be used in the short term
- which researchers are involved in data collection and in what role
Applications must be submitted through the online portal (https://portal.bihealth.de/Portal/SitePages/Home.aspx).

For further information please contact Dr. Nicola Isendahl or Veronique Riedel through grand-challenges@berlin-university-alliance.de.

The Steering Committee 1 will discuss the applications. A final decision on which projects can be funded is expected by end of May 2020.

The Berlin University Alliance is planning to network the applicants among each other so that the Grand Challenge of a pandemic can be met with united forces. Colleagues who are not submitting a rush application, but would like to be integrated into the networking activities, should also contact the scientific coordinators at grand-challenges@berlin-university-alliance.de.