



Federal Ministry  
of Education  
and Research

# **BMBF Programmes for Czech-German Bilateral and European Cooperation**

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## German strategic framework elements

### German coalition agreement (27.11.2013):

- **Completion of European research area (ERA)**, strengthening of the European innovation system, **cooperation in research with Central Eastern and South Eastern European Countries** as central political aims, integrated in →

### Strategy of the Federal Government on the European Research Area (ERA) (16.07.2014)

- addressing the 6 **ERA Priorities**
  - 1) More effective national research systems
  - 2) Optimal transnational cooperation and competition
  - 3) An open labour market for researchers
  - 4) Gender equality and gender mainstreaming in research
  - 5) Optimal circulation, access to and transfer of scientific knowledge
  - 6) Strengthening the international dimension of the European Research Area
- measures for “strengthening the performance of the European Research Area as a whole **with a focus on EU-13 States**” (incl. accession candidates)



## Strategic framework conditions for Research and Innovation in Germany (cont.)

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### Strategy for the Internationalization of Science and Research:

- Aiming at strengthening **Germany's role in the global knowledge society** (strategy of the Federal Government, launched in 2008)
- Accompanied by BMBF's "International Cooperation" **Action Plan** (AP). AP addresses five central conclusions which are the key to Germany's future success: Germany must be
  - more mobile
  - more effective
  - more efficient
  - more focused
  - more aware of its position as a science hub



# Calls for proposals implementing the “German ERA-Strategy” and fostering the cooperation

	“Joint Research Structures”	“CESEER*”	“Danube call ”
Objectives	Exploiting knowledge and innovation potential in less research intensive European regions	Preparation of applications for R&D projects in Horizon2020 et al.	Encourage stronger links between the leading innovative regions upstream and the developing regions downstream
Target Region	Those CESEEC that have become EU members since 2004 plus WBC without BIH, KOS	Those CESEEC that have become EU members since 2004 plus GRC plus WBC	Danube Region
Status	Launched on December 16, 2014, open until March 20, 2015	Launched on November 3, 2014, permanently open until December 2017	1st call was closed on April 30, 2013, 31 projects are currently ongoing. 2 <sup>nd</sup> call to be launched in mid April 2015

\* CESEER: Central, Eastern and South Eastern European Region

# BMBF call: “Establishment and Expansion of Joint Research Structures in Europe”

## The call

- ... facilitates access to knowledge and innovation potential in less research intensive European regions.
- ... fosters connectivity of target countries to the European Research Area.
- ... contributes to closing the innovation divide within Europe.

## Conditions:

- Establishment of symmetrical institute-to-institute cooperation
- Establishing sustainable cooperation with regions that offer structures and capacities for excellent research and innovation
- Consortium requirement: partner from CESEE-countries, potential proven by regional Smart Specialisation Strategy
- Duration of projects: 2 years; with option for third year
- Funding from German side: up to 120,000 € per project
- Possibility for co-funding by partner country

## BMBF call: “International Cooperation in Education and Research - The Central, Eastern and South Eastern European Region”

### The call

- ... fosters internationalisation and Europe-orientation in education and research in German institutions.
- ... strengthens competitiveness.
- ... fosters the development of cooperation on European level.

### Conditions:

- Nomination of a concrete call (esp. Horizon 2020, Interreg), preparation and submission (obligatory!) of a proposal
- Participation requirement: one partner from CESEE-countries, at least one additional European country
- Duration of projects: 2 years (1+1); phase 1 for network building, phase 2 for preparing follow-up proposals (e.g. in Horizon 2020)
- Funding from German side: up to 80,000 € per project

## BMBF call: “Ideas competition for the establishment and development of innovative R&D networks with partners in the Danube Countries”

### The call

... aims at establishing networks with excellent researchers in the Danube Countries in order to develop joint cooperation strategies and projects.

... encourages stronger links between leading innovative regions upstream and developing regions downstream.

... fosters international links along the entire value chain in order to support technology transfer and innovation.

### Conditions:

- Network requirement: at least one partner from upstream and downstream countries each
- Duration of projects: 2 years (1+1); phase 1 for network building, phase 2 for preparing follow-up proposals (e.g. in Horizon 2020)
- Funding from German side: up to 80,000 € per project

## Contribution of the Danube Region call 2013 to the goals of the EU-Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)

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### Results for 2013 call so far:

- High demand from German institutions (67 proposals)
- Good balance between upstream / downstream countries' participation (70 / 59 partners are involved in 31 approved projects)
- Specific support for EUSDR pillars
  - 1 – mobility/energy: 5 projects
  - 2 – climate/environment: 9 projects
  - 3 – ICT/key technologies/health: 17 projects
- Promising mid-term observations
  - Project phase 1 with high networking effects
  - High demand for phase 2 applications (->preparation of joint H2020-proposals)



## Participation possibilities for Danube Countries:

- All Danube countries were invited to co-fund
- Four countries have decided to co-fund: Hungary, Slovakia (upstream) and Moldova, Serbia (downstream)
- Agreements on joint funding will be laid down in MoUs and/or in Implementation Agreements
- Evaluation process based on lead-agency-principle / agreement on selected jointly funded projects in a joint selection meeting (opt.)
- Projects are expected to start at beginning of 2016



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**Thank you for your attention!**

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