

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)

(Status: 11.12.2018)

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 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 Circular Economy
- 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).

CLIENT II summary

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 (completed)

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).

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

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More information about the funding measure is available on the webpage: www.fona.de/client_II

Annex 1

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

- **Resource efficiency and Circular Economy:** 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 and Indonesia**
- **Water management:** 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.
 - ↳ **China**
- **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 Mongolia and the Central Asian regions of China and Russia) as well as **Indonesia, 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 Mongolia and the Central Asian regions of China and Russia) as well as **Indonesia, 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 Mongolia and the Central Asian regions of China and Russia) as well as **Indonesia, Vietnam, Jordan and Morocco**
- **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 and member countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)) and **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** as well as **South East Asia**