



Call for proposals for the iDiv 'Seed Fund' 2024-2025

20 July 2023

1. Aims and scope:

As part of the phase-out funding by the DFG during the transition to permanence, iDiv will support a number of seed projects (for the period 2024-2025) in preparation for the transition. Seed projects are projects that leverage the funding received from iDiv **to attract additional funding from third parties** (such as the European Commission or the DFG) with a focus on **coordinated research programs** (rather than individual research grants). Typical grant preparation activities that can be supported by seed funding include workshops and coordination activities. In addition, projects that significantly increase the **visibility of iDiv** can also be supported by the 'Seed Fund'.

The seed fund will support proposals that contribute to iDiv's strategic missions:

1. Provide a scientific basis for the sustainable use of our planet's biodiversity
2. Develop a new research field: 'Integrative Biodiversity Research'

Any type of expense can be applied for, provided that it complies with the DFG's funding rules; there is no target budget for an individual initiative. Funding decisions will be based on overall merit of the proposals according to the criteria listed below. As funds are limited, we expect competition to be very high.

2. Eligibility: All full iDiv members

3. Procedure & deadlines:

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis starting **July 20, 2023 through March 31, 2025** (conditional on the availability of funds). The executive committee (including the Speakerboard and SSB Chair team) will evaluate the proposals (or appoint a committee if necessary) and make recommendations to the Scientific Strategy Board (SSB). The final funding decision will be taken in the SSB.

Proposals should be submitted to the Scientific Networks unit (flexpool@idiv.de) as a single PDF-file. If you need advice on the scientific goals of the proposal, feel free to contact Henrique Pereira (hperreira@idiv.de), questions related to formal requirements of potential proposals can be directed to Jan Schnitzler (jan.schnitzler@idiv.de).

4. Evaluation Criteria:

- 1) Support iDiv's research program and missions ((1) Provide a scientific basis for the sustainable use of our planet's biodiversity. (2) Develop a new research field: 'Integrative Biodiversity Research'),
- 2) Scientific quality,
- 3) Potential leverage effect of the proposal or impact on visibility,
- 4) Contribute to strengthening the integration among iDiv members and added value in Halle, Jena or Leipzig, including improving gender balance and diversity.