

**The Flexpool mechanism in iDiv's 3rd funding phase:
Flexpool Support Fund for iDiv associate members - Call 2024**

16 January 2024

Purpose

The **Flexpool** mechanism of iDiv is designed to promote integrative activities among scientists within the iDiv consortium. The **Flexpool Support Fund** pursues these goals and is aimed specifically at associate members.

Eligibility

All **iDiv associate members** are eligible to apply to the Flexpool Support Fund. This fund supports projects with a clear relation to the iDiv missions. It is possible and desirable to have one or more co-PIs from the iDiv community (both with or without a specific member status) to strengthen integration, especially when funding is used to initiate new projects.

To fairly distribute iDiv funds, applicants can only submit one proposal as main PI in a calendar year; however, individuals can be co-PI or collaborator on more than one proposal.

Funding

Through the Flexpool Support Fund, costs eligible within the DFG funding regulations can be requested; the total costs for a given project should not exceed **7.500 EUR**. Strong justifications for higher costs will be considered.

The budget of the approved projects must be spent by **30 September 2024** and only expenses that are billed in the approval period are accountable (funds cannot be transferred beyond the end of the funding period).

Examples for potential funding items are

- Student or research assistants (Hiwis)
Please note: If you plan to hire a HiWi at the **University of Leipzig**, please contact us, before submitting your proposal, as UL has established minimum contract durations.
- Workshops
- Travel costs (e.g., conferences/ workshops/ meetings with project partners/ lab visits)
- Consumables (e.g., lab expenses)
- Small equipment
- Contract of services

Submission of proposals

Proposals are limited to two pages, please use the 'Flexpool Support Fund' template for submission. It is available for download on the Flexpool website: [Flexpool webpage](#).

Proposals shall be submitted as a single PDF-file to the Scientific Networks Team (flexpool@idiv.de) no later than **12 February 2024** (11:59 am CET, i.e. midday!).

Evaluation

Submitted proposals will be evaluated by an evaluation committee appointed by the Flexpool Board.

A grading system will be used to ensure the transparency of the decision-making process based on the criteria

- i) scientific quality (50%)
- ii) integration within iDiv (30%)
- iii) feasibility (20%)

In addition to these three selection criteria, across proposals and relative to the number of submitted proposals, we aim to strengthen:

- Support member participation within iDiv (activity in the past and in the future, e.g. participation in boards / committees, internal reviews, teaching etc.)
- Balance in iDiv's partner institutions (based on the main PI)
- Balance in gender (based on the main PI).

The above criteria will be scored from 5 (excellent) to 1 (insufficient) by each member of the evaluation committee. Afterwards, a summary ranking will be prepared and discussed in the evaluation committee. A funding recommendation will be submitted to the Science Strategy Board (SSB) where the final decision will be taken. Decisions will be communicated in a written form. Funding may begin immediately after positive evaluation of the proposal and approval in the SSB.

For further information, please visit the [Flexpool webpage](#) or contact the Scientific Networks Team (flexpool@idiv.de).