

The Flexible Pool mechanism in iDiv's second funding phase: Fast-track call for 'Taproot' projects

21 December 2017

One of the iDiv's missions is to develop a new research field – 'Integrative Biodiversity Research'. The **Flexible Pool** mechanism of iDiv has been explicitly designed to promote integrative activities among the entire iDiv consortium.

Within this call, we invite fast-track proposals for seed money for **integrative research projects** contributing to iDiv's 'Taproot' initiative. Specifically, we are looking for projects that need to strengthen their integrative potential and enhance the recognition and added value of their synergies. Projects can, but need not, fit into an existing or already defined 'Taproot', but must show potential to develop integration and depth in a research area core to the central iDiv mission.

Consumable funds are offered to foster any type of interaction that is needed to develop the project further (e.g., kick-off and regular meetings, seminars, workshops, lab visits, etc.), and are expected not to exceed 10k€; strong justifications for higher costs will be considered. Personnel costs and catering services are not included in this call.

All iDiv scientists, including full and associate members, post- and doctoral researchers, are eligible to apply.

Proposals must provide in depth description of the initiative and how it fits into ongoing or future 'Taproot' project and contain i) the main goals and objectives and their contribution to a developing or existing research 'Taproot', ii) advantages and expected added value into the iDiv research programme and 'Integrative Biodiversity Research', iii) strategic plan for a long-term sustainability, iv) risk assessment of not successfully turning into a bigger integrative research project, v) financial plan for applied resources. For questions or advice on how to develop a successful proposal, feel free to contact Dr. Christa Genz (christa.genz@idiv.de) and / or Prof. Jonathan Chase (jonathan.chase@idiv.de).

Proposals should not be longer than 2 pages and need to use the Verdana 9 pt font and 1.2 line spacing for the text; for the formatting of tables other font size and line spacing are acceptable. The 'Taproot' projects template must be used for submission. Please contact christa.genz@idiv.de to receive it.

Submitted proposals will be evaluated by a committee composed out of 1 full iDiv member, 1 core professor, 1 director and 1 guest. There is no formal deadline for proposals and they may be submitted at any time. The first evaluation of submitted proposals will be conducted in February 2018. A grading system will be used to ensure the transparency of the decision-making process; the final decisions will be made based on the ranking; decisions will be communicated in a written form.

Proposals need to be submitted as a single PDF-file to the Member Relations Officer at iDiv, Dr. Christa Genz (christa.genz@idiv.de) before the evaluation process starts. Funding can begin immediately after positive evaluation of the proposal.