



TUNISIAN – GERMAN

**CALL FOR BILATERAL S&T COOPERATION
INVOLVING SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY**

(TUNGER 2+2 projects) 2020

PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT

1) Funding purpose

The aim is establish long-term research and development collaboration between German and Tunisian participants in science and industry. The funding will be provided jointly by the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) for the German project partners and by the Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MoHESR) for the Tunisian project partners.

Under this call for proposals, funding can be provided for joint projects involving at least one German and one Tunisian research institution or university as well as one German and one Tunisian enterprise. It is expected that the funded projects will produce insights and exploitable research results leading to new technologies, products and/or services. The benefits for Germany and Tunisia should be clearly identifiable.

Joint innovation oriented projects would be highly welcomed. Innovation oriented projects are joint R&D projects designed to lead to innovative products, services or processes of significant economic and/or societal value (TRL 4-7).

This call for proposals offsets out to support joint research projects in the area of application-oriented research and development in the following fields:

- a. Water Management
- b. Farming Systems
- c. Agro-Food Value Chain
- b. Digitalization
- c. Green economy / circular economy
- d. **And Other topics**

The funding is intended to enable the foundations to be laid for a lasting R&D innovation partnership.

Cross-sectoral bilateral mobility between the project partners –the exchange of Tunisian and German researchers and innovation staff to German and/or Tunisian enterprises – is highly welcomed in order to further strengthening the bilateral partnerships between the German and the Tunisian

institutions in research and industry. The aim of this cross-sectoral mobility is to strengthen cooperation between German and Tunisian academia and non-academic institutions. The transfer of knowledge is intended to promote science and the development of innovations and to help to transform creative ideas into innovative products, services and processes. Support will be provided for the exchanges of both Early Stage Researchers (ESR) and Experienced Researchers (ER). The person concerned must have been employed by the sending organization for at least six months before the first posting and be active in the field of research and development (R&D). The assignments to the partners can last up to three months. After the end of the posting period, the staff will return to the original institution in order to apply and extend the knowledge gained.

In addition, funding can be provided for the implementation of a bilateral Innovation Forum. The Innovation Forum aims to develop a concrete long-term partnership between the German and Tunisian project partners as well as a broad transnational network with further German research and education institutions and innovative companies as well as with corresponding institutions in Tunisia to initiate future research cooperation or business relations. The partners should jointly determine their position in the (national/international) competition and develop an implementation strategy for future cooperation and common innovation goals. The main output of the Innovation Forum will be a jointly elaborated strategy for the development of new products, applications and procedures for a sector, sector or technology-specific cooperation between science, business, politics and society across the entire innovation chain as well as a corresponding action plan. Accordingly, the term "Innovation Forum" describes a networking, dialogue and agenda setting process following the general triple- (or quadruple-) helix format containing a series of public or closed events that will be implemented over 2-3 years.

As a rule, an Innovation Forum should include several smaller events which can be held in Tunisia or in Germany and one final public event to be conducted in Tunisia.

Eligible activities (for further specifications see sec. 4) for the implementation of the Innovation Forum are in particular the promotion of (i) work and services for the further design, organization and evaluation of the supported project, (ii) business travel, (iii) business and communications expenditures, (iv) the organization of events in Germany and in Tunisia; (v) accompanying public relations work. In case of overriding importance for the entire Innovation Forum, the acquisition or development of cross-company market and potential studies can be supported in individual cases.

Only projects are whose project outline shows that the envisaged network will be open to non-discriminatory participation and participation by other interested actors from business, science, politics and public administration will be selected for funding.

2) Submission and selection of project descriptions

The application procedure consists of two phases:

- 1) In the first phase, jointly elaborated project outlines are to be submitted. The project outlines received will be evaluated.
- 2) In the second phase of the procedure, applicant institutions whose project outlines have been reviewed positively will be invited to present a formal application for funding.

Submission of draft project descriptions:

In the first phase, jointly elaborated project outlines are to be submitted in English by using the online project outline tool "PT-Outline" ([LINK](#) to the website will be provided in the official joint announcement).

Deadline for the draft project outlines will be **March 18th 2020**.

3) Funding recipients

On the German side:

German universities, research institutions and enterprises (particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)) are eligible for funding.¹

On the Tunisian side:

The Tunisian public higher education and scientific research institutions are eligible for funding.

4) Prerequisites for funding

It is a prerequisite that projects include the participation of at least one German research institution/university and one Tunisian public research institution/university as well as at least one German and one Tunisian enterprise.

Interested institutions/organisations in Germany and Tunisia can use the web-based PT-Partnering platform to express their interest in project cooperation and for setting up a consortium for application. Link to the Partnering website: <https://partnering.pt-dlr.de/tunger20>

The German and the Tunisian project partner must submit the jointly formulated proposal.

¹ In accordance with the EU's definition of SMEs: The category of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is made up of enterprises which employ fewer than 250 employees and which have an annual turnover not exceeding € 50 million, and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding € 43 million. Within this category the following definitions apply: small enterprises are defined as enterprises which employ fewer than 50 persons and whose annual turnover and/or annual balance sheet total does not exceed € 10 million. A micro-enterprise is defined as an enterprise which employs fewer than 10 persons and whose annual turnover and/or annual balance sheet total does not exceed € 2 million. In general, most SMEs are autonomous since they are either completely independent or have one or more minority partnerships (each less than 25 %) with other enterprises, which have one or more minority stakes (see 2.3.1, p. 16). If that holding rises to no more than 50 %, the relationship is deemed to be between partner enterprises (see 2.3.2, p.20). Above that ceiling, the enterprises are linked (see 2.3.3, p.23).

Source: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise_policy/sme_definition/sme_user_guide_de.pdf and http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/facts-figures-analysis/sme-definition/index_en.htm

5) Type, scope and amount of funding

On the German side:

As a rule, German partner consortia that are eligible for funding can receive up to €250,000 of funding. German eligible partner consortia that include the implementation of an Innovation Forum can receive up to €350,000 of funding.

The duration of the projects will generally be up to 36 months.

On the Tunisian side:

The duration of the projects will generally be up to 36 months. As a rule, Tunisian partner consortia that are eligible for funding can receive up to 300.000 DT of funding.

6) National contact points and official (national) announcements

Contact person for German applicants:

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) has commissioned the DLR Project Management Agency (DLR PT) with the implementation of this funding announcement:

Mr. Stephan Epe

E-mail: stephan.epe@dlr.de

Phone: +49(0)228-3821-1904

Fax: +49(0)228-3821-1490

For German applicants the official version of the call text as published in the Bundesanzeiger is legally binding (see websites of Bundesanzeiger, BMBF and International Bureau of the BMBF https://www.internationales-buero.de/en/current_announcements.php)

Contact person for Tunisian applicants:

Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MoHESR), General Directorate of Research Valorization

Ms. Rim Saïed (General Director)	Ms. Bisma Ben Mesbeh (Director)
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For Tunisian applicants the official version of the call text as published in the MoHESR site (<http://www.mes.tn/index.php>) is legally binding.