Current Calls for Proposals from National, European and International Third-Party Funding Sources
Due to the coronavirus pandemic, some funding organisations have extended the deadlines for current calls for proposals. We have summarised the most important postponements on a website and will update it on an ongoing basis.
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This newsletter is published in English. However, calls for proposals for which the application can only be submitted in German, will not be translated.

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Federal and State Ministries

Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)

Research on Digital Higher Education - Innovations in Higher Education through Artificial Intelligence and Big Data

Aim The aim of this funding guideline is to investigate the possibilities and effects to be achieved by the (supporting) use of Big Data and artificial intelligence (AI) in higher education.

To this end, funding will be provided for projects which, with recourse to already developed technologies and in compliance with ethics and data protection

- research AI and Big Data as a supporting technology for learning and teaching in higher education,
- explore the use of AI and Big Data with the aim of transferring this into the regular operation of higher education
- research the application of AI and Big Data in a discipline-specific manner in order to use the technology to gain insights for individual study subjects.

Target group individual or collaborative projects

Duration up to 3 years

Funding up to 100% of eligible project-related expenditure and a project lump sum of 20% for higher education institutions

Deadline 24 April 2020 (submission of a project outline; two-step evaluation)

The call text does not specify the language in which the proposal is to be submitted. Please inform yourself before submission whether a proposal in English or German is required.

Further information website of the BMBF

Research, development and use of artificial intelligence methods in SMEs

Aim With this guideline, the BMBF is funding projects that support and accelerate the research, development and use of AI methods in SMEs. Innovative ML and other AI methods are to be used more widely in SMEs so that they can realise new data-driven applications. At the same time, appropriate know-how is to be built up in the companies and the AI competence of employees is to be strengthened.

Target group high-risk industrial and SME-driven R&D projects in the field of AI carried out by one or more SMEs with scientific and industrial partners

Duration up to 3 years

Funding up to 100% of eligible project-related expenditure and a project lump sum of 20% for higher education institutions

Deadline 15 May & 15 October 2020 (submission of a project outline; two-step evaluation)

Further information website of the BMBF
Research and Development for Large-scale Experiments, Demonstration, Education and Training in Civil Security Research

**Aim**  
Funding will be provided for application-oriented R&D projects in the various areas of civil security research in which **new solutions for practical applications** are researched, **tested** and **demonstrated** with the aid of research facilities and demonstrators for **practical trials and digital training concepts** including innovative technology for **rescue and emergency services**. The project content must be geared to a civil security research scenario, have a clear research character and contribute to increasing civil security in Germany.

**Target group**  
**individual** or **collaborative** projects

**Duration**  
up to **2 years**

**Funding**  
up to 100% of eligible project-related expenditure and a project lump sum of 20% for higher education institutions

**Deadline**  
8 April 2020 (submission of a project outline; two-step evaluation)

The call text does not specify the language in which the proposal is to be submitted. Please inform yourself before submission whether a proposal in English or German is required.

**Further information**  
website of the BMBF
Innovative Municipalities

**Aim**
With the funding measure "Innovative municipalities", the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) is pursuing the goal of **strengthening services of general interest in municipalities and regions** through sustainable development and thus contributing to equal living conditions throughout the country.

Projects may in particular address the following topics:

- planning and management of services of general interest
- new financing, organisational and business models for securing and developing services of general interest
- new and sustainable value creation opportunities for structurally weak regions through innovative approaches in services of general interest
- digitisation and services of general interest including the strategic handling of online trade and changed logistics chains
- new forms of services of general interest for digital living and working environments
- co-production and cooperation of services of general interest in networks of public, economic and civil society actors
- engagement and services of general interest including new forms of citizen participation and citizen activation
- sustainable settlement development to ensure the provision of services of general interest by means of cross-communal, regional concepts
- new approaches to ownership and use structures to secure services of general interest
- study of legal regulations and standards for services of general interest.

**Target group**
collaborative projects between municipalities and at least one scientific institution and in cooperation with businesses and/or civil society organisations

**Duration**
2 to 3 years

**Funding**
up to € 1 million

**Deadline**
30 June 2020 (submission of a project outline; two-step evaluation)

The call text does not specify the language in which the proposal is to be submitted. Please inform yourself before submission whether a proposal in English or German is required.

**Further information**
website of the [BMBF](https://www.bmbf.de)
Research projects with Tunisia involving academia and industry (TUNGER 2+2)

**Aim**
Funding will be provided for research projects (collaborative projects) which work on the following priority topics in international cooperation with partners from Tunisia:
- water management,
- agricultural systems,
- biotechnology for environment, health and nutrition, public health, plant biotechnology and industrial biotechnology,
- digitization,
- Green Economy/Circulatory Economy,
- other topics.

**Target group**
At least one German industrial company/industrial partner with a German research institution/university and one Tunisian industrial partner with a Tunisian research institution/university (2+2 projects)

**Duration**
Up to 3 years

**Funding**
Up to 100% of eligible project-related expenditure and a project lump sum of 20% for higher education institutions

**Deadline**
8 May 2020 (submission of a project outline; two-step evaluation)

**Further information**
Website of the BMBF

Vernetzungs- & Sondierungsreisen („Travelling Conferences“) zum Aufbau von Kooperationen mit Partnern in Australien, China, Japan, Neuseeland, Südkorea und Südostasien

**Förderung**
„Schwerpunkt der Förderung sind die Konzeption und Durchführung von sogenannnten „Travelling Conferences“, auf denen deutsche Expertinnen und Experten sowie Nachwuchswissenschaftlerinnen und Nachwuchswissenschaftler zu aktuellen Forschungsthemen referieren.
Es werden insbesondere Anträge in folgenden thematischen Schwerpunkten berücksichtigt: (1) Bioökonomie und (2) Gesundheit (Antimikrobielle Resistenzen, Krebsforschung, Digitale Gesundheit).
Die Veranstaltungen sollen Plattformen bilden, um (1) die Leistungsfähigkeit der deutschen Natur- und Ingenieurwissenschaften zu präsentieren, (2) Themen von beidseitigem Interesse zu sondieren und (3) bestehende und neue Partnerschaften aus- bzw. aufzubauen.“

**Zielgruppe**
deutsche Hochschulen und außeruniversitäre Forschungseinrichtungen gemeinsam mit Hochschulen und Forschungseinrichtungen in Australien, China, Japan, Neuseeland, Südkorea und ausgewählten Ländern in Südostasien

**Förderdauer**
bis zu 6 Monate

**Förderhöhe**
max. € 40.000

**Fristende**

**Weitere Informationen**
Webseite des BMBF
Research on COVID-19 in the wake of the Sars-CoV-2 outbreak

Aim  Funding will be provided for projects that are geared to the WHO priorities and address the following points:

- the biology of the virus and its transmission;
- animal and environmental research on the origin of the virus, including control measures at the human-animal interface;
- epidemiological studies;
- clinical characterisation and clinical management of diseases caused by the virus;
- infection prevention and control, including the best ways to protect healthcare workers;
- research and development of drugs and other therapeutic methods and the development of new diagnostic approaches (research on vaccine development and near-market diagnostic development are not eligible for funding);
- accompanying research and ELSA research in connection with outbreaks.

Target group  individual projects and, in justified exceptions, small research consortia (with up to 3 partners at different institutions)

Duration  up to 18 months

Funding  up to 100% of eligible project-related expenditure and a project lump sum of 20% for higher education institutions

Deadline  11 May 2020 (submission of a project outline; two-step evaluation)

Further information  website of the BMBF
“Risks posed to human health and the environment by pollutants and pathogens present in water resources (AquaticPollutants)”

Aim  “A multidisciplinary approach has been set up, which brings together the research needs of the freshwater sector, the marine sector and the health sector to carry out a Joint Transnational Call (JTC) and complementing Additional Activities. This call will make the research communities of those three research fields work together and create synergies for joint approaches.

This call comprises three main themes:

- Theme 1 - Environmental behaviour of emerging pollutants, pathogens and antimicrobial resistant bacteria in aquatic ecosystems (“Measuring”)
- Theme 2 - Risk Assessment and Management of emerging pollutants, pathogens and antimicrobial resistant bacteria from aquatic ecosystems (inland and marine) to human health and environment (“Evaluating”)
- Theme 3 - Strategies to reduce emerging pollutants, pathogens and antimicrobial resistant bacteria in aquatic ecosystems (inland and marine) (“Taking Actions”).

Target group  collaborative research projects with research partners from at least 3 participating countries

Duration  up to 3 years

Funding  up to 100% of eligible project-related expenditure and a project lump sum of 20% for higher education institutions

Deadline  18 May 2020 (deadline extension due to COVID-19, submission of a project outline; two-step evaluation)

Further information  website of the BMBF and the ERA-NET

Digital ProgressHubs Health

Aim  The aim is to test the feasibility of research-compatible, cross-sectoral data provision in the medical practice of regional health care and to test the added value for patients, medical professionals and the scientific community. The initial focus is on the pilot implementation of concrete application examples in research and care.

Target group  interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral consortia, consisting of various partners, for example hospitals, doctors’ practices and other health care facilities, research institutions, companies, especially in the IT sector or health insurance companies

Duration  up to 4 years

Funding  up to 100% of eligible project-related expenditure and a project lump sum of 20% for higher education institutions

Deadline  28 May 2020 (submission of a project outline; two-step evaluation)

Further information  website of the BMBF
Trustworthy Electronics (ZEUS)

**Aim**
The funding objective is to research concepts and solutions for new design methods, technologies and manufacturing processes as well as analysis, test, measurement and inspection methods for electronic components and systems with a high degree of reliability.

Projects must pursue one or more of the following objectives through research, supplemented where appropriate by development work, in the field of trustworthy electronics:
- novel design methods for trustworthy electronics,
- novel production methods and manufacturing processes (e.g. chiplets) for trustworthy electronics,
- novel analytical, test, measurement and inspection methods for trustworthy electronics.

**Target group**
collaborative projects with partners from academia and industry

**Duration**
up to 3 years

**Funding**
up to 100% of eligible project-related expenditure and a project lump sum of 20% for higher education institutions

**Deadline**
12 June 2020 (submission of a project outline; two-step evaluation)

The call text does not specify the language in which the proposal is to be submitted. Please inform yourself before submission whether a proposal in English or German is required.

**Further information**
website of the BMBF

Digital GreenTech - Environmental Technology meets Digitalisation

**Aim**
Funding is provided for research and development projects in which experts in environmental technology and experts in information and communication technology (e.g. sensor technology, microtechnology, robotics, AI) work together to develop integrated solutions. These should demonstrably lead to a more sustainable use of water, energy or raw materials or to the reduction of environmental pollution in the fields of water and environmental service branch, geosciences and land management. Completely new approaches are particularly welcome.

**Target group**
individual or collaborative projects

**Duration**
long-term projects: usually 2 years | short-term projects: 6 months

**Funding**
long-term projects: up to 100% of eligible project-related expenditure and a project lump sum of 20% for higher education institutions
short-term projects: up to € 50,000

**Deadline**
30 April 2020 & 31 October 2021 (submission of a project outline; two-step evaluation)

The call text does not specify the language in which the proposal is to be submitted. Please inform yourself before submission whether a proposal in English or German is required.

**Further information**
website of the BMBF
Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi)

Central Innovation Programme for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (ZIM)

**Aim**  
Funding is provided for cooperative R&D projects between companies or between companies and research institutions for the development of innovative products, processes or technical services without being restricted to specific technologies and sectors. They should be carried out in a balanced partnership in which all partners provide innovative services.

**Target group**  
collaborative research projects consisting of at least one SME and one research institution

**Funding**  
up to € 190,000 for the research institution

**Deadline**  
continuously open

The call text does not specify the language in which the proposal is to be submitted. Please inform yourself before submission whether a proposal in English or German is required.

**Further information**  
website of the BMWi
Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMVI)

Data-based R&D Projects in the Category "Applied Research and Experimental Development"

**Aim**
The purpose of funding under the "Modernity Fund" ("mFUND") funding guidelines is the systematic development of innovative ways of using and networking the data in the context of the BMVI beyond the official purpose of data collection and the identification of future data requirements.

The sixth call for funding line 2 of the "Modernity Fund" funding guideline focuses on the following thematic categories:

**A:** Further development of successfully implemented projects from funding line 1

**B:** Data innovations and Open Data for "smart" mobility in Europe

**C:** Data governance, data protection/data law, standardisation for BMVI-relevant topics

**Target group**
collaborative projects

**Duration**
not specified

**Deadline**
Category A: 20 April 2020
Category B & C: 4 May 2020

The call text does not specify the language in which the proposal is to be submitted. Please inform yourself before submission whether a proposal in English or German is required.

**Further information**
website of the BMVI
TWAS-DFG Cooperation Visits Programme

**Aim**
“Based on the agreement with The World Academy of Sciences for the Advancement of Science in Developing Countries (TWAS), the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) calls attention of researchers at German institutes to the opportunity to invite early career scientists (Postdocs) of all academic fields coming from Sub-Saharan African countries for a three-month research based cooperation visit at their institute in Germany.”

**Target group** postdocs from a sub-Saharan African country with a PhD obtained not earlier than 2015

**Duration** 3 months

**Funding** monthly allowance for the grantee, covering subsistence costs and daily expense, visa costs etc., travel costs, travel health insurance, accident and liability insurance; a lump sum for the institute as project expense allowance for material and laboratory costs

**Deadline** 18 May 2020 (proposal submission by the African scientists to TWAS)

**Further information** website of the DFG

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Call for Multidisciplinary Research into Epidemics and Pandemics in Response to the Outbreak of SARS-CoV-2

**Aim**
“The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) is [...] issuing a call for a multidisciplinary funding initiative. Funding is available for projects addressing the prevention, early detection, containment and investigation of the causes, impacts and management of epidemics and pandemics, taking the example of SARS-CoV-2 and other microorganisms and viruses that are pathogenic to humans.

This includes, for example, the investigation of

- the challenges and effects of an epidemic or pandemic and of measures taken for healthcare systems;
- psychological, social and cultural factors in the emergence, spread and treatment of epidemics and pandemics and the legal and ethical implications;
- the impacts on global and regional economic development, production and value creation chains, logistics, transport and communication;
- fundamental biological and medical aspects of a pathogen and the associated symptoms, as well as therapeutic methods or preventive measures in combination with one or more of the above topic areas.”

**Target group** individual or joint proposals; cooperation with international researchers

**Duration** not specified

**Funding** all funding modules listed in the Guidelines for the Research Grants Programme

**Deadline** 1 July 2020 (letters of intent); 1 September 2020 (proposal)

**Further information** website of the DFG
### Junior Academy on Educational Integration

**Aim**  
The German Research Foundation (DFG) is launching the fifth junior academy in the field of educational science and educational research under the topic "Conditions and processes of educational integration of children and young people with a migration background". The aim of junior academies is to support researchers at an early stage of their careers in preparing their first own DFG proposal and to prepare them to conduct research projects independently.

In view of the increase in migration-related heterogeneity in educational institutions, the thematic focus of the Junior Academy is on questions relating to the conditions and processes of educational integration of children and young people with a migration background.

**Target group**  
early-career researchers up to 6 years after the PhD

**Duration**  
academy in Berlin: 31 August until 3 September 2020

**Funding**  
travel and living costs

**Deadline**  
31 May 2020

**Further information**  
website of the [DFG](https://www.dfg.de)

### Initiation of Collaborative Projects with Researchers from Sub-Saharan Africa in the Field of Solar Energy

**Aim**  
“In the near future, the current fossil energy-based world economy needs to be replaced with a circular economy relying on energy harvested from renewable sources, primarily sunlight. The necessary preconditions and the local requirements for such a profound transition towards renewable energy sources differ between industrialised countries like Germany and developing countries such as those in the sub-Saharan region. For example, in Africa, solar irradiation is more intense and more reliable than in Europe. For this reason, researchers in Germany and sub-Saharan Africa may benefit from collaborations within this research field.”

**Target group**  
joint bilateral or trilateral German/sub-Saharan African projects rooted in the field of solar energy, comprising at least one of the disciplines of engineering, chemistry, physics, humanities or social sciences

**Duration**  
not specified

**Funding**  
not specified

**Deadline**  
3 June 2020 (registration in the elan portal until 27 May 2020)

**Further information**  
website of the [DFG](https://www.dfg.de)
Priority Programme “Computational Connectomics” (SPP 2041)

**Aim**
“We encourage applications for projects which: 1) study **brain connectivity** in different species from microscopic to macroscopic levels with the goal of obtaining comprehensive connectivity maps, 2) have a clear and innovative **computational component**, 3) have a clear plan for **sharing data, analysis software** and **models**, 4) study the **dynamics of brain connectivity** across different time scales, 5) study **changes in brain connectivity** during development and learning, 6) foster **close interaction** of experimental and theoretical research.”

**Target group** joint proposals with partners from **Japan**
**Duration** 3 months
**Funding** not specified
**Deadline** 17 June 2020 (registration in the elan portal until 3 June 2020)
**Further information** website of the DFG

Implementation of the OCR-D software for full text digitization

**Aim**
The aim of the call for proposals is to develop (generic) **implementation packages** of the OCR-D software with acceptable performance. The implementation packages are to be described for the specific requirements of a facility and at the same time must be generalizable in such a way that a corresponding implementation package can be used at other facilities with comparable requirements.

**Deadline** 5 May 2020 (letter of intent); 7 October 2020 (proposal)
**Further information** website of the DFG
FOUNDATIONS AND OTHER FUNDING BODIES

German Academic Exchange Service

German-Egyptian Progress Partnership: Short-term measures

**Aim**

The aim of the short-term measures in the German-Egyptian Progress Partnership is to help create additional opportunities for renewing Egyptian higher education institutions and support them in their efforts to modernise. […] Programme Line 2 pursues the following aims:

- to **establish and intensify academic contact** between higher education institutions in Germany and Egypt with the aim of establishing longer-term cooperation measures
- to contribute actively to **structural development** at Egyptian partner higher education institutions; to **improve research and teaching**
- to enhance the **employability of graduates**

**Target group**

state and state-approved **German higher education institutions** and non-university research institutes

**Funding**

up to € 40,000

**Deadline**

30 June 2020

**Further information**

website of the [DAAD](https://www.daad.de)

Joachim Herz Stiftung

**Begegnungszenoren - Promoting Interdisciplinary Events in the Natural Sciences**

**Aim**

“Interdisciplinary research calls for communication and the right networks. With our program “Begegnungszenoren”, we support **events for young scientists**.

The goal is for them to **learn new work processes** and **methodologies** while forging new contacts.

NEW – as well as domestic events, in 2020/21 we are specifically also supporting **events with a connection to the USA**.

The request for proposals is aimed at the organizers of events such as workshops or graduate programs in the **natural sciences [...]”.**

**Target group**

events that last at least **3 days** and are attended by **30 to 150 participants**; **international focus**

**Funding**

- subsidization of the participants’, speakers’, and organizers’ catering, overnight accommodation, and travel expenses
- Rental costs for premises and technology
- Funds to cover childcare during the event
- Costs relating to preparation and execution of the event, including the cost of producing the materials

**Deadline**

6 May 2020

**Further information**

website of the [Foundation](https://www.jhstiftung.de)
**Funding for Early Career Researchers**

Gerda Henkel Foundation

**Funding Programme Democracy**

**Aim**  “Over the last few years, a previously somewhat abstract finding has become an empirical fact: Democracy is not a given. The rule of law, the separation of powers, freedom of opinion, and obligation to the common good have lost some of their binding effect even in core democratic countries, and have been relativized, called into question, and limited. Thus, amongst other things, we are currently witnessing a shift in political weighting in Europe away from an essentially pro-European stance toward an anti-European discourse, which apparently still has the potential to mobilise more support. Such challenges, from populist movements among others, not only call into question democracy as a political order, but also the role of academia and the relevance of its research results. After all, the freedom of research and teaching hinges on the acceptance of democratic principles. With this current problematic situation as a starting point and a goal of placing it in a greater historical context, the Gerda Henkel Foundation has established a new funding program for the theme of “Democracy as Utopia, Experience and Threat”.”

**Target group**  post-doctoral researchers based at a university and working in the area of the humanities and the social sciences

**Duration**  up to 3 years

**Funding**  a maximum total of 3 scholarships per group of researchers as well as funds for travel and materials

**Deadline**  2 June 2020

**Further information**  website of the foundation
German Research Foundation (DFG)

Junior Academy on Educational Integration

| Aim | The German Research Foundation (DFG) is launching the fifth junior academy in the field of educational science and educational research under the topic "Conditions and processes of educational integration of children and young people with a migration background". The aim of young academics is to support researchers at an early stage of their careers in preparing their first own DFG proposal and to prepare them to conduct research projects independently. In view of the increase in migration-related heterogeneity in educational institutions, the thematic focus of the Junior Academy is on questions relating to the conditions and processes of educational integration of children and young people with a migration background. |
| Target group | early-career researchers up to 6 years after the PhD |
| Duration | academy in Berlin: 31 August until 3 September 2020 |
| Funding | travel and living costs |
| Deadline | 31 May 2020 |
| Further information | website of the DFG |
Seed Funding by the University of Cologne

**Aim**

„By offering a seed funding, the University of Cologne intends to support its researchers in the preparation and application for third-party funded projects. The program is open to all fields of research. Proposals for **coordinated programs** and **cooperative projects** are funded, i.e. collaborative projects with several Principal Investigators (PI), whereby the PI of the University of Cologne acts as coordinator. Individual proposals are not funded. Consultation with the responsible project manager of Division 7 for Research Management Patricia Hoff is obligatory for applicants."

**Target Group** scientists at the **University of Cologne**

**Duration** as requested

**Funding**

The seed funding is designed for **coordination activities** for projects that are already well elaborated. Preliminary scientific work will not be funded. Applications may be submitted for e.g. personnel, material and travel expenses. To cover the costs for on-site reviews (such as catering, printing costs, etc.) of Collaborative Research Centres/Transregios, Research Training Groups and Research Units of the DFG, a lump-sum subsidy can be applied for:

- Collaborative Research Centres/Transregios: € 4,000
- Research Training Groups and Research Units: € 1,000

**Deadline** 31 May 2020 (3 cut-off dates annually)

**Further information**

website of Division 7 Research Management

Contact: Patricia Hoff, Division 7 Research Management, Dept. 71 Analysis and Consulting Services

e-mail: anschubfinanzierung@verw.uni-koeln.de, phone: 0221/470-5379
**Miscellaneous**

**Effects of the coronavirus pandemic on the work of the DFG**
The Coronavirus pandemic has also had an impact on the work and promotional activities of the DFG. The DFG now offers continuously updated information for science, media and the public on its website. Further information is available [here](#).

**New Horizon 2020 FAQs on COVID-19**
In relation to the COVID-19 outbreak, new Horizon 2020 FAQs have been posted. Those pages are updated with answers to the most frequent questions that have been submitted to the Research Enquiry Service and Participant Validation, IT Helpdesk, eProcurement Helpdesk, Call Coordinators and H2020 NCP correspondents. Further information is available [here](#).

**Neue D7-Webseite mit Hinweisen zur Antragstellung**

**D7-Webseite zu Ausschreibungen mit uni-internen Auswahlverfahren**
EVENTS

23 April 2020, 11:00 am – 1:30 pm | Webinar

Start your Career as a Postdoc in the Humanities and Social Sciences
The Division 7 Research Management is organising a webinar on raising third-party funds for postdoctoral students in the humanities and social sciences. Besides the presentation of funding opportunities in these disciplines, tips on how to write a successful proposal will be given. There is the possibility to ask questions via the chat.

Place: online
Further information & online registration form: https://verwaltung.uni-koeln.de/d7_events

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7 May 2020, 11:00 am – 1:30 pm | Webinar

Start your Career as a Postdoc in the Life and Natural Sciences
The Division 7 Research Management is organising a webinar on raising third-party funds for postdoctoral students in the life and natural sciences. Besides the presentation of funding opportunities in these disciplines, tips on how to write a successful proposal will be given. There is the possibility to ask questions via the chat.

Place: online
Further information & online registration form: https://verwaltung.uni-koeln.de/d7_events

28.05.2020
KoWi Webinar: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action (MSCA) COFUND
online
Contact & registration for the newsletter

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