

Call for projects of the Franco-German Research Fund on the Provenance of Cultural Objects from Sub- Saharan Africa

Edition 2024

IMPORTANT

The evaluation of Franco-German projects is carried out by the Centre Marc Bloch e.V., (hereafter CMB) according to the procedures defined below. It is imperative that you read the entire text of the call, and the regulations relating to the terms and conditions for awarding grants before submitting a research project proposal.

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I. Purpose

The French Ministry of Culture (hereinafter MC) and the Federal Government Delegate of Germany for Culture and the Media (hereinafter BKM) have mandated the Centre Marc Bloch (hereinafter CMB) to launch specific binational calls for proposals dedicated to collaborative research projects between German and French museum institutions and scientific research institutions on the provenance of cultural objects from Sub-Saharan Africa. This fund will respond to the need to enrich the documentation and context of circumstances surrounding the acquisition of these objects. The call for proposals, evaluation, selection and follow up will be managed by the CMB.

II. Scope

The CMB launches an annual bi-national call for proposals requiring French and German museum and/or scientific institutions to closely collaborate to create research consortia involving a strong element of collaboration with museum institutions and scientific communities from the countries of origin in Sub-Saharan Africa.

III. Eligibility criteria

The CMB will verify that the eligibility criteria are met in conformity with the publicly available information on the project website. Project proposals deemed ineligible will not be evaluated and cannot be subject to funding.

French and German partner institutions¹ must submit a single binational scientific project. The French and the German partner institutions must designate one Project Coordinator (PC), who will be the CMB's contact person, as well as one contact person for the other partner institution.

The PC must hold a PhD or be employed by a museum structure on a fixed-term contract for the duration of the project or on a permanent basis.

Each project proposal must fall within the scope of humanities and social sciences. Interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary projects are encouraged.

The consortium² therefore must include:

- ✓ One French partner institution and one German partner institution and at least one partner from Sub-Saharan Africa,
- ✓ One partner from a research institution and one partner from a museum institution.

IV. Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria will be used to evaluate the overall quality of each proposal:

1. Scientific quality of the research project,
2. Originality of the proposed approach to furthering scholarship on the subject,

¹ Partner as a legal entity

² Maximum 6 partners (legal entities and private individuals)

3. Strength and coherence of the cooperation between the partner institutions and/or teams and the quality of the strategy to build or consolidate durable transnational relationships,
4. Quality and feasibility of the research plan e.g., methods of implementation, mobility of scientists, students, museum experts, etc.,
5. Adequation between the proposed budget and the expected project outcomes,
6. Outreach to a broader public.

Specific attention will be paid to the added value of the Franco-German partnership.

V. Evaluation process

Once the eligibility of the projects has been verified, the Scientific Project Manager designates two external reviewers whose expertise correspond to the disciplinary and geographic characteristics of the submitted project. External reviewers should ideally come from two different scientific or museum cultures. The usual rules governing conflicts of interest will be applied to ensure an objective evaluation based on the publicly available criteria.

The external reviewers operate individually and confidentially, without any exchange between them or with third parties. They only have at their disposal the elements constituting the project proposal as submitted at the date and time of the call closure. The external reviewers draw up an individual report in which each of the evaluation criteria is commented on.

It is possible to indicate any names of evaluators who may be excluded. This information will be confidential and will not be communicated to the Scientific Council.

The Scientific Project Manager designates two internal reviewers for each submitted project with no conflicts of interest. The Scientific Council will conduct the evaluation of the proposals during a plenary session in accordance with common evaluation rules and in a collegial discussion. Each member of the Scientific Council will have access to all projects as well as the internal and two external reviews. The Scientific Council will rank the proposals and make funding suggestions as appropriate.

Official results will be posted on the Fund's website and the laureates will be notified individually. The outcome of the discussion on each project is recorded in a brief report on the strengths and weaknesses and communicated to the PC on demand.

VI. Funding arrangements

The CMB will proceed to the contractualisation of the projects selected by the Scientific Council.

The funding will cover:

- ✓ Staff costs (temporary staff position costs for PhD, post-doctoral researchers, research assistants or engineers and museum experts based on French or German contractual obligations)
- ✓ Fellowship and internship allowances

- ✓ Travel expenses
- ✓ Scientific events organisation expenses
- ✓ Material expenses³
- ✓ Open access publication expenses
- ✓ Communication expenses

VII. Content of project proposals

Each project proposal shall be submitted in French, German or English and include:

- ✓ **Abstract** (no more than one page): in the 3 languages
- ✓ **Research Project** in German and English or in French and English (no more than 10 pages). The following elements are expected:
 - Situating the project in relation to the state of the art to demonstrate the originality of the project,
 - Methodology and articulation between the members of the consortium,
 - A description of the added value to be expected from the Franco-German collaboration in partnership with Sub-Saharan African parties in terms of strengthening networks, expected scientific results, inclusion of young researchers and outreach to civil societies.
- ✓ **Annexes (to be provided in one of the three languages)**
 - **Overall budget** of the binational research project including separate budgets for all partners. Budgets for French and German partners should be balanced and proportional and may include costs for salaries, researcher mobility, binational meetings etc. Cost for the participation in a mid-term or end-of-term conference must be included. A justification of the costs shall be given in the research plan,
 - **Curricula vitae** for all team members (basic information about education, past and present positions, and membership to relevant organisations/associations. Each CV should not exceed 3 pages),

VIII. Intellectual Property

Intellectual property rights will belong to the researcher and the museum experts and/or his/her employing institution (as the case may be) unless otherwise stipulated by the national legislation or the relevant grant agreement.

Each partner has the responsibility to oversee and ensure the efficient protection and proper distribution of any intellectual property arising from the accomplishment of the binational research projects.

It is highly recommended that the partners enter into an agreement to specify how intellectual property rights will be handled provided this is required by national rules of the Party⁴.

³ Material expenses should be limited and proportional to the programme objectives.

⁴ The selected projects will be strongly recommended to draw up a consortium agreement at the start of the project. The CMB will provide a downloadable template on the Fund's website.

IX. Reporting

On behalf of the whole consortium, the PC must submit to the CMB and to the Scientific Council one concise midterm and one final report⁵.

Participation in the Fund's overall mid-term or end-term conference will be requested.

Due acknowledgement of support received from the Fund should be made in the publication of any research resulting from this programme.

X. Research data and scientific publications

The research project reference (e.g. CMB-FGPRF-24-ACRONYME) will be mentioned in all publications.

Each funded project is requested to deliver a first version of its Data Management Plan (DMP) before the end of the first third of the project's duration⁶.

The CMB supports the implementation of Open Science, in conjunction with the "National Plan for Open Science" of the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research, the "Open-Access-Strategie für Deutschland" of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, and Plan S at international level.

In the interest of transparency and to enable research results to circulate freely, whenever possible the funded projects will make the research data and principal materials on which a publication is based available in trusted archives and repositories in accordance with the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable)⁷.

Besides, the funded projects must publish the full text of the project's scientific publications (version accepted for publication or editor's version) directly in journals or books listed by the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), the Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB), or in repositories registered in the Directory of Open Access Repositories (OpenDOAR). This also includes, as far as possible and reasonable, the research data, materials and information on which the results are based, the methods used and the software employed and to provide a comprehensive description of the work processes.

The funded projects will also ensure that the full text of these scientific publications (version accepted for publication or editor's version) is deposited on the HAL Open Science platform in the dedicated Fund's collection of publications and the reference of the research project (e.g. CMB-FGPRF-24-ACRONYME) from which they originate is mentioned.

⁵ One document only. Model of the report will be provided by the CMB after validation of the Scientific Council.

⁶ A downloadable template will be provided on the call webpage

⁷ As a general rule, researchers make all results available as part of the scientific/academic discourse. In some cases, however, there may be reasons not to make results available to the public (in the narrow sense of publication, but also in the broader sense through other communication channels); this decision should not depend on third parties. As Open as possible, as closed as necessary.

XI. Timetable and Announcement of Decision

The Parties agree to ensure that all decisions on proposals to be funded will be based on the following timetable:

January 2024	Launch of the call for projects
April 2024	Closing of the call for proposals
June 2024	Publication of results
September 2024	Start of projects