

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

Call for projects – 2026 edition

Submission deadline: 15.01.2026

The Franco-German Research Fund on the Provenance of Cultural Objects from sub-Saharan Africa is pleased to announce its third generic call for projects.

This call is designed to encourage international research on provenance between France, Germany and Sub-Saharan Africa. It aims to encourage the emergence of new teams and to reinforce already existing collaborations.

This call is open to all researchers, museum professionals, experts and civil society actors wishing to carry out provenance research in a variety of forms: staff exchange and mobility, workshops, joint teaching activities, joint publications to name some.

A special emphasis will be put on proposals that demonstrate the potential to set up new research teams or to advance existing collaboration with researchers, museum professionals and students from sub-Saharan Africa, as well as proposals that include a genuine Franco-German dimension. Initiatives from early-career researchers, museum professionals and from civil society are also encouraged.

The Franco-German Provenance Research Fund is committed to support projects with long-term and sustainable effects on the practices of provenance research. Projects are encouraged to integrate mobilities and research stays of African researchers and museum professionals in Europe and include reflections on training and educational work for young researchers and students in their proposals. Other innovative approaches working towards the same objectives are appreciated.

This funding supports research activities to be carried out between March and December 2026. Teams may thus apply for projects for a maximum duration of 10 months.

The Centre Marc Bloch e.V. is mandated to administer the publication of the call for projects, the evaluation and selection process and the project monitoring.

Contact

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Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for support, the project must fulfil **all** following criteria:

1. Contribute to provenance research on cultural objects from Sub-Saharan Africa
2. Bring together participants (including researchers, museum professionals, experts, civil society members) based in one or more Sub-Saharan African countries, as well as in Germany **and** France
3. Projects proposals must be submitted and administered by at least **one** partner institution¹
4. Each project proposal must fall within the scope of humanities and social sciences. Interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary projects are encouraged.

The coordinator of the project will be the contact person of the CMB². The project coordinator must hold at least 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.

The consortium must include:

- ✓ One French partner institution **and/or** one German partner institution in charge of administrating the project
- ✓ At least **one** scientific partner institution from Sub-Saharan Africa, France and Germany respectively
- ✓ One partner from a research institution **and** one partner from a museum institution

Submission

Applicants must submit the filled-out application form and present their project, its objectives, joint activities, foreseen impact.

Each project proposal includes:

- ✓ **Abstract in all three languages. No more than one page.**
- ✓ **Research project description in German and English or in French and English using the template provided by the fund, downloadable on the fund's website.**
No more than 10 pages. Focusing on the following elements:
 - State of the art and originality of the project,
 - Methodology and complementarity of the consortiums' members,

¹ Partner as the legal entity administrating the funding. This entity must be based in France or in Germany.

² One person cannot be a project coordinator within multiple projects funded by the Provenance Research Fund. It is allowed to be part of several project teams.

- Added value to be expected from the Franco-German collaboration in partnership with Sub-Saharan African partners 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, using the templates provided by the fund, downloadable on the fund's website including:**

Overall budget of the binational research project including separate budgets for all partners. Budgets for French and German partners should be balanced and may include costs for salaries, researcher mobility, binational meetings etc. Cost for the participation in a public conference of the Provenance Research Fund must be included. A justification of the costs shall be given in the research plan.

Curriculum vitae for all team members. Basic information about education, past and present positions, and membership to relevant organisations and associations. Each CV should not exceed 3 pages.

Funding terms

Once a project has been selected by the Scientific Council the CMB will proceed to the contractualization with the administering institution of the project.

Eligible expenses are:

- ✓ 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 including mobility grants for emerging researchers and for students from Sub-Saharan Africa.
- ✓ Travel expenses, including staff exchange and research stays in Europe
- ✓ Expenses for organising scientific events or educational activities
- ✓ Material expenses³
- ✓ Open access publication expenses
- ✓ Communication and outreach expenses

Selection criteria

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

- ✓ Quality, coherence and innovative potential of the team and adequacy of the choice of the partner institution,

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

- ✓ Scientific quality and feasibility of the project in terms of advancing scholarship on the subject,
- ✓ Strategy to build or consolidate durable and sustainable transnational relationships and to foster new collaborations between research institutes, museums and civil society,
- ✓ Clarity of the budget and feasibility of the working plan.

The CMB values diversity and inclusion in all aspects of collaboration. Proposals that incorporate diverse perspectives, promote gender equality, and support underrepresented groups will be highly regarded.

The added value of the Franco-German partnership will be given particular attention.

Evaluation and selection process

Proposals will be evaluated and selected by the Fund's Scientific Council. The evaluation will be provided by two internal reviewers selected among the members of the Scientific Council. The Scientific Council selects the projects based on the reviews and on a collegial discussion. The usual rules governing conflicts of interest will be applied to guarantee an objective evaluation based on publicly available criteria.

A short report on the selection decision will be provided on request after notification of the results.

Intellectual property

Intellectual property rights will belong to the researchers and the museum experts and/or their employing institution unless otherwise stipulated by the national legislation or the relevant grant agreement. The selected projects will be strongly recommended to draw up a consortium agreement at the start of the project.

Reporting

On behalf of the whole consortium, the project coordinator must submit to the CMB and to the Scientific Council one financial and scientific report at the project's end.

Participation in the Provenance Research Fund's conference (autumn 2026) will be requested. Due acknowledgement of the funding received from the Provenance Research Fund should be made in the publication of any research resulting from this programme.

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 duration. 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 Research, Technology and Space, 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)⁴.

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.

Timetable

- 15. January 2026 – Submission deadline of the call for projects
- February 2026 – Notification of the results
- 1st March 2026 – Start of the selected projects
- 31st December 2026 – End of the selected projects

Please submit the application form, budget and CVs to the project team:

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⁴ As a 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.