

Participation in Funding Phase II



This page contains important information for partners wishing to join the consortium in the second funding phase starting October 2025. Please note that this applies to all interested parties, including partners of the first funding phase!

Information will be updated as we progress in the proposal process.

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Interested in joining
NFDI4Biodiversity?



Contact **Speaker Frank Oliver
Glöckner** and **Executive Director
Barbara Ebert** via our Helpdesk

Über/About

NFDI4Biodiversity ist eines der größten und vielfältigsten Konsortien in der Nationalen Forschungsdateninfrastruktur NFDI, mit einem breiten Spektrum an Datentypen, Partnereinrichtungen und Services. Unsere Arbeit wird seit 2020 aus Mitteln einer Bund-Länder-Vereinbarung zum Aufbau der NFDI gefördert, mit einer Laufzeit von fünf Jahren. Nach positiver Evaluation durch das NFDI-Expertengremium bei der Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft DFG kann nun ein Antrag für die zweite Förderphase gestellt werden. Das Verfahren inklusive der wissenschaftlichen Begutachtung läuft über die DFG. Antragsfrist ist der 06. Aug. 2024.

Die Universität Bremen wird erneut als Antragstellerin für das Konsortium fungieren. Sprecher bleibt Frank Oliver Glöckner von der Universität Bremen. Die Antragstellung wird koordiniert durch die gemeinsame Projektgeschäftsstelle in Bremen (Leitung: Barbara Ebert, GFBio - Gesellschaft für Biologische Daten e.V.). Nach der positiven Begutachtung sehen wir die zweite Förderphase im Kern als Fortsetzung der bisherigen Arbeit. Ziele und Arbeitsprogramm werden auf aktuelle Bedarfe der Community angepasst.

Wir bieten ein munteres und engagiertes Experten-Netzwerk, Unterstützung bei der Adaptierung guter Praxis und erprobter Software-Werkzeuge für die eigene Arbeit sowie die Möglichkeit, zusammen mit der NFDI als starkem Partner für die datenpolitischen Belange von Wissenschaft und Praxis einzutreten. So schaffen wir Datenvielfalt für Artenvielfalt!

Die Neuaufnahme von Partnern ist möglich, wenn zuvor über die Beiträge Einigkeit erzielt wurde und eine gute Verankerung im Arbeitsprogramm gewährleistet werden kann (zu den Voraussetzungen s. unten). Das zu vergebende Budget ist limitiert. Für individuelle Absprachen nehmen Sie gern Kontakt mit uns auf.

Da das Antragsverfahren in englischer Sprache durchzuführen ist, werden wir die relevanten Informationen ebenfalls durchgehend auf Englisch bereitstellen.

Bei Fragen nehmen Sie gern [Kontakt](#) auf. Alle Anfragen werden über das NFDI4Biodiversity Helpdesk gehandhabt.

**DATEN
VIELFALT
FÜR
ARTEN
VIELFALT**



English translation

NFDI4Biodiversity is one of the largest and most multifaceted consortia in the National Research Data Infrastructure NFDI, with a wide range of data types, partner institutions and services. Since 2020, our work has been funded by a federal/state agreement for the development of the NFDI, with a five-year funding period. Following a positive evaluation by the NFDI expert committee at the German Research Foundation DFG, we now prepare a proposal for the second funding phase. The procedure, including the scientific evaluation, is carried out by the DFG. The application deadline is 06 Aug 2024 .

The University of Bremen will again act as the applicant for the consortium. Frank Oliver Glöckner from the University of Bremen will continue to be the spokesperson. The application will be coordinated by the joint project office in Bremen (Head: Barbara Ebert, GFBio - Gesellschaft für Biologische Daten e.V.). Following the positive evaluation, we regard the second funding phase essentially as a continuation of the previous work. The objectives and work program will be adapted to the current needs of the community.

We offer a lively and committed network of experts, support in adapting good practice and tried-and-tested software tools for your own work, and the opportunity to work with the NFDI as a strong partner in advocating the data policy interests of science and practice. This is how we create data diversity for biodiversity!

New partners are welcome if there is a consensus on the contributions and a sound anchoring in the work program has been ensured (see below for the requirements). The available budget is limited. As the application process is to be carried out in English, we will also make the relevant information available in English as a standard.

Please contact us for individual questions. All inquiries will be handled via the NFDI4Biodiversity helpdesk.

Calls to action

Closed: Partner survey

In April, a survey was conducted to inform us about current considerations to join the consortium in the second funding phase.

Join the mailing list

Important mailing list to receive information regarding the second funding phase: <https://lists.nfdi4biodiversity.org/listinfo/funding-phase-ii>

Call for Letters of Commitment and Partner Information

All parties wishing to join the consortium need to submit a Letter of commitment by 04 Jun 2024 , plus basic information about their institution and planned contributions to the consortium.

Templates were circulated by mail and can be found at the bottom of this page ([documents and templates](#))

Q & A Renewal proposal

When and how can I become a participant for the second funding phase?

Participants must send a Letter of Commitment (LoC) and a self-disclosure on the planned contributions in the second funding phase to the speaker institution. Templates are provided by the project office. The LoC must be received by the speaker institution in good time before the binding letter of intent is submitted. The applicable deadline can be found in the list. If this deadline is missed, acceptance as a participant can be initiated after the start of the second funding phase, i.e. from September 2025 (as of April 2024).

If you are interested in being a participant, please consider the following: We are looking for committed and capable partners who will carry the consortium forward and help solve the various challenges associated with building a functional data ecosystem. It takes people who are willing to tackle problems and take responsibility - be it by forming interest groups, organizing events or participating in governance. Formally, "participants" are natural persons and/or non-profit legal entities who contribute significantly to the work programme on a sustained basis. Participants must be named and their contributions must be described in the proposal. The consortium can request funds for their involvement. (Source: [DFG guidelines for consortia, second funding phase](#)). (as of April 2024)

Which funding is available for the consortium in the second funding phase?

According to the information we have received, the same amount of funding is available for the second round of applications as for the first round. This statement applies to the group of nine consortia entering the second funding phase at the same time and should therefore be seen as a guideline. As a consortium, NFDI4Biodiversity has spent around 2.8 million euros in 2022 and 2023, with planned figures of around 3 million euros in both years. According to information from the DFG, consortia can generally be funded with 2-5 million euros per year, with the average currently being 2.6 million euros per year (calculated across all 27 consortia). (as of April 2024)

How will funding be allocated within the consortium?

Co-spokespersons will continue to be provided with a full-time position for the duration of the project, and an additional half-time position is planned for TA Leads to support coordination. Further budget allocations will be provided for data centers and selected service providers, based on their contributions to the work programme. A certain annual amount will be reserved for the allocation of Flexfunds funds to partner institutions so that additional staff positions or subcontracts can be financed as needed. (as of April 2024).

- Note on personnel costs: The DFG's [personnel resource rates](#) are to be used as orientation for the calculation.

How can I retain current project staff, given the current timeline?

This is a question for current partners with staff capacities funded under NFDI4Biodiversity. Unfortunately, the binding funding commitment in 2025 is expected relatively shortly (3 months) before the end of funding phase I. However, the GWK has already stated that phase-out funding will be made available in case a renewal proposal is rejected. Up to 70% of the current budget will be granted for the first 12 months after the end of the current funding phase and up to 40% in the 12 months after that. The steering group will deal with the distribution of such phase-out funding in the 4th quarter of 2024 and inform the partner institutions. This will provide a basis for early contract extensions. The decision as to whether personnel measures can be taken on this basis is then up to the respective partner institution. (as of April 2024)

Important Dates



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05 May 2024	Partner survey participation
24.-26. April 2024	All Hands Conference in Munich
April-Mai 2024	Writing teams start Partners prepare LoC
04 Jun 2024	Deadline for partner LoC
11 Jun 2024	Work programme drafts presented in NFDI4Biodiversity Project Forum
18 Jun 2024	Bremen University submits Letter of Intent & binding partner list for funding phase II
Juni-Juli 2024	Finetuning of proposal and budget
02 Aug 2024	Final version proof-read and ready
06 Aug 2024	Speaker submits proposal

Objectives / Aims for the second funding phase

The following considerations were discussed in the Steering group meeting of March, 2024 and will eventually lead up to the general aims and specific objectives required for the renewal proposal.

Setting the scene


The biodiversity community is diverse in terms of stakeholders, data, services, and existing initiatives. To analyse the state of biodiversity and its drivers properly, comprehensive data is needed through time and space. Historical data is important, as well as data gathered with modern research methodologies in the field and the lab. The community depends on large reference corpora for occurrence data (GBIF) as well as sequence data (INSDC, BOLD). The NFDI4Biodiversity consortium gathers a representative set of stakeholders from Germany to advance the mobilisation of data according to the FAIR principles. Important sub-communities/groups in the fields of biodiversity informatics, bioinformatics, taxonomy, biodiversity monitoring and plant research are represented, to name just a few.

However, there are dozens/hundreds of initiatives and institutions with relevant data in Germany, which would need to adopt the FAIR principles. For a tangible improvement, a self-organisation process needs to be triggered, to gain momentum and bring data mobilisation to scale. A strategy has to be developed for scaling services and support capacities. This frames the objectives for the second funding phase.

In the period 2025-2030 we want to

- foster self-organisation in the community to adopt best practices in RDM and FAIR data mobilisation
- introduce formats for participation, strengthen training and dissemination
- consolidate the service catalog, including common infrastructure
- build comprehensive data products for research and analysis - KI/research readiness

Task Areas

 under discussion

TA	1	2	3	4	5
Working Title	Community engagement	National and international networking	Service Portfolio Management	Research Data Commons	Coordination and administration
Aim	Sub-communities develop tailored solutions for their research needs	NFDI4Biodiversity is interlinked with current developments in the field	Consolidation of the service ecosystem towards a community-owned portfolio	A coherent data ecosystem in the cloud, inspired by the data mesh architecture	Efficient and effective management for good results and correct spending of funds

Who to speak to

The consortium's work programme is structured in Task Areas and Measures. If you are interested in joining one of the writing teams, the responsible Leads can be contacted directly

Information to be provided soon

Documents and Templates

- Erläuterungen und Vorlage für Letter of Commitment (LoC): https://docs.google.com/document/d/1m7e55olsjekARkbMiE1c4W4E06T4GBKG_zC5E9Elr0k/edit?usp=sharing
 - Frist: 04 Jun 2024
- Vorlage für Partnerinformationen mit Beschreibung der Beiträge und in-kind-contributions: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gpyPgp0q7glkNaMj4RRP09jHf9Zly0WfLD2dG_amLk8/edit
 - Frist: 28 Jun 2024



Do you have questions, feedback or need help?

[Contact our Helpdesk](#) for direct support.

