

Federal Ministry of Education and Research

Regulations governing the funding of a  
"Maria Sibylla Merian International Centre for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Social  
Sciences"  
in Sub-Saharan Africa

## **1 Funding purpose and legal basis**

### **1.1 Funding purpose**

Certain topics in the humanities and social sciences can best be studied abroad. Their study requires an intensive exchange with scientists on location, cooperation with foreign universities and non-university research institutions as well as longer stays abroad. Close cooperation in an interdisciplinary group is necessary in cases where the topic also involves different disciplines. The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) is therefore introducing the new funding model of an "Maria Sibylla Merian International Centre for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences – ICAS" to provide a site in a country outside Europe where topics can be studied from different specialist perspectives within a group of researchers who work intensively together.

The funding for a research centre in Sub-Saharan Africa aims to strengthen scientific cooperation between Germany and one or more countries in the region. By strengthening bilateral scientific cooperation in the humanities and social sciences it is intended to establish stable links between researchers in the countries involved and ensure longer-term ties between German universities and non-university research institutions and institutions in the partner country. The Maria Sibylla Merian Centre will act as a visible centre for expert exchanges between the partner countries on a jointly selected central topic. Cutting-edge research with particular relevance to Germany and the partner country or partner region will be conducted within the partnership and within an intercultural dialogue. The bilateral exchange will open up intercultural prospects, extend the research horizon and thus trigger new research questions, approaches and methods. In particular, cross-region and cross-country comparative approaches can open up new perspectives.

The Maria Sibylla Merian Centre will launch a Fellows programme as a starting point for ambitious research. The programme will address both established world-class researchers as well as early-career researchers (post-docs, perhaps also research students). It also aims to improve research conditions for international young researchers.

Scientific cooperation will not be limited to bilateral exchanges but will contribute towards promoting the internationalization of research and science in the countries involved and to enabling scientific cooperation in international networks. Cooperation between the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre and other countries in the region is expressly welcome.

### **1.2 Legal basis**

Project grants will be awarded in accordance with these funding regulations, the Sections 23 and 44 of the Federal Budget Code (BHO), the administrative regulations (VV) adopted thereunder, and the BMBF's standard terms and conditions for grants on an expenditure or

cost basis (“*Richtlinien für Zuwendungsanträge auf Ausgabenbasis (AZA)*“ or “*Richtlinien für Zuwendungsanträge auf Kostenbasis (AZK)*“). There is no legal entitlement to a grant. The funding provider will take a decision after due assessment of the circumstances and within the framework of the budget funds available.

Funding under these regulations does not represent state aid pursuant to Article 107 (1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) in so far as the project that is to be funded is a non-commercial activity (cf. Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation (2014/C 198/01)).

Funding for commercial activities under these regulations is compatible with the internal market within the meaning of Article 107 (3) TFEU and exempt from the obligation to inform under Article 108 (3) TFEU if the requirements of Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (General Block Exemption Regulation – GBER) (OJ L 187 of 26 June 2014, p. 1) are fulfilled.

## **2 Object of funding**

The BMBF intends to provide funding for a Maria Sibylla Merian Centre which will be established at a university or non-university research institution in a country in Sub-Saharan Africa. Funding will be provided to collaborative projects (see No. 3).

Funding will be provided for:

- a) A preliminary phase to prepare and plan a Maria Sibylla Merian Centre: Funding for the preliminary phase covers a period of two to three years, as a rule three years.  
It serves to
  - intensify existing and establish new contacts with scientists from the partner country;
  - facilitate negotiations with a suitable university or non-university research institution or network of institutions in the partner country on participation as a cooperation partner and assist the conclusion of agreements with this/these cooperation partner(s);
  - facilitate negotiations and agreements with political institutions and research funding institutions in the partner country with a view to the necessary co-funding of the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre by the partner country or institutions in the partner country, and in the context of the legal and administrative framework of the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre;
  - prepare a concrete research programme and organizational plan for the main phase of the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre together with scientists at the partner university, non-university institution or several institutions in the partner country;
  - carry out initial research projects to prepare the main phase;
  - test instruments for scientific cooperation with the cooperation partners in the partner country, as appropriate.
  
- b) The main phase of the work at the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre: The preliminary phase will be evaluated by an external international panel. In the event of a positive evaluation, funding will be provided for the main phase of the work at the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre for a period of up to six years.

- c) A final phase of the work at the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre: The main phase is also subject to an external evaluation by an international panel. In the event of a positive evaluation of the main phase, there is an option to fund the work of the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre in a final phase of a further three to four years, depending on the length of the preliminary phase (cf. No. 5.2).

## **2.1 Concept of the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre (including support measures in Germany)**

The Maria Sibylla Merian Centre is linked with a university or a non-university research institution in the partner country and can cooperate with other partners in the partner country within a network with defined competences. Efforts by the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre to extend such cooperation beyond its own site to cover the entire country and beyond its respective host country to other countries in the region are welcome.

The Maria Sibylla Merian Centre's interdisciplinary central topic and research issues are not predetermined. They are to be chosen freely by the applicants (cf. No. 3), whereby it is assumed that the application for the preliminary phase will have been preceded by an intensive exchange with scientists (also involving research institutions) in the partner country and in the partner region as appropriate. Once scientific cooperation partners have been identified in the partner country, the applicants and foreign partners should jointly elaborate the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre's concrete research programme in the course of the preliminary phase. The central topic of a Centre should by and large be in the field of the humanities and/or social sciences but may also involve areas and issues in the natural sciences. A comparative research approach is explicitly desired but not a precondition for funding.

The Maria Sibylla Merian Centre will be headed by scientists from Germany and the partner country who have distinguished themselves through their outstanding scientific work. These experienced scientists will cooperate closely with a group of associated colleagues from the university or non-university research institution in the partner country at which the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre is established as well as with colleagues from the cooperation partners in the network in the partner country or region.

Researchers with outstanding specialist expertise from Germany and the partner country or region will be invited to the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre under a fellowship programme; a smaller share of the Fellows will also be recruited internationally. The researchers will be able to pursue their individual projects within the framework of the overarching research programme in a process of intensive exchange and largely free from teaching obligations.

Apart from Fellows who have already proved themselves through extensive excellent work, promising young scientists (post-docs) are also to be given the opportunity to work as Fellows on tackling innovative issues in a group of top-class representatives of a specific discipline. The Maria Sibylla Merian Centre will thus integrate early-stage researchers and offer them excellent conditions for conducting research, including the prospect of subsequent involvement in the universities and non-university research institutions in Germany which are funded within the framework of this call. In addition to supporting post-docs, the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre may also set up a highly selective doctoral programme, although this is not a necessary component of the overall programme.

As host organization, the foreign university or non-university research institution at which the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre is established will support cooperation between its own members and scientists at the Centre.

The Maria Sibylla Merian Centre should play an active part in the work of the partner institution, in the local context and in the context of the partner country; for example, through series of talks, summer schools or by triggering and supervising third-party funded projects for young scientists.

The scientific work of the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre will be monitored by an Advisory Committee, which will contribute inter alia to the Centre's scientific direction and scientific quality assurance. The senior management of the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre will present the Advisory Committee with an annual report on its work.

The senior management of the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre will decide on the use of funds, staff recruitment and invitations to Fellows, whereby the recipients of the funds in Germany will be responsible for making the final decision on the use of BMBF funds.

#### Support measures to strengthen bilateral cooperation

It is expected that the recipients of funding under the collaborative project (cf. No. 3) will provide a contribution of their own in order to strengthen bilateral cooperation at their institution in Germany. This contribution may, for example, be in the form of:

- Measures to involve former Fellows and former doctoral students e.g. in the form of a professorship (early appointment) or a junior academic staff position at the institution in Germany;
- Contributions towards consolidating cooperative relations (e.g. through programmes for visiting scientists, programmes for former Fellows, scholarships for a semester abroad within the framework of study courses, exchange programmes for doctoral students at the institution in Germany);
- Co-supervision of doctoral students at the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre and facilitation of stays by post-docs and doctoral students at the universities and non-university research institutions in Germany.

## **2.2 Administrative Framework of a Maria Sibylla Merian Centre**

The senior management of the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre will consist of a small team of Directors composed equally of outstanding scientists from Germany and the partner country. During the main phase, it is expected that at least one member of the team of Directors from Germany and one from the partner country will work locally at the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre at the same time. Should several positions of Director have to be filled by the German side, candidates should come from different universities or non-university research institutions. Directors should perform their functions on site over a period of several years if possible, but at least for a period of one year. Funding under the call provides funds for a full-time substitute at the Director's home institution for this purpose. Any further members of the team of Directors who exercise their function from an institution in Germany may be released from duties there on a pro rata basis. The total amount of time for which these further members of the Directors team may be released from their duties may not exceed the hours of a full-time substitute. In order to guarantee the greatest possible continuity within senior

management, the team of Directors will be allocated a Scientific Director (if possible a post-doc), who will perform this function without interruption for at least three years.

In consultation with the Advisory Committee, the team of Directors will grant five to ten fellowships per year to proven researchers, the majority of whom will be from the partner country and Germany. Funding will be provided to finance substitutes for the Fellows at their home institutions for the period of their stay at the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre; alternatively, the Fellows will receive a scholarship-type allowance. Stays of varying duration are possible although long-term fellowships (i.e. nine to twelve months) should prevail in the interest of continuity and intensifying working relations. When selecting Fellows, attention should focus on a productive mixture of promising young scientists (post-docs) and experienced scientists. In addition, selected post-doc Fellows may conduct research at the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre for a period of up to three years and either receive a scholarship-type allowance or be given funding to finance substitutes at their home university for up to three years. A maximum of three of these post-doc Fellows will be able to stay at the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre at any one time. As far as possible, the work of both senior management and Fellows at the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre should take place during the individuals' active professional lives. Continuity should be ensured in the event a member of senior management retires.

The work of the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre will be organized and supported by a team of service staff consisting of up to seven people (i.e. seven full-time equivalents including the Scientific Director). The majority of the service staff members should preferably be recruited from the partner country and Germany. The work of the service staff should include e.g.: Supporting management in specialist and organizational questions; administration of the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre; supervising Fellows; translation work; supervising publications and public relations work. The universities and non-university research institutions will apply for funding for the service staff members from Germany.

It is expected that the partner country and/or institutions in the partner country will make a substantial contribution towards financing the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre during its main and final phases. The contribution during the main phase will consist at least of funding leave of absence for scientists in order to allow them to perform the duties of Directors at the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre, of providing funding for service staff members from the partner country and funding to ensure the necessary infrastructures (premises, office equipment, information and communication technologies, library including online resources, special equipment as appropriate, services).

### **3 Funding recipients**

Project proposals may be submitted by universities and non-university research institutions located in Germany and organizations with a high level of expertise in international research administration located in Germany which satisfy the purpose and preconditions for funding.

Applicants are called upon to form collaborations. At least one partner in every collaboration must have the necessary expertise in international funding administration and in establishing and supporting or heading research groups or institutes abroad.

The funding for a Maria Sibylla Merian Centre is based on cooperation between the collaboration and one or more partner institutes in Sub-Saharan Africa; foreign institutions cannot, however, receive BMBF funding. Cooperation with universities and non-university

research institutions in EU countries is possible; however, these cooperation partners cannot receive BMBF funding.

Research establishments which receive joint basic funding from the Federal Government and the *Länder* can only be granted project funding supplementary to their basic funding for additional expenditure under certain preconditions.

#### **4 Prerequisites for funding**

Institutions submitting applications must prove in their outline of the collaboration's project (cf. No. 7) that the individual institutions have experience in performing relevant scientific groundwork, in managing research groups or institutes and in scientific cooperation with the partner country concerned as well as in the thematic fields relevant to the planned Maria Sibylla Merian Centre. They must also prove that they have experience in interdisciplinary research projects. Furthermore, they must prove that they have expertise in research administration in international contexts and in establishing and supporting research structures abroad (preferably Sub-Saharan Africa).

Because the preliminary phase to prepare and plan an Maria Sibylla Merian Centre essentially serves to establish structures, one partner in the collaboration, i.e. the one with the most expertise in international research administration and in setting up institutes abroad, should be given a coordinating role: This partner should coordinate and implement the various tasks regarding events and services connected with the structural establishment of the Centre. The Maria Sibylla Merian Centre's scientific work comes to the fore during the main and final phases. This means that the tasks of the other partners in the collaboration become considerably more extensive in these later phases.

Partners in a collaborative project must formalize their cooperation in a written cooperation agreement. Before a funding decision can be taken, the cooperation partners must prove that they have reached a basic agreement on certain criteria stipulated by the BMBF. The project outline for the preliminary phase must already contain details of any additional planned collaborations with the corresponding signed declarations.

Applicants and funding recipients are asked to refer to BMBF form 0110 (*BMBF-Vordruck Nr. 0110 Merkblatt für Antragsteller/Zuwendungsempfänger zur Zusammenarbeit der Partner von Verbundprojekten*) which provides further details and can be found at [https://foerderportal.bund.de/easy/easy\\_index.php?auswahl=easy\\_formulare](https://foerderportal.bund.de/easy/easy_index.php?auswahl=easy_formulare) (Click on BMBF under "Formularschrank", click on Allgemeine Vordrucke und Vorlagen für Berichte).

It is expected that the collaboration will have drafted the project outline for its application for a preliminary phase on the basis of an extensive exchange with scientists and research funding organizations in the partner country or partner region, if applicable.

#### **Participation in an informational event**

The Maria Sibylla Merian Centre in Sub-Saharan Africa is an innovative funding model which does not only demand outstanding scientific, organizational and intercultural skills but also particular expertise in establishing research structures abroad. It is therefore essential to bring potential applicants (cf. No. 3) together even before applications are submitted for the preliminary phase and at the same time put them in touch with research funding organizations and science organizations which command the necessary expertise. The BMBF therefore invites all potential applicants to an event in Bonn

on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

This event is intended to provide further information and to encourage exchanges and agreements on cooperation between potential applicants. The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation will be represented at the event to answer questions regarding opportunities for support. Attendance at this event is compulsory for applicants. Interested parties should register with the project management organization (cf. No. 7.1)

by 14<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

## **5 Type, scope and rates of funding**

The funding period under this call is divided into a preliminary phase of up to three years, a main phase of up to six years and a final phase of up to four years (depending on the length of the preliminary phase, cf. No. 2) so that the overall period of funding will be a maximum of twelve years. Funding will initially only be provided for the preliminary phase. Funding will be awarded in the form of non-repayable project grants.

Grants for universities, research and science institutions and similar establishments will be calculated on the basis of the eligible project-related expenditure (grants for Helmholtz centres and the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft (FhG) will be calculated on the basis of the project-related costs eligible for funding), up to 100% of which can be covered in individual cases.

When providing funding for commercial activities, the calculation of the respective rate of funding must take account of the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER).

### **5.1 Rate and object of funding for a preliminary phase:**

Funding of up to 1.7 million euros may be granted for a preliminary phase lasting, as a rule, three years.

Funding for a preliminary phase will cover the following areas, for example:

- Meetings of the collaborating German institutions both with one another and with scientists from the partner country;
- Stays abroad to clarify the legal basis and to conduct negotiations with institutions in the partner country, in particular on the necessary co-funding of the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre;
- The drafting of a research programme and an organizational plan for the planned Maria Sibylla Merian Centre (including the programme to promote young scientists and support measures to strengthen bilateral cooperation on the part of the universities involved in Germany);
- Workshops or conferences to discuss the planned central topic;
- Tests on instruments to enhance scientific cooperation with the cooperation partner(s) in the partner country in initial research projects to prepare the main phase.

### **5.2 Rate and object of funding for a main and final phase:**

The application for funding for a main phase is the result of the preliminary phase, which is evaluated by an international panel. Applicants may request BMBF funding for the main phase of up to 12 million euros in total for a maximum of six years with pre-calculated, lump sum rates for management and Fellows. The Directors of the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre from Germany decide in consultation with their foreign colleagues on the appropriate use of the federal funding in line with the content of the programme, taking into account the terms of the notification of award and the other applicable rules. There is an option that, following a positive external evaluation of the main phase, the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre may receive funding for a final phase of up to four years depending on the length of the preliminary phase.

## **6 Other terms and conditions**

The *Allgemeine Nebenbestimmungen für Zuwendungen zur Projektförderung (ANBest-P)* (General Auxiliary Conditions for Grants for the Promotion of Projects) and the *Besondere Nebenbestimmungen für Zuwendungen des BMBF zur Projektförderung auf Ausgabenbasis (BNBest-BMBF98)* (Special Auxiliary Terms and Conditions for Funds Provided by the BMBF for the Promotion of Projects on an Expenditure Basis) or the *Besondere Nebenbestimmungen für den Abruf von Zuwendungen im mittelbaren Abrufverfahren im Geschäftsbereich des BMBF (BNBest-mittelbarer Abruf BMBF)*, where the funding is provided in the so-called drawdown procedure, will be part of the notification of award for grants on an expenditure basis

The *Allgemeine Nebenbestimmungen für Zuwendungen auf Kostenbasis des BMBF an Unternehmen der gewerblichen Wirtschaft für Forschungs- und Entwicklungsvorhaben* (Auxiliary Terms and Conditions for Funds Provided by the BMBF to Commercial Companies for Research and Development Projects on a Cost Basis – NKBF 98) will be part of the notification of award for grants on a cost basis.

## **7 Procedure**

### **7.1 Involvement of a project management organization, application documents and other documents, use of the electronic application system**

The application procedure is open and competitive.

The BMBF has currently entrusted the following project management organization with the implementation of the funding measure:

DLR Projektträger  
Umwelt, Kultur, Nachhaltigkeit  
Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften  
Heinrich-Konen-Str. 1  
53227 Bonn  
Phone: +49 (0) 228 38 21-15 80 (Secretariat)  
Fax: + 49 (0) 228 38 21-15 00  
Website: <http://www.pt-dlr.de>

The contact person is:

Dr. Gaia di Luzio



Phone: + 49 (0) 228 38 21-19 96

E-mail: [gaia.diluzio@dlr.de](mailto:gaia.diluzio@dlr.de)

Any changes will be announced in the Federal Gazette (Bundesanzeiger) or in another suitable manner.

Applicants are advised to contact the project management organization for further information and comments before submitting a project outline.

Forms for formal applications, guidelines, leaflets, information and auxiliary terms and conditions are available at [https://foerderportal.bund.de/easy/easy\\_index.php?auswahl=easy\\_formulare](https://foerderportal.bund.de/easy/easy_index.php?auswahl=easy_formulare)

Applicants must use the "easy-online" electronic application system to draft project outlines and formal applications for funding (<https://foerderportal.bund.de/easyonline>).

## 7.2 Applying for the preliminary phase

The application procedure for the preliminary phase is a one-step procedure.

Applicants are to send an application for funding for the preliminary phase of a Maria Sibylla Merian Centre in printed and in electronic form in coordination with the designated coordinator of the collaboration. The application for funding includes a project outline and the signed form for an expenditure-based grant (*Zuwendungsantrag auf Ausgabenbasis* (AZA or AZAP)) or cost based grant (*Zuwendungsantrag auf Ausgabenbasis* (AZK)). It must be submitted electronically via the Internet portal [https://foerderportal.bund.de/easyonline/reflink.jsf?reflink=neuesFormular&massnahme=GSW&bereich=M\\_S\\_MERIAN\\_CENTRE](https://foerderportal.bund.de/easyonline/reflink.jsf?reflink=neuesFormular&massnahme=GSW&bereich=M_S_MERIAN_CENTRE).

In addition, a signed hardcopy of the formal application for funding must be submitted.

**Deadline is 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017.** It may not be possible to consider applications received after this date.

The project outline should not exceed 25 pages (DIN A 4, 1.5 spacing).

A cover sheet is to be affixed to the project outline with the names of the applicants, stating their institution, the coordinator of the collaboration of institutions in Germany, the title of the project, the proposed duration of the preliminary phase, the rate of funding and the financial support required. An annex to the project outline should contain a list of the most important publications (maximum of 20) by the scientists involved and "Letters of Intent" for a future collaboration.

The project outline is to be drafted in English and should be structured as follows:

- A clearly worded summary of the project in German and English (a maximum of one page each);
- Topic, research issue (which considers the state of the art of international research), preliminary research programme of the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre, taking into account the interdisciplinary approach, research methods and the compatibility of the topic in the partner country;
- Planned cooperation partners in the partner country and/or the partner region;
- Basic features of the organizational plan of the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre including a programme to support young scientists (post-docs and doctoral students if

appropriate) (please explain the division of work between the collaboration partners from Germany and the cooperation partners from the partner country/partner region and the EU), planned involvement in universities and non-university research institutions in the partner country, existing and planned collaborations beyond the Centre and a preliminary bilateral programme, including the planned contributions of the universities and non-university research institutions involved in Germany, and division of work within the collaboration.

- Steps to plan, prepare and establish the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre;
- Use and relevance of the results, taking particular account of structures to ensure the sustainability of the bilateral cooperation;
- Own groundwork (including relevant publications), experience in heading research groups or institutes and in scientific collaborations with the partner country concerned in fields that are relevant for the planned Maria Sibylla Merian Centre, as well as expertise in establishing and supporting research structures abroad (cf. No. 4);
- Work, time and financial plan (with details of potential co-funding by the partner country or institutions in the partner country);
- Utilization plan.

External experts will be involved in evaluating the project outlines received. The evaluation will be based on the following criteria:

- Originality of the topic chosen and scientific quality of the preliminary research programme (including empirical basis, theoretical background and explicit methodology) taking into account the interdisciplinary character of the research task;
- Organization and feasibility of the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre and the planned bilateral programme;
- Scientific qualifications of the applicants (regarding relevant groundwork, experience in heading research groups or institutions and in scientific cooperation with the partner country concerned as well as experience in interdisciplinary research projects), scientific qualifications of the cooperation partners in the partner country and profile of the applicants with regard to expertise in developing research partnerships with partners abroad;
- Co-funding by the partner country and/or institutions in the partner country (see No. 2.2) ;
- Strategy for the sustainability of the bilateral cooperation;
- Fostering of young scientists by the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre;
- Need and appropriateness of the funding requested.

The BMBF plans to invite applicants to a personal hearing. A funding decision will be taken on the basis of the above criteria and the evaluation and after a final review of the application. The applicants will be informed in writing of the results of the selection procedure.

Applicants have no legal entitlement to the return of their project outlines and any other documents submitted in this phase of the procedure.

### **7.3 Applying for the main phase**

If the evaluation of the preliminary phase by an external international panel is positive, an application for funding of the main phase can be submitted. The outline must firstly include a written commitment by the donors in the partner country to provide funding. Secondly, a written declaration must be submitted from the university or non-university research institution at which the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre is to be established stating that it will provide the basic equipment for the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre and organize the placement of the Fellows (cf. No. 2.2). More precise information regarding substance and form and the assessment of the project outline for the main phase will be announced in good time in the course of the preliminary phase.

#### **7.4 Criteria for success and evaluation of the main phase**

Criteria for success are based on

- the scientific output and international visibility of the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre;
- the organization of the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre;
- the strengthening of bilateral and international scientific cooperation in the field of the humanities and social sciences (e.g. as illustrated by plans to continue the work after funding expires);
- the promotion of young scientists;
- the sustainable institutional influence of the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre;
- the impact outside the field of science.

The applicants must express their willingness to cooperate in evaluations. The results of the funding measure will be presented to science and the public at conferences.

#### **7.5 Regulations to be observed:**

The approval, payment and accounting for the funds as well as the proof and examination of the proper use and, if necessary, the revocation of the award and the reclaiming of the funds awarded are governed by the administrative regulations pertaining to section 44 of the Federal Budget Code (BHO) and sections 48 to 49a of the Administrative Procedure Act (VwVfG).

#### **8 Entry into force**

These funding regulations will enter into force on the day after their publication in the Federal Gazette (*Bundesanzeiger*).

Bonn, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2016

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