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### **1. /DFG\*/ Entangled Africa: Innerafrikanische Beziehungen zwischen Regenwald und Mittelmeer, SPP 2143, Frist: 31.01.2021**

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Der Senat der Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) hat im April 2017 die Einrichtung des Schwerpunktprogramms „Entangled Africa: Innerafrikanische Beziehungen zwischen Regenwald und Mittelmeer (ca. 6000 bis 500 Jahre vor heute)“ (SPP 2143) beschlossen. Als Laufzeit sind sechs Jahre vorgesehen. Die DFG lädt hiermit ein zur Antragstellung für die zweite dreijährige Förderperiode.

Dieses Schwerpunktprogramm wagt einen grundlegenden Perspektivwechsel. Sein Ziel ist, das vielschichtige Geflecht weitreichender Beziehungen und Interaktionen der afrikanischen Vergangenheit im Raum zwischen Mittelmeer und Regenwald sichtbar zu machen. Mittels eines breiten geistes- und naturwissenschaftlichen Methodenspektrums werden Beziehungen und Vernetzungen erörtert, die in den letzten 6000 Jahren einen prägenden Einfluss auf die menschlichen Gesellschaften hatten und die auch heute noch in unserer modernen und globalisierten Welt von Bedeutung sind.

In diesem archäologischen Schwerpunktprogramm arbeiten die Mitglieder in enger Kooperation mit ihren afrikanischen Partnerinnen und Partnern. Da Vernetzung erforscht werden soll, muss die Thematik der Projekte auf Überregionalität ausgerichtet sein. Drei Fragestellungen hinsichtlich Vernetzung stehen innerhalb des Programms im Vordergrund:

o Welche Indikatoren für überregionale Kontakte und Vernetzungen lassen sich erfassen? Empirische Grundlagenforschung erfasst die überlieferten Anzeiger überregionaler Kontakte (z. B. ortsfremde Objekte oder Materialien, deren Herkunft es zu klären gilt; Akteure, die sich anhand innovativer Technologien wie Nahrungsproduktion, Keramik- oder Metallherstellung oder Architektur erkennen lassen oder die durch Schriftquellen nachgewiesen sind).

o Welche Formen nahmen diese Interaktionen und Vernetzungen an?

Form und Organisation von Interaktionen, ihre räumliche Ausdehnung, zeitliche Tiefe und Infrastruktur werden analysiert (z. B. Mechanismen, wie welches Mobilitätsschema hinter dem Kontakt steckt: Migration, Austausch oder Handel; Beantwortung von Fragen zu Ursache oder Motivation, unter anderem im Zusammenhang mit der Ausbreitung technischer Innovationen).

o Welche Muster lassen sich erkennen?

Welche Territorien sind zu welcher Zeit und auf der Basis welcher Mechanismen vernetzt? Hier werden ganz konkret die besonderen Einflussgrößen der letzten sechs Jahrtausende in den Blick genommen (z. B. welche Rolle spielte die geografische Situation; auf Grundlage welcher Klima- und Umweltveränderungen sowie gesellschaftlichen Umbrüche entstehen Vernetzungsmechanismen).

Inhaltliche Fragen beantworten Ihnen die Koordinatoren des Schwerpunktprogramms:

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[https://www.dfg.de/foerderung/info\\_wissenschaft/2020/info\\_wissenschaft\\_20\\_77/](https://www.dfg.de/foerderung/info_wissenschaft/2020/info_wissenschaft_20_77/)  
<https://www.dainst.blog/entangled-africa/>

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## **2. /DFG\*/ German-Israeli Project Cooperation, Deadline: 31.03.2021**

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On the basis of an agreement with the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) has taken over and continues the Programme of German-Israeli Project Cooperation. The BMBF continues providing the funds, while the DFG has all scientific and administrative responsibility.

Participant institutions in Israel are invited to submit proposals which may come from all fields of science and research. Proposals shall be so designed as to be carried out in close cooperation between the Israeli and the German project partners. They must contain a description of the joint work plan for both, the Israeli and the German side. The quality of the research work and the strength of the scientific cooperation including the exchange of scientists, in particular early career researchers (PhDs/Postdocs), are the main criteria for the review and selection. Principal investigators on both sides need to have adequate working conditions over the full period of the project.

Eligible for the submission of proposals are:

- o Bar-Ilan University
- o Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
- o The University of Haifa
- o The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- o Tel Aviv University
- o Technion - The Israel Institute of Technology
- o Weizmann Institute of Science

Each of these institutions is entitled to submit two proposals which makes altogether 14.

Please note: No direct submission by researchers from either Israel or Germany can be accepted.

The procedure is carried out in two stages: The first stage takes place in Israel, the second stage takes place in Germany.

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Further information:

[http://www.dfg.de/foerderung/info\\_wissenschaft/2020/info\\_wissenschaft\\_20\\_78](http://www.dfg.de/foerderung/info_wissenschaft/2020/info_wissenschaft_20_78)

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### **3. /DFG/ Taiwan-German Collaboration in Research, Deadline: 18.02.2021**

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The Ministry of Science and Technology of Taiwan (MoST) has launched a new call for proposals in all fields of science in November 2020.

This initiative aims to bring together relevant and competitive researchers from Germany and Taiwan to design and carry out collaborative research projects. Within these research teams, each national funding organisation will fund as a rule only those project components that are carried out within its own country. Funds to be used by the Taiwanese side must be requested from MoST; funds to be used by the German side must be requested from DFG. Special attention is given to the integrated character of proposed projects, from the concept to the work plan.

Funding is only available for projects which involve a convincing collaboration between the German and Taiwanese partners and for which the anticipated research benefit is clearly outlined. The collaborative projects selected will receive research funding for a period of up to three years.

For researchers in Germany: Detailed information about the collaboration between DFG and MoST can be obtained at the DFG Head Office in Bonn:

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Further information:

[https://www.dfg.de/foerderung/info\\_wissenschaft/ausschreibungen/info\\_wissenschaft\\_20\\_79/index.htm](https://www.dfg.de/foerderung/info_wissenschaft/ausschreibungen/info_wissenschaft_20_79/index.htm)

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### **4. /EU COSME\*/ European Cluster Excellence Programme with ClusterXchange scheme connecting ecosystems and cities, ID: COS-CLUSTER-2020-3.03, Deadline: 02.02.2021, 17:00 Brussels time**

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Expected Outcome:

The European Strategic Cluster Partnerships shall specifically contribute to the following:

- enhancing cluster managers' skills towards added-value SME support services;
- supporting the development and implementation of a comprehensive portfolio of new services for cluster members, including activities to strengthen interregional collaboration and partnership development across EU value chains while mobilising partners to contribute to upskilling and reskilling actions across industrial ecosystems in the light of the green and digital transitions;
- organising twinning, collaboration, networking and learning activities and cooperation projects;

- supporting the implementation of the "ClusterXchange" mobility scheme.

For this purpose, this call aims to bring together cluster organisations and other business network organisations from the EU Member States or countries participating in the COSME programme, interested in teaming up in European Strategic Cluster Partnerships.

**Scope:**

The overall objective of this action is to strengthen cluster management excellence and facilitate exchanges and strategic partnering between clusters and specialised eco-systems and cities across Europe, including through implementation of the "ClusterXchange" mobility scheme. As high quality cluster management and strategic connections between clusters are key elements of successful world-class clusters, the action aims to foster SME competitiveness and assist companies to successfully access global markets.

The specific objective is to enhance the collaboration, networking and learning of cluster organisations and their members towards the professionalization of specialised and customised business support services provided or channelled to SMEs. This shall further contribute to strengthen ties between European ecosystems and cities across regional and sectoral silos with the view to support a sustainable inter-regional partnering process and joint actions for strategic collaboration in various industrial specialisation areas linked to industrial modernisation and improving their business environment and workforce development.

This action also aims to act as enabler and multiplier of collaborations by initiating about 1000 matched exchanges via ClusterXchange and thus contributing to a better understanding of existing opportunities, for which the implementation and scaling-up activities could then be further supported through regional, national and EU programmes - such as the European Structural and Investment Funds, Horizon 2020, COSME and others.

This call shall further enable groups of specialised enterprises, notably SMEs, together with other innovation actors in industrial clusters, to find partners with complementary competences, to access value chains that cut across national, regional and sectoral boundaries as well as facilitate their access to technology centres and other scaling-up support organisations. This shall focus on engaging actors from regions with different levels of economic development - including from less developed and transition regions - and, likewise, cluster organisations with distinct stages of development and experience.

**Further information:**

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/cluster-01-2020;callCode=COS-CLUSTER-2020-3-03;freeTextSearchKeyword=;matchWholeText=true;typeCodes=;typeCodes=1;statusCodes=31094501,31094502,31094503;programmePeriod=null;programCcm2Id=31059643;programCcm1Id=31059643;programDivisionCode=null;focusAreaCode=null;geographicalZonesCode=null;programmeDivisionProspect=null;prospect=null;startDateLte=Thu%20Nov%2012%202020%2017:36:11%20GMT%2B0100%20%28Mittleeurop%C3%A4ische%20Normalzeit%29;startDateGte=Thu%20Nov%2012%202020%2017:36:11%20GMT%2B0100%20%28Mittleeurop%C3%A4ische%20Normalzeit%29;crossCuttingPriorityCode=null;cpvCode=null;performanceOfDelivery=null;score=0;sortBy=score;sortOrder=desc;onlyTenders=false;topicListKey=callTopicSearchTableState>

## 5. /EU COSME\*/ Strategic Alliances for the uptake of advanced technologies by SMEs (COS-STRAT-2020-3-05), Deadline: 02.02.2021, 17:00 Brussels time

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### Expected Outcome:

The action shall urge industry, governments, business, academia and citizens to build strategic alliances to seize the potential of advanced technologies. It shall offer evidence-based tools, support, advice and best practices. It shall support SMEs to achieve tangible progress in industrial modernisation, boosting their business growth and creating high-value jobs.

The action shall accelerate innovation, industrial modernisation, innovative business models and upskilling of the workforce among European SMEs. It shall also contribute to the design and efficient implementation of smarter industrial policies and a modern Single Market in the 21st century.

It will contribute to shaping an ambitious vision for a modern Union industrial policy among all stakeholders, to accelerate the implementation of the industrial modernisation strategy and will stimulate strategic investments in smart infrastructures for SMEs.

### Qualitative and quantitative indicators for the action:

- Quality, impact and visibility of the deliverables, including reports and websites, soundness of economic analysis underlying these deliverables, and quality and relevance of workshops, matchmaking events, technology challenges for SMEs and start-ups, professional mentoring and advisory services and communication activities.
- Quality, number and impact of SMEs and policy makers participating actively in the activities organised to support the adoption of advanced technologies by SMEs.
- Number of cooperation agreements and partnerships among business, academia and governments to support the adoption of advanced technologies by SMEs.
- Increased level of technological maturity, growth and competitiveness of SMEs.
- Scope:
  - This measure addresses the objective of the programme to improve the Business environment for enterprises, including by fostering the competitiveness of enterprises and sectors.
  - More specifically, this action aims to mobilise a large number of SMEs through strategic alliances and support a large number of events and activities across the Union, focusing e.g. on:
    - Applied technological solutions and best practices related to advanced technologies for SMEs in key sectors and implementing the recommendations of the Critical Industrial Applications of SMEs and the strategic industrial value chains;
    - Promotion of advanced technologies to SMEs through the organisation of technology dedicated workshops, matchmaking events, technology challenges for SMEs and start-ups, professional mentoring and advisory services, and communication activities and events in cooperation with Union Presidencies, Member States, the Digital Cities Challenge initiative, sectoral associations, the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN), the Network of SME Envoys, Digital Innovations Hubs, Technology centres and Clusters.
    - Promotion of practical guidelines to help SMEs ensure compliance with existing regulation (e.g GDPR, the free flow of data, AI ethics guidelines, the Platform to Business (P2B) regulation, cybersecurity, copyright, IPR and standard essential patents (SEPs) etc.).

### This action will:

- (1) build strategic alliances for the uptake by SMEs of advanced technologies in different strategic value chains;
- (2) identify appropriate industrial policy measures at Union, national and regional/local level; and
- (3) organise large scale promotion activities to support the adoption of advanced technologies by SMEs in particular sectors of the economy.

This action will build on the outcome of the "Critical Industrial Applications of AI" and the reports of the High Level Group on AI. It will be implemented in close synergy with the "Digital/Intelligent Cities Challenge", a major initiative that helps 41 cities to develop thriving ecosystems for smart sustainable growth and the European Cluster Collaboration Partnerships, as well as the European AI Alliance. It will be developed in collaboration with relevant services, notably DG CNECT, REGIO, ENER, COMM.

Further information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/strat-01-2020;callCode=null;freeTextSearchKeyword=;matchWholeText=true;typeCodes=0,1,2;statusCodes=31043;statusCodes=31094501,31094502,31094503;programmePeriod=2014%20-%202020;programCcm2Id=31059643;programDivisionCode=null;focusAreaCode=null;geographicalZonesCode=null;programmeDivisionProspect=null;prospect=null;startDateLte=Thu%20Nov%2012%202020%2015:26:03%20GMT%2B0100%20%28Mittleurop%C3%A4ische%20Normalzeit%29;startDateGte=Thu%20Nov%2012%202020%2015:26:03%20GMT%2B0100%20%28Mittleeurop%C3%A4ische%20Normalzeit%29;crossCuttingPriorityCode=null;cpvCode=null;performanceOfDelivery=null;delivery=null;sortQuery=startDate;orderBy=desc;onlyTenders=false;topicListKey=topicSearchTablePageState&ePageState>

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## **6. /Sonstige\*/ EMFF: Blue economy window call (EMFF-BEW-2020), Deadline: 16.02.2021, 17:00 Brussels time**

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Specific Challenge:

The grants offered to SMEs in this blue economy window call for proposals shall help advance market-readiness of new products, services or processes. Activities could, for example, include trials, prototyping, validation, demonstration and testing in real environment conditions, and market replication. A sustainable blue economy can also contribute significantly to European Green Deal objectives, including the biodiversity, circular economy, digital earth and farm to fork strategies and the transition to a climate-neutral economy. It can help communities and industries hit hard by the coronavirus or migration of key workers to recover through a more resilient economy with reduced carbon and environmental footprint and competitiveness on a global scale.

Also branded as 'BlueInvest Grants', this call for proposals belongs to a package of measures set up under the 'BlueInvest platform' encompassing assistance services for investment readiness and EUR 75 million worth of liquidity made available in 2020 for investing equity in funds specialising entirely or mostly in the blue economy or co-investing in particular companies.

The objectives of this call for proposals are to:

1. Bring to market new products, services, processes, and business models in blue economy value chains and help advance their market-readiness;
2. develop sustainable and innovative blue economy in Europe's sea basins;
3. de-risk investment in these projects to facilitate their access to other financing schemes for the next stages of their activities.

The proposals should aim at developing business concepts further into a market-ready product, service or process aligned with the applicant's blue economy growth strategy.

Scope and activities that can be funded

In order to achieve the objectives above, proposals should aim to:

o establishing new product and/or service and/or processes and/or business model in the blue economy value chains that contributes to one or more Commission political priorities, with a particular focus on the

objectives targeted by the European Green Deal[3], including e.g. biodiversity, circular economy, digital earth and farm to fork strategies and the transition to a climate-neutral economy with reduced carbon and environmental footprint that is competitive on a global scale.

and/or

o shifting existing products and/or services and or processes and/or business model in the blue economy value chains towards the above mentioned political priorities and objectives.

A non-exhaustive list of relevant areas for the blue economy includes:

- o the blue bioeconomy -- the cultivation, husbandry or capture of living material from fresh or saltwater and activities based on the use or processing of this material
- o digital transformation of ocean and coastal activities
- o renewable energy -- including energy from wind, sun (floating), tide, wave and thermal gradients; logistic or supporting activities in that area are covered
- o enabling technologies such as sensors, corrosion or biofouling resistant materials or coating, digitisation, electricity transmission equipment, multi-purpose platforms
- o production of new products from living or non-living resources that would otherwise be wasted
- o cleaner shipping
- o pollution monitoring, clean-up or management
- o new facilities that support the diversification or energy efficiency of ports
- o sustainable tourism aiming at reducing its carbon footprint or enhancing biodiversity, or efficiently managing resources (e.g. water, food and waste) or tourist flows (e.g. diversifying offer, addressing seasonality and safety)

Further information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/emff-bew-2020;callCode=null;freeTextSearchKeyword=;matchWholeText=true;typeCodes=0,1,2;statusCodes=31094501,31094502,31094503;programmePeriod=2014%20-%202020;programCcm2Id=31098847;programDivisionCode=null;focusAreaCode=null;geographicalZonesCode=null;programmeDivisionProspect=null;prospect=null;startDateLte=Thu%20Nov%2012%202020%2017:53:35%20GMT%2B0100%20%28Mittleeurop%C3%A4ische%20Normalzeit%29;startDateGte=Thu%20Nov%2012%202020%2017:53:35%20GMT%2B0100%20%28Mittleeurop%C3%A4ische%20Normalzeit%29;crossCuttingPriorityCode=null;cpvCode=null;performanceOfDelivery=null;delivery=null;sortQuery=sortStatus;orderBy=asc;onlyTenders=false;topicListKey=topicSearchTablePageStateePageState>

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## **7. /Sonstige\*/ ERA-NET Bioenergy: "Development and improvement of biomass conversion technologies for the provisioning of heat for industrial processes", Deadline: 26.01.2021, 13:00 CET**

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In this joint call, ERA-NET Bioenergy aims to fund innovative, transnational research, development and innovation (R&D&I) projects in the field of bioenergy. Funding will be offered to excellent proposals that provide clear added value through cooperation of partners in at least two (preferably more) participating countries. Novelty beyond the state of the art in the bioenergy value chain addressed must be significant, and evidence of exploitation potential must be provided (e.g. by way of tangible industry commitment). Public funding is available for this joint call from funding bodies in Austria, Germany, Poland and Switzerland.

The call "Development and improvement of biomass conversion technologies for the provisioning of heat for industrial processes" aims to support innovative, collaborative panEuropean, R&D&I projects contributing to a sustainable provision of bioenergy heat.





1. Development of technically and economically feasible new decarbonisation technologies for the provision of heat based on agricultural and/or forestry biomass. The solutions shall be mainly based on agricultural and/or forestry biomass including residues, but could also utilize other biogenic energy carriers.
2. Adaption and/or modification of existing technical solutions for the production of heat based on agricultural and/or forestry biomass for industrial processes. Such projects shall encompass significant R&D work.

An economical assessment of the envisioned solutions must be integrated into each project. Ideally, solutions should enable full or improved usage of biomass feedstock. They should focus on residues, by-products and other forms of feedstock that minimise competition with food production and contribute to a circular economy.

All proposals must be put in context of the political/legal framework, available biomass raw materials, and techno-economic as well as socio-economic market situation in the countries in which the project work will be carried out.

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Further information:

<https://www.fnr.de/projektfoerderung/aktuelle-foerderaufrufe/#n11858>

<https://eranetbioenergy.net/file/download/59824133>

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