

**Federal Ministry
of Education and Research (BMBF)**

**Announcement within the framework of the Federal Government's Strategy for the
Internationalization of Education, Science and Research**

**Regulations governing funding of research for the strengthening of resilience and
development of structures in African cities and conurbations (AfResi)**

of 14 May 2019

1 Aim and purpose of funding, legal basis

1.1 Aim and purpose of funding

Under its Africa Strategy, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) is committed to ensuring that research collaboration increasingly contributes to implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The “AfResi” funding activity aims to contribute to increasing the resilience of people and systems in precarious situations in Africa and to reducing their vulnerability to extreme, climate-related or economic, social and ecological events by 2030. The relevant SDGs concerned include:

- 1. No poverty
- 2. Zero hunger
- 3. Good health and well-being
- 4. Quality education
- 5. Gender equality
- 6. Clean water and sanitation
- 7. Affordable and clean energy
- 10. Reduced inequalities
- 11. Sustainable cities and communities
- 13. Climate action
- 15. Life on land.

African cities play a decisive role in many regions as systems and living spaces for ensuring the well-being of their populations. UN experts predict that the total population of African countries will double to 2.5 billion inhabitants by 2050. And they expect that two thirds of them will live in urban areas. The pressure of increasing urbanization is placing enormous challenges on urban supply systems, infrastructure and populations. Besides these, further challenges such as ensuring healthcare provision, securing the food supply and energy supplies for all, dealing with the effects of climate change, the creation of life prospects and possibilities for political and social participation etc. must also be met by the structures of urban systems (cities/conurbations).

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research regards appropriately enabling African cities, local authorities and regions as a key to mastering these challenges. This call is designed to support thematically relevant research projects carried out in cooperation between German and African partners which will contribute to the systematic development of structures in African cities and to the strengthening of their resilience.

The funding measure is carried out under the Federal Government's Strategy for the Internationalization of Education, Science and Research, the BMBF's Africa Strategy and the BMBF's "International Cooperation" Action Plan.

1.2 Legal basis

The Federal Government will award grants in accordance with these funding regulations, sections 23 and 44 of the Federal Budget Code (BHO) and the administrative regulations adopted thereunder as well as the BMBF's regulations governing applications for expenditure-based grants (AZA) and/or cost-based grants (AZK). There is no legal entitlement to a grant. The granting authority will decide freely after due assessment of the circumstances within the framework of the budget funds available.

Under these funding regulations, state aid will be granted on the basis of Article 25(2)(a) fundamental research, (b) industrial research and/or (c) experimental development of the 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) in the version of the Regulation (EU) 2017/1084 of 14 June 2017 (OJ L 156 of 20 June 2017, p. 1). Funding is provided in accordance with the Common Provisions set out in Chapter I GBER, in particular taking account of the definitions given in Article 2 of the Regulation (please refer to the Annex with regard to the requirements of state aid legislation applying to these funding regulations).

2 Object of funding

Funding will be provided for collaborative research projects which show high practical relevance in accordance with the funding purpose described above. This call addresses transdisciplinary German-African consortia and it is desirable that African North-South collaborations in particular form part of the consortia.

The research projects should produce innovative and application-oriented solutions that contribute to strengthening the resilience of the entire target region against extreme events. The projects should strengthen the development of local capacities and expertise and provide support to existing structures. Apart from excellent research, the research projects' principal tasks also include developing and expanding research capacities and strengthening inner-African networking processes.

The collaborative projects should involve cooperation between African and German experts from science, industry, government and civil society. International, inter- and transdisciplinary cooperation will be expected. Subject areas could include:

- Megacities
- Health
- Climate
- Food security
- Transport, traffic, logistics
- Resources management
- Waste and water management
- Energy supply, renewable energies
- Local government
- Education systems
- Good governance
- Promotion of participation and consultation rights, particularly of disadvantaged groups

Projects are sought which will, for example, look at several systems within an urban complex and their potential interaction.

The project proposals must take the current state of science and technology and their current implementation in the partner country as their starting point and proceed beyond these in order to achieve improvements that will be vital for strengthening resilience. They must demonstrate clear advantages compared to existing solutions. The project's scientific continuity should be ensured by its ability to generate further research questions.

The benefits for Germany and the partner country/partner countries/partner region should be clearly identifiable. The research questions to be pursued should generate results that can be utilized. In addition, the project must initiate measures to implement the research results and a dialogue with relevant politicians in the partner country.

The project proposals must have the following contents:

- Project goal
- Description of the scenario, need and relevance (as well as of the reasons why the solution sought in the project means significant progress compared to the current situation)
- Structured and realistic utilization plan
- Strategy for implementing the research results
- Description of the continuity of own research: Description of further steps and research questions the project will generate

Furthermore, projects should contribute to achieving the following cooperation objectives:

- International networking: Promoting the visibility of African researchers
- Continuity: Preparation of follow-up activities (e.g. in BMBF specialist programmes, EU funding programmes with research relevance, etc.).

- Sustainability: Promotion of young researchers, particularly young female researchers in areas in which women are under-represented, for example by means of targeted support and mentoring programmes

The successful implementation of the planned projects will require the appropriate political parameters in the participating countries, the involvement of the local users of the research, and written cooperation agreements with public authorities, particularly at local and regional level.

3 Funding recipients

Applications may be submitted by universities, university hospitals, non-university research institutions and other institutions contributing to research as well as commercial companies.

Applicants are required to have a plant or branch (company) or another entity to act as funding recipient (university, non-university research institution or institution contributing to research) in Germany at the time of payment of the grant.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) within the meaning of this call are companies that meet the requirements of the EU definition of SMEs (cf. Annex I of the GBER or the Commission Recommendation of 6 May 2003 concerning the definition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (notified under document number C(2003) 1422) (2003/361/EC):

[<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32003H0361&from=EN>].

The funding recipient will declare its classification according to Annex I of the GBER to the granting authority in its written application for funding.

Research institutions which receive basic funding from the Federal Government and/or the *Länder* can only be granted project funding supplementary to their institutional funding to cover additional project-related expenditure or costs under certain preconditions.

Under these funding regulations, the recipient of funding will be allowed to transfer part of the grant to another recipient (secondary recipient) in accordance with No. 12 of the administrative regulations pertaining to Section 44 of the Federal Budget Code (BHO). In accordance with No. 13a.2 of the administrative regulations pertaining to Section 44 of the Federal Budget Code (BHO), funding recipients are not permitted to transfer a grant that is calculated on the basis of eligible project-related costs.

Concerning the conditions for when state aid is or is not deemed to be involved, and the extent to which funding can be provided without constituting aid, please consult the Commission communication concerning the Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation of 27 June 2014 (OJ C 198 of 27 June 2014 p.1 ff); in particular Section 2.

4 Special prerequisites for funding

The project outline must be submitted by the German applicant in cooperation with at least one partner from an African country. Participation by SMEs from Germany and the partner country/partner countries is desired. Further partners may participate in the research project if this benefits the project and further partners contribute their own funds.

The participating partners will entrust a German and an African partner with the coordination of the measure. Together with their partners, they will draft the documents to be submitted by the German applicant. When submitting their idea outlines, all partners must submit a Letter of Intent (LoI) confirming their interest in participating in the project, signed by the project leaders and the administrative heads of the participating institutions and bearing the seal of the institutions.

The German partners in a collaborative project will set out the terms of cooperation in a written agreement. In addition, it is recommended that a cooperation agreement is concluded between the German and African partners. Collaboration partners which are research institutions within the meaning of Article 2(83) GBER must ensure that no indirect aid flows to companies under the collaboration. The provisions of Section 2.2 of the Commission communication concerning the Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation of 27 June 2014 (OJ C 198 of 27 June 2014, p. 1) must be observed. Before a funding decision on a collaborative project is taken, the cooperation partners must prove that they have reached a basic consensus on further criteria stipulated by the BMBF (cf. BMBF leaflet No. 0110).¹

Relevant authorities and political levels should, if possible, be involved in the preparation of the project outline. Any declarations of support must be submitted in writing.

Projects proposed for funding under this call should show potential for longer-term sustainable cooperation with the partner country/partner countries.

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) attaches great importance to gender equality in the sciences. Project outlines which contribute to the implementation of Goal 5 of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, namely to “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” will be especially welcome.

5 Type, scope and rates of funding

The R&D projects should not exceed a period of three years. Funding will be awarded as non-repayable project grants amounting to a maximum 750,000 euros usually for a maximum period of 36 months.

¹ https://foerderportal.bund.de/easy/easy_index.php?auswahl=easy_formulare; header BMBF under "Allgemeine Vordrucke und Vorlagen für Berichte".

Grants for commercial companies and for projects of research institutions which fall into the category of economic activities², will be calculated on the basis of the eligible project-related costs. As a rule, up to 50% can be covered by government grants, taking state aid legislation into account (see Annex) and depending on the project's relevance to application. The BMBF's policy requires an appropriate own contribution of at least 50% towards the eligible costs incurred.

The basis for calculating the grants for higher education institutions, research and science institutions and similar establishments which do not fall into the category of economic activities is the eligible project-related expenditure (in the case of the Helmholtz centres and Fraunhofer, eligible project-related costs), which can receive up to 100% coverage in individual cases, taking into account state aid legislation.

In the case of non-commercial research projects at higher education institutions and teaching hospitals, a flat-rate grant amounting to 20% of total expenditure will be awarded in addition to the eligible expenditure. This project grant is included in the above-mentioned funding amount.

The determination of the respective rate of funding must take account of the GBER (see Annex).

The following expenditures/costs will be eligible for funding:

a. Staff for conducting scientific activities or research

Project-related expenditure/costs for student assistants and/or research staff (normally up to the TVöD German public sector pay scale EG 13).

b. Project-related non-cash resources and equipment

Funding for project-related resources (such as consumables, office supplies, appliances, award of contracts) can be provided to a limited extent.

c. Travel and stays by German and foreign researchers and experts

The following applies to the funding of travel and stays by German project researchers and experts:

The costs/expenditure for travel to and from the project partner's location will be covered including the necessary visas (if by air: economy class) and the expenditure/costs for the stays as well as travel within Germany in accordance with the applicable rules of the institution or company.

The following applies to the funding of stays by foreign project researchers and experts:

The costs/expenditure for travel to and from the project partner's location in Germany (if by air: economy class) will be covered by the sending country. Stays in Germany will be funded at a fixed rate of 104 euros per day or 2300 euros per month. The day of arrival and day of departure are counted as one day. Contributions to health

² For the definition of economic activity, see no. 17 of the R&D&I state aid Framework

insurance and, if applicable, other types of insurance are included in this allowance and must be paid by the foreign partner.

Where travel is necessary between project partners within Africa, the costs/expenditure for travel to and from these different project partners will also be covered. Stays in another African country will also be funded in such cases. A flat-rate daily allowance will be paid for accommodation and meals in accordance with the relevant country list (http://www.internationales-buero.de/media/content/Tagespauschalen_IB_neu.pdf).

d. Workshops

Workshops in Germany and in the partner country can be funded as follows:

Funding will be provided to cover various expenditure and/or costs related to the organization of workshops. For example, grants can be provided towards expenses such as accommodation of guests, transfers, provision of workshop documents, adequate hospitality and rental of premises. The exact amount of the grant depends on the size of the event and the number of foreign guests. In such cases, no per diem allowances (see c. above) will be provided.

As a rule, no funding will be provided to cover any of the cost of the participating institutions' normal basic equipment.

The determination of the respective eligible costs must take account of the GBER (see Annex).

6 Other terms and conditions

The *Nebenbestimmungen für Zuwendungen auf Kostenbasis des Bundesministeriums für Bildung und Forschung an gewerbliche Unternehmen für Forschungs- und Entwicklungsvorhaben* (NKBF 2017) (Auxiliary Terms and Conditions for Funds Provided by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research to Commercial Companies for Research and Development Projects on a Cost Basis) will be part of the notification of award for grants on a cost basis.

Notification of award for grants on an expenditure basis will include the *Nebenbestimmungen für Zuwendungen auf Ausgabenbasis des Bundesministeriums für Bildung und Forschung zur Projektförderung* (NABF) (Auxiliary Terms and Conditions for Funds Provided by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research for the Promotion of Projects on an Expenditure Basis).

Further auxiliary terms and conditions and information of the BMBF regarding this funding measure may also form part of the notification of award of funds.

For the purpose of conducting progress reviews within the meaning of administrative regulation (VV) 11a pertaining to section 44 of the Federal Budget Code (BHO), funding recipients are required to provide the data necessary for the progress review to the

BMBF or the institutions charged with such tasks without delay. The information will be used exclusively for the purposes of supporting research and any subsequent evaluation; it will be treated confidentially and published in anonymized form, making it impossible to trace it back to individual persons or organizations.

Funding recipients commit themselves to participate in central monitoring activities of the funding provider (e.g. kick-off workshop, midterm-meeting, concluding evaluation workshop).

Open Access

Funding recipients are expected to ensure open access if they publish the results of the research project in a scientific journal. This can be done through publication in an electronic journal which is accessible to the public free of charge. If the results are initially published in a way which does not provide the public with free electronic access, the article must be made publicly available free of charge by electronic means following an embargo period where appropriate (secondary publication). Embargo periods for secondary publication must not exceed 12 months. The BMBF expressly welcomes secondary open access publication of scientific monographs resulting from the project.

7 Procedure

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

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

DLR Project Management Agency
European and International Cooperation
Heinrich-Konen-Strasse 1
53227 Bonn, Germany
Internet: <http://www.internationales-buero.de>

Contact persons:

Scientific:

Christian Schache
Phone: +49 2 28/38 21-14 65
E-mail: Christian.Schache@dlr.de

Administrative:

Janina Leven
 Phone: +49 2 28/38 21-1934
 E-mail: Janina.Leven@dlr.de

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

Application forms, guidelines, leaflets, information and auxiliary terms and conditions are available online at

https://foerderportal.bund.de/easy/easy_index.php?auswahl=easy_formulare&formulars_chrank=bmbf

or can be obtained directly from the above-mentioned project management organization.

7.2 Two-phase application procedure

The application procedure consists of two phases.

Applicants must use the 'PT-Outline' electronic tool for drafting project outlines (<https://ptoutline.eu/app/afresi>) and the 'easy-Online' electronic application system for drafting formal proposals (<https://foerderportal.bund.de/easyonline>).

7.2.1 Submission and selection of project outlines

In the first phase, project outlines must be submitted to the DLR Project Management Agency in electronic form in English by 31 July 2019 at the latest using the PT-Outline electronic outlining tool. The deadline for submission is not a cut-off deadline, but it may not be possible to consider project outlines which are received after the above date.

One project leader must be named for the German side and one for the partner country/partner countries side. A precondition for taking part is that the German applicants draw up a letter of intent together with all the participants in the German-African consortium and add this to the project outline.

The project outline should not exceed twelve pages. A meaningful summary in German must be appended to the project outline. The joint outline should include the following aspects of the project:

- I. Information on the project coordinator and all the project partners
- II. Summary of goals, research priorities, exploitation of results
- III. Scientific framework of the project:
 - a. Planned activities for implementing the goals of the funding measure mentioned in sections 1 and 2 above
 - b. Description of the scientific objective of the project
 - c. Information on the state of development of the methods applied

- d. Any third party involvement
- e. Plausible, detailed overview of the anticipated expenditure/costs
- IV. International cooperation within the project:
 - a. Added value of international cooperation
 - b. Contributions of the international partners, access to international resources
 - c. Experience of the participating partners in international cooperation, previous collaborations
- V. Sustainability of the measure/exploitation plan:
 - a. Expected scientific results
 - b. Potential for implementing the project results
 - c. Lasting consolidation of the cooperation with the partners in Africa
 - d. Plans for cooperation in follow-up projects
 - e. Plans for expansion of cooperation to other institutions and networks
- VI. Description of the planned work steps of the cooperation project
- VII. Estimated expenditure/costs

The cover page of the submitted project outline (with the project title and an abstract in German and English) must be signed by all the project leaders. Scanned signatures of the partners are sufficient at this stage.

The outline must show clearly how all the partners will participate in the project's tasks and results. The protection of intellectual property also plays an important role in this context.

The evaluation of the project outlines received will involve a panel of external experts and be based on the following criteria:

- I. Fulfilment of the formal prerequisites for funding
- II. Compliance with the funding aims of the call stated in section 1 above and the object of funding stated in section 2
- III. Scientific Criteria:
 - a. Scientific quality and originality of the project
 - b. Relevance to BMBF programmes on the topic
 - c. Expertise of the applicant and the German and international partners involved
 - d. Scientific benefits and prospects for the exploitation of the expected results
- IV. Criteria concerning international cooperation
 - a. Initiation/development of new international partnerships
 - b. Experience of the applicant in international cooperation
 - c. Creation of lasting bilateral/international partnerships
 - d. Quality of the cooperation and added value for the partner institutions
 - e. Support for young researchers
- V. Plausibility and feasibility of the project (financing; milestones; time frame)

Suitable project outlines will be selected for funding on the basis of the above criteria and evaluation. Applicants will be informed in writing of the result of the selection process.

The project outlines and any other documents submitted in this phase of the procedure will not be returned.

7.2.2 Submission of formal proposals and decision-making procedure

In the second phase of the procedure, the applicants whose project outlines have been successful will be invited to submit formal proposals. An application for funding is only considered complete if at least the requirements of Article 6(2) GBER (cf. Annex to these funding regulations) are fulfilled.

The "easy-Online" electronic application system must be used for drafting formal applications (taking into account the requirements set out in the Annex). (<https://foerderportal.bund.de/easyonline>).

It may not be possible to consider applications received after the above date.

Formal proposals must include:

- I. A detailed (sub)project description
- II. A detailed work plan and time schedule
 - a. Feasibility of the work plan
 - b. Plausibility of the time schedule
- III. Detailed information about the financing of the project
 - a. Appropriateness and necessity of the requested funding
 - b. Security of overall financing during the entire project period

The proposals received will be carefully reviewed in accordance with the criteria of the first phase, including consideration of the fulfilment of any requirements resulting from the first phase. The following additional criteria will be applied in the review and evaluation:

- I. Necessity and appropriateness of and eligibility for the requested funding,
- II. Quality and significance of the utilization plan, also in terms of the objectives of this funding measure.

It is absolutely imperative for applicants to include a project description in German in their formal proposals. This should not exceed 15 pages. A funding decision will be taken after final consideration on the basis of the stated criteria and evaluation.

7.3 Relevant regulations

The approval and payment of 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 sections 48 to 49a of the Administrative Procedure Act (VwVfG), sections 23 and 44 of the Federal Budget Code (BHO) and the related administrative regulations unless deviation is allowed from the administrative regulations under the present funding regulations. The *Bundesrechnungshof* is entitled to carry out audits in accordance with Section 91 of the Federal Budget Code (BHO).

8 Validity

These funding regulations will be valid until the day of expiry of their legal basis for state aid, the GBER, to which a six-month adaptation period is added, that is, until 30 June 2021. If the period of the GBER is extended without relevant amendments concerning state aid rules, the duration of these funding regulations will be extended accordingly, though not beyond 31 January 2025. If the GBER is not extended but replaced by a new GBER or if relevant amendments are made to the content of the currently applicable GBER, follow-up funding regulations will be adopted which will comply with the then applicable exemption provisions and remain effective at least until 31 January 2025.

Bonn, 14 May 2019

Federal Ministry
of Education and Research

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(Peter Webers)

Annex: Requirements of state aid legislation

Annex

1 General prerequisites for funding

The aid is only lawful if all the prerequisites of Chapter I GBER and the prerequisites in Chapter III applicable to the designated category of state aid are fulfilled in line with Article 3 GBER and the national courts are obliged to order the repayment of unlawful state aid in accordance with the rulings of the European courts.

In applying for funding under these funding regulations, applicants commit themselves to actively cooperate in complying with state aid legislation. Thus, applicants must, upon application or subsequently, provide information and documentation requested by the funding provider as evidence of credit worthiness and conformity with state aid requirements. Furthermore, applicants must cooperate within any procedures of or at the European Commission and comply with all requirements of the Commission.

A prerequisite for the granting of state aid under an aid scheme exempted by the GBER is that this has an incentive effect within the meaning of Article 6 GBER. State aid is considered to have an incentive effect if the beneficiary has submitted a written application for the aid in the Member State concerned before work on the project or activity starts. The application for aid must include at least the following information: name and size of the undertaking; description of the project including its start and end dates; location of the project; the costs of the project; type of aid (e.g. grant, loan, guarantee, repayable advance payment or capital injection) and size of the public financing needed for the project.

State aid on the basis of the GBER will not be granted if there are grounds for exclusion under Article 1(2 to 5) GBER; in particular this applies if the undertaking is subject to an outstanding recovery order following a previous Commission decision declaring an aid illegal and incompatible with the internal market or the undertaking is an “undertaking in difficulty” as defined in Article 2(18) GBER.

European legislation requires that every individual aid exceeding EUR 500 000 must be published on a special website (cf. Article 9 GBER).

In individual cases, the funding received may be monitored by the Commission in line with Article 12 GBER.

State aid is granted under these funding regulations in the form of grants in accordance with Article 5(1 and 2) GBER.

The GBER restricts the granting of state aid for economic activities in the following areas to the corresponding maximum amounts stated below:

- EUR 40 million per undertaking, per project which mostly involves fundamental research (Article 4(1)(i)(i) GBER); that is the case where more than half of the eligible costs of the project are incurred through activities which fall within the category of fundamental research;

- EUR 20 million per undertaking, per project which mostly involves industrial research (Article 4(1)(i)(ii) GBER); that is the case where more than half of the eligible costs of the project are incurred through activities which fall within the category of industrial research or within the categories of industrial research and fundamental research taken together;
- EUR 15 million per undertaking, per project which mostly involves experimental development (Article 4(1)(i)(iii) GBER); that is the case where more than half of the eligible costs of the project are incurred through activities which fall within the category of experimental development.

The rules concerning cumulation set out in Article 8 GBER must be observed when determining whether these maximum amounts ('notification thresholds') are respected. The maximum amounts may not be circumvented by artificially splitting up projects with related content. Partial approval up to the notification threshold for an aid is not permitted.

2. Scope/rates of funding; cumulation

The following provisions of the GBER apply to these funding regulations, in particular concerning eligible costs and state aid intensities. The following eligible costs and intensities set out the overall thresholds within which eligible costs and rates of funding for projects involving economic activity can be granted.

The aided part of the research project must fall completely within one or more of the following categories:

- Fundamental research
- Industrial research
- Experimental development

(cf. Article 25(2) GBER; definitions according to Article 2(84 et seqq.) GBER).

For the purpose of classifying research work as fundamental research, industrial research, and experimental development, please refer to the relevant information in no. 75 and footnote no. 2 of the R&D&I state aid Framework.

The eligible costs of each research and development project must be allocated to the relevant research and development categories.

Eligible costs are: Eligible costs in accordance with Article 25(3) GBER are:

- Staff costs: for researchers, technicians and other supporting staff to the extent employed on the project (Article 25(3)(a) GBER);
- Costs of instruments and equipment to the extent and for the period used for the project. Where such instruments and equipment are not used for their full life for the project, only the depreciation costs corresponding to the life of the project, as calculated on the basis of generally accepted accounting principles are considered as eligible (Article 25(3)(b) GBER);

- Costs of contractual research, knowledge and patents bought or licensed from outside sources at arm's length conditions, as well as costs of consultancy and equivalent services used exclusively for the project (Article 25(3)(d) GBER);
- Additional overheads and other operating expenses, including costs of materials, supplies and similar products, incurred directly as a result of the project (Article 25(3)(e) GBER).

Pursuant to Article 25(5) GBER, the aid intensity for each beneficiary must not exceed the following rates:

- 100% of the eligible costs for fundamental research (Article 25(5)(a) GBER)
- 50% of the eligible costs for industrial research (Article 25(5)(b) GBER)
- 25% of the eligible costs for experimental development (Article 25(5)(c) GBER)

The aid intensities for industrial research and experimental development may be increased up to a maximum 80% of the costs eligible for state aid as follows if the prerequisites stated in Article 25(6) are fulfilled:

- by 10 percentage points for medium-sized enterprises
- by 20 percentage points for small enterprises
- by 15 percentage points if one of the following conditions is fulfilled:
 - The project involves effective collaboration
 - between undertakings among which at least one is an SME, or is carried out in at least two EU Member States, or in a Member State and in a Contracting Party of the EEA Agreement, and no single undertaking bears more than 70% of the eligible costs, or
 - between an undertaking and one or more research and knowledge-dissemination organisations, where the latter bear at least 10% of the eligible costs and have the right to publish their own research results;
 - The results of the project are widely disseminated through conferences, publication, open access repositories, or free or open source software.

Article 7(1) GBER requires that the eligible costs be supported by documentary evidence which must be clear, specific and contemporary.

For the purposes of calculating aid intensity and eligible costs, all figures used must be taken before any deduction of tax or other charge.

For the purposes of complying with the maximum permissible aid intensity, the rules concerning cumulation set out in Article 8 GBER must be observed:

The cumulation of several aid measures for the same eligible costs/expenditure is only allowed in exceptional cases as specified below.

Where European Union funding centrally managed by the institutions, agencies, joint undertakings or other bodies of the Union, which is not directly or indirectly under the control of Member States and therefore does not constitute state aid (including the European Structural and Investment Funds among others), is combined with state aid,

only the latter may be considered for determining whether notification thresholds and maximum aid intensities or maximum aid amounts are respected, provided that the total amount of public funding granted in relation to the same eligible costs (including centrally managed Union funds) does not exceed the most favourable funding rate laid down in the applicable rules of European Union law.

Aid with identifiable eligible costs exempted by the GBER may be cumulated with: (a) any other state aid, as long as those measures concern different identifiable eligible costs; (b) any other state aid, in relation to the same eligible costs, partly or fully overlapping, only if such cumulation does not result in exceeding the highest aid intensity or aid amount applicable to this aid under the GBER.

Aid without identifiable eligible costs may be cumulated with any other state aid without identifiable eligible costs, up to the highest relevant total financing threshold fixed in the specific circumstances of each case by the GBER or a decision adopted by the Commission.

State aid exempted under the GBER may not be cumulated with any *de minimis* aid in respect of the same eligible costs if such cumulation would result in an aid intensity or aid amount exceeding those laid down in Chapter III of the GBER.