

Federal Ministry of Education and Research

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

Regulations governing funding for "BMBF Research Partner Groups for Alumni" in Africa

of 23 May 2019

1 Aim and purpose of funding, legal basis

1.1 Aim and purpose of funding

African researchers returning to African universities and research institutions after spending a research period in Germany can make an important contribution to the establishment and/or further development of national research and innovation systems in Africa. The potential of the scientific diaspora for strengthening research and innovation in Africa has not thus far been tapped systematically. The "BMBF Research Partner Groups for Alumni" will provide this target group with an opportunity to advance their scientific careers within a German-African cooperation project at a research institution in Africa while also expanding the scientific networks established with Germany by working on joint research topics. This will deepen the cooperative ties between Germany and Africa and contribute to strengthening local science and research structures in African partner countries.

The provision of funding for German-African research projects will enable African alumni to set up their own research group at a university or research institute in Africa while conducting joint research with the German partner institution.

The funding measure is carried out under the Federal Government's Strategy for the Internationalization of Education, Science and Research and falls under action area 2 of the BMBF's new Africa Strategy: "We want to support higher education and junior researchers to improve individual life prospects."

The BMBF's measures to promote international cooperation in education and research are aimed at strengthening the role of women in particular in research areas where they are still underrepresented. The projects should therefore be suited for systematically addressing gender disparities at the German institution and its African partner and for creating favourable conditions for women on a lasting basis.

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 grant-awarding agency 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 and c 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 156/1 of 20 June 2017). 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 (cf. Annex with regard to the requirements of state aid legislation applying to these funding regulations).

2 Object of funding

Funding will be provided for research projects under which the German partner institution and the African partner's research group which has been set up at a university/research institution on the African continent will work on a joint research topic in line with the funding purpose described above.

Project outlines can be submitted regarding the following thematic priorities in particular which contribute to the implementation of the BMBF's Africa Strategy:

- Health
- Environment
- Bioeconomy
- Renewable energy
- Urbanization
- Humanities and social sciences.

Project outlines on further topics of mutual interest can also be funded if the outline indicates that the project will make an important contribution to the implementation of the BMBF's Africa Strategy.

All the projects are expected to have great practical relevance and set out strategies for the political, societal and economic implementation of research findings.

The following measures can be funded among others:

- Joint research activities
- Mobility

- Measures to support junior researchers (including mentoring schemes) as well as capacity-building at the partner institute
- Joint workshops

The following framework conditions will apply when setting up a "BMBF Research Partner Group for Alumni":

- The African researcher must have attained postdoc level.
- The African partner institute must provide the funds required for financing the post of the African researcher. Funding awarded for the proposed project cannot be used for this particular purpose.
- The African researcher must have spent a research period of at least twelve months in Germany which should have been completed no more than twelve months before submission of the application.

3 Recipients of funding

Applications may be submitted by universities, 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 (universities, non-university research institutions and other institutions contributing to research) in Germany at the time of payment of the grant.

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 BHO, funding recipients are not permitted to transfer a grant that is calculated on the basis of eligible project-related costs.

Small and medium-sized enterprises or 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):

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

The funding recipient will declare its classification according to Annex I of the GBER or the Commission's recommendation 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.

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 (R&D&I) of 27 June 2014 (OJ C 198 of 27 June 2014 p. 1); 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 African cooperation partner. Further partners may participate in the research project if this benefits the project and further partners contribute their own funds.

Projects proposed for funding under this call should document the potential for long-term sustainable cooperation.

The BMBF "Research Partner Groups for Alumni" may also be set up at an international research institute or an international university headquartered in Africa.

The partners in a collaborative project will set out the terms of cooperation in a written agreement. 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 Community 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

5 Type, scope and rates of funding

Funding will be awarded in the form of non-repayable project grants of a maximum EUR 450,000 (excluding flat rate per project) for a maximum period of usually 36 months. As a rule, at least half of the funding amount (excluding flat rate per project) is expected to be used for setting up the research group of the African partner.² This may include expenditure/costs which are not necessarily incurred by the African partner institute (e.g. research periods at the German partner institute, procurement of equipment for use at the German or African partner institute).

If the first project phase is evaluated positively, a proposal may be submitted for a follow-up project with a duration of up to 24 months and a maximum funding volume of usually EUR 300,000 (excluding flat rate per project). The evaluation of project success will be based on the (co)publications of the established research group (in particular with the German project partner), the trained junior researchers, the third-party funds raised, the successful exploitation of the project results (e.g. patents).

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

² Example: When total funding of EUR 450,000 has been awarded, 50% of the grant (that is, EUR 225,000) will be transferred to the African partner.

Grants for commercial companies and for projects of research institutions which fall into the category of economic activities³ 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 to support projects of 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.

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

Expenditure/costs eligible for funding

The following expenditure/costs will be eligible for funding:

a) Staff for conducting scientific activities or research

Project-related expenditure/costs incurred for student assistants and/or research staff of the German and African partner will be funded.

b) Project-related non-cash resources and equipment

Project-related grants for non-cash resources (such as consumables, office supplies, appliances, literature, award of contracts) can be provided for the German and African partner.

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

The following applies to the funding of travel by researchers and experts employed by the German partner institution: The costs/expenditure for travel to and from the project partner's location including the necessary visas (economy class for air travel) and the expenditure/costs for the stay will be covered in accordance with the applicable rules of the institution or company.

The provisions of the German Federal Travel Expenses Act will apply analogously to the funding of travel and stays by foreign project researchers and experts:

The costs/expenditure for travel to and from the project partner's location in Germany (economy class for air travel) will be covered. Stays in Germany will be funded at a fixed rate of EUR 104 per day or EUR 2,300 per month. This is understood to include contributions to health insurance and, if applicable, other types of insurance which must be paid by the foreign partners themselves. Travel and stays of the African leader of the BMBF Research Partner Group for Alumni and of members of the group for participation in international conferences may also be funded in justified cases. A flat-

³ For the definition of economic activity, see no. 17 of the R&D&I state aid Framework

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. 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 such support 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.

No funding will be provided to cover the cost of the participating German institutions' normal basic equipment in whole or in part.

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

Funding including the grants for the African partners is paid to the German funding recipient. The African partners will conclude a contract with the German funding recipient concerning the transfer of their grants in accordance with No. 12 of the administrative regulations pertaining to Section 44 BHO.

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).

For the purpose of conducting progress reviews within the meaning of administrative regulation 11a pertaining to section 44 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 subsequent evaluation; it will be treated confidentially and published in anonymized form, making it impossible to trace it back to individual persons or organizations.

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 should not exceed twelve 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 agency with implementing the funding measure:

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

Scientific contact/initial contact for this call:

Dr. Anja Köhler
Phone: +49 (0)228 38 21-1428
Fax: +49 (0)228 38 21-1411
E-mail: anja.koehler@dlr.de

Scientific/region-specific issues should in addition be addressed to the competent staff:
Northern Africa: http://www.internationales-buero.de/de/Nordafrika_nahost_tuerkei.php
Subsaharan Africa: http://www.internationales-buero.de/de/subsahara_afrika.php

Administrative contact:

Ms Petra Ufer
Phone: +49 (0)228 38 21-2073
Fax: +49 (0)228 38 21-1411
E-mail: petra.ufer@dlr.de

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

Applicants are recommended to contact the project management agency for advice on applications. The agency will provide further information and details.

Application forms, guidelines, information for applicants and the auxiliary terms and conditions for the award of grants are available at https://foerderportal.bund.de/easy/easy_index.php?auswahl=easy_formulare or can be obtained directly from the project management agency.

The BMBF or the commissioned project management agency – DLR-PT in this case – may demand the submission, also retrospectively, of documentation, declarations and relevant receipts, in particular regarding credit worthiness.

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 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 project management agency in English in written and/or electronic form

by 22 August 2019 at the latest

using the PT-Outline tool (<https://ptoutline.eu/app/rpga>).

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

The project outline should not exceed ten pages (sections I to VII). The outline should include the following aspects of the project:

- I. Information on the project coordinator and on the German and foreign project partners
- II. A meaningful summary (of goals, research priorities, exploitation of results)
- III. Goals and current state of science and technology
 - a) Relevance of the project to the funding objectives
 - b) Description of the scientific and technological working objectives
 - c) Information on the state of the art
- IV. International cooperation within the project
 - a) Added value of international cooperation
 - b) Contributions of the international partners
 - c) Experience of the participating partners in international cooperation, previous collaborations
 - d) Promotion of young researchers
- V. Sustainability of the measure/exploitation goals
 - a) Expected scientific results and exploitation goals
 - b) Consolidation of cooperation
- VI. Description of the planned steps of the cooperation project
- VII. Estimated expenditure/costs
- VIII. List of publications (relevant joint publications and publications of the African research group leader)

- IX. CV of the African Research Partner Group leader
- X. Confirmation by the African partner institute that it will cover the payroll costs of the research group leader and that the implementation of the planned project is ensured.

The project outlines received will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

- I. Fulfilment of the formal prerequisites for funding
- II. Compliance with the funding aims of the call stated in No. 1 above and the object of funding stated in No. 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 partner institutions involved
 - d) Scientific benefits and prospects for the exploitation of the expected results
- IV. Criteria concerning international cooperation
 - a) Experience of the applicant in international cooperation
 - b) Creation of lasting bilateral/international partnerships
 - c) Quality of the cooperation and added value for partner institutions
 - d) Support for young researchers
- V. Plausibility and feasibility of the project (financing, milestones, time frame)

Suitable project ideas will be selected for funding on the basis of the above criteria and evaluation and involving external experts. Applicants will be informed in writing of the result of the selection.

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 in the evaluation will be invited to submit full formal proposals. In the case of collaborative projects, the funding applications must be submitted in consultation with the proposed collaboration coordinator. 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/>).

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 need for the requested amount of funding
 - b) Guarantee of overall financing during the entire project period

The work and financial plans will be evaluated in accordance with the criteria listed under 7.2.2 (II and III).

The formal proposals must observe and fulfil any thematic or funding requirements and/or the evaluators' recommendations for the implementation of the project.

When several German partners are involved (collaborative project), the formal proposals of the individual partners must be submitted in consultation with the envisaged coordinator.

It is imperative for applicants to include a project description in German in their formal proposals. This description should not exceed 15 pages.

The BMBF reserves the right to seek advice from experts before making the final decision on funding.

A legal claim to funding cannot be derived from the submission of a formal proposal. The funding proposal and any other documents submitted will not be returned. A funding decision will be taken after final consideration on the basis of the above criteria and evaluation.

7.3 Provisions to be observed

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. Der Bundesrechnungshof ist gemäß § 91 BHO zur Prüfung berechtigt.

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 modification of the state aid provisions, the duration of these funding regulations will be extended accordingly, though not beyond 31 December 2022. 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 December 2022.

Bonn, 23 May 2019

Federal Ministry of Education and Research

Peter Webers

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 level 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 aid 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.

Funding in accordance with Article 25 GBER

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 ff.) GBER).

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

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

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 for buildings and land, to the extent and for the period used for the project. With regard to buildings, 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. For land, costs of commercial transfer or actually incurred capital costs are eligible (Article 25(3)(c) 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 costs (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, is combined with state aid (which includes resources from the European Structural and Investment Funds), 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.