

# CALL FOR PROPOSALS

## Powerful tools for research data management, in particular for sensitive data

**KonsortSWD – NFDI4Society** is the consortium for the social, behavioral, educational and economic sciences within the National Research Data Infrastructure (NFDI). Its goal is to support researchers in research data management (RDM) and to establish RDM as an integral part of scientific practice.

To achieve this goal, KonsortSWD supports the **further development and integration of tools for RDM** (software, scripts, workflows, portals, etc.), especially for sensitive data, as well as the solution of multidisciplinary challenges (multidisciplinary use cases) in research data management.<sup>1</sup>

We fund projects that contribute to the improvement, expansion or sustainable use of RDM tools, particularly for sensitive data. The submissions are evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Quality of the project, in particular the status of preliminary work (the project builds on robust preliminary work or already existing mature tools) and connectivity, e.g. to services of KonsortSWD
- Robustness of the strategy for setting up and operating the project
- Appropriateness of the schedule and the requested resources
- Expected long-term added value for researchers in the social, behavioral, educational and economic sciences
- Contribution to the improvement of research data management for **sensitive data** and/or to the solution of multidisciplinary challenges (**multidisciplinary use cases**) in research data management.

Applications with innovative approaches to supporting RDM (tools, workflows, etc.), e.g. AI-based approaches, are particularly welcome.

### The call is aimed at:

- Researchers who wish to develop or further develop methods or software for RDM,
- Infrastructure providers who wish to complement existing services or introduce new components into NFDI consortia.

We explicitly invite proposals without a direct connection to existing [Research Data Centres](#).

The submission deadline is **15 April 2026, 23:59 CEST**.

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<sup>1</sup> Ebert, B., Domisch, S., Henzen, C., Linares, J., Mozygembba, K., Miller, B., Seeger, B., & Seegert, J. (2023). When Data Crosses Borders – Join Forces!: Multidisciplinary Use Cases Within NFDI. *Proceedings of the Conference on Research Data Infrastructure*, 1. <https://doi.org/10.52825/cordi.v1i.341>

## Formal Requirements

Funding starts on 1 January 2027. The funded projects have a duration of 12 months, but may also be requested for 18 or 24 months on a resource-neutral basis. Projects have a maximum funding volume equivalent to one full-time position over 12 months (1 FTE E13). Evaluation is carried out by the KonsortSWD advisory board. Funding decisions will be communicated in summer 2026.

The proposal follows the provided template and is limited to a maximum of 5 pages (Arial 11, 1.5 line spacing) *excluding* a list of relevant publications, relevant preliminary work, any letters of support from the (sub-)community, work plan and budget calculation. The budget calculation is based on the [DFG personnel rates for 2026](#). All proposals must be accompanied by a [declaration](#) of good scientific practice according to DFG by the applicants.

In the event of approval, funding is conditional upon the signing of a financing agreement. This must be signed by the leadership of the applicant institution. Funding is provided by GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences from NFDI funds from the DFG..

All templates and a submission form can be found at: <https://www.konsortswd.de/flexfunds>

For questions regarding the application process, KonsortSWD's Coordination Office ([office@konsortswd.de](mailto:office@konsortswd.de)) will be happy to help.