

## 11th Call Bioeconomy International (2024)

### Evaluation Guidelines

#### 1. Purpose and background

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) intends to support the implementation of the German government's National Bioeconomy Strategy in an international context by funding collaborative research and development projects involving foreign partners.

To realize the bioeconomy as a bio-based economic system, global cooperation is needed. This is why the Bioeconomy International funding initiatives has been created. The aim is to promote international partnerships in research and development on relevant issues in the field of bioeconomy. In addition to technological issues and development goals, socioeconomic aspects and systems approaches are also important.

#### 2. Selection of proposals

##### 2.1 Preselection by formal eligibility check

Only proposals that meet the formal criteria of this call will be evaluated. These proposals had been selected in advance by the Projektträger Jülich.

##### 2.2 Evaluation criteria

The evaluators are asked to evaluate each proposal in five evaluation criteria (equally weighted) (scores: 1 - poor; 2 - fair; 3 - good; 4 - very good; 5 - excellent) and to give brief justifications:

- 1. Added value for Germany resulting from international cooperation**
- 2. Relevance of the research approach, quality & originality, and degree of innovation of the approach**
- 3. Chances of success and applicability of the project results**
- 4. Excellence and expertise of the applicant and the partners involved (German and international); including relevant preliminary work by all partners**
- 5. Appropriateness of the size and structure of the project, quality and stringency of the time, work and budget planning and networking of the partners based on the distribution of work**

Finally, the evaluator should provide an overall assessment of the proposal consisting of a **funding recommendation** (*A: funding recommended; B: funding possible; C funding not recommended*) and a short **explanatory comment**. This comment can be short but is mandatory.

According to the evaluators scores and comments the proposals will be ranked. Based on that ranking list the BMBF with support of the Projektträger Jülich will take a final

recommendation which will be finally discussed and jointly decided with the Queensland Government on which proposals shall be invited for national funding negotiations.

### 3. Online-Evaluation tool

After registration in the evaluation portal ([www.bioeconomy-international.de](http://www.bioeconomy-international.de)) evaluators have to first sign the "**Confidentiality Disclosure Agreement Letter**" and upload the signed letter (if not yet sent via email). After approval by the Call Office, the evaluators will gain access to the titles and partner lists of the proposals.

Proposals that already had been assigned to the evaluator appear at the top of the list.

The assignment of proposals to the evaluators is operated by the Projektträger Jülich to minimize the workload for each evaluator.

Upon reading the proposal titles and partner lists (category "proposals" at the left column) the evaluators have to confirm that they do not have any conflict of interest with an individual proposal. In case any conflict of interest arises even during the proposal evaluation process, the evaluators should immediately contact the Call Office of the Projektträger Jülich. A conflict of interest should be reported to the Call Office as early as possible to allow sufficient time for the Call Office to assign an alternative evaluator to such proposals.

The review process itself runs step-by-step via the system.

### 4. Call Office

For questions or problems during the evaluation process please contact:

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