

1 Binding letter of intent as advance notification of a full renewal proposal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Binding letter of intent (required as advance notification for renewal proposals in 2024)
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2 Formal details

- Name of the consortium
Consortium for the social, behavioural, educational and economic sciences in NFDI
- Acronym of the consortium
KonsortSWD

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3 Objectives, work programme and research environment in the second funding period

Research area of the proposed consortium as per DFG¹

- 1.16-01 Social and Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology
- 1.21 Educational Research
- 1.22 Psychology
- 1.23 Social Sciences
- 1.24 Economics
- 1.25-05 Criminology
- 2.22-01 Epidemiology and Medical Biometry/Statistics
- 2.22-02 Public Health, Healthcare Research, Social and Occupational Medicine

Concise summary of the consortium's main objectives and task areas

The disciplines represented by KonsortSWD deal with socially relevant issues. To address these issues, research communities require comprehensive access to innovative data. Researchers in the social, behavioural, educational, and economic sciences use diverse types of data. In contrast to other disciplines, a large share of research data used in these disciplines is generated outside of academia for non-scientific purposes, for example, by statistical agencies or in administrative registers. Data are often highly sensitive and have to be anonymised. Different legal and ethical restrictions apply and need to be carefully taken into account to make data available as research data.

Despite testament to the opposite, recent adjustments to the legal framework for research data look unlikely to bring improvement. The Research Data Act in Germany will likely not remove legal obstacles, e.g. related to data protection issues. The exact nature of the "Microdata Center" mentioned in the first draft-law remains elusive. The German

¹ <https://www.dfg.de/resource/blob/331950/85717c3edb9ea8bd453d5110849865d3/fachsystematik-2024-2028-en-data.pdf>

Government's Data Strategy² has stressed that Research Data Centers are well positioned to profit from the increasing amount of administrative data that are likely to become available. KonsortSWD services therefore will need to continue to assist researchers with the complexities surrounding sensitive data. Against this backdrop KonsortSWD defines three broad aims for the second funding period:

- A. consolidate services that enjoy a high reputation,
- B. make RDM a natural part of the research process in our communities, and
- C. advance "OneNFDI".

These aims we plan to achieve first and foremost by establishing services that generate demonstrable benefits for our communities and by preparing them for sustainable operation. Establishing KonsortSWD and NFDI as known and reliable sources for RDM services in our communities is a priority. Our efforts to automate and standardise RDM in our disciplines will increase the scalability of services, e.g. by expanding the scope of the FDI Committee to further data-stakeholders. We aim to strengthen connections with other domains through joint approaches to multi-disciplinary use cases and by facilitating the integration of Base4NFDI basic services. Additionally, we are widening our portfolio for RDM training to expand the competencies of researchers and RDM professionals alike. We are also refining quality criteria for services as well as for data, and deepening our connections to junior researchers and third-party funded projects with RDM needs. We will continue *RatSWD* (German Data Forum; for community integration), the *FDI Committee* (for data integration), and our governance for service integration as the three cornerstones of a viable long-term organisational model. Furthermore, we are strategically extending our national and international networks, particularly the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC).

To be well positioned to implement these aims and to adapt to further developments in the NFDI process, we will set up our work program in the following task areas: community integration, data integration, service and process integration, NFDI and international integration, sustainability, and governance.

² Presse- und Informationsamt der Bundesregierung. (2021). Data Strategy of the Federal German Government: An innovation strategy for social progress and sustainable growth. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/resource/blob/992814/1950610/bf3dac46be741dfd4616cb56ff4e5f20/datenstrategie-der-bundesregierung-englisch-download-bpa-data.pdf?download=1>

Brief description of the proposed use of existing infrastructures, tools and services that are essential in order to fulfil the planned consortium's objectives

KonsortSWD will continue to build substantially on the Research Data Centres (see participants but also at co- applicant institutions) accredited by RatSWD (German Data Forum) for data provision, curation, and related consulting services. This network provides a wealth of data often not primarily created for scientific purposes. It also, and crucially, makes them available despite the legal and ethical challenges related to sensitive data. Beyond that, our community has a number of RDM-related services that are part of KonsortSWD and are well-established in our data landscape, chiefly the data repositories at DIPF, GESIS, and ZPID. For PIDs we will continue to use ZBW's and GESIS's da|ra service as well as DataCite. Qualiservice at Bremen University will continue to provide its unique expertise on Qualitative RDM. Our Helpdesk will use GWDG's ticket system. We add Verbund Forschungsdaten Bildung with its consultation and data processing services as a new element to our activities.

KonsortSWD will also continue to build on existing R-libraries to support RDM.

KonsortSWD will furthermore continue to build on RatSWD's existing infrastructure of several community-based coordination committees that focus on specific phases throughout the data lifecycle. Data users and producers use these committees to pool and develop their expertise on the implementation and provision of research data infrastructures with the long-term aim of safeguarding and continuously improving the findability, accessibility, interoperability, and re-usability of research data.

Interfaces to other NFDI consortia: brief description of existing agreements for collaboration and/or plans for future collaboration

KonsortSWD is committed to furthering cross-consortial activities to integrate NFDI beyond existing disciplinary and methodological boundaries. To this end we will, together with other consortia, dedicate resources to identifying and resolving multi-disciplinary use cases (MDUC)³. We have already established such use cases with NFDI4Biodiversity, and Text+. We are furthermore part of an initiative to foster MDUC initiated by FairAgro. Beyond that, we will cooperate with select other consortia on sustainable business models for our and

³ Ebert, B., Domisch, S., Henzen, C., Linares, J., Mozygamba, 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>

NFDI services. Concrete interfaces furthermore exist to BERD@NFDI, GHGA, and NFDI4Earth with whom we (will) jointly develop services. With NFDI4DataScience we collaborate on FAIR Assessment and PIDs. Through NFDI-wide activities, our engagement in Section ELSA and Task Force Evaluation and Reporting in particular, we have outstanding avenues of communication into many consortia, which lend themselves to shape future joint RDM initiatives.

KonsortSWD considers universal access to common services as critical for the underpinning of efficient data sharing activities in the social, behavioural, educational and economic sciences⁴ and a complementary activity to the development of our own discipline-relevant tools and services. KonsortSWD thus welcomes the Base4NFDI objective of harnessing the potential of existing networks to create common services to support RDM in the KonsortSWD disciplines and is committed to support the emerging Base4NFDI services⁵ and, where relevant, for our consortium to engage with and use the emerging Base4NFDI services.

4 International and national networking

The Research Data Centers (RDC) at the heart of KonsortSWD hold and provide access to data that are indispensable to research in our disciplines. This network and its data furthermore, have remained central even with the emergence of new data types. This is because it covers academic and non-academic institutions with unparalleled high-quality data: the Federal Statistical Office, the German Pension Insurance, the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees to name just some providers of administrative data within KonsortSWD's national network. It is complemented by leading methodological and RDM expertise from academic institutions ranging from economics (ifo) to psychology (Leibniz-Psychology, ZPID) and from quantitative text analysis (University Duisburg-Essen) to qualitative data (University Bremen).

Beyond this, our national network comprises all major academic associations (Fachgesellschaften) in our disciplines. They actively contribute to our network by nominating members to RatSWD and by participating in the tri-annual election of RatSWD. Taking up an institution-centric perspective, partners in KonsortSWD are involved in a number of Fachinformationsdienste (Special Information Services) that contribute to RDM in

⁴ German Council for Scientific Information Infrastructures: Enhancing Research Data Management: Performance through Diversity. Recommendations regarding structures, processes, and financing for research data management in Germany, Göttingen 2016.

⁵ <https://base4nfdi.de/projects>

our disciplines, ranging from anthropology to sociology. Our co-applicants are also active partners in other NFDI consortia, BERD@NFDI, and NFDI4DataScience. Our participants are linked to many more Member institutions of KonsortSWD currently also make up a majority of members of [LeibnizData](#), a research network in the Leibniz Association that bundles among others, interdisciplinary services for data management.

We complement our national network by international ties. Most of these come through our partners, most notably, our partners are central to all three ERICs in our disciplines ([ESS](#), [SHARE](#) and [CESSDA](#)). Standards, like CESSDA's thesaurus ([ELLST](#)), shape RDM in KonsortSWD. Through our partner ZBW, we align ourselves to developments in EOSC. Beyond that KonsortSWD actively builds networks to similar national infrastructure consortia, e.g. in the Netherlands ([ODISSEI](#)), France ([PRODEGO](#)), and in Sweden ([CORS](#)). With these partners we seek to exchange information, promote our services and potentially adapt other solutions.

RatSWD and multiple co-applicant and participant institutions are members in RDA and often participate actively in its activities.