



## **Trans-Atlantic Platform (T-AP) Call on *Preparing for Tomorrow (P4T)* application form and instructions, and assessment process**

### **Introduction**

The Trans-Atlantic Platform (T-AP) for Social Sciences and Humanities is a collaboration between humanities and social sciences research funders from South America, North America, Europe, and Africa. T-AP aims to enhance the ability of funders, research organizations and researchers to engage in transnational dialogue and collaboration. T-AP works to identify common challenges and promote a culture of collaboration and interdisciplinarity in social science and humanities (SSH) research by offering joint research calls in areas of strong potential for international collaboration..

This document provides detailed instructions to potential applicants on how to apply to the *Preparing for Tomorrow* call (further referred to as **the P4T call**). It is organized into the following three sections:

1. Overview of the P4T call
2. P4T application form and associated instructions
3. Assessment process, including the evaluation criteria and scoring matrix.

These sections are followed by annexes, which include the **Data Management Plan** template and the Narrative Résumé template.

**Applicants must refer to the separate P4T Call Scope for information on the objectives and themes of the call and the types of research that can be funded.**

### **1. Overview of the P4T call**

#### **1.1. Funding organizations**

The P4T call operates through a **coordinated funding model**, whereby each funding organization supports its own national research team(s) within a TAP P4T project partnership.

The table below lists the funding organizations participating in the P4T call. Please note that each funding organization has its own eligibility rules for potential applicants and proposals. **Before applying, applicants must consult the relevant Addenda**, which set out each funding organization's eligibility criteria, additional requirements, funding mandates, policies, eligible costs, and application procedures. All Addenda are available on the [TAP P4T website](#).

The table also outlines **available contributions** and the **maximum budget** that may be requested per project team. As funding is awarded in accordance with the terms and conditions of each participating funding organization, the actual eligible costs may vary across national teams. Applicants should therefore **carefully review all regulations** set out in the relevant funding organization's Addendum.



Table of participating funding organizations

Country	Funding organization	Total available funds	Maximum funding per proposal	Contact details
Brazil	The São Paulo Research Foundation, FAPESP	800,000 euros	120,000 euros	<a href="mailto:kavita@usp.br">kavita@usp.br</a>
Canada	Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council	\$3,000,000 (CDN)	\$250,000 (CDN)	<a href="mailto:partnerships@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca">partnerships@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca</a>
Canada	Fonds de recherche du Québec – secteur Société et culture	\$75,000 (CDN)	\$75,000 (CDN)	<a href="mailto:genevieve.godbout@frq.gouv.qc.ca">genevieve.godbout@frq.gouv.qc.ca</a>
Finland	Research Council of Finland	1,000,000 euros	n/a	<a href="mailto:risto.vilkko@aka.fi">risto.vilkko@aka.fi</a>
France	Agence Nationale de la Recherche	1,000,000 euros	350,000 euros for projects w/ French lead PIs 200,000 euros for projects w/ French co-PIs	<a href="mailto:Solene.GALLERNE@agencerecherche.fr">Solene.GALLERNE@agencerecherche.fr</a>
Germany	Bundesministerium für Forschung, Technologie und Raumfahrt/DLR-Projekträger	2,000,000 euros	400,000 euros	<a href="mailto:gaia.diluzio@dlr.de">gaia.diluzio@dlr.de</a> <a href="mailto:cornelia.riess@dlr.de">cornelia.riess@dlr.de</a>
Germany	Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)/ German Research Foundation	3,200,000 EUR	400,000 EUR	<a href="mailto:t-ap@dfg.de">t-ap@dfg.de</a>
Poland	National Science Centre (NCN)	800,000 euros	n/a	<a href="mailto:przemyslaw.puchala@ncn.gov.pl">przemyslaw.puchala@ncn.gov.pl</a> <a href="mailto:magdalena.sobas@ncn.gov.pl">magdalena.sobas@ncn.gov.pl</a>



South Africa	National Research Foundation	R7.2 Million	R900,000	<a href="mailto:kw.baloyi@risa.nrf.ac.za">kw.baloyi@risa.nrf.ac.za</a>
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## 1.2. P4T tentative timeline

Date	Milestone
13 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Call launches
TBD, please check the call website	Information webinar
8 <sup>th</sup> July 2026*	Deadline to submit the required letter of intent to apply (LOI)
28 <sup>th</sup> October 2026*	Deadline to submit full application
March-April 2027	Experts Panel Evaluation
April-May 2027	Notice of funding decisions
July-September 2027	Start date of awards

\*NB: The LOI and full application must be received by DFG before 23:59 in Germany the day of the deadline.

## 1.3. Project roles

Project teams are composed of a **Lead Principal Investigator (Lead PI)**, **co-principal investigators (co-PIs)**, and **collaborators**. Nominate one of the CO-PIs as the Lead PI. The Lead PI submits both the Letter of Intent to Apply (LOI) and the joint research proposal on behalf of the consortium. All co-PIs- share responsibility for the overall direction of the project, coordination of proposed research activities, and active participation in delivering the research. Collaborators are members of the consortium who contribute to executing the research project. Funders may use additional categories in their Addenda related to issuing their specific awards.

## 1.4. Eligibility requirements

Applicants must apply as a **transnational research partnership**, comprising national research teams based in the participating T-AP countries listed above. Each proposal must include at least three eligible co-PIs from at least three different T-AP participating countries, with representation from both sides of the Atlantic.

Applications must comply with **all relevant eligibility requirements**. If **any** research partner within a consortium is found to be ineligible, the **entire consortium** will be deemed ineligible.

The funding organizations' specific Addenda—which set out national eligibility rules and requirements—are available on the **T-AP P4T website**. All research teams are **strongly encouraged** to contact their respective funding organizations **at least six weeks before the application deadline** to confirm the eligibility of the national teams involved.

Please note that **formal eligibility checks** will be carried out **only after the submission deadline** and will be based on the full set of formal requirements defined by each funding organization.

Researchers may participate in **only one proposal** as a **Lead PI** or **co-PI**. However, lead PIs and co-PIs- may be involved in **multiple proposals as collaborators**. Applicants must also comply with any **additional participation limits** set by the funding organizations, as outlined in their respective Addenda.

Researchers based in nonparticipating countries and non academic partners (e.g., businesses, civil society organizations, and industry partners) may join projects as **cooperation partners**. However, they



cannot receive funding from the T-AP P4T call, **unless expressly permitted** in the relevant funding organization's Addendum.

### 1.5 Duration of projects

Each project should have a duration of between 24 and 36 months.

### 1.6. Application process

Applications must be submitted by the deadlines (compulsory **Letter of Intent to submit by 8<sup>th</sup> July 2026** and **full proposal submission by 28<sup>th</sup> October 2026**). Applications failing to comply with eligibility requirements and application instructions will be declared ineligible and will not be evaluated.

#### 1.6.1. Submission of Letter of Intent to Apply (LOI) form

The Lead PI must submit a **LOI form** by **8<sup>th</sup> July 2026**.

The LOI must be submitted online using the DFG's [elan Portal](#). Please note: The Lead PI of the project must complete and submit the LOI on behalf of the research team.

Information to include in the LOI:

- Preliminary project title
- Lead PI (full name, position and institution)
- Co-PIs (full names, positions and institutions Funding organization (in case of multiple funders per country, check their annexes)
- Call scope theme(s) covered
- Key words
- Project summary (max. 500 words)

Every lead PI must create an elan account to submit both the LOI and the full proposal on behalf of the consortium. The Lead PI should create the account well in advance of the deadline for the LOI as the registration is checked by a DFG employee, which might take a few days. This is not required of other team members at this stage. Please refer to the elan manual on the call website for further instructions.

While project details and co-PIs- may be modified upon submission, it is **anticipated that the Lead PI will not change**.

**Proposals for which the Lead PI has not submitted an LOI by the deadline will not be considered for evaluation.**

#### 1.6.2. Application submission

The proposal must be submitted online, in PDF format, on the [elan Portal](#) hosted by the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG) **by 28<sup>th</sup> October 2026**. For submission of the full proposal the co-PIs must also create an elan account.

The **proposal must be written in English**. Further instructions on how to upload and submit your application are available on the **T-AP P4T website**. Please note that some funding organizations also require applicants to submit the proposal through their **national online submission systems**. Applicants must consult the funding organizations' Addenda for detailed instructions.

**Proposals submitted after the deadline, or those that do not meet the call requirements or the funders' specific requirements outlined in the Addenda, will be rejected.**



### **1.7 Communications between P4T call secretariat (DFG) and project members**

Please note that all communications between the P4T call secretariat (the German Research Foundation, DFG) and project teams will be via email messages sent to the Lead PI only. Some of these messages will be sent automatically by the elan system and therefore we encourage Lead PIs to make sure they receive and read the messages and check their spam folders regularly. Funding agencies may also contact co-PIs.



## 2. P4T Call Application Form and Instructions

Proposal submission requires five files (2.1-2.5). The structure and required contents of each file are described in the following sections below. **Applicants must follow the prescribed structure and use the headings exactly as indicated. The required components are:**

- 2.1. Project Overview
- 2.2. Research Description
- 2.3. Bibliography
- 2.4. Narrative Résumés
- 2.5. Budget summary and Templates

### 2.1. Project overview

Project Short Title/Acronym:						
Project Full Title:						
Project Lead PI (Full Name and Organization):						
Keywords (max. 10 separated by a semicolon “;”):						
Duration (24 to 36 months):						
Expected start date:						
Expected end date:						
Call scope theme(s) covered:						
Abstract (max. 3000 characters)						
Project Consortium						
Role	Name	Organization	Email	Position	Country	Funding Agency
Lead PI						
Co-PIs						
Collaborators						

### 2.2. Research Description

Please include the following information in **no more than 6,500 words** (excluding the Data Management Plan). Your **Research Description must be organized using the mandatory subsection titles (a–f)**, which must appear exactly as indicated below.



*a. Aims and background of the proposed research*

Describe the key research questions and indicate which of the call scope themes your proposal addresses. Explain the challenge(s) your project seeks to respond to and how it aligns with and advances the objectives of the P4T call.

*b. Methodology of the research proposed*

Outline the methodology you will use to address the research questions and challenges identified above. Where relevant, briefly explain **how equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI)** considerations are integrated into your research design and approach.

*c. Position in the context of existing research*

Provide a concise yet comprehensive literature review/“state of the art” overview of the relevant field(s). Clearly explain how the proposed project will contribute to, advance, or challenge existing knowledge.

*d. Added value of the Trans-Atlantic partnership*

Describe how the Trans-Atlantic partnership will add value to the proposed research endeavor.

*e. Project Management, Dissemination, and Communications Plan (PMDC)*

Your PMDC must be organized under the five mandatory headings below. Applicants should provide concise, coherent information without duplicating material across sections.

***Project Management Plan***

Provide a clear description of how the project will be governed and managed, including:

- Management and governance structure (decision-making processes, coordination arrangements, leadership roles).
- Roles and responsibilities of all co-PIs and collaborators. Describe present and past collaborations of the PIs and team members relevant to this proposal.

● ***Workplan and Timeline***

Include a workplan that outlines:

- Tasks and activities
- Deliverables and milestones, with anticipated dates
- Work packages, if applicable, and linkages between them

● ***Outputs, Outcomes and Impact***

Describe:

- The project’s key anticipated outputs (e.g., publications, datasets, tools, guidelines).
- The project’s expected outcomes (e.g., knowledge gains, strengthened methods, policy insights).
- The project’s potential impact, as defined by T-AP<sup>1</sup>.

● ***Dissemination and Communication Plan***

Describe your strategy for disseminating outputs, engaging stakeholders, and facilitating knowledge mobilization, where applicable. Include:

<sup>1</sup> Impact refers to the effects to which research has contributed, including advancements within the knowledge ecosystem (academic impact) and benefits generated for individuals and communities (societal impact). These effects can manifest across diverse spheres, including social, industrial, cultural, economic, environmental, and policy development, ultimately leading to the enhancement of the quality of life.



- Stakeholder Engagement , where applicable
  - How interactions with key stakeholders will be strategically organized from project inception to uptake of results.
  - How stakeholder engagement will feed into the research process and adapt over time.
- Communication Strategy
  - How communication will occur with stakeholders, and with wider audiences.
  - Communication objectives and channels (e.g., project websites, social media, newsletters, community engagement, events, videos, publications).
- **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL)**
  - How will project activities be monitored.
  - How learning will be documented and embedded across the project lifecycle.
- **Capacity Strengthening and Training**
  - If applicable, describe activities to strengthen the capacities necessary to enhance outcomes (e.g., skills development, institutional support), including methods and reflective practices used.
  - If relevant, describe how the project will contribute to training and professional development of students, postdoctoral researchers, and early career researchers within the consortium.

*f. Data Management Plan (please use the guidelines provided in Annex I)*

A data management plan (DMP) describes how the data produced by a research project will be handled throughout and after a project, including preservation policies, and ethical and legal constraints. It applies to digital data only and should not include publications. When writing your DMP please use the 5 headings indicated in the template in Annex I.

### 2.3. Bibliography

List all references cited or works referred to in the proposal. The funding organizations recognize and allow the use of different referencing styles.

### 2.4. Narrative Résumés

Only the Lead PI and co-PIs should provide narrative résumés. Please see Annex II for the compulsory narrative résumé template. All narrative résumés should be put together at the end of the proposal.

### 2.5. Budget File

The budget file should include a Budget Summary, followed by the individual funders' budget forms (collated together), as required by their respective Addenda.

**Budget Summary Template** – Please indicate the total amount of funding requested from each participating funding agency. Add additional columns as needed to reflect all funding agencies included in your application.

	Funding Agency A	Funding Agency B	Funding Agency C	Funding Agency D	Funding Agency E



Total amount requested per funder (use the respective country's currency for each agency)					
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### 3. Assessment Process

#### 3.1. Evaluation Criteria and Scoring Matrix

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- 1. Intellectual merit:** What is the potential for the proposed project to advance knowledge, understanding, or new insights within its own field or across multiple fields?
- 2. Relevance to the objectives of the call:** To what extent does the proposed project align with and advance the objectives of the P4T call? Does the project description clearly articulate the link between the identified challenges and the proposed activities?
- 3. Quality, innovation and feasibility of the research plan:** Is the proposed project innovative and does it address new questions and/or new approaches? Is the research plan well-structured, methodologically sound and feasible within the proposed timeframe? Does the research team have the appropriate expertise and resources to deliver the project successfully? Does the proposal represent good value for money?
- 4. Broader impacts, Outputs, Outcomes and Knowledge Mobilization:** Does the proposal clearly demonstrate the scientific contribution, either independently or in combination with societal benefits? Are the proposed outputs, outcomes and knowledge mobilization activities appropriate, feasible, and likely to achieve the intended results? Where relevant, does the proposal explain how key tools, resources or research outputs will be sustained beyond the life of the project?
- 5. Partnership and planning:** Does the proposal present a well-balanced and effective transnational partnership? Is the partnership well-coordinated, with appropriate plans in place for joint working, data management, and overall project planning? Is the added value of the Trans-Atlantic cooperation clearly articulated?

Projects will be scored based on the following scoring matrix:

Score	Score Name	Score description
1	<i>Unacceptable</i>	A proposal that has a highly unsatisfactory level of originality, quality and significance. Has very limited potential to advance the field of knowledge. Falls short of meeting the assessment criteria of the call.
2	<i>Weak</i>	A proposal of inconsistent quality with some strengths, innovative ideas and good components, but which has significant weaknesses. Unlikely to advance the field of knowledge significantly and/or generate societal benefits. Falls short of meeting the assessment criteria of the call.
3	<i>Fair</i>	A proposal that offers some value to make a scientific contribution but presents significant weaknesses. It is not very likely to advance the field of knowledge and/or generate broader societal benefits. Falls short of meeting the assessment criteria of the call.



<b>4</b>	<b><i>Average</i></b>	A proposal that offers value to make a scientific contribution but has weaknesses. It is not very likely to advance the field of knowledge and/or generate broader societal benefits. Meets the minimum requirements in terms of the assessment criteria of the call.
<b>5</b>	<b><i>Satisfactory</i></b>	A proposal that is of value in its scientific contribution with no significant flaws but is not of a consistently high quality. Meets some requirements in terms of the assessment criteria of the call and is unlikely to advance the field of knowledge and/or generate broader societal benefits.
<b>6</b>	<b><i>Good</i></b>	A proposal of considerable value that is likely to make an important scientific contribution, either independently or in combination with broader societal benefits. Meets all assessment criteria of the call at a good level.
<b>7</b>	<b><i>Very good</i></b>	A proposal of significant value that is likely to make a very important scientific contribution, either independently or in combination with broader societal benefits. Meets all assessment criteria of the call at a very good level.
<b>8</b>	<b><i>Excellent</i></b>	A proposal of significant value that is highly likely to make a very important scientific contribution, either independently or in combination with broader societal benefits. Meets all assessment criteria of the call at an excellent level.
<b>9</b>	<b><i>Outstanding</i></b>	A proposal of excellent scientific merit, i.e., of such innovation, novelty, or timeliness that it is likely to make an outstanding scientific contribution, either independently or in combination with significant societal benefits. Meets all assessment criteria of the call at an outstanding level.
<b>10</b>	<b><i>Exceptional</i></b>	A proposal of outstanding scientific merit, i.e., of such innovation, novelty, or timeliness that it is highly likely to make an exceptional scientific contribution, either independently or in combination with critical societal benefits. Meets all assessment criteria of the call at an exceptional level.

### 3.2. Evaluation Process

Proposals submitted to the *P4T* call will be reviewed, evaluated and ranked by international interdisciplinary experts. The evaluation process involves the following steps:



- *Eligibility checks:* Following the submission deadline, the *P4T* call secretariat, in cooperation with the funding organizations, will conduct an eligibility and compliance check of all proposals. This will confirm that proposals meet the call's formal requirements, including (but not limited to) the submission deadline, alignment with the remit and mandates of the relevant funding organizations, the required number of participating countries, compliance with page and length limits, and the provision of all required information. Applicants' eligibility to submit proposals will also be assessed in accordance with the rules and regulations of the respective funding organizations.
- *Expert Panel(s):* Depending on the number and scope of eligible proposals received, one or more expert panels will be convened. Panels will consist of independent experts appointed by the participating funding organizations. Panel members will assess and discuss the proposals against the evaluation criteria outlined above and will formulate funding recommendations for consideration by the funding organizations.
- *Funders Forum:* Following the expert panel meeting(s), representatives of the T-AP *P4T* funding organizations will convene as a Funders Forum. The Forum will consider the funding recommendations made by the expert panel(s) and will collectively agree the proposed slate of projects to be supported. In determining the slate, the primary guiding principle will be scholarly merit, as reflected in the expert panel rankings.
- *Funding decision:* Final funding decisions will be subject to formal approval by the national T-AP *P4T* funding organizations, in accordance with their respective rules, procedures, and budgetary constraints.



#### 4. P4T Call Terms and Conditions

The following conditions apply to all research projects funded under the T-AP P4T call:

- **Acknowledgement of support:** All publications, outputs, and dissemination materials arising from the funded research must acknowledge the support of the Trans-Atlantic Platform using the following wording (or equivalent): “This work was supported in the framework of the Trans-Atlantic Platform by the following funding organizations ...”. A link to the T-AP website (<http://www.transatlanticplatform.com/>) must also be included.
- **Reporting requirements:** All co-PIs are required to submit scientific (and financial) reports in accordance with the reporting requirements of their respective funding organizations. This includes reporting on interim and final results, outputs, outcomes and progress of the collaborative project, as applicable.
- All funded projects will be required to submit a **final project report** (“*white paper*”) to the T-AP coordination team within **90 days of the end of the grant period** (or final approved extension). The final report will summarise project progress, results, outcomes, impact, lessons learned, and overall success and will be published on the TAP website.
- **Data and code sharing:** Where data or code are generated under the grant, researchers are encouraged to deposit these outputs in an appropriate, recognised repository, in line with relevant open science practices and any additional requirements set by the participating funding organizations.

##### 4.1. Midterm and End of Grant Forum

To highlight the outcomes of funded projects and enable knowledge exchange and cross-project learning, a forum will be organized at the **mid-term (online)** and **at the end of the grant (possibly in-person)**. These forums will provide funded project teams with the opportunity to present progress and results, share experiences, and reflect on lessons learned. The forums may also serve as a catalyst for future research collaborations. Project teams are encouraged, where appropriate, to organize additional exchanges or meetings with other funded teams throughout the lifetime of the grant. A kick-off meeting will be organized online for teams to connect with other projects and ask questions of the funders. **Applicants are encouraged to include expenses related to attending the end of grant forum in their project budgets (for 1-2 participants).**

##### 4.2. Award Notification

Once the final list of selected projects has been agreed, the Lead Principal Investigator (PI) will be notified by email of the outcome of the selection process and will receive a copy of the evaluation report prepared by the Review Panel for the proposal. Following this notification, each participating funding organization will formally notify the relevant PIs and award funding in accordance with its own rules, procedures, and timelines. For some funding organizations, the release of funds may be subject to the completion and signature of additional documentation, including agreements covering matters such as intellectual property rights, confidentiality, and publication arrangements.

##### 4.3. Open Access to Research Outputs

Open access to research outputs is strongly encouraged in order to maximise the dissemination, visibility, and impact of the funded research, and to enhance the return on public investment in



research. Funding recipients are expected to ensure that research data, peer-reviewed publications, and software outputs are made openly accessible online wherever possible, in line with the policies, rules, and any constraints (e.g. ethical, legal, or security-related) of the relevant funding organizations.



## Annex I - Data Management Plan – Template

A data management plan (DMP) describes how the data generated or used by a project will be managed during and after the project’s lifetime. This includes arrangements for data collection, documentation, storage, preservation, sharing, and consideration of ethical and legal requirements. The DMP applies to **digital data only** and should **not** include publications.

Applicants must structure their DMP using the **five headings set out below**.

T-AP grant recipients are expected to make their research data openly available for reuse by others, unless ethical, legal, or commercial constraints prevent this. The guiding principle is “as open as possible, as closed as necessary”. Any restrictions on data sharing must be clearly justified in the DMP. The T-AP funders support the principle that research data generated using public funds constitute a public good and must be managed in accordance with the [FAIR Principles](#)—i.e., the findability, accessibility, interoperability, and reuse of digital assets.

### 1) Data Description

Describe any existing datasets that will be used by the project. Specify the types of digital data and associated metadata that will be generated, collected, or processed, and how these will be recorded and formatted to support reproducibility and reuse. Examples include (but are not limited to): photographs, interview data, maps, graphs, videos, spreadsheets, audio recordings, databases, teaching materials, and software code.

### 2) Ethical and Legal Aspects

Describe any any ethical, legal, or regulatory constraints that affect data collection, storage, or sharing. Explain how issues such as privacy, confidentiality, data security, intellectual property, and data protection will be addressed. Where data are collected from human participants, describe consent procedures and/or anonymisation strategies to enable future data sharing. Where applicable, clarify ownership of copyright and intellectual property rights for newly generated data.

### 3) Responsibilities and Management Methodology

Outline roles and responsibilities for data management within the project, including across partner institutions. Describe procedures for data collection, quality control, documentation, storage, backup, and longterm- preservation.

### 4) Publication Formats, Standards, Mechanisms and Repositories

Describe the formats, standards, and mechanisms through which the data will be made available to ensure compliance with the [FAIR Principles](#). Where relevant, indicate data types (e.g. file formats), anticipated data volumes, and metadata standards (e.g. Dublin Core). Specify the repository or repositories where the data will be deposited (e.g. institutional repositories or recognised international repositories such as Zenodo).

### 5) Preservation and Sharing after Project Ends

Describe policies for data preservation and sharing during and after the end of the project, including any embargo periods. Indicate how long the data will remain publicly accessible and who will be responsible



for ensuring ongoing access and preservation. These arrangements are typically governed by the policies of the chosen data repository or repositories.



## Annex II - The Narrative Résumé Template

This document is mandatory for the Lead PI and co-PIs only. Please use the five sections described below, omitting the corresponding explanations.

The narrative résumé is designed to allow you to make visible all the relevant contributions you have made to the research community. This document should occupy **at most five pages per PI**. If a résumé contains more than five pages, only the first five will be considered. For sections in which you do not desire to provide information, write “Not applicable” under the corresponding section title. There is no word limit for each section—you may choose to devote more space to certain sections depending on the nature of your past contributions and experience. Elan will provide a CV template, but applicants should use the T-AP template instead.

**Section 1 – Personal Information:** Please indicate the following:

- Key qualifications
- Relevant positions held (list up to 5)
- Awards or prizes
- Any other experience directly relevant to the proposed research project

**Section 2 – Independent contributions to the generation of new ideas, tools, methodologies or knowledge:**

List up to five of the most relevant research results, such as scientific articles, books, book chapters, videos, sound recordings, creative outputs, lectures as guest speakers, patents (filed, granted, and especially licensed), registered software, cultivars, new products, new processes or other types of documented results arisen from research that you consider to be among the five most relevant to your career.

**Section 3 – Human Capacity Development:**

The development or supervision of others and maintenance of effective working relationships. You can list up to five examples indicating the connection between these examples and the proposed research project.

**Section 4 – Scientific Impact:**

Contributions to the wider research community. You can list up to five examples of various activities you have engaged in to progress the research community, such as editing, reviewing, refereeing, committee work, your contributions to increasing research integrity and improving research culture.

**Section 5 – Societal Impact:**

Contributions towards wider social impacts which may include benefits for communities, partners’ organizations or practitioners (‘research-users’) through collaboration, influence on public policy, advancement of professional practices, contributions to the public discourse.

**Section 6 – Additions:**

Provide any further details relevant to your application (such as career breaks).

## T-AP Preparing for tomorrow call - Frequently Asked Questions

### Application preparation

#### Research topics

1. How many themes should proposals address?
  - a. The number of theme(s) addressed is up to the applicants.
2. How is “interdisciplinary” research defined?
  - a. “Interdisciplinary” in the context of the Trans-Atlantic Platform is understood as the integration of information, data, techniques, tools, perspectives, methodologies, concepts, or theories from two or more disciplines or bodies of specialized knowledge.
3. Does the research need to focus on specific countries?
  - a. There are no expectations regarding geographic focus for proposals.
4. Can a proposal bring in additional themes and ask research questions not identified in the call?
  - a. Yes you can introduce additional themes if you can clearly show how the proposal is relevant to at least one of the four themes of this call. The list of possible research questions in the call is also not exhaustive, and applicants are invited to explore different questions related to the call on their research projects if they wish.

#### Eligibility

1. How do I determine if I am eligible to apply for a T-AP grant?
  - a. Applicants must meet the eligibility requirements of the funder from which they are seeking the grant. These are outlined in the national addenda available on the T-AP website.
2. Can a Lead-PI be from an area outside of the social sciences and humanities?
  - a. The call does not pose constraints on this, but funders may have individual rules. Remember that partnership suitability in achieving a proposal’s objectives is part of the evaluation criteria.
3. What happens if one funding agency deems a research partner ineligible? Will the entire consortium be ineligible?
  - a. Yes. Applicants should carefully review the eligibility requirements outlined in the national addenda for each participating funder before submitting their application.

#### Application language

1. Can the application be submitted in languages other than English?
  - a. No. T-AP coordinates an international panel to assess all applications in English.
2. Does T-AP provide support to facilitate research teams working in multiple languages?
  - a. Translation and other kinds of support may be an eligible expense for some funders. We encourage the lead PI and co-PIs to facilitate as much as possible the participation of researchers working in multiple languages.

## Grant roles

1. What are the main responsibilities of the lead Principal Investigator and co-principal investigators in preparing a T-AP application?
  - a. All of the PIs work together to develop the grant application and co-lead the partnership if awarded. One of the co-PIs is nominated as the Lead PI and is responsible for submitting both the Letter of Intent to Apply and the joint research proposal on behalf of the consortium. All coPIs- share responsibility for the overall direction of the project, coordination of proposed research activities, and active participation in delivering the research.
2. What are the responsibilities of collaborators? Collaborators are members of the consortium who contribute to executing the research project. Funders may use additional requirements and categories in their Addenda related to issuing their specific awards.
  - a. Collaborators are members of the consortium who contribute to executing the research project. Funders may use additional requirements and categories in their Addenda related to issuing their specific awards.

## Team composition

1. How many countries must be involved in the proposals?
  - a. Each proposal must include at least three eligible co-PIs from at least three different T-AP participating countries, with representation from both sides of the Atlantic.
2. Does the Preparing for tomorrow call prefer collaboration between researchers from specific combinations of T-AP countries?
  - a. No. There is no preference for particular country combinations. Any mix of participating T-AP countries is acceptable, provided the consortium includes partners from both sides of the Atlantic (i.e. from Europe and/or South Africa, and North and/or South America).
2. How many members should a consortium have?
  - a. There is no fixed requirement for the number of team members. Applicants should determine the size and composition of the consortium based on what is necessary to successfully deliver the project's aims and objectives.
3. Can researchers from non-T-AP participating countries be included in proposals?
  - a. Yes, as co-operation partners, but their ability to claim any funding will depend on individual funders' policies. Please consult the national addenda on the call website or contact your funding agency for more details.
4. How will a consortium (team) be funded if successful?
  - a. Each national team within a successful project will receive funding from its own funding agency, in accordance with that agency's rules and regulations.

## Budget and eligible expenses

1. What research expenses are eligible for my T-AP grant?
  - a. You must follow the eligible expenses regulations and policies of the agency that is distributing your funding.
2. Is there an upper limit on grant funding or funding for specific types of costs?

- a. Each funder sets its own funding limits, which are published on the call website. Details on eligible costs for individual funders can be found in their respective addenda or by contacting the funder directly.
3. Should projects set aside funds for the end of grant conference?
  - a. Yes, as the end of the conference meeting will possibly be in person. If the conference is virtual, applicants can reallocate these funds to other eligible expenses.

#### Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools

1. Are applicants permitted to use generative AI tools when preparing their applications?
  - a. Yes, applicants may use generative AI tools when preparing their applications. However, they remain fully responsible for ensuring that all information provided is true, accurate, and complete, **and that all sources are properly acknowledged and referenced.**

#### Application submission

1. How do I submit a T-AP application?
  - a. The lead Principal Investigator must submit the Letter of Intent to Apply and the full application on behalf of the international consortium with all requested material (outlined in the Preparing for tomorrow call instructions) to the call secretariat, DFG at their [elan](https://elan.dfg.de/my.policy) website (<https://elan.dfg.de/my.policy>).
  - b. An elan manual will be posted to the T-AP homepage shortly.
2. Is it possible to submit an application for a T-AP grant without having submitted a Letter of Intent to Apply?
  - a. No, Proposals for which the Lead PI has not submitted a LOI by the deadline will not be considered for evaluation.
3. How much can the full application differ from the Letter of Intent to Apply?
  - a. While project details and co PIs- may be modified upon submission, it is **anticipated that the Lead PI will not change.**

#### Application evaluation

1. How are applications evaluated?
  - a. Please review the Preparing for tomorrow call instructions Section 3 – Assessment Process for a complete overview of how applications are evaluated.

#### Post award questions

##### Grant timelines and extensions

1. Can different members of the international consortium start the project at different dates?
  - a. Yes, and this is often the case due to timelines for completing the contract/award process for different funding agencies. As much as possible, we recommend trying to align start dates between international consortium members.

2. Can I extend my T-AP grant?
  - a. This will depend on your funding provider's policies and regulations. Please contact your funding agency to inquire.

#### Changes concerning Lead PIs, Co-PIs and specific partners

1. Can a Lead PI or Co-PI change his or her affiliation to be affiliated to a foreign research institution without any consequences for her or his role and further funding of his or her project?
  - a. Some funders preclude funding Lead PIs or Co-PIs affiliated abroad. The eligibility requirements are outlined in the national addenda available on the T-AP website. If a PI's affiliation changes after the award starts, they will need to contact their national funder to ensure they are still eligible. If well justified, it may be possible to change the PI after the award is granted, but this depends on the rules of each funder.

#### Grant reporting

1. What reporting is required as part of my T-AP grant?
  - a. You must follow the reporting requirements of the agency that distributes your funding. In addition, all funded projects will be required to submit a **final project report** ("*white paper*") to the T-AP coordination team within **90 days of the end of the grant period** (or final approved extension). The final report will summarise project progress, results, outcomes, impact, lessons learned, and overall success. It will be published on the T-AP website.



## **T-AP Call Scope - Preparing for Tomorrow: societies and strategies in times of transition**

### **1. Context, Scope and Aims of the Call**

*This section outlines the context, the basic scope and the overarching aims of the call.*

In recent decades, the world has entered a period of profound turbulence. The global landscape has been reshaped by climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, regional and global conflicts, political instability, financial and trade disruptions, the rise of disruptive emergent technologies (such as generative AI), and widespread epistemic crises. Such crises have been exacerbated by misinformation, disinformation, and the fragmentation of public discourse. Moreover, emerging technologies pose significant risks that can undermine the stability and resilience of democratic societies. Political extremism, shifting international alliances, and emerging cultural divides - driven by socioeconomic and technological transformations - continue to influence how societies understand, interact with one another, and envision the future. Yet, amidst this volatility, new and unforeseen opportunities are emerging: from advances in AI and medicine to breakthroughs in communication technologies. These innovations open up transformative possibilities and spaces for creative new solutions and developments.

In this global context, the **Trans-Atlantic Platform (T-AP)** seeks to foster innovative, transnational research that actively anticipates future developments, contributes to new knowledge and tools to help society respond to emerging challenges, and supports a resilient and inclusive future for all. The T-AP call *Preparing for Tomorrow* invites research on key questions that will define our shared future:

- How can we strengthen society's ability to anticipate and engage with emerging challenges and opportunities—and understand their complex interrelations?
- How can we design and implement effective strategies for planning and responding to uncertainty that foster international collaboration on issues of global significance?
- What kind of futures do we envision for human life? How do we want to shape it, and what direction should our societies evolve in response to past crises and future trends?

These questions can be explored from a wide range of disciplinary, methodological, theoretical, and applied perspectives within the social sciences and humanities.

The T-AP Call on *Preparing for Tomorrow* aims to:

- Catalyze and support transnational research teams from countries on both sides of the Atlantic, and beyond the North/South divide, to advance key insights from social sciences and humanities (SSH) research.

- Support innovative interdisciplinary research proposals, where appropriate, that contribute to the understanding of challenges and opportunities related to societies and strategies in times of transition.
- Encourage the co-development of robust and sustainable work programs with communities and key stakeholders, including local, regional, national, and international policymakers.
- Encourage diversity in research teams, including providing training and support to early-career researchers.

## 2. Objectives

*This section outlines the main objectives of research funded through the Preparing for Tomorrow call.*

Your research project should address one or more of the following objectives:

1. Strengthen conceptual frameworks and (descriptive, explanatory, or normative) theories related to foresight, crises, and collective response strategies.
2. Identify and/or assess interventions, strategies, and governance structures aimed at enhancing resilience, prevention, and preparedness for future crises and opportunities.
3. Provide empirical case studies illustrating how past, contemporary regional collectives perceive future opportunities and risks, and how they prepare for them.
4. Investigate how disruptive technologies and new media shape both the emergence and perception of future opportunities and crises.

## 3. Type of research that can be funded

The *Preparing for Tomorrow* call supports social sciences, humanities and/or interdisciplinary research focused on the themes described below. We invite proposals that use all relevant methodologies, whether qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods. Proposals may also include methods or approaches that emphasize theory development, conceptual and normative inquiry, and future-oriented methodologies such as, including simulations, visioning, risk analysis, modelling, and scenario construction. Historical inquiry that helps us understand the present and the future are also welcome. This list is not exhaustive, and applicants can focus their work on other methodologies or approaches relevant to the call.

## 4. Overarching themes for Preparing for Tomorrow

*Overview of themes for investigation for Preparing for Tomorrow*

The *Preparing for Tomorrow* call will focus on the following themes:

1. Uncertainty: Sources, Costs, Communication, and Improvement
2. The Many Faces of the Future and Crisis: Historical, Cultural, and Regional Perspectives

3. Scope and Coordination of Response Strategies
4. Normative Inquiry into Prevention and Preparation for Future Crises

Together, these themes cover the essential dimensions of crisis understanding and management. They address the nature of uncertainty, the diversity of societal experiences, the mechanisms of coordinated response, and the normative considerations that shape how societies choose to prevent and prepare for future crises. Taken together, they support a comprehensive research agenda capable of informing resilient, equitable, and forward-looking strategies for societies navigating crises and transitions. While proposals do not need to address all themes simultaneously, each contributes to the broader goal of strengthening societal preparedness.

Under each theme, possible research questions are presented. These questions may be broad or more narrowly related to specific cases, areas, regions, and times. The list of research questions is exemplary rather than exhaustive and can be adapted to different contexts. Applicants are invited to explore different questions related to the call on their research projects if they wish.

#### **4.1 Uncertainty: Sources, Costs, Communication, and Improvement**

Projections of the future are inherently uncertain. They are shaped by inductive reasoning and probabilistic thinking—often involving highly unlikely or unpredictable outcomes. Some events, such as *Black Swan* phenomena, arrive completely unexpectedly. Emerging technologies (such as AI, quantum computing) with the potential to affect various areas of society, could have a significant impact and may introduce uncertainty across the broader societal landscape. Uncertainty may trigger the demand for simple answers to complex questions and thus pose a threat to the democratic negotiation of social problems. There may also be areas in which uncertainty itself is helpful and even beneficial to our collective well-being.

*Possible research questions:*

- How can we enhance our predictive and foresight capacities—through emerging technologies, creativity, evidence-based methods, and robust transnational collaborations?
- What are the societal consequences and policy implications of the emergence of new, and often unforeseen, uncertainties?
- How should researchers, media and communicators convey these uncertainties to the public, policymakers, and entrepreneurs?
- How should education improve on citizens' uncertainty literacy, both with respect to understanding uncertainty and acting upon it?
- How does the deeper awareness of uncertainties influence strategic planning and policymaking?

- How do technologies, natural and environmental factors affect our degree of uncertainty?
- When is uncertainty dangerous; and when can we live with it or even embrace it?

#### **4.2 The Many Faces of the Future and Crisis: Historical, Cultural, and Regional Perspectives**

Modern Western societies often exhibit a low tolerance for risk and a heightened concern for the distant future. However, conceptions of crisis, risk, and the future vary widely across time and cultures. Historical and non-Western perspectives—particularly from the Global South or Indigenous populations—offer alternative ontological and epistemological frameworks for understanding and designing futures, articulating notions of progress, and responding to uncertainty. They also highlight how earlier experiences and heritage times of transformation and crisis, and how the past contributes to building future-oriented responses. Exploring and experimenting with these diverse viewpoints allows us to better contextualize Western paradigms and enrich our understanding of global plurality. Comparative, historical, and/or regional analyses can help uncover overlooked insights and challenge conventional assumptions.

*Possible research questions:*

- How have past societies responded to the challenges of building future-oriented orders?
- How have regional and cultural backgrounds or assumptions shaped the ways in which action in the global realm has been conceived or practiced?
- What is the relationship between, on the one hand, tangible and intangible heritage - including ancestral knowledge - and attempts to build a future-oriented order?
- How do historical experiences shape perceptions of future risk?
- In what ways do expectations of progress raise or limit the level of risk aversion?

#### **4.3 Scope and Coordination of Response Strategies**

Recent global crises have underscored the importance—and the limitations—of existing institutional responses. Addressing challenges that transcend borders demands a reassessment of how we coordinate action at national, regional, and global levels. What kinds of transnational partnerships, institutions, and governance models are needed to respond effectively to future risks and opportunities? This theme invites an assessment, and possible rethinking, of international institutions, policies, and social movements regarding environmental issues (e.g., climate change), trade relations, public health, emerging technologies, geoeconomic or geopolitical dependencies, and informal governance structures.

*Possible research questions:*

- Where have current policies and institutions succeeded or fallen short?
- How should policies and institutions be designed to better address emerging technologies, environmental risk, trade relations, or public health crises in the face of new uncertainties?
- Should we prioritize more inclusive, regional, and bottom-up approaches that amplify voices previously unheard?
- If so, what implications does this have for the methods and epistemologies that we employ in academic and policy research?
- In what domains (policy, culture, law, technology) are more bottom-up and regional approaches called for?
- In what domains are top-down and global approaches needed or even desired?

#### **4.4 Normative Inquiry into Prevention and Preparation for Future Crises**

Investing in crisis prevention and future preparedness raises complex normative and instrumental questions. Change and anticipated change are experienced differently. The identification of 'crisis' can therefore be a contested process with political implications. Normative inquiry is needed to identify principles, norms and rules that should guide this process.

*Possible research questions:*

- How should we allocate limited resources between immediate needs and long-term resilience?
- What will be the implications and consequences of specific measures, practices, and regulations?
- What probability threshold should a future harm exceed before it justifies present-day action?
- How do we balance the protection of liberal rights, such as privacy and individual freedom, with the imperative to prevent harm?
- What ethical trade-offs are acceptable between mitigating future risks and preserving the freedoms that define open societies?
- How have such questions been addressed in past contexts?