

Information infrastructures & Research Data Management (RDM) in Collaborative Research Centres

Due to their long-term nature and the scope of subprojects, disciplines and locations, CRCs have special characteristics with regard to the changing participation of researchers, the range of data produced and the need for collaboration. It therefore makes sense to consider applying for an INF project in order to gain scientific synergy through efficient data and information management. For the specific design of an INF project, the needs in the CRC must be identified in advance. In addition to information on the types and scope of data to be collected, the desired functionality is decisive for planning.

Questions for orientation¹:

1. Who is responsible for RDM in the CRC? Do you intend to develop an internal research data policy?
2. Does a data strategy or even a data management plan (DMP) exist?
A DMP can be understood as a dynamic document, which only roughly describes data management in the application phase and is further elaborated during the course of the project.
3. Do you use basic UoC infrastructure?
Cooperation with RRZK / USB is explicitly required when planning an INF sub-project.
4. Are tools for data management / or reusable prototypes to be developed and operated sustainably?
(e.g. establishment of a virtual research environment for knowledge management and collaboration in the CRC and / or a database for storing research data)
5. Is the aspect of subsequent use of data dealt with?
 - a. Description or annotation according to subject-specific standards?
 - b. Ensuring the reusability of data?
 - c. If applicable, sufficient justification why subsequent use is not relevant?
6. Do you apply for infrastructure means or software (licenses)?
Is this sufficiently justified in the argumentation? (Good scientific practice and file storage is usually referred to the basic equipment, while documented archiving and enabling subsequent use is eligible.)
7. Are local, national or international components reused?
Environmental analysis and use of existing resources: <http://resources.dfg.de>
8. Should external data archives / repositories be used?
 - a. If so, are they appropriate/ trustworthy/ certified?
 - b. If no, have no relevant offers been overlooked?
9. Is the staffing for RDM tasks appropriate and sufficiently justified?
Usually postdoctoral position; also technician / computer scientist / PhD position
10. Are costs for archiving and publication of research data included in the proposal?

¹ For further information, see DFG Form 60.100 - 07/19, Section 3 C: Template for an Information Infrastructure Project https://www.dfg.de/formulare/60_100/60_100_en.pdf