

5. Additional guiding questions for funding organisations

The following guiding questions can also be helpful for funding organisations:

Reflection question for funding organisations 1: Does the (maximum) funding period and the amount of funding allow for a transdisciplinary approach in which time and financial resources are available for knowledge integration, processes of participation and negotiation processes?

- Yes, through ...
- Yes, however ...
- No, because...
- ...

Requirement: The structures of research funding should be oriented towards complex transdisciplinary research processes and create framework conditions for excellent transdisciplinary research.

Additional hints: This reduces dilemmatic situations in research projects, as appropriate structures can prevent conflicts with respect to time and resources in the project network.

Reflection question for funding organisations 2: Are the basic terms of the call for proposals defined and their meaning and significance reflected upon?

- Yes, by ...
- Yes, however ...
- No, ...
- ...

Requirements: The central concepts on which the call for proposals is based are examined from different perspectives and located in the sustainability discourse.

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Additional notes: This prevents an unreflected adoption of (historically developed) conceptual understandings and coinages, which can otherwise lead to tensions or dilemmas. Cf. also the link to metacriterion 4, guiding question 13.

Reflection question for funding organisations 3: Does the call for proposals reflect on the relationship between political goals and the current scientific status and discourse on sustainability?

- Yes, because ...
- Yes, however ...
- No, because ...
- ...

Requirement: Alignment with purely political goals and interests can impede research and the further development of scientific discourse along scientific criteria. The relationship between political objectives and scientific discourse should therefore be reflected upon.

Additional notes: Under certain circumstances, this creates conflicts of interest between funding organisations and researchers. It can inhibit the innovative character of research and lead to difficulties in implementing research projects and should therefore be avoided.

Reflection question for funding organisations 4: Are the evaluation criteria and procedures of applications tailored to the characteristics of transdisciplinary sustainability research?

- Yes, by ...
- Yes, however ...
- No, because ...
- ...

Requirement: The evaluation of transdisciplinary research projects should be oriented towards the quality characteristics of transdisciplinary research. Cf. 3.4.3 (Transdisciplinary) research in structures of funding and science.

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Additional notes: Excellent transdisciplinary research also requires appropriate expertise and criteria in the review of proposals in order to recognise conceptual errors at an early stage and thus avoid problems in the research. Cf. the corresponding guide Bergmann/Brohmann et al. (2005).

