Description and Preparation Instructions for Joint DFG/FAPESP Coordinated Programmes

FAPESP and DFG offer funding for bilateral jointly coordinated programmes, such as international research training groups, research units as well as collaborative research centres. Groups of researchers from Germany and from the State of São Paulo, Brazil, wishing to perform a coordinated project within those funding lines should follow the description of the joint programme below and the guidelines of the respective programmes at DFG and FAPESP. All programmes follow a 2-stage procedure on the basis of a draft proposal submitted only to DFG, an eligibility check submitted only to FAPESP and a full proposal submitted to both, DFG and FAPESP.

Draft proposals need only to be submitted to DFG whilst joint full proposals shall be submitted to DFG according to the particular submission procedures of DFG. In parallel, the Principal Investigator of the group in the state of Sao Paulo shall submit the same full proposal within the respective programme (Temático) of FAPESP. Both funding organizations, FAPESP and DFG, will perform a joint evaluation procedure and funding will be provided only if both funding organisations are willing to fund the joint project.

Proposals will be processed by FAPESP following the norms and regulations for Thematic Grants, except when explicitly specified in these guidelines. Applicants should seek for a letter from FAPESP declaring their eligibility at least four weeks prior to submission of the draft proposal to DFG.

1. DFG/FAPESP International Research Training Groups

1.1 Description of the programme

A DFG Research Training Group (RTG) may be established by universities to promote early career researchers. Research Training Groups may be funded by the DFG for a period of up to nine years. Their key emphasis is on the qualification of doctoral researchers within the framework of a focused research programme and a structured training strategy. Research Training Groups with an interdisciplinary research approach are welcome. The aim is to prepare doctoral researchers for the complexities of the job market in science and academics and simultaneously to encourage early scientific independence.

International Research Training Groups (IRTG) provide opportunities for joint doctoral training programmes between German universities and universities abroad. The research and study programmes are jointly developed and supervised. All doctoral researchers in the programme complete an extended research stay (on average six months) at the respective partner institution.

The added value of International Research Training Groups includes synergy effects deriving from the use of complementary expertise, equipment and resources at the partner institutions

and the consolidation of institutionalised university partnerships, as well as the early integration of doctoral researchers in international scientific networks.

In case of both DFG and FAPESP approve funding for an IRTG, DFG will only fund the project-specific costs incurred by the German partner university. FAPESP will only fund the partner group from the state of São Paulo.

Programme description at DFG:
Research Training Groups. For the distinction between Research Training Groups and International Research Training Groups, please consult the "Guidelines for **Differentiating International Research Training Groups** from Research Training Groups".

1.2 Preparation Instructions
Proposals for an International Research Training Group shall be prepared according to the guidelines of the DFG programme. Preparation and evaluation of International Research Training Group proposals follow a 2-step procedure involving a draft proposal and a full proposal. A **draft proposal** is prepared according to the DFG IRTG guidelines. It contains an outline of the research programme, the training and supervision concept as well as the research environment at the university. It should be signed by the German spokesperson and the German university as well as by the Principal Investigator from the State of São Paulo.

FAPESP will not perform an analysis of the Draft Proposal. Consequently, **the Draft Proposal should not be submitted** to FAPESP. The applicants from the state of São Paulo, however, must undergo an eligibility analysis. So, at least 4 weeks prior to submitting the draft proposal to DFG, applicants from the state of São Paulo should seek a letter from FAPESP declaring their eligibility, according to instructions to be found here.

The **Full Proposal** shall be prepared according to the DFG Proposal Preparation Instructions for International Research Training Groups. It describes in detail the research programme, the training and supervision concept as well as the research environment of the IRTG. It should be signed by the German spokesperson and the German university as well as by the Principal Investigator from the State of São Paulo.

1.3 Submission Instructions
1.3.1 Submission to DFG:
The draft proposal and the full proposal shall be submitted to DFG by the German university according to the standard submission procedures for Research Training Groups at DFG. The eligibility criteria of the programme Research Training Groups at DFG apply. The submission of the full proposal should take place simultaneously with the submission to FAPESP by the partners from São Paulo.

1.3.2 Submission to FAPESP:
Applicants from the State of São Paulo must submit the full joint proposal and additional formal documents as required by FAPESP within the Thematic Project Research Grant, according to the guidelines available here. The submission should take place simultaneously with the submission to DFG by the German partners.

2. DFG/FAPESP Research Units

2.1 Description of the programme

A Research Unit is made up of a team of researchers working together on a research project, which, in terms of thematic focus, duration and finances, extends beyond the funding options available under the Individual Grants Programmes of DFG or Regular Research Projects at FAPESP. Research Units provide the staff and material resources required for carrying out intensive, medium-term cooperative projects, generally up to eight years. Research Units often contribute to establishing new research directions. Funding opportunities for Research Units are subject to the same principles as research grants. At FAPESP the programme "Research Unit" is similar to the Thematic Project Research Grant.

Apart from an excellent scientific expertise of the involved scientists on each side, **DFG/FAPESP Research Units** require an already established collaboration between the researchers involved and must demonstrate an added value of the collaboration over and above what could be achieved individually. The joint programme requires a coordinator in each country.

In case of a positive evaluation, DFG and FAPESP may provide funding for the research consortia performing research in the respective countries.

2.2 Preparation Instructions

Proposals for a Research Unit shall be prepared according to the guidelines of the DFG programme. Preparation and evaluation of research units follow a 2-step procedure involving a draft proposal and a full proposal.

A **draft proposal** shall be prepared according to the DFG guidelines for research units as can be found below. It contains an outline of the research programme (10 pages maximum) and includes a summary for each of the proposed individual projects (2 pages maximum each).

FAPESP will not perform an analysis of the Draft Proposal. Consequently, **the Draft Proposal should not be submitted** to FAPESP. The applicants from the state of São Paulo, however, must undergo an eligibility analysis. So, at least 4 weeks prior to submitting the draft proposal to DFG, applicants from the state of São Paulo should seek a letter from FAPESP declaring their eligibility, according to instructions to be found here.

The joint **full proposal** shall contain all sub-projects submitted by researchers from Germany and from the State of São Paulo. Applicants applying to DFG prepare their individual projects, as well as the frame of the research unit, according to the Proposal Preparation Instructions of the Research Units programme of DFG. Applicants to FAPESP can participate with one Thematic Project. All the projects prepared by researchers from Germany and from the State of São Paulo that will build the joint full proposal of the research unit have to be submitted to DFG and FAPESP. A prerequisite for the submission of a full proposal is a positive evaluation of the draft proposal and the invitation to submit a full proposal.

2.3 Submission Instructions

2.3.1 Submission to DFG:

The draft proposal and the full proposal shall be submitted to DFG by the German spokesperson of the group according to the standard submission procedures for Research Units at DFG. The eligibility criteria of the programme Research Units at DFG apply. The

submission of the full proposal should take place simultaneously with the submission to FAPESP by the partners from São Paulo.

2.3.2 Submission to FAPESP:
Applicants from the State of São Paulo must submit the joint proposal and additional formal documents as required by FAPESP within the Thematic Project Research Grant, according to the guidelines available here. The submission should take place simultaneously with the submission to DFG by the German partners.

3. DFG/FAPESP Collaborative Research Centres

3.1 Description of the programme Collaborative Research Centres

Collaborative Research Centres (CRC) funded by DFG are long-term university-based research institutions, established for up to three four-year funding periods, in which researchers work together within a multidisciplinary research programme. They allow researchers to tackle innovative, challenging, complex and long-term research undertakings through the coordination and concentration of individuals and resources within the applicant universities. They therefore enable institutional priority area development and structural development. Collaborative Research Centres consist of a large number of projects. The number and scope of these projects depend on the research programme. Individual projects are led by one researcher or jointly by several researchers. For DFG/FAPESP Collaborative Research Centres the integration of universities and projects at research institutions in the state of São Paulo is intended. Prerequisites for their integration are the scientific excellence of the projects in question and their logical thematic relationship to the overall concept as well as a high level of benefit for the Collaborative Research Centre (CRC).

Apart from an excellent scientific expertise of the involved scientists on each side, **DFG/FAPESP Collaborative Research Centres** require an already established collaboration between the researchers involved and must demonstrate a benefit of the collaboration over and above what could be achieved individually. The joint programme requires a coordinator in each country. In the case that both, DFG and FAPESP, approve funding for a DFG/FAPESP Collaborative Research Centre, DFG will only fund the project-specific costs incurred by the German partner university. FAPESP will only fund the partner group from the state of São Paulo.

3.2 Preparation Instructions

Proposals for a DFG/FAPESP Collaborative Research Centre shall be prepared according to the guidelines of the DFG programme. Decisions on the establishment and funding follow a two-stage process involving a draft proposal and a full proposal. A **draft proposal** is prepared according to the DFG guidelines for Collaborative Research Centres as can be found below. The draft proposal should include the common objective and the common work programme, the current state of the research, the institutional conditions, as well as the planned projects and how they will network. FAPESP will not perform an analysis of the Draft Proposal. Consequently, **the Draft Proposal should not be submitted** to FAPESP. The applicants from the state of São Paulo, however, must undergo an eligibility analysis. So, at least 4 weeks prior to submitting the draft proposal to DFG, applicants from the state of São Paulo should seek a letter from FAPESP declaring their eligibility, according to instructions to be found here.

The joint **full proposal** shall contain all German and Brazilian project proposals. Applicants applying to DFG prepare their individual projects as well as the frame of the Collaborative Research Centre according to the guidelines of the CRC programme of DFG. Applicants to FAPESP can participate with one Thematic Project. All the projects prepared by researchers from Germany and from the State of São Paulo that build the joint full proposal of the CRC must be submitted to DFG and FAPESP. A prerequisite for the submission of a full proposal is a positive evaluation of the draft proposal and the invitation to submit a full proposal.

3.3 Submission Instructions

3.3.1 Submission to DFG:

The draft proposal and the full proposal shall be submitted to DFG by the German university of the group according to the standard submission procedures for Collaborative Research Centres at DFG. The eligibility criteria of the programme Collaborative Research Centres at DFG apply. The submission of the full proposal should take place simultaneously with the submission to FAPESP by the partners from São Paulo.

3.3.2 Submission to FAPESP:

Applicants from the state of São Paulo must submit the joint proposal and additional formal documents as required by FAPESP within the Thematic Project Research Grant scheme, according the guidelines available here. The submission should take place simultaneously with the submission to DFG by the German partners.

4. Additional information

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