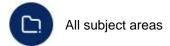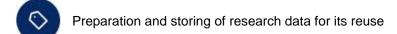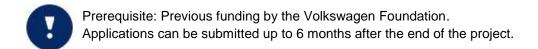**Call for Applications**

Data Reuse – Additional Funding for the Preparation and Storing of Research Data

Research data are at the same time starting point and the result of research. Their long-term preservation and availability enable scientific progress and quality control through reproduction. That is why the Foundation supports the re-use of open research data in the context of its Open Science Policy.

All subject areas

Preparation and storing of research data for its reuse

Up to EUR 100,000

Prerequisite: Previous funding by the Volkswagen Foundation.
Applications can be submitted up to 6 months after the end of the project.

1 Objectives

The "open" handling of research data is an important resource for science and the humanities in the context of Open Science[1]. In order that the research data can be meaningfully reused, it is essential that it is available under an open licence and comply with the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable)[2]. At the same time, the so-called CARE principles ("Principles for Indigenous Data Governance"[3]) as well as the relevant legal and ethical provisions must be observed. With the National Research Data Infrastructure (Nationale Forschungsdateninfrastruktur, NFDI) the cornerstone for an infrastructure of institutionally secured repositories in Germany has been laid. The disciplinary orientation of the various NFDI consortia reflects the great heterogeneity of research data across research fields.

The guiding principle of the Volkswagen Foundation's Open Science Policy is to make scientific knowledge openly accessible and reusable for the benefit of science and society. In this respect, the Foundation also expects relevant research data collected in its projects to be made available for subsequent use (data reuse). With this funding offer, the Foundation supports the preparation of such data and their storage in recognised research data repositories.

2 Scope of Funding

Researchers who are currently funded by the Volkswagen Foundation or were funded by the Volkswagen Foundation up to six months ago and whose projects generate or have generated research data relevant to other researchers are eligible to apply.

The preparation and provision of these research data in a suitable, publicly accessible and ideally certified repository, in accordance with the good quality standards customary in the respective discipline, will be supported up to a maximum amount of Euro 100,000. The aim is to make the research data available for reuse. Free access to the research data must be guaranteed. The data corpus to be processed should generally relate to research data generated in the context of the project funded by the Foundation.

A prerequisite for submitting an application is that the target repository for the research data has been decided. A data management plan (DMP) – the Basic Data Management Plan of the Volkswagen Foundation or a more detailed DMP of the respective discipline - must be submitted.

The application must clearly describe the three levels: data collection carried out in the main project (raw/external data used if applicable), planned data processing in the data reuse project and potential data reuse.

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[1] See UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science 11/2021.
(https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000379949.locale=en) [2023-06-23]
[2] Wilkinson, M., Dumontier, M., Aalbersberg, I. et al. (2016): The FAIR Guiding Principles for scientific data management and stewardship. Sci Data 3, 160018. https://doi.org/10.1038/sdata.2016.18
[3] https://www.gida-global.org/care [2023-06-23]

It is recommended to consult data science expertise (professional societies, university service centres, repositories, etc.) when selecting the target repository and designing the data preparation concept. The directory of research data repositories re3data (https://www.re3data.org/) and the DFG portal for research infrastructures RIsources (https://risources.dfg.de/) provide an overview of recognised repositories. Disciplinary research data repositories should be preferred.

It is expected that the development of the legal framework for handling research data will be followed and taken into account.

Funds can be applied for:

- Scientific personnel[4]
- Further personnel
- Travel costs
- Other recurring costs (software, licenses, contract for work, etc.)
- Publication costs (one-time archiving fee for the target repository)

Please note that the following costs cannot be applied for:

- Non-recurring costs
- Recurring costs for archiving the research data in the target repository
- Funds for the purchase of third-party data

The criteria for review are:

- Scientific relevance of the data material
- Suitability of the target repository for the data material
- Quality of the data preparation concept incl. compliance with scientific standards and consideration of legal aspects, if applicable
- Feasibility of the data preparation concept

3 Application and Selection Procedure

Applications for the Data Reuse Programcan be submitted on an ongoing basis under the title of the main project with the addition "Data Reuse". Please get in touch with your current funding contact or the Data Reuse Programme contact before submitting an application. The peer review process involves expertise in the respective discipline as well as from data and archive sciences.

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[4] If applying for doctoral positions, make sure that the thesis will be completed as scheduled.

4 Application Checklist

Please submit your application in electronic form via the application portal of the Volkswagen Foundation under the funding programme "Data Reuse". Justification for the various cost items should be provided directly in the application portal. For technical questions concerning the use of the portal, please contact: support@volkswagenstiftung.de.

The following information should be uploaded in the portal as enclosures (pdf files):

- Cover letter
- Summary (German/English)
- Application text (in English) with the following information (max. 8 pages):
  - Description of the data generated in the main project (quantity/type) and, if applicable, the raw/external data used
  - Presentation of the data preparation concept
  - Statement explaining the choice of the target repository, including the context and other data sets stored there
  - If applicable, discussion of disciplinary standards
  - If applicable, presentation of legal/ethical aspects
  - Presentation of the project team with division of tasks and previous experience in handling research data
- Self assessment:
  - How do you define the difference between data preparation for reuse and archiving according to good scientific practice?
  - What are potential use cases of reuse for your research data?
- Time schedule and work plan
- Data management plan
- Letter of support of the target repository (willingness to host this data and disciplinary competence)
- Short CVs of the applicant(s) and the project team members (max. 2 pages each)
- Other Attachments
  Any background information on the target repository, e.g. data protection concept, quality seal, terms of use etc.

5 Contact

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6 More Information

- Website VolkswagenStiftung
- FAQs for applicants
- Application System
- Open Science: Open Access – Open Data – Open Source. Policy and Implementatio (pdf)
- Basic Data Management Plan
- Electronic application made easy - instructions and tips
- Useful Information and downloads
- Recommendations for sustainable traveling