

**Information for
Applicants 113a**

Ideas Competition Rare Subjects Mediate World Knowledge

Closing date: April 25, 2018

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I. Call for Proposals

The knowledge incorporated in many so-called “rare subjects” („kleine Fächer“) can contribute to a better understanding of current social and technological developments. Moreover, many of these disciplines are characterized by their international and interdisciplinary nature, providing multiperspectivity as the basis for a holistic “world knowledge”. It is therefore important to create more public awareness of this wealth of knowledge.

With the ideas competition “Rare Subjects Mediate World Knowledge”, the Volkswagen Foundation wants to encourage representatives of the “rare subjects” to try out innovative measures of communication, in which researchers and the public engage in a mutual dialogue. Such activities should reach beyond well-known formats such as events and publications. It is also of central importance that the measures target groups clearly outside the academic context and that, as far as possible, different age groups are addressed. Projects can be funded up to a maximum amount of 100,000 euros.

The funding conditions are limited to these basic frameworks and are otherwise deliberately kept thematically open so as to encourage creativity and the development of original concepts.

II. Framework Conditions

The funding initiative addresses scholars at universities, including art and design colleges as well as non-university institutions such as museums, archives and libraries which represent a so-called rare subject. At this point, the Foundation attempts no clear definition of precisely what constitutes a “rare subject”. Rather, the applicants themselves are called upon to explain the potential and status of their subject and why it is to be considered as a “rare subject”. Special consideration will be given to projects involving cooperation with non-university institutions in the academic or cultural spheres.

III. Application and Selection Procedure

Concept outlines should not exceed 7 pages. They should present the proposed measures of communication formulated in easy-to-understand terms and take into account the specific target group and objectives as well as the expected effects. Applicants should clarify the importance of their “rare subject” for contributing towards the knowledge base in society and tackling current global challenges. The application may also include audio or video materials etc.

Evaluation is carried out by an interdisciplinary jury possessing competences in the respective academic disciplines and science communication. Those applicants whose projects receive a positive assessment will be given the opportunity to present their proposed project to the expert panel. The ultimately successful candidates will be notified about 6 months following submission of applications.

IV. Notes for Applicants

Please submit your documents in electronic form via the Application Portal of the Volkswagen Foundation. The documents must be in English. The following information is to be uploaded as attachments (pdf files) in the Application Portal:

- Project Description (up to 7 pages)
 - A precise description of the planned measures, including objectives and target group
- Time and work schedule
- Budget
- Budget justification
- Explanation of status as “rare subject” (max. 2 pages) (“other enclosure”)
- CVs of the principal participants
- Cover sheet from the application portal with signatures
- Other enclosures (optional)

Please note that the Foundation can only grant funds to scientific institutions. In the case of applicants outside the direct university sector and the recognized non-university research institutions, we therefore need the following information on the applicant institution:

- Legal form
- Statutes
- Members of executive bodies
- Non-profit status
- Budget design
- Budget audit

Please contact the appropriate program director prior to submitting your application.

V. Contact Persons

Dr. Adelheid Wessler (on maternity leave until 28.2.2018)

Dr. Vera Szöllösi-Brenig

Phone: 0511 8381 218

Fax: 0511 8381 4 218

email: szoelloesi@volkswagenstiftung.de

VolkswagenStiftung

Kastanienallee 35

30519 HANNOVER

GERMANY

www.volkswagenstiftung.de

VI. Links to further information

- [Electronic Application](#)
- [Application FAQs](#)
- [What We Do Not Fund](#)
- [Process Chart: Evaluation procedure for the ideas competition "Rare Subjects Mediate World Knowledge"](#)