



2nd Call for NFDI4Earth Pilots 2023

In this call we provide 12 months funding for innovative research data management solutions in the Earth System Sciences. In total 7 pilot projects will be funded.

The call is open for submissions from German institutions eligible for DFG funding and from researchers that are not part of a working group lead by an NFDI4Earth Steering Group Member. If your institution is not yet a participant of NFDI4Earth please reach out to the pilot coordination before submitting a proposal.

Deadline for submission: March 31st, 2023

Pilot Coordination: veronika.grupp@uni-leipzig.de

Background

NFDI4Earth is a consortium of the NFDI, a nationwide effort to establish a systematic and sustainable infrastructure for research data management and analysis in the Earth System Science (ESS). In a community-driven process, we foster cultural change towards open ESS and the consolidation and harmonization of research data-related services. We offer education and training and support solutions from the community.

Pilot projects are one of our measures to take up ideas from the ESS community and integrate them into NFDI4Earth. Members of the German ESS community can contribute solutions that stem directly from the actual needs of their research domain. In yearly calls we fund innovative ideas that support the pathway to Open Science and FAIR research data management in the Earth System Sciences.

Pilots have a **duration of one year** and the first cohort runs from April 2022 to March 2023. (See current projects: <https://www.nfdi4earth.de/2participate/pilots>)

This call for the second cohort of pilots is **open until March 31st, 2023**. Decision on funding will be announced on June 1st, 2023. Start of projects is as soon as possible in 2023, dependent on hiring, employment process etc.

Who can apply?

In this call for pilots we welcome ideas from **any ESS domain, from researchers at any stage of their career and from any ESS institution**. Please be aware that members of a working group lead by an NFDI4Earth Steering Group member¹ are not eligible in this call. If your institution is not yet a participant of NFDI4Earth² please reach out to the pilot coordination before submitting a proposal.

¹ List of working groups: <https://www.nfdi4earth.de/2participate/pilots?view=article&id=321>

² List of NFDI4Earth participants: <https://www.nfdi4earth.de/about-us/consortium>

What are we looking for?

NFDI4Earth works with and for the Earth System Science community, thus solutions developed in pilot projects should be **beneficial for a broad user community**.

We are looking for tools and practices that support ESS researchers in their research data management and analysis workflows and **facilitate an easy uptake of the Open Science and FAIR principles** in their everyday work. The proposed solution can tackle challenges at all stages of the research data life cycle and any aspect of the FAIR principles.

To improve our understanding of the Earth System, the subdomains of ESS must join forces. We are searching for research data management tools that **advance interoperability and enable joint access and co-interpretation** of any ESS-relevant data to strengthen those linkages. We appreciate ideas that show potential for transfer to other domains or data types.

Your NFDI4Earth-pilot idea ideally links your research case with the general NFDI4Earth use cases and can make use of the available repositories, incubators, and pilots:

- **Discover and explore existing or newly acquired/generated Earth Data Sources** (improve accessibility, findability, data quality, fitness for use assessments, simple-2-use analysis tools, ...)
- **Collaborative Analysis integrating different Sources** (automation of federated data integration/fusion; designing interactive information products addressing current research questions also across NFDI consortia, Virtual research environments (VRE) for common ESS use cases with ready-to-use systems, e.g., in a containerized way...)
- **Data/Software Publication and Curation** (data/software publications workflows, tools for quality checks and curation, guiding-2-right-repositories, ...)

Expected Results:

After the 1 year project duration we expect our pilots to deliver an openly licensed implementation or prototype of a ready-to-use solution in a public repository, including documentation, a demo server, tutorials or vignettes.

Furthermore the pilot should produce a roadmap that describes the outcomes as well as challenges encountered during the project phase and thus contributes to NFDI4Earth gap analyses. The roadmap also sketches (possible) future developments and how sustainability and reusability of the developed tool is ensured.

Follow-up applications pilots of first round

For a follow up funding of pilots of the first round, applicants must demonstrate a clear advancement and next level development of their product in the new proposal. Follow up proposals should show their broad scope and value for the community by the inclusion of additional applicants. This can result from a merge with other pilot projects of the first round or by involving colleagues from other institutions.

Application

Please submit your proposal (4 pages) using the template [available online](#) on our [application platform](#) until March 31st, 2023.

You can apply for 1FTE 12 months. We have a planned budget of EUR 71.163,36 per pilot, which is approximately 12 months TVL/öD E13. According to DFG funding guidelines you can apply for staff costs and material resources (Sachmittel). The purchase of instruments or software is only possible in exceptional cases and if strictly necessary to accomplish the project goals. Please contact the pilot coordination before submitting a proposal including such investments. (DFG-Verwendungsrichtlinien für die NFDI-Konsortien: https://www.dfg.de/formulare/nfdi300/v/dfg_nfdi300_de_v0123.pdf)

If you have any questions regarding funding, formalities of the proposal, whether you are eligible or if your idea fits within the scope of the call, don't hesitate to reach out to the pilot coordination.

Pilot Coordination:

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Review Process

Proposals for pilots will be evaluated by reviewers from different disciplines of the ESS with varying degrees of involvement with NFDI4Earth. The 4 main evaluation criteria are:

- Quality and Innovation
- Feasibility
- Transferability and potential for engaging a broad user community
- Contribution to FAIR research data management workflows and the goals of NFDI4Earth

For each criterion there are sub questions that will be ranked on a scale of 1 (not competitive) to 5 (excellent).

In a panel of all reviewers the results of the reviews will be discussed. If the numerical scores of the reviews do not show a clear picture additional factors will be considered in decision making - for example to support institutions without previous funding from NFDI4Earth or a balanced distribution among targeted datatypes. In case, projects rank equally on the above-mentioned criteria and factors, funded projects will partially be selected by random choice.

The final decision on funding is taken by the NFDI4Earth steering group.

All applicants receive their anonymized scores and feedback. By submitting a proposal, you agree that in case of success your proposal will be published on the NFDI4Earth website.