

BIOBLOCK

2ND CALL FOR PROPOSALS

CALL GUIDELINES

1. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

BioBlock is one of 20 **innovation communities** selected by the **DATIpilot Program of the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR)**. The initiative runs from January 2025 to December 2028.

The DATIpilot Program has trusted the BioBlock innovation community with funding to support visionary individuals and teams to pursue projects that strength and enlarge the BioBlock community, through the development of projects within the given thematic.

BioBlock aims to develop an open, verifiable, and FAIR data framework for the biotechnology value chain, addressing the limitations of traditional tools such as patents and non-disclosure agreements in enabling transparent knowledge exchange and ensuring fair recognition of contributions.

Our mission is to:

- Integrate fragmented research data and ensure data safety through blockchain technology.
- Increase efficiency in research and development by creating value from shared data.
- Overcome regulatory barriers while fostering trust and transparency.
- Build a collaborative, self-sustaining European platform for biotechnology stakeholders.

2. PROJECT FORMAT AND CHALLENGES

2.1. PROJECT FORMAT (PROJEKTFORMATE) AS PER THE DATIPILOT PROGRAM

Following the regulations of the DATIpilot Program, there are 3 project formats:

- **Community-Projects (R&D)** – we don't offer this option within this call.
- **Communitysprints** – please, see specific conditions in section 4 and [Annex 2. Projektformate.](#)
- **Praxissprints** – please, see specific conditions in section 4 and [Annex 2. Projektformate.](#)

In the proposal template, you must indicate which of the two available project formats you are applying to (Communitysprint or Praxissprint).

2.2. CHALLENGES

In the proposal template, you must indicate which of the five challenges your proposal aims to address.

1 | BioBlock community knowledge base.

2 | AI tool for FAIR data generation.

3 | Enabling agentic-ai automated negotiation, dispute resolution and copyright protection for data trading via smart contract development.

4 | Community-driven metadata and data standards for bioprocess engineering.

5 | Legal, regulatory and cybersecurity framework for trusted data exchange.

Each proposal must address only one challenge. Please refer to [Annex 1. Challenges Description](#) for a detailed description of the aim, contribution, expected deliverables, project requirements and maximum budget per project for each challenge.

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

3.1. ELIGIBLE ENTITY TYPES

As per the DATIpilot Program, there are two types of partners that can apply for funding:

- Academic organizations (“Wissenschaftliche Partner”): universities and research institutions.
- Non-academic organizations (“Praxispartner”): companies, non-profit organizations, local authorities and other bodies (e.g. foundations, associations, federations or educational institutions).

3.2. LOCATION REQUIREMENTS

- Only entities with a **legal seat in Germany** are eligible to apply for and receive DATIpilot Program funding.

Other entities may participate only under the following formats:

1. Associated Partner – contributes expertise, resources, or infrastructure. Associated Partners receive no direct funding and have no reporting obligations.
 2. Subcontractor – a funded partner may subcontract specific tasks under procurement law. Subcontractors may receive remuneration but have no exploitation rights.
- Project results must be exploited in Germany, the European Economic Area (EEA), or Switzerland.

4. FUNDING CONDITIONS AND PROJECT DURATION

Selected projects are expected to start on **01.05.2027**, provided the full proposal is submitted via easy-Online following the instructions of the Projektträger Jülich (PtJ) by 31.01.2027.

Since the maximum duration of the projects is 18 months, projects are expected to be **completed by 31.10.2028**.

The total budget available for this call is up to €2M.

4.1. SPECIFIC CRITERIA FOR COMMUNITYSPRINT

Partners: Maximum 2 partners (minimum 1 academic and 1 optional non-academic partner).

Project duration: Up to 18 months.

Budget: Up to €150,000 per partner; the maximum budget available per project depends on the challenge addressed, see **Annex 1. Challenges Description**.

Eligible expenses: Personnel, travel and contracts. Other types of costs (e.g. consumables, equipment, etc. are not eligible).

Funding rate: Up to 100%.

Further info: The DATIpilot Program guidelines apply. Please, see more detailed info in **Annex 2. Projektformate** and **Annex 3. Richtlinie DATIpilot**.

4.2. SPECIFIC CRITERIA FOR PRAXISSPRINT

Partners: Minimum 2 partners (minimum 1 academic and minimum 1 non-academic partner).

Project duration: Up to 18 months

Budget: Up to €250.000 per academic partner; up to €150,000 per non-academic partners; the maximum budget available per project depends on the challenge addressed, see **Annex 1. Challenges Description**.

Eligible expenses:

- Academic partner(s): Personnel, travel, contracts, consumables, equipment.
- Non-academic partner(s): Personnel, travel, contracts, and consumables up to 5.000€. Other types of costs are not eligible.

Further info: The DATIpilot Program guidelines apply. Please, see more detailed info in **Annex 2. Projektformate** and **Annex 3. Richtlinie DATIpilot**.

5. APPLICATION PROCESS

5.1. APPLICATION DOCUMENTS AND FORMAT

- **Project proposal:** please, use the BioBlock 2nd Call for Proposals **Proposal Template**. You can download at <https://bioblock-community.org>. All sections must be completed. Only applications that follow the provided template will be accepted.
- **Short CVs of PI(s)** (max. 2 pages per CV)
- Proposals to this call must be submitted in **English**.
- **Only for selected projects:** applicants of the selected projects will have to submit the full proposal in German to the BMFTR/PtJ via easy-Online (mandatory).

5.2. SUBMISSION

Please, send the application (proposal template + short CVs of PI(s)) as a single PDF to submission@bioblock-community.org

File name: *BioBlock2ndCall_ProjectAcronym_LeadInstitution.pdf*

6. TIMELINE

- **Call opening:** 21.09.2026.
- **Call deadline:** 29.10.2026.
- **Pre-selection notification:** applicants will be notified by 27.11.2026 whether they have been shortlisted for an interview.
- **Interviews:** shortlisted applicants will be invited to shortly present their proposals online on Friday 04.12.2026, 9:00 - 16:00. Applicants are asked to reserve this date.
- **Final selection notification:** applicants will be notified by 14.12.2026 whether their applications have been accepted following the interviews.
- **Acceptance of the grant:** applicants of the selected projects will have to submit the full proposal in German to the BMBFTR/PtJ via easy-Online by 31.01.2027.
- **Start of the projects:** 01.05.2027.

7. EVALUATION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

As per the BioBlock Governance Structure, the evaluation process follows the next steps:

1. **Preliminary Screening** (FIT-TO-CALL): The management team evaluates formal compliance with the call criteria ("GO/NO GO"). Proposals that do not fulfill criteria are not further considered.
2. **Evaluation by the Great Council:** The evaluation is conducted by Great Council members using three evaluation criteria: excellence, impact, and quality and efficiency. For each criterion, a total score between 0 and 5 is assigned. A standard threshold of at least 3 points per criterion and a total threshold of at least 10 points apply, unless otherwise specified.
3. **Interview:** Short-listed applicants will be invited to present their proposals on **04.12.2026** (online).
4. **Funding approval:** Applicants of the selected projects will have to submit the **full proposal in German** to the PtJ (Projektträger Jülich) via easy-Online by 31.01.2027. PtJ conducts legal/financial check of the selected projects (Förderfähigkeit). Final grant agreements after PtJ approval.

Conflict of Interest Policy: Members of Management Team, Stakeholder Advisory Board, or interview panels must disclose any potential conflicts of interest in advance (see section in the Proposal Template). They are excluded from evaluating project proposals from their own institutions. They are also excluded from evaluating project proposals submitted under a challenge for which they have also submitted a proposal.

8. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Legal basis: **§§ 23, 44 BHO incl. Verwaltungsvorschriften; AZA/AZAP/AZV/AZK (BMFTR); De-minimis-VO; AGVO (Art. 25–27).**
- Funding type: non-repayable grants.
- Reporting: annual + final technical and financial reports.
- Open Access: mandatory (≤12 months embargo).
- Science communication: mandatory.
- IPR: results stay with beneficiaries; FAIR/open-science required.
- Compliance: GDPR, state aid, export control, Beihilferecht.
- Audit: BMFTR/PtJ may inspect projects.
- Projects must follow the official DATIpilot programme guidelines: [DATIpilot Guidelines – BMFTR](#)

9. BRANDING & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All funded projects must acknowledge the funding source and display the **BMFTR**, **DATIpilot** and **BioBlock** logos (subject to BMFTR approval).

10. CONTACT

- General inquiries: info@bioblock-community.org
- Submissions: submission@bioblock-community.org

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