![NFDI4Earth logo]

2nd Call for NFDI Incubator Projects 2023

In this call we provide 3-6 month funding for one researcher (DFG personnel rate) to explore an innovative idea or provides their research data management solution in the Earth System Sciences community. Depending on requested funding we can fund up to 6 projects.

The call is open for submissions from German institutions eligible for DFG funding and from researchers who are not part of a working group led by an NFDI4Earth Steering Group Member. We are looking for your innovative ideas to improve the research data management.

Deadline for submissions: June 19th, 2023
Incubator coordinator: Steffen Busch nfdi4earth-incubators@tu-dresden.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.

Incubator 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 the development of cutting-edge tools, latest innovations, and high-risk blue-sky ideas that support the pathway to Open Science and FAIR research data management in the Earth System Sciences. Incubator projects have a **duration of 3 to 6 months.** The topics of the first cohort can be seen here: https://www.nfdi4earth.de/2participate/incubator-lab.

This call for the second cohort of Incubators is **open until June 19th, 2023**. Decision on funding will be announced on July 17th, 2023. Then, the projects are supposed to start as soon as possible.

Who can apply?

In this call for incubators, we welcome ideas from **any ESS domain, from researchers at any stage of their career and from any institution**. Please be aware that members of a working group led by an NFDI4Earth Steering Group member[1] are not eligible in this call. If your institution is not yet a participant of NFDI4Earth[2] please reach out to the incubator coordination before submitting a proposal.

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[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 Incubator Projects should contribute to advancement of tools to improve the use and usability of NFDI4Earth data, advancing the state-of-the-art and to better meet (current and future) user needs. The objective of the Incubator Lab is to foster the exploration of **new, potentially relevant building blocks** to integrate into related NFDIs. The Incubator Lab invites proposals on **novel cutting-edge tools, latest innovations, and high-risk blue-sky ideas**. Incubator Projects are supposed to be **small, concise, and to have a clear focus**.

We are looking for ideas that support ESS researchers in their research data management and analysis workflows and **facilitate an easier 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. We appreciate ideas that show potential for transfer to other domains or data types.

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

- **Discover and explore existing or newly acquired/generated Earth Data Sources** (improve accessibility, findability, data quality, fitness for use assessments, automatic metadata assignment, annotation and enrichment)
- **Collaborative analysis integrating different sources** (automation of federated data integration and fusion; designing interactive information products addressing current research questions also across NFDI consortia, Virtual research environments (VRE), machine learning, data interpretation, visual analysis and inspection)

However, you can also surprise us with a blue-sky idea!

Expected result

We expect the Incubator Projects to deliver a reproducible software product, which is easy to install and use, well documented with sample data and a small tutorial, combining a Jupyter-Notebook with videos. The final report includes a project description demonstrating the contribution of the project. Furthermore, the report sketches future development potential and suitability for the NFDI4Earth community. To be FAIR, both software and report are publicly accessible via Git under an established OSI-approved Free and Open Source Software license[3].

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[3] List of Open Source Software license: https://opensource.org/licenses/

Application

Please submit your concisely described proposal (no longer than 3 pages) using the [template](#)[4] available online on our [application platform](#)[5] until June 19th, 2023.
You can apply for 3 to 6 months full-time equivalent (FTE), corresponding to 17.500 up to 35.000€. No other costs can be covered.

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 incubator coordination.

Incubator Coordination:
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Review Process

The proposal will be evaluated in three categories – each category will be scored from 1 (not competitive) to 5 (excellent) and a total grade will be derived using the weighting indicated below:

- Quality and Innovation (weight 40%)
  - Is the idea convincing?
  - Does it solve an interesting / relevant problem?
  - Is it new (in the field)?
  - Is the ambition adequate?
- Feasibility (weight 40%)
  - Does the researcher have the required expertise?
  - Is the research plan feasible?
  - Does it use or extend existing technologies? Or is it a novel innovation?
- Potential for transferability (weight 20%)
  - Ability to process similar data from different time periods / locations / institutions

We want to enlarge the group of participants and thus invite new partners to join the NFDI4Earth consortium. Therefore, given equal quality of proposals, in selection process
- Proposals from unfunded NFDI participants are preferred,
- Proposals by individuals from underrepresented groups in the German ESS community are preferred,
- Financially smaller proposals are preferred.

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[4] Template download: https://www.nfdi4earth.de/images/nfdi4earth/documents/Template_Incubator_Name_Institution.docx
[5] Application platform: https://www.geo-x.net/nfdi4earth-incubators/application-form/