**Early career working group proposal**



**Please read the** [**call description**](https://www.idiv.de/fileadmin/content/Files_sDiv/sDiv_call_documents/12th_sDiv_call_description_ECR.pdf) **which provides all relevant information for the sDiv application process, before filling in the template!**

Applications are to be submitted via the [iDiv application portal](https://apply.idiv.de/) ONLY.

Please note: You are only eligible to submit a full proposal if you have been invited to submit a proposal after a successful preliminary review.

Hints for filling in the proposal template are marked by <...> and should be replaced by text.

**<short descriptive title>**

**Acronym**

< We want all of our working groups to use project acronyms with a small “s” as the first letter, e.g. “sImpact'' or “sTability”. Be creative! E.g. <https://acronymify.com> might be helpful with your search. This acronym will be used in all relevant sDiv communication for this specific working group (homepage, emails, newsletter etc.). Please don't use acronyms of [past working groups](https://www.idiv.de/en/working-groups.html) and avoid any similarity with existing brands. >

**<PI’s name and affiliation>**

**Public summary**

< Please provide a short and concise summary of no more than 80 words for our website. >

**Submission date**

<DD/MM/YYYY>

< Proposals should not exceed eight pages including figures (four pages for section 1 and 2, four pages for sections 3 to 5), excluding budget and bibliography. References are expected in sections 2 to 5, but please limit the number of cited references to 40 for the whole document (see format requirements in section 7). For the text please use Verdana 10pt font and 1.5 line spacing, as in this template. For tables, figures and their captions (which need to be embedded in sections 2 to 5 and not in any appendices), smaller font size and line spacing is acceptable. >

**1 Project summary**

< Provide a concise and comprehensive summary of no more than 250 words, covering the main objectives and expected contributions of the proposed research. >

**2 Scientific novelty, synthesis and aims**

< Please describe briefly how your project is going to yield novel research insights. Justify the novelty by relating your project questions, hypotheses and potential outcomes to a brief summary of the state of the art in the relevant research field. What is the relevance of your research for biodiversity research questions? What is the research gap you identified? Which novel aspects with respect to synthesis are part of your project and how do you plan to translate this into deliverables? Please describe the aims and scope of your project. How does your project relate to iDiv’s overarching research goals, including the [key research areas of and questions of iDiv](https://www.idiv.de/en/research.html). Examples of types of syntheses could be conceptual synthesis of different theoretical components, synthesis of different data sets, combination of knowledge from different disciplines or work fields (e.g. applied fields, policy). Projects should provide evidence that sufficient data and appropriate analytical tools are available or will be developed during the project to tackle novel questions.

If your project genuinely tackles an existing and defined [IPBES knowledge gap](https://www.ipbes.net/knowledge-gaps), please use a very concise individual paragraph with subheading “IPBES gap” and say which gap (ID and title, see link above) and how it is linked to your work plan (e.g. how is closing this knowledge gap a genuine part of your project?). This is not a prerequisite to get funded nor should it be constructed by yourself. >

**3.1 Work plan and deliverables**

< Please give a precise and comprehensive account of the steps and deliverables planned (i) before, (ii) during and (iii) after the meetings. Please provide a tentative timetable using our Gantt chart (see below). Concisely describe the individual outcomes as planned (e.g. what will be the main focus of the planned publication(s) and which data/theories etc. will be used/discussed). It is necessary (and also part of the reviewed content) to prepare for the meetings based on “pre-meeting” deliverables (e.g. harmonized data-sets, first literature screenings for meta-analyses, etc.) in order to ensure efficient progress during the meeting(s).

To increase the outcome of the working groups, we encourage each group to host three meetings (Monday-Friday) whereas the third meeting is approved after evaluation by the sDiv board (after the second meeting). In-person meetings will take place in Leipzig depending on the prevailing Corona situation. If hybrid or full in-person meetings cannot take place, sDiv working groups are supposed to meet virtually with full support by sDiv.

Please also provide an overview of the temporal perspective of the work plan in this Gantt chart. Clearly link the meetings and deliverables/work packages etc. (e.g. use same numbering/names) you mention above in the description to the content of this table. >

| *Months* | *1* | *2* | *3* | *4* | *5* | *6* | *7* | *8* | *9* | *10* | *11* | *12* | *13* | *14* | *15* | *16* | *17* | *18* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *<Task 1>* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *<…>* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *<…>* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *<…>* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

| *Months* | *19* | *20* | *21* | *22* | *23* | *24* | *25* | *26* | *27* | *28* | | 29 | *30* | *31* | *32* | *33* | *34* | *35* | *36* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *<Task 1>* |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *<…>* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *<…>* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *<…>* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**4.1 Explanation of group expertise and composition**

< A meaningful balance of gender, expertise and other aspects driving success of synthesis groups (e.g. diversity) should be given. Please describe the expertise and tasks of the working group members with respect to this working group and its aims. Please make sure your group composition does meet the standards described in section 2.1 of the [ECR call description](https://www.idiv.de/fileadmin/content/Files_sDiv/sDiv_call_documents/12th_sDiv_call_description_ECR.pdf). If the research questions tackled are relevant for under-represented regions (see next 4.2.), we will also evaluate to what extent the group composition and work plan genuinely include those regions, researchers from and in those regions. The group composition should reflect the goals and objectives of the group, for example, working groups that address socio-economic aspects of biodiversity science should involve stakeholders and social scientists. Therefore, ECR working groups can have up to five Non-EU (geographical Europe) participants (out of the eight allowed participants). If the project is funded, we offer the opportunity to include two additional early-career iDiv researchers if suitable and reasonable. >

**4.2 Regional focus**

< As mentioned above, we also encourage proposals that engage genuinely with topics and researchers from under-represented regions ([see list here](https://www.idiv.de/fileadmin/content/Files_sDiv/sDiv_call_documents/iDiv_DFG_Research-wise_Underrepresented_Regions.pdf)). This could come in various ways that are important for regional biodiversity research as well as building synthesis connections beyond those regions. Proposals should avoid “helicopter research” and so called “colonial” science approaches (e.g. [read here](https://academic.oup.com/icesjms/advance-article/doi/10.1093/icesjms/fsac115/6613543?login=false)). Please describe briefly how research-wise under-represented areas will be affected by/included in your project (if applicable). Please explain briefly but clearly how your group composition reflects the engagement with those regions/regional topics. What information/data from such a region will be used? How will under-represented areas benefit from your research (this could be via the personal involvement of researchers from those regions and/or via the topical relevance). If aspect doesn’t apply to your proposal, leave the related sections empty. >

**5 Research data management plan**

< sDiv strongly encourages that the products of funded projects follow Open and FAIR data and code principles. Please contact the [iDiv Data & Code Unit (iBID)](mailto:ibid-support@idiv.de) and sDiv head [Marten Winter](mailto:sdiv@idiv.de) if you have related questions and for project-specific advice and solutions. If data and/or data integration are crucial to achieving your project goals, please answer the following questions:

1. On which data set(s) does the project rely? For each data set, please provide: Name, owner, access rights (e.g. license), any ethical or privacy issues, file format(s) and size. If existing closed databases will be used, provide proof of data availability (copies of formal data requests submitted to databases can be added as an appendix to the proposal).

2. Briefly describe how much time you estimate will be required for data integration and mention this is the work plan (Section 3) accordingly.

3. Briefly describe what will happen to the aggregated/integrated data. iDiv is publicly funded, and aims for data/code produced with our support to be made publicly available in a repository accepted by the biological community. One common way to publish newly collated synthesis data sets are e.g. data papers. Please note that should your proposal receive funding, iDiv's Data & Code Policy will need to be signed and followed (the Policy is currently under revision and will be forwarded). However, we recognize that sDiv collaborations may have special needs, and exceptions may be negotiated (e.g. with embargoes or stepwise release of data sets or only partial data releases due to potential other limiting data policies).

4. Indicate whether, and to what extent, the project requires the use of central iDiv facilities which we offer to be used (e.g. high-performance computing, statistical support, archiving of very large quantities of data). If you would benefit from specialized data management support or advice from iBID, please outline your requirements here. >

**6 Budget**

< The main information on the costs itself will be requested directly in the application portal and should be based on the sDiv [budget tool](https://www.idiv.de/fileadmin/content/Files_sDiv/sDiv_call_documents/sDiv_call_Budget_Tool.xlsx). This calculation tool is based on the average expenses of past sDiv working groups. It is important to add a screenshot of the budget tool to the full proposal. This section here only needs to be filled if the budget for the meeting exceeds 10.000,00 € per meeting. If you expect your travel expenses to differ from our calculation, please specify it here in this section, too (e.g. in case of many regional participants).

sDivs fiscal year runs from November to October. Please take this into consideration when planning your budget. Costs incurred in November are most likely to be carried over into next year's budget. Please note, that because we cannot shift the money over the years (e.g. savings in one year cannot be transferred into the next year). Any proposed financial deviation needs to be well justified and described and will be considered with regard to feasibility.

Open access publication costs will be covered on a first come first serve basis only - budgeting in the proposal is not needed. >

**7 Bibliography**

< Verdana 10pt font and single line spacing for the text is acceptable. Do not list more than 40 references. Please use the reference style of Global Ecology and Biogeography (<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/14668238/homepage/forauthors.html>. >

In text:

(Light, 2008) / Light (2008) etc.

Journal article:

Light, M. A., & Light, I. H. (2008). The geographic expansion of Mexican immigration in the United States and its implications for local law enforcement. *Law Enforcement Executive Forum Journal*, 8(1), 73–82.

Book:

Goldstein, H. (1990). *Problem-oriented policing*. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill. Miles, M. B., & Huberman, A. M. (1994). *Qualitative data analysis* (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Edited Book:

Gilbert, D. G., McClernon, J. F., Rabinovich, N. E., Sugai, C., Plath, L. C., Asgaard, G., ... Botros, N. (1983). Situational crime prevention: Its theoretical basis and practical scope. In M. Tonry & N. Morris (Eds.), *Crime and justice: An annual review of research* (Vol. 4, pp. 225–256). Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.>

**Appendix I – Participant list and participation agreements**

< List all participants (including PIs). Minimum one [iDiv member](https://www.idiv.de/en/groups_and_people/members.html) (full & associated members are eligible, **please note: iDiv member is a pre-defined term and is not referring to every iDiv researcher (e.g. iDiv employee) in your project team**) must be included, participation of senior researchers is limited to two group members. The size of the working group is limited to eight scientists, including max. two senior researchers. **Please note that you have to attach a confirmation to participate from each participant (e.g. email, informal letter). Any deviation** of the group composition has to be clarified with the head of sDiv.>

| **Participant**  (max. eight scientists!) | **Name / institution / website** | **Professional status**  (max. two senior researchers!) | **Country of origin/place of work** | **Skills, expertise, qualifications and tasks of all involved project participants and how this relates to the the individual project work packages** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| PI | (add a row per person) | Early career researcher |  |  |
| iDiv member | (add a row per person) | Senior researcher |  |  |
| Confirmed participant | (add a row per person) |  |  |  |

**Appendix II – CVs of PIs**

< max. two-page CV of PIs, has to include:

* Contact info with link to a proper website as well as link to an up-to date full CV and a publication list
* Professional background, scientific career stages (including years), status of thesis (completed on XX.YY.ZZZZ or not completed), maternity/paternity leave(s), number of child(ren) - only if applicable
* Five to **max. ten** most relevant publications for this project (short author list indicating your position, title, year, journal, link to paper) >

**Appendix III - CVs of Participants**

< A short CV or a link to the CVs have to be included. Please note, we might have to check your ECR eligibility.

* Contact info with link to a proper website as well as link to an up-to date full CV as well as publication list
* Professional background, scientific career stages (including years), status of thesis (completed on XX.YY.ZZZZ or not completed), maternity/paternity leave(s), number of child(ren) - only if applicable >