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To the
Scientists of the
DFG Priority Program 1158
„Antarctic Research with comparative investigations in Arctic ice areas“

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Newsletter no. 35

Priority Program „Antarctic Research“, April 2023

Dear colleagues,

this newsletter covers the following topics:

- 1) Current application round of the SPP 1158 2022/2023
- 2) Renewal proposal for SPP 1158 (2025-2030)
- 3) Polarstern Workshop, March 2023
- 4) **Upcoming! SPP 1158 Coordination Workshop, 18-20th September 2023**
- 5) **Upcoming! Aircraft workshop, 18th September 2023**
- 6) – 10) Miscellaneous

Please read this informative newsletter including all attachments carefully!

1) Current application round of the SPP 1158 2022/2023

In November 2022, 33 scientific proposals were submitted to the DFG. Of the approximately 6.7 million € requested in this application round, universities asked for more than 79% of the total volume, emphasizing the continued interest in polar research at German universities as well as showing the excellent cooperation between universities and other research institutes, such as the AWI, GEOMAR, or Senckenberg. The proposals were evaluated by a DFG expert committee consisting of 16 national/international scientists during a meeting on May 24/25th, 2023 in Bonn. The panel recommendations can be obtained from the SPP coordinator from June 1st, 2023 on. Details to positive or negative evaluations can be inquired from the DFG end of June, when the reviewer's reports have been received.

2) Renewal proposal for SPP 1158 (2025-2030)

In March, the SPP coordination team submitted the renewal proposal for funding for the next six years (2025-2030) of SPP 1158 to the DFG. With the help of the questionnaires that were sent around the SPP community at the end of 2022 and during three expert workshops in December 2022 and February 2023, we identified the most important future research questions with scientists from the disciplines of biology, physics, chemistry, and geosciences. Together we developed a scientific concept to guide and structure the research of the SPP in the upcoming years. We are happy to announce that our renewal proposal was successfully evaluated by the DFG panel committee and recommended for further funding on May 25th, 2023. Now and with this positive vote, the SPP renewal proposal has to pass additional bodies of the DFG, in particular the DFG senate, most probably in autumn 2023.

3) Polarstern Workshop

The Polarstern Workshop for coordinating upcoming Polarstern expeditions in the following years took place end of March at the "Haus der Wissenschaft" in Bremen. During the Polarstern Workshop we presented for the first time the plan of a SPP-led Polarstern expedition. An idea that developed during the above mentioned expert workshops to define research questions for the SPP renewal proposal and to strengthen interdisciplinarity. Our idea was received with open arms both during the Polarstern workshop and the DFG evaluation of the renewal proposal. Our goal is an SPP dedicated Polarstern expedition to Antarctica in 2027 or 2028. We will keep you informed in this respect.

4) Coordination workshop in September 2023

The annual coordination workshop of the DFG Priority Program "Antarctic Research" will take place from **September 18th-20th, 2023 in Potsdam**. It targets scientists from German universities and research institutions involved in Antarctic research.

The aim of the annual coordination workshop is to stimulate collaboration and networking between funded researchers, and to provide information to new applicants. Therefore, **participation in the SPP coordination workshop is mandatory** for **(1)** all currently funded projects and for **(2)** all new applicants and renewal applications. The former also includes projects that have been recommended for funding, and are expected to be successful, in the current application round (2022/2023).

All currently funded projects and successful current proposals **(1)** are required to show their first research data, concept and/or ideas as a **poster** (in DIN A0). Prospective new and renewal applicants **(2)** are obliged to provide a **5 min presentation** ("Projektskizze"), which includes the **project idea, assignment** to one or more of the

overarching topics of the SPP, rough **budget** information, indication for **collaboration within the SPP** as well as **collaboration obligation** for non-university applicants.

Please consider the following points when preparing the presentation and your proposal, and also check the SPP website for more information:

- The main focus of the SPP is **research in Antarctica**. Comparative studies in the Arctic are possible, but NOT as main topic.
- The aim of the SPP is to support researchers from **German universities**. If you work at non-university research institutions such as AWI, MPIs etc., you are required to collaborate with a university partner ("**Kooperationspflicht**"). Please note that scientists from non-university research institutions, who are currently on a fixed-term contract and are applying for their own position, are exempt from the "Kooperationspflicht".
- The project idea must fall under at least one of the four **overarching questions** of the SPP (<https://www.spp-antarktischforschung.uni-rostock.de/en/research/application-periods/application-period-2019-2024/>).
- Please include a **modest & justified budget**. Please remember that the annual budget of the SPP is around 2.5-3.0 Mio €, which has to be shared between 30-40 applications/10-15 funded projects! Experiences of the last 5 years indicate: PhD students are always funded by 67% TVL13; in case of Postdocs consider 2 instead of 3 years; technicians will usually not be funded; student helpers are possible. Consumables and travel cost are fine, investments for infrastructure (>10.000 Euro) will not be supported.
- Please provide **contact details** to promote networking with other applicants and researchers with current projects.
- Please carefully address the aspects of gender equality and diversity. The DFG review panel of this year took both points very serious, you should also explain your motivation.

We additionally ask **all attendees** to submit a short **project outline of their project (1 A4 page)** to the SPP coordination office, so we can compile and forward those before the conference. The aim is to inform all attendees about the different new and running projects beforehand to facilitate collaboration during the workshop.

The **registration deadline** for contributions (**talk or poster**) for the coordination workshop is **July 31st, 2023**. Please fill out the attached application form and send it via email to the coordination office (Dr. Julia Ehrlich) at the University of Rostock (email: **SPP-Antarktischforschung@uni-rostock.de**).

Important: *We expect you to stay for the entire SPP workshop. According to DFG guidelines, active contributions and engagement with other disciplines in the frame of the overarching goals of the SPP are mandatory, and are asked by the DFG review panel.*

The presenting participant (talk or poster) can claim travel expenses via the SPP coordination office. Please use discount offers ("Sparpreis") of the Deutsche Bahn. You are responsible for your own hotel reservation in Potsdam. Similar to booking discount

offers of the Deutsche Bahn, please book economically modest hotel rooms according to the DFG travel guidelines. Within the framework of the state travel expenses law, we can cover accommodation costs of 80.00 € per night (from 2 nights 84.80 € per night), including breakfast. In case of higher accommodation costs, a written justification must be attached. In addition, the unavoidability of the higher price must be made credible and on record, e.g., by providing proof from a booking portal at the time of booking, showing the date of the search and the search options. Please also note that the billing address on the hotel invoice must include the Rostock University Coordination Office address and your name (name of the guest). Otherwise, the invoice cannot be paid. Attached you can find information to a hotel, which provides a limited contingent of rooms (35) with special rates. **Please note the expiry dates of the reserved contingents: B&B Hotel Potsdam is July 31st, 2023.** Cancellation fees cannot be covered by the coordination office.

The coordination workshop will start on the evening of September 18th at 17:30 with an **Icebreaker** at Wissenschaftsetage im Bildungsforum (Am Kanal 47, D-14467 Potsdam, [WIS – Wissenschaftsetage im Bildungsforum | WIS Wissenschaftsetage im Bildungsforum Potsdam \(wis-potsdam.de\)](https://www.wis-potsdam.de)). On Tuesday and Wednesday the **workshop** will take place at the GFZ (German Research Centre for Geosciences, Telegrafenberg, D-14473 Potsdam, [About us: GFZ \(gfz-potsdam.de\)](https://www.gfz-potsdam.de)) An **evening event** (conference dinner) is planned for Tuesday evening (September 19th). The workshop is scheduled to end around 4 pm on Wednesday (September 20th) afternoon. Further information, including the location of the dinner and an overview plan of Potsdam showing the different locations of the workshop, will be circulated in the coming weeks.

The DFG call for proposals to the SPP 1158 (via the "**Aufforderungsschreiben**") for 2023 is expected to be published mid of July 2023. Project proposals have to be submitted in the first week of November, tentatively until **November 4th, 2023**. Potential changes to this deadline will be announced via email to the SPP mailing list and on the website.

Please be aware that the structure of the proposal instructions in DFG form 54.01 was strongly revised in May 2020. These instructions have to be used when preparing the proposal, otherwise DFG will NOT accept your proposal. For more information, please refer to the [Information for Research](#).

5) **Aircraft workshop**

Invitation by Daniel Steinhage and Christian Haas:

In order to improve our aircraft planning and outcomes, and to identify potential opportunities for collaboration in relation to our mini proposals and proposal plans, we would like to hold an annual user workshop where all aircraft users will be given the opportunity to report on the success and results of their latest aircraft campaigns, and where ideas for new mini proposals will be presented. We expect that all present and potential future aircraft PIs will participate in this workshop.

The workshop will be held at AWI in Potsdam on **September 18th, 2023**, from

14:00 to 18:00. This is just before the DFG SPP 1158 Antarktisforschung coordination workshop which will take place in Potsdam from September 19th to 20th, with an icebreaker event on September 18th, just after our aircraft workshop.

Participants are invited to present past and current projects as well ideas and plans for future missions. Please send the titles and some background information of your presentations to aircraftcoord@awi.de until Monday, **August 31st, 2023** the latest. Based on the number of submissions we will determine the length of the talks and of the workshop. If you cannot participate yourself, please nominate a representative. We kindly ask all other participants to register as well by **August 31st, 2023** via email to aircraftcoord@awi.de.

The envisaged structure of the workshop is:

- Opening of workshop and brief introduction of participants
- Presentations
 - * of past and current project
 - * outlook on planned projects
 - * of available instruments
- Discussion of/on
 - * upcoming scientific needs for instruments
 - * how to improve/enable multi project missions
 - * (usefulness of) secondary user proposals

6) Environmental Protection Seminar/Umweltschutzseminar Antarktis

The provisions of the German "Act implementing the Protocol of Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty of October 4th, 1991" require that every expedition member who travels with a German permit in the area of the Antarctic Treaty (south of 60° S) is to be instructed in the environmental protection regulations. For this reason, the Alfred Wegener Institute, in cooperation with the Federal Environment Agency (UBA), holds once a year before the start of the Antarctic season a full-day seminar on the subject of "Environmental Protection in Antarctica". The seminar will be held in German. The two main lectures of the seminar are Stefan Hain and Elena Tschertkowa-Paulenz. The seminar will take place on **September 29th, 2023 (10:00 to 13:00)**. Informal registration via email to: Elena Tschertkowa-Paulenz (Elena.Tschertkowa-Paulenz@awi.de). People who travel to Antarctica in the context of a DFG SPP 1158 project can apply for a reimbursement of the travel costs for the seminar participation from the Coordination Office. Please contact the Coordination Office (SPP-Antarktisforschung@uni-rostock.de). For updates please see: <https://www.awi.de/en/about-us/logistics/information-for-expedition-participants/environment-protection-seminar.html>

7) Research Vessels

The application for ship time on any German research vessel takes exclusively place via the online submission system <https://www.portal-forschungsschiffe.de/submission>. Here the applicants can find any relevant information such as current cruise plans, guidelines, contact persons etc.

8) Reminder of gender equality measures

If you are funded by the SPP and require, for example, child care etc. during field work, we would like to draw your attention to additional funding available within the framework of the SPP. Gender equality measures also include funding to organize gender-specific workshops at conferences, and travel grants to attend such workshops. Please contact the coordination office for details.

9) Acknowledgement of the SPP 1158 in publications

We strongly request that all projects funded by the DFG priority program include the following sentence in the **acknowledgements section of publications**: "This work was supported by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) in the framework of the priority program SPP 1158 "Antarctic Research with comparative investigations in Arctic ice areas" by the following grant ... (grant number)." In addition, if you participate in any Antarctic or Arctic review paper etc., which are somehow related to your SPP project, also earlier ones, please don't forget to mention the SPP in the acknowledgments.

10) Data storage

During and at the end of DFG-funded projects, results have to be made accessible to the public by open-access publications. Moreover, all data produced with funding from the DFG must be available on a **publicly accessible database** (such as PANGAEA) under the keyword "**SPP 1158**" (be sure to indicate the SPP 1158). Archiving and publication of the results are mandatory and will be controlled by DFG. In the past, this rule has not always been consistently followed, and any violation of this rule might result in the loss of applicability for future submissions of proposals to the DFG. We therefore hope, that this obligation will not be neglected.

An additional option of **storing audiovisual data** is offered by the TIB- *Leibniz Information Centre for Science and Technology*. The TIB offers support for the publication and storage of audiovisual content free of charge on their portal (<https://av.tib.eu>), such as scientific videos, but also computer visualizations, teaching material, simulations, experiments, interviews, lectures, conference presentations, and others. All videos in the AV portal will receive a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) and will be long-term stored. Technical and natural science videos will moreover be analyzed with automated scene-, text-, speech- and picture-recognizing software to make them more easily researchable and thus accessible to a wider audience. If you have any audiovisual data, that were produced in the SPP 1158, and which you would like to store in the TIB, please contact Mr. Tolga Karaarslan (email: Tolga.Karaarslan@tib.eu).

Best wishes,

Ulf Karsten, Petra Quillfeldt, Tilmann Harder, and Julia Ehrlich