

## Press Release | 02 July 2021

# DFG to fund NFDI4DataScience

Consortium for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence selected in second NFDI round

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**On July 2, the Joint Science Conference (Gemeinsame Wissenschaftskonferenz – GWK) decided to fund the NFDI for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence proposal (NFDI4DataScience) over a five year period. The consortium is coordinated by the Fraunhofer Institute for Open Communication Systems. ZB MED – Information Centre for Life Sciences is a partner and co-applicant.**

NFDI4DataScience aims to establish a community-driven research data infrastructure for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence. In this regard, it focuses on several types of data and artifacts established within the community, including publications, data, models and code. Transparency, reproducibility and fairness have become crucial challenges.

Prof. Reimund Neugebauer, President of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, says: „Data is a crucial commodity raw material for scientific work and serves as the basis for new developments and solutions. The National Research Data Infrastructure provides the entire German science system with access to valuable scientific and research data resources. This sustainably strengthens the innovative power of Germany as a research location and our position in international competition. The Joint Science Conference’s decision to fund the NFDI4DataScience consortium will advance the fields of artificial intelligence and data science, which are strategically important to our future, in a targeted and visionary manner.“

Dr. Sonja Schimmler, Spokesperson of the consortium, says: „We are very happy about the acceptance of the consortium. With NFDI4DataScience we intend to put forward the Data Science and Artificial Intelligence community in academia, which is an interdisciplinary field rooted in Computer Science. Our aim is to reuse existing solutions, and to collaborate closely with the other NFDI consortia and beyond.“

ZB MED is represented in the consortium by Prof. Dr. Dietrich Rebholz-Schuhmann. "It is impossible to imagine science without the topics of data science and artificial intelligence, and in the future they will become even more important on an interdisciplinary basis. Working as a partner in this strong network is both an motivation and a challenge for us at ZB MED," he said, welcoming the GWK's decision to fund NFDI4DataScience.

NFDI4DataScience will support all steps of the interdisciplinary research data lifecycle, including collecting/creating, processing, analysing, publishing,

archiving and reusing resources in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence. The past years have seen a paradigm shift, with computational methods increasingly relying on data-driven and often deep learning-based approaches, leading to the establishment and ubiquity of Data Science as a discipline driven by advances in the field of Computer Science but being of relevance to most scientific disciplines. Transparency, reproducibility and fairness have become crucial challenges for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence due to the complexity of contemporary Data Science methods, often relying on a combination of code, models and data used for training.

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NFDI4DataScience is coordinated by Fraunhofer FOKUS and brings together 15 partners:

- German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI)
- Fraunhofer FOKUS
- Fraunhofer FIT
- FIZ Karlsruhe
- GESIS Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences
- Hamburger Informatik Technologie-Center e.V. (HITeC)
- Leibniz University Hannover
- Schloss Dagstuhl – Leibniz Center for Informatics
- RWTH Aachen University
- TIB Leibniz Information Centre for Science and Technology
- TU Berlin
- TU Dresden
- University Leipzig
- ZB MED Information Centre for Life Sciences
- ZBW Leibniz Information Centre for Economics

## Further information:

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## About the National Research Data Infrastructure

The National Research Data Infrastructure (NFDI) aims to systematically develop, sustainably secure and make the data sets of science and research accessible, as well as networking them (inter-)nationally. It is currently being set up in a process driven by science as a networked structure of individually acting consortia. The NFDI will be established in three stages over a period of three years. In each of the three stages, new consortia can be admitted to the NFDI in a science-led application process. The Federal Government and the federal states intend to fund up to 30 consortia in total. In the final stage, up to 90 million euros per year will be available for funding.

<https://www.nfdi.de/>  
[www.dfg.de/foerderung/programme/nfdi](http://www.dfg.de/foerderung/programme/nfdi)

ZB MED – Information Centre for Life Sciences is an infrastructure and research centre for information and data in the life sciences. Its goal is to support and strengthen research for the benefit of people and the environment: from medicine and biodiversity to environmental protection.

ZB MED's work is based on the following strategic principles:

- **Research + networking:** We conduct joint research with partners from regional, national, European and global research communities.
- **Data science:** We facilitate data analysis and generate new insights through research.
- **Access to information:** As an information infrastructure hub, we provide reliable, long-term access to information, literature and data.
- **Open + FAIR:** We promote open, reproducible research based on the principles of open science and FAIR data.
- **Knowledge + skills sharing:** We actively share knowledge, competencies and skills.

As a central information hub for the life sciences, ZB MED offers a combination of nationwide access to information, big data analysis and knowledge sharing. By providing researchers with extensive support for open science practices along the entire research cycle, it paves the way for new insights that generate information and knowledge for the life sciences.

[www.zbmed.de](http://www.zbmed.de)