

Application guidelines

Eligibility

Access is free for users from publicly funded research institutions in Germany. The user group leader and the other group members must work in Germany. Special attention will be paid to German universities, and to early career scientists who would not be able to perform the experiment without the support from DPPN Access.

Users from the DPPN e.V. (IPK Gatersleben, HMGU and FZJ) are not allowed to apply for access.

Accesses can aim at addressing basic and applied questions by using phenotyping facilities and technologies. This may include question related to plant science, breeding, technology development or validation.

Applicants may apply for access to multiple installations, for each access to an installation a separate application is needed, i.e. only applications for one access to one installation will be eligible. Access to two or more installations requires two or more applications.

Proposal submission and evaluation

Access is granted on the basis of proposals.

Proposals are submitted through the DPPN access online application platform.

All proposals will be evaluated by at least two independent reviewers, an external expert in the specific field in question and an DPPN platform scientist who is not working at the platform targeted by the application.

The proposals should address three sections that will be ranked by the reviewers and have to pass a threshold:

1. Technical feasibility (Feasibility 30 points / threshold 20 points)

Applicants should contact the installation operators prior to the submission of a proposal to extensively discuss the feasibility of the access projects and describe how the feasibility was assessed. Only applications that demonstrate the feasibility of the proposed access projects at the respective installation will be considered.

Key questions to be addressed:

- Was a scientist in charge of the aimed installation contacted?
- Was the feasibility discussed with scientists of this installation?
- Was this scientist consulted in the preparation of the proposal?

2. Excellence: description of work (40 points /threshold 30 points)

The projects have to demonstrate scientific excellence or technological progress (for technology development assess).

Key points to be addressed:

- Introduction and background of the DPPN access project
- Expected impact of the proposed DPPN access project
- Previous work and existing datasets related to the access project, how do they contribute to the success of the DPPN access project
- A detailed work plan

3. Output (30 points /threshold 20 points)

Scientific progress leading to publications or proven technological progress are expected

Key points to be addressed:

- What type of results do you expect from the proposed DPPN access projects?
- How will this benefit the question you want to answer?
- What are the expected publications?
- Data management plan (how will the data (incl. raw data) be made available to the community

The selected projects and their status will be listed on the DPPN e.V. website.

[Selection procedure](#)

Based on the recommendations of the reviewers and the feasibility of the project, proposals will be ranked and selected for access.

To efficiently address the demand of the users, proposals which passed the threshold but that were not selected for access to the proposed installation will be taken into consideration for access to other comparable installation, if there is capacity for access and if the DPPN access project is feasible.

Each applicant will be informed about the outcome of its proposal approximately 6-8 weeks after the submission deadline at the latest.

Access

In case the DPPN access proposal is accepted, the user and access provider will directly negotiate the final detail of the access implementation. To enable this step, the applicant will contact the host institution about the further procedure for organizing and implementing the access to the infrastructure including dates of visit, travel and accommodation.

Reporting

After completion of the project, each user group leader is requested to provide a project report within 6 weeks after the completion of the access using an [online reporting portal](#). Additionally, an on-line internal questionnaire must be filled in by the user group leader to evaluate and improve the quality of access.

Users are expected to publish their results within a reasonable time in the open literature. The users must agree that any publication resulting from work carried out under the DPPN Access activity must acknowledge the support of the BMBF.

We recommend to acknowledge the supported of DPPN access with the following sentence:

Funding period 2022-2023, "DPPN-Access pilot project":

"Financial support by the DPPN e.V. Access to Research Infrastructures activity by the BMBF (Grant Agreement 031B1217) is gratefully acknowledged"

Funding period 2024-2028, "DPPN-Access 2.0":

"Financial support by the DPPN e.V. Access to Research Infrastructures activity by the BMBF (Grant Agreement 031B1500) is gratefully acknowledged"