

PLANNING A CITIZEN ENERGY PROJECT? DBU WORKSHOP ON FUNDING OPTIONS *DBU FUNDING FACTS*

**DR. VOLKER WACHENDOERFER
DBU INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS**

Learning lessons

- 1. The German Environmental Foundation**
- 2. International projects and fellowships**
- 3. Focus Citizen Energy**

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Foundation

- Founded in 1990
- Grants and funding activity started on 1 March 1991
- Foundation under civil law
- Approximately EUR 1.28 billion of foundation capital acquired from the privatisation of the federally-owned Salzgitter AG
- Foundation capital currently totals around EUR 2.24 billion



Scope of Funding

Since 1991:

- More than 10,200 projects funded
- Approximately EUR 1.9 billion in grant money

About EUR 50-60 million granted annually as project funding



The Board of Trustees

- Executive Board of the Foundation
- Current 11 members → reappointment
- Appointed by the Federal Government



Niebert



von Dewitz



Boetius



Beermann



Hipp



Leuschner



Lies



Middelberg



Gerstenkorn



Träger



Weissenberger-Eibl



Kotting-Uhl



Hagedorn



Meister



Schwarzelühr-Sutter



Zieschang



Areas of Funding

- Environmental Technology
- Environmental Research and Nature Conservation
- Environmental Communication and Cultural Heritage Protection

12 interdisciplinary funding topics



Overview of the funding topics

Open topic funding

In addition to the funding topics listed, the DBU also wants to provide funding for projects that are aligned with the purposes of the Foundation but do not necessarily fall under any of the specified topics. Projects that are eligible are those that are expected to make a significant contribution to solving environmental issues and cannot be classified under one of the following funding topics.

Projects that align with the purposes of the Foundation, are aimed at protecting the environment, and are characterised by a significant, positive environmental impact will be funded. Ideas that have been proven scientifically but are not necessarily guaranteed to be successful in practice are as eligible for funding as projects that are aimed at spreading exemplary, innovative solutions.

Topic-based funding

1. Tools and competencies for sustainability analysis, increasing sustainability awareness and promoting action
2. Sustainable nutrition and a sustainable approach to food
3. Development, design and acceptance of environmentally-friendly consumer goods
4. Climate- and resource-saving construction
5. Energy-saving, resource-efficient district development and renewal
6. Renewable energy, energy conservation and energy efficiency
7. Resource efficiency through innovative production processes, materials and surface technologies
8. Closed material flows and efficient use of environmentally critical metals and mineral residues
9. Reduction of reactive nitrogen compound emissions in environmental compartments
10. Integrated concepts and measures for the protection and management of groundwater and surface waters
11. Nature conservation and sustainable use of nature in human-modified environments and protected areas
12. Conservation and protection of nationally valuable cultural assets from harmful environmental effects

Last updated: 01.01.2021

Project Funding

- **Interdisciplinary** approaches
- **Innovative**, exemplary and solution-oriented projects
- Consideration of **small- and medium-sized enterprises**
- Scientific findings according to **planetary boundaries** and the **Sustainable Development Goals**
- **Solutions based** on interdisciplinary, systemic approaches that involve/emphasize **social practice**



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Framework conditions

- The DBU is a national funding foundation, but it also supports international projects because environmental issues do not stop at borders...
- The Foundation's Board of Trustees has decided that the Foundation may use up to **10% of its annual budget** for international projects.
- Focus on **Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe**
- The promotion of **SMEs** is given special consideration
- Universities can receive up to 100% funding. As a rule, other institutions must contribute **50%**

Investments in minds: Two Scholarship Programmes

1. PhD-Scholarship

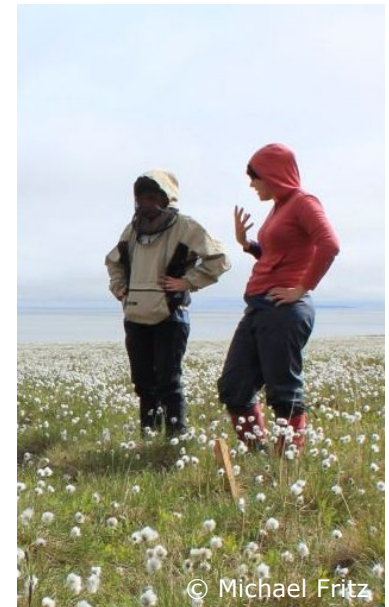
for prospective doctorates at
German universities

2. CEE-Fellowship

for further qualification for
master graduates from Central
and Eastern Europe (CEE)



- Open for all fields of study
- Above average university degree, motivation and commitment required
- Projects with environmental and practical relevance
- Creating environmental expertise and networking junior staff



CEE-Fellowship



- For graduates of all disciplines (above-average Diploma or Master's degree)
- Topic in environmental issues or nature conservation
- Stay in Germany: at universities, research institutes, companies, agencies, authorities, ministries, NGOs
- Up to 60 fellowships awarded per year, duration 6 to 12 months
- German intensive course

Funding criteria for international projects

- Primarily carried out abroad and partners in these countries must be substantially involved.
- Formal requirements:
 - *Applicant must provide an own contribution (amounting to 50% of the total costs)**
 - ** financial support +/- 125.000 € maximum*
 - *A German cooperation partner shall take the role as applicant*
 - *Proof of how the funding has been used must meet the requirements for external review, Documentation and invoices must be translated into German or English ...*
 - *Reports must be submitted periodically in German or English*

Essentials for international projects

- **Environmental relief and ecological sustainability;**
- **Exemplary nature of the project**
- **Innovation:**
 - *An innovation can be at the company/organisation level, at the regional/state level, in a specific market or industry, or in the global market*
 - *Different kinds of innovations are eligible for funding. Applicants must define which kind of innovation they are striving for (social innovation, technological innovation, product innovation, process innovation, service innovation, business model innovation, organisational innovation, etc.)*
- **Constellation of actors (German partners, partners on location, etc. – how does this constellation help the project to achieve its aims?)**
- **Benefits at the project location;**
- **As a rule, the DBU Funding Guidelines must be considered**

Important additional criteria (Applications)

- **Sustainable impact of the project (Follow up?)**
- **Participative structure/elements, diversity, equality involvement of the partners in Germany and in the respective foreign country**
- **Knowledge of the country/region (*spoken language, intercultural competence*)**
- **Educational aspects (*basic, advanced training and skills development, capacity building*)**
- **Relevance to SMEs (*German partner, local SME if possible*)**
- **Perspectives for added value (*acceptance, sector coupling...*)**
- **Categorisation of the project impact in a sustainability context (*e.g. UN SDGs, sustainable regional development*)**

What we cannot support

- ***Institutional funding (not related to specific projects)***
- ***Projects with no prospect of implementation***
- ***pure investment projects***
- ***projects already started***
- ***Marketing projects concerning developed products***
- ***Projects with exclusive basic research***
- ***...***

Lessons learned:

Applying for a DBU project seems to be like creating a Perpetuum mobile?




What`s about Short-Studies? Later more ...

Lessons learned:

Applying for a DBU project seems to be like creating a Perpetuum mobile? **NO!!!**

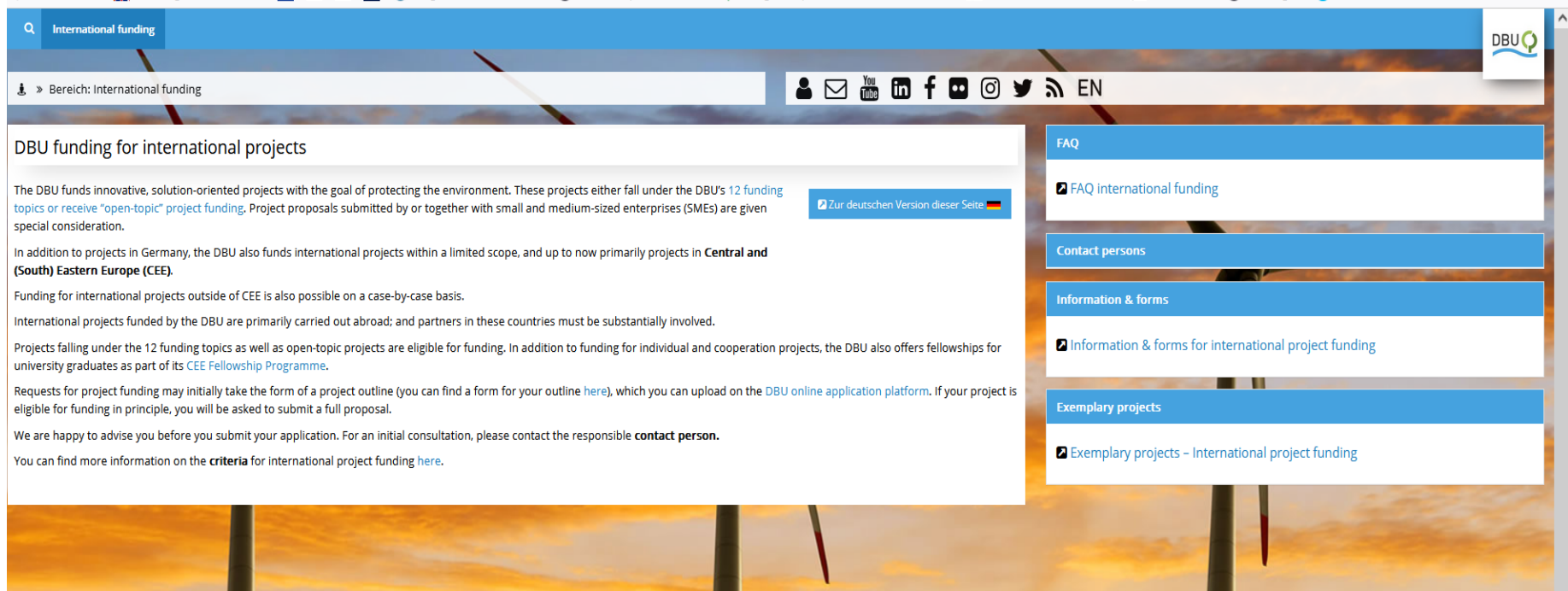
- We have several „as a rule“ points ...
 we can talk about it!

- Own contribution 50%:
 mostly we can find a solution (Co-financing, Volunteering ...)

- German partner?
 could be very useful (subcontract ...
 100% service=VAT included

**INTENSIVE & IMMEDIATE SUPPORT
AND CONSULTANCY!!**

DBU-Homepage: <https://www.dbu.de/3021.html>



The screenshot shows the DBU website's 'International funding' page. The header includes a search bar with 'International funding' entered, a user profile icon, and a language selector set to 'EN'. Below the header is a breadcrumb trail: 'Bereich: International funding'. The main content area is titled 'DBU funding for international projects' and contains several paragraphs of text. A blue button with a German flag icon and the text 'Zur deutschen Version dieser Seite' is visible. The right sidebar contains a 'FAQ' section with a link to 'FAQ international funding', a 'Contact persons' section, an 'Information & forms' section with a link to 'Information & forms for international project funding', and an 'Exemplary projects' section with a link to 'Exemplary projects - International project funding'.

DBU funding for international projects

The DBU funds innovative, solution-oriented projects with the goal of protecting the environment. These projects either fall under the DBU's [12 funding topics](#) or receive "open-topic" project funding. Project proposals submitted by or together with small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are given special consideration.

In addition to projects in Germany, the DBU also funds international projects within a limited scope, and up to now primarily projects in **Central and (South) Eastern Europe (CEE)**.

Funding for international projects outside of CEE is also possible on a case-by-case basis.

International projects funded by the DBU are primarily carried out abroad; and partners in these countries must be substantially involved.

Projects falling under the 12 funding topics as well as open-topic projects are eligible for funding. In addition to funding for individual and cooperation projects, the DBU also offers fellowships for university graduates as part of its [CEE Fellowship Programme](#).

Requests for project funding may initially take the form of a project outline (you can find a form for your outline [here](#)), which you can upload on the [DBU online application platform](#). If your project is eligible for funding in principle, you will be asked to submit a full proposal.

We are happy to advise you before you submit your application. For an initial consultation, please contact the responsible **contact person**.

You can find more information on the **criteria** for international project funding [here](#).

FAQ

- FAQ international funding

Contact persons

Information & forms

- Information & forms for international project funding

Exemplary projects

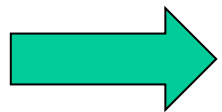
- Exemplary projects - International project funding

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Why Citizen energy?

- **Citizen energy = decentralized structures corresponding to democratic, social and ecological values.**
- **Citizens participate actively in energy transition**
- **Regional concepts in municipalities, cities, districts: High corporate identity and acceptance**
- **High potential of added value and sustainable development**
- **High diversity: House owners, farmers, legal entities like cooperatives, enterprises, associations...**



Important contribution to Energy Transition!

DBU-Funding Topics Citizen Energy

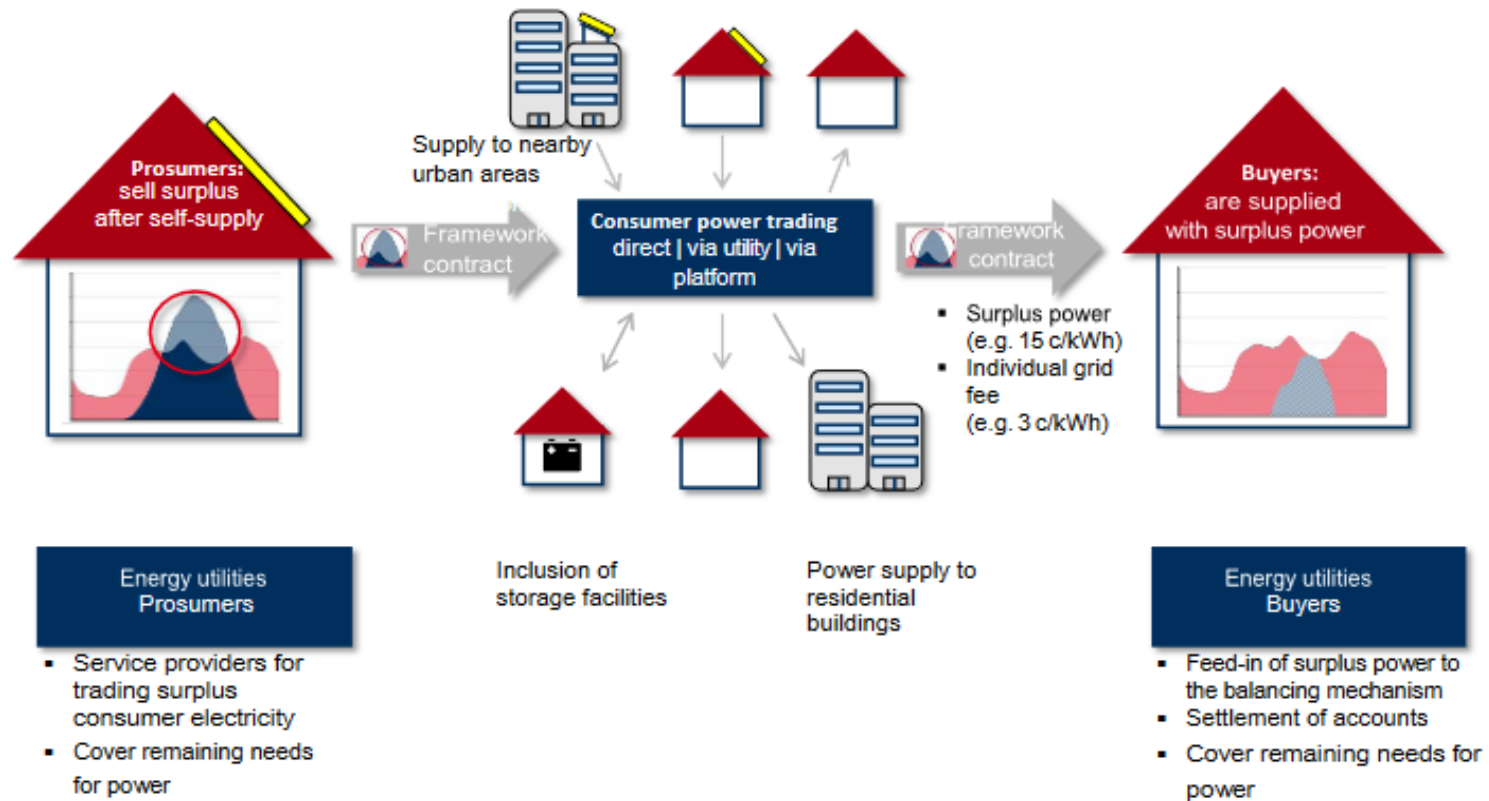
- **Renewable energy, energy conservation and energy efficiency**
- **Tools and competencies for sustainability analysis, increasing sustainability awareness and promoting action**
- ***Environmentally friendly, resource-efficient construction***
- ***Energy-saving, resource-efficient district development and renewal***

Typologies of possible CE-projects

- **Rural CE Project – NGO-driven**
- **Rural CE Project – Bottom-Up Citizen-driven**
- **CE in rural, remote tourism destinations**
- **CE in context of just transition and environmental care**
- **Urban housing cooperatives developing CE**
- **Municipal initiative (Green Carbon neutral City Quarters and Cities...)**

Capacity Building for Citizen Energy in Germany and the Czech Republic

Bündnis Bürgerenergie e. V., Hnutí DUHA



A PROPOSAL FOR PROSUMER ELECTRICITY TRADING
Berlin, January 2017

Commissioned by Bündnis Bürgerenergie e. V.

Authors: M. v. Oppen, A. Streitmayer, and F. Huneke

Capacity Building for Citizen Energy in Germany and the Czech Republic

Bündnis Bürgerenergie e. V. (BBNe), Hnutí DUHA, Calla - Association for Preservation of the Environment

- German Partner: BBNe
 - Application + direct negotiations
 - Responsible for
 - project administration
 - documentation
 - financial check
- Czech partners: Hnutí DUHA, Calla
 - Responsible vs. BBNe (finances, project goals etc)
- Own contribution for all partners 50% (250 T€ of 500T€)

Identification of obstacles to implementation of the municipal heat transition and implementation of measures in the regions – RegioWärme

Agentur für Erneuerbare Energien



©AEE, Berlin

District solutions for municipal heat transition / sector coupling
industrial (waste) heat  urban housing sectors etc ...

Interactive coaching for the development of three resilient villages in Romania based on renewable energies ...

Applied University of Trier, Asociatia Contrafort, Fundacia Adept, Project Transylvania Association, Mihai Eminescu Trust

- ***Coaching – Bioenergy villages Germany***
- ***Biomass potential of a biodiverse cultural landscape in Transylvania (Wind, Solar?)***
- ***Conceptual framework***
 - Investment costs
 - CO₂-Mitigation potential
 - Amortization
 - Potential partners / Business models
 - Best-Practice
 - Further procedure ...

Interactive coaching for the development of three resilient villages in Romania based on renewable energies ...



Applied University of Trier, Asociatia Contrafort, Fundacia Adept, Project Transylvania Association, Mihai Eminescu Trust

- German Partner: Uni Trier
 - Application + direct negotiations
 - Responsible for
 - project administration
 - documentation
 - financial check
- Romanian partners: financed via subcontract incl. VAT (Invoice, 100%)
- ~~Own contribution~~

Short studies for the implementation of a funding program “citizen energy” in CEE countries within the DBU international funding scheme

What we expect from the study:

- 1. Identification of actors and possibly favorable constellations for citizen energy projects**
- 2. Review the country characteristics (“Steckbriefe”) and complementing them, if needed**
- 3. If possible, suggest potential citizen energy initiatives**
- 4. Concepts for projects / project drafts**

Running Short Studies

- **Citizen Energy Initiatives and Potential for Energy Communities in the Western Balkans (North Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina)**
- **Community energy initiatives in Estonia and Latvia – brief study on framework conditions, emerging initiatives and project ideas**

The background of the slide is a photograph of a modern glass building with a curved, metallic roof, situated in a lush green park with several tall trees. The building has a prominent curved staircase leading to an entrance. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

**Thanks a lot for your attention!
Now it's on you: PLEASE ASK...**