

Code χ Priority Programme: A short guideline for the preparation of project proposals

- Keep in mind that the final decision to fund a given project is not made by the steering committee but by an external panel of expert reviewers selected by the DFG. The reviewers will cover the different disciplines combined in this consortium and have read the call for proposals and your submitted project proposal.
- Make sure to connect to the idea of Code χ as outlined in the Call for proposals and the pre-meeting. The mere use or mentioning of chitin or chitosan (or even Code χ) in a project does not yet imply a conceptual link to the idea of Code χ . The role of code χ in a chitin/chitosan-protein interaction must be a central scientific question of your project.
- Contact possible collaboration partners (based e.g. on the expertise provided on the Code χ webpage) and indicate planned collaborations within (or outside) the consortium in your proposal and by sending us the filled-in [Excel sheet](#) for indicating collaborations. You may want to check on the webpage whether an informal discussion group related to the subject of your proposal has been formed and consider to contact it.
- If you need support from one of the service projects, please read the information on the internal Code χ webpage carefully and contact the responsible PI well before submitting the proposal. Keep in mind that the capacity of these projects will be limited, they cannot provide all services or materials concomitantly, and demand for specific chitosans may be especially high in the beginning. Also, keep in mind that projects that rely too much on a service, reagent or experimental system provided by another member of the consortium (whether a service unit or another project) may be considered very risky by the reviewers. It is by no means guaranteed that the service project can meet all the demands of the projects or that the collaborating project will be included in the funding.
- Multi-disciplinary projects may combine the expertise of two (or more) different PIs. But keep in mind that collaborations do not automatically imply that all partners formally act as co-PIs – projects with more than two PIs are often scrutinized particularly critically by reviewers.
- The budget for each project must be appropriate to the project's objectives and work program, and well justified in each case. A typical project will provide funds for 1 PhD student plus consumables for three years (about 13 k€/year).
- In some cases, the PI's own position (Eigene Stelle) can be requested. You need to have a statement from your host institution indicating that they will take over employer responsibilities during your funding period and, in cooperation with you, provide the conditions necessary for you to carry out your project.
- If you have questions regarding the preparation of proposals, please do not hesitate to ask the coordinator of the programme.