Facts and figures:

- Focus on impact through (1) sustainable business solutions, (2) sustainable finance processes and instruments, and/or (3) economic policy for sustainable growth
- Open for joint proposals by partners from EMSD stakeholder groups: (1) private sector enterprises and initiatives, (2) financial market actors and stakeholders, and (3) think tanks
- Up to EUR 1 million matching fund with minimum partner contribution of 50% of sum awarded
- Expected funding range from EUR 50,000-100,000 per project

Timeline

31 October 2017
Deadline for submission of preliminary proposal

21 November 2017
Invitation to submit full proposal for pre-selected projects

19 December 2017
Deadline for submission of full proposal

19 January 2018
Announcement of awardee(s)

Send proposals to emsdialogues@giz.de and visit @ www.emsdialogues.org or
EMSD Challenge Fund

The Emerging Market Sustainability Dialogues (EMSD) calls for proposals for the newly established EMSD Challenge Fund (“The Fund”). The focus of the Fund is on impact delivered through (i) sustainable business solutions, (ii) sustainable finance processes and instruments, and/or (iii) economic policy for sustainable growth. The Fund is equipped with up to EUR 1 million, expected to be disbursed in several funding rounds until 2019, each funding several projects. The Fund has an expected funding range from EUR 50,000-100,000 per project. Project partners are required to match at least 50% of the sum awarded with their own funds – in cash and/or in kind.

Who we are

EMSD is a member-driven network of emerging market change agents and decision makers from think tanks, multinational corporations, and the financial sector. It operates through open, interdisciplinary networks of corporate officers and managers, policy analysts, and financial market stakeholders on issue-driven projects. Our members jointly develop and implement solutions for sustainable economic growth pathways in emerging economies through consultation, dialogue, and research. We work on concrete economic policy recommendations, on financial instruments and processes, and on corporate practices and business models. We bring these solutions into national and international fora such as the G20 – through the G20 Green Finance Study Group or its various engagement groups such as Women20 and Think20 –, the BRICS Academic and Business Fora, and United Nations processes, thus contributing to the global sustainability transition and the protection of global public goods. For more information, please visit our website at www.emsdialogues.org.

Why we established the EMSD Challenge Fund

The Challenge Fund was set up to

- kick-start cross-regional and cross-sectoral implementation of promising projects
- help bridge the gap between communities of practice and thinking and generate implementation-ready products
- incubate projects that do not fit into traditional funding categories and mechanisms or otherwise lack visibility among traditional funders and donors
- strengthen EMSD’s stakeholder base and enhance joint action for innovative and sustainable policy, business and finance solutions
- offer a transparent, competitive project-selection and funding process
For successful applicants, the Challenge Fund is a unique opportunity to

- leverage their own work with innovative cross-regional and cross-sectoral projects within the EMSD network
- increase visibility of projects and approaches and put them on the sustainability agenda nationally and globally through our networks
- become a member of the EMSD network, with opportunities for access and exchange with our partners and events, such as G20, BRICS, and others

**What we are looking for**

The Fund is open to a wide variety of projects, with different topics, target groups, and approaches. Reflecting EMSD’s philosophy, proposals have to prove a collaborative spirit and foster cross-regional and cross-sectoral solutions for sustainable economic growth and development. We are particularly interested in funding projects that either deepen existing EMSD work streams, or that tackle new challenges and explore new promising avenues to develop sustainable policy, business and finance solutions that mirror EMSD’s ambition to translate into concrete action. Please refer to the EMSD website for an overview of our existing portfolio, ranging from sustainability guidelines for mining and infrastructure, to green bonds and sustainability gains in the digital economy.

Concretely, proposals should:

1. be submitted jointly by actors from at least two of the three above-mentioned stakeholder groups, i.e. think tanks, multinational corporations, and financial market stakeholders, and the submitted project is not-for-profit
2. be submitted jointly by partners from at least two different regions with at least one of them from an emerging economy
3. set out the individual roles and contributions of each partner, including written commitments and a designated lead organisation
4. propose concrete outputs such as specific policy recommendations, business approaches or financing instruments, and concrete strategies to facilitate their implementation

To fulfill the formal eligibility criteria, project proposals should:

1. be submitted following the guidelines set out in the “EMSD Challenge Fund Form” (Annex A)
2. include a completed “EMSD Challenge Fund Budget Form” (Annex B), indicating how the funds will be used. Importantly, core staff costs may only constitute < 20 % of the amount awarded by the Challenge Fund.

3. specify partner contributions of at least 50% of the sum awarded, i.e. at least one third of overall project investment.

4. be demonstrably not-for-profit and in compliance with rules and regulations set out in the GIZ/BMZ (www.giz.de/financing).

**How the selection and funding processes work**

The application and selection process will be conducted in two rounds:

1. Open call to all applicants who fulfil the eligibility criteria

2. Selection round with up to ten short-listed projects

As a first step, a committee of EMSD staff members will pre-select promising proposals and invite them to submit an extended proposal. In the second/final round, proposals will be selected by a jury composed of one representative from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), one from GIZ/EMSD, and three external experts, reflecting the regional and thematic diversity of EMSD.

Successful projects will receive the allocated funding on the basis of a grant agreement signed by GIZ/EMSD and the lead organisation.

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**Annexes:** Application Form (Annex A); Budget Form (Annex B)