

SOLID Small Research Projects 2026

SOLID stands for “Social work and strengthening NGOs in development cooperation to treat drug addiction.” SOLID is an international project that unites researchers and practitioners who are dealing with the issues of drug use in Central Asia and China. The project is aligned with the United Nations' global sustainability goals, in particular Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being), Goal 4 (Quality Education), and Goal 5 (Gender Equality).

SOLID focuses in particular on social work with marginalized population groups, such as people who use drugs and people living with HIV. The project centers on three core areas (“pillars”) of the SOLID project: (1) Social work and the treatment of drug addiction; (2) Social work and communicable diseases (HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, hepatitis C); (3) and Social work with people in closed institutions, such as prisons and compulsory treatment facilities.

In all three core areas, the SOLID project promotes exchange between partners from research and practice and stimulates practice-relevant research. To this end, the project will announce four small research projects in 2026. Financial support per project can be up to 7,000 EUR. Research groups or individual researchers can apply and receive a grant for empirical research. Upon completion, the research results will be presented as part of the SOLID Talks series and published in the form of an article.

To apply, research groups should submit a research plan comprising 3-4 pages outlining the research design, time schedule and budget. The research should demonstrate the relevance of the project to the SOLID core areas. Eligible for funding are SOLID alumni, researchers and practitioners from Central Asia and China. Current SOLID PhD students and postdoctoral researchers are not eligible for funding under this call. We encourage comparative research projects that involve more than one country.

The research proposals should be structured as follows:

- 1) Background and Rationale
- 2) Methodological Design
- 3) Expected Outputs and Impact
- 4) Timeline
- 5) Budget
- 6) Brief description of the research team and relevant expertise

Time Schedule of the Projects

Month	Activities
March – April 2026	Information in the partner countries
April 2026	Deadline for applications: 30 April 2026, selection of the projects, notification by 15 May 2026
May – September 2026	Empirical research
31 October 2026	Deadline for project reports (20 pages)
November 2026 – July 2027	Presentation of research findings in the SOLID Talks series and article writing (voluntarily)

Reporting Requirements

Funded projects will be expected to submit a final report summarizing the research process and findings by 31. October 2026. Interested researchers are invited to present their findings in the SOLID Talks series.

Evaluation of the project proposals

All submitted proposals will be evaluated by an independent selection committee composed of 7 members representing the partner countries. Each proposal will be assessed based on the following criteria (quality of the study design, relevance for the SOLID project, feasibility, and relevant expertise of the researchers).

Additional information

Language of the project proposals is English: All the submissions and reports have to be submitted in English.

Information meeting

For those interested in submitting a proposal, we plan a zoom meeting on Tuesday, 14.04.2026, 13:00 – 14:30 (CET) on zoom: <https://th-nuernberg.zoom-x.de/j/66638629223>

Meeting-ID: 666 3862 9223

Proposal submission

Applications need to be submitted to Ulla Pape (ulla.pape@th-nuernberg.de) by 30.04.2026. Questions can be directed to Ulla Pape (ulla.pape@th-nuernberg.de) or Kasia Kowalczyk (kasia@gphnetwork.org).