



# Q&A

*Bayer Science  
Collaboration Explorer*

 Science for a **better life**



## *The Bayer Science Collaboration Explorer*

Translating scientific knowledge into innovative solutions is key for societal progress and to bring our vision “Health for All, Hunger for None” to life. No one can leverage the full potential of these solutions alone – partnerships play a key role. That’s why we are working with both scientists and scientific institutions around the world to find new and sustainable solutions in health and agriculture.

While collaborations are essential, partnerships between the public and private sector are seen by some with skepticism and a plea for more transparency has been made. With our new Bayer Science Collaboration Explorer, we want to address this concern and will start publishing data related to our scientific collaborations with external partners on a [dedicated webpage](#).

**The following questions & answers are intended to provide additional details:**

**1. What is the Bayer Science Collaboration Explorer (BSCE)?**

The BSCE is a digital, open access transparency register for scientific collaborations between Bayer and its external partners.

**2. What is published in the BSCE?**

The database provides open access to new contract-based scientific collaborations with universities, public research institutions and individuals in Germany.

**3. What does "new, contract-based scientific collaborations" mean?**

New collaboration agreements with scientific or research relevance will be published as of 01.01.2021.

**4. Why are contracts from 2018 to 2020 currently listed in the Transparency Register?**

For new scientific collaboration agreements signed between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2020, we have retrospectively asked our external partners for their voluntary consent to publish them in the BSCE.

**5. Why are there no contracts with healthcare professionals published in the BSCE?**

In accordance with the EFPIA Disclosure Code, Bayer already discloses all payments and the granting of other non-cash benefits to physicians, other health care professionals and health care organizations made in connection with the development and scientific communication of prescription drugs. Therefore, these collaborations will not be disclosed again in the BSCE.



**6. Why aren't contracts with corporations, startups, or other for-profit organizations published in the BSCE?**

The BSCE focuses on collaborations between Bayer, universities, public institutions, and individuals. Unlike collaborations between two or more for-profit companies, these potentially involve a risk of conflicts of interest or question the influence on the independence of government-funded science, research, and education. For Bayer as a science company, the integrity and credibility of research and development is essential, which is why Bayer has decided to publish the collaboration agreements defined above.

**7. Why are currently only contracts of German Bayer companies with German partners published?**

The BSCE will initially launch in Germany before being introduced in further countries. As the first step is intended in particular to ensure data quality and gather experience with regard to the contract management process, only contracts between German Bayer companies and German partners are initially included.

**8. Why is the Bayer Science Collaboration Explorer starting in Germany?**

The BSCE is being launched in Germany, where around 5,000 employees in research and development work with a large number of external cooperation partners on a daily basis. The BSCE will gradually be introduced in other countries.

**9. Why is the Bayer Science Collaboration Explorer not directly introduced globally?**

The BSCE launches in Germany as a pilot project. Data quality is crucial for the credibility of the project. That is why we have deliberately opted for a gradual rollout in other countries. This approach also allows us to gather and implement feedback from external stakeholders before gradually rolling out the BSCE in other countries.

**10. Why is the *subject of collaboration* specified in meta categories?**

The *subject of collaboration* is indicated in meta-categories (for example "Oncology", "Dermatology" or "Digital Agriculture"). This also allows laypersons to better understand the subject area of the collaboration.

**11. Why is the *type of collaboration* indicated in meta categories?**

The *type of collaboration* is indicated in the following meta-categories: *Advisory Board Agreement, Consultancy Agreement, R&D Agreement, Speaker Agreement, Sponsorship Agreement, Other Agreement*. This also allows laypersons to understand the type of cooperation.



**12. Why is the *exact financial contract value* not published, but rather the financial magnitudes?**

Already the disclosure of financial magnitudes in the BSCE allows external stakeholders to assess the financial scope of the collaboration. In addition, many collaborations in scope are spread over several years with changing payments over time – disclosing the financial magnitudes therefore best enables comparability and understandability.

**13. How does Bayer ensure the accuracy of the published data?**

Several measures are in place to ensure the accuracy of the data published in the BSCE. An IT-supported process with clear roles and responsibilities has been defined internally at Bayer. A central, newly established quality assurance team checks the BSCE-specific contract information before publication. The quality assurance team also communicates with the colleagues responsible for the respective collaboration.

**14. Why is a collaboration that has already been communicated externally not yet published in the BSCE?**

Due to the complex contract management and quality assurance process, there may be a delay between the external communication of the collaboration and its publication in the BSCE. As a rule, the review and publication process take six weeks after the conclusion of the contract.

**15. What else is Bayer doing with regards to transparency?**

Transparency is a top priority for Bayer. Bayer therefore makes information from a variety of areas publicly available – from clinical trials and safety studies of our crop protection products to our lobbying expenditures. You can find an overview [here](#).

**You have further questions about our science collaborations?**

Please reach out to us via the dedicated Bayer Science Collaboration Explorer [contact form](#).