



CALL FOR SUBMISSION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS

Legal frame

Based on the Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Scientific and Technological Cooperation, signed on February 17, 1997 in Beijing, the Slovak Research and Development Agency (the Agency) in cooperation with the Division of Science and Technology, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic

opens

the Call for submitting proposals for common research and development projects supporting the collaboration between organizations in the Slovak Republic and the People's Republic of China

The legal framework for submitting of research and development projects in 2017 issues from the Act. No.172/2005 Coll. on the Organization of State Support of Research and Development and on Amendment of Act. No. 575/2001 Coll. on the Structure of Activities of the Government and Central State Administration as amended by later regulations (hereinafter referred to as the Act 172/2005 Coll. as amended by later regulations).

Call objectives

Project objectives are focused on the creation of new or intensifying already existing international scientific technological cooperation within mobility activities using mainly these tools:

- preparation of joint international projects;
- preparation of joint publications and other outputs;
- active participation at conferences, organizing joint scientific activities;
- mutual use of special laboratory equipment and apparatus;
- research materials collection;
- promoting of PhD students and/or young researchers (up to 35 years).

Eligible proposers

Project proposals can be submitted by any legal or natural person in science and technology in the Slovak Republic within all research and development sectors.

Call rules

1. The Call is opened on **March 15, 2017**, the deadline being **May 15, 2017**.
2. This Call does not define any priority research areas. On the basis of joint R&D activities the proposals from any R&D field can be submitted with duration of maximum 24 months.
3. The projects submitted in the frame of this Call can start at the earliest on **01. 01. 2018**, and must be completed at latest on **31. 12. 2019**.
4. Allocated budget for this call is **104 000 €**.
5. Finances for project duration will be provided in accordance with the approved budget of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic, by the Slovak Research and Development Agency. The expenses in the Slovak Republic will be covered according to approved budget for bilateral research and development cooperation for years 2018 and 2019.

6. The financial support offered within this call is strictly limited to participants' mobility up to the maximum of **8 000 €** for full period of the project realization.
7. Cooperating partners from R&D organization on both sides are invited to submit joint proposals.
8. In full compliance with the § 18 of the Act 172/2005 Coll. as amended by later regulations the application contains the statutory declaration that the Slovak applicant has valid License on Qualification to perform R&D.

Specific call rules

1. The Slovak Principal Investigator must be employed in applicant organization.
2. In this call one person is eligible to appear in role of the principal investigator (PI) just in one submitted proposal. In opposite case the Agency will not consider these proposals.
3. PI who in past accomplished the project financed by the Agency with final evaluation "the project was solved on unsatisfactory level" is not eligible to appear in a role of PI in any submitted proposals during the year and also during next 3 calendar years counting from the date of delivery of the Project final evaluation to the applicant.
4. In case where Agreement about financial support was terminated by the Agency because of breach/non-fulfilment of contract by the applicant, the PI of such project is not eligible to appear in a role of PI in any submitted proposals during the year and also during next 3 calendar years counting from the date of delivery of the information about project termination to the applicant organization.

Submission of proposal

The Call is opened on **March 15, 2017**, the deadline being **May 15, 2017**.

Application must be submitted in electronic form using on-line system in Slovak and English language within the deadline on **May 15, 2017** until 12:00. One original signed form should be delivered to the Agency at the latest by 16:00 on **15 May 15, 2017**, or sent by mail to the Agency address (Slovak Research and Development Agency, Mytna 23, P. O. BOX 839 04, 839 04 Bratislava 32) with postmark latest on **May 15, 2017**.

After this deadline it is not possible to submit proposals and any such submissions will be formally rejected.

The Agency does not guarantee the successful submission of the electronic forms using the on-line system because of the network overloading in the time close to the deadline. In this case the applicant is fully responsible for the unsuccessful submission.

The proposal has to be signed by both Principal Investigators and the legal representatives of Slovak applicant and partner organization. Signatures of Chinese partners sent by fax or scanned will be accepted.

The proposals which will be classified to pass to the evaluation procedure must fulfill these 4 criteria:

- a) Proposals must be submitted in specified form exclusively using on-line system within the call deadline.
- b) Proposal must be delivered in the paper form within the call deadline.
- c) Proposals must be submitted parallel by Slovak Principal Investigator (PI) in Slovakia and by Chinese PI in China and afterwards evaluated by the both sides.
- d) Proposal fulfils all the Specific call rules.

The proposals which will not satisfy all 4 above mentioned criteria will not be taken into account.

Project eligible costs

The financial support offered within this call is strictly limited to participants' mobility up to the maximum of **4 000 € for calendar year/project and 8 000 €** for full period of the project realization.

The Slovak party provides:

- travel expenses for Slovak researchers to travel to/from China
- health insurance of Slovak researchers during their stay in China
- daily allowances for Chinese researchers in Slovakia according to the Slovak Law on Reimbursement of Travel Expenses (Art. 283/2002)
- accommodation for Chinese researchers in Slovakia up to maximum **100 €/night**
- possible relevant travel expenses, daily allowances and accommodation for Slovak researchers during active participation in conferences, workshops, working meetings and other activities (research materials collection...) in Slovakia relevant to the project
- other relevant expenses specified in Appendix 2 (a, b).

Similarly, the Chinese party will cover travel costs and health insurance costs for Chinese researchers coming to Slovakia and daily allowances and accommodation for Slovak researchers during their stay in China according the national lawful rules and Chinese call conditions.

Assessment procedure

The project assessment and selection procedure is performed at the national level and followed by the International Joint Committee and finally by the approval of the Agency International Board.

At the national level the proposals will be evaluated by using the following criteria:

1. Topical and scientific value of the aims of the mutual research objective (0 - 20 points).
2. Schedule and content of the mobilities activities and their relevance to the call objectives (0 -10 points).
3. Importance and legitimacy of the international bilateral cooperation for research objective (0 - 25 points).
4. The anticipated contribution of the international cooperation (0 - 25 points).
5. Expertise of the Slovak Principal Investigator and Slovak research team in regard to the participation of PhD students and/or young researchers (up to 35 years) (0 - 20 points).

Maximum points: 100 points.

Threshold value for considering the project support: 71 points.

Conditions for the evaluation in Joint Committee:

- single party proposals will be rejected because of failure to accomplish the technical and formal conditions,
- mutual high ranking project proposals will have priority as compared to controversial ones,
- discrepancies in project evaluations will be discussed considering the respective interests.

Decision discloser

The evaluation procedure and the decision disclose will be in full compliance with the § 18 and § 19 of the Act 172/2005 Coll. as amended by later regulations. Technical and formal conditions are published in Appendix 3 (a, b).

Once the Agency International Board has taken a final decision on the Joint committee's recommendations, applicants will be notified of the results of the selection procedure. These

results will be also published on web site covering the: application number, project title, applicant, financial support decision.

In case of entrepreneur subjects that are selected for financial support in the frame of the state support only the proposal of the decision will be published on the Agency web site. These subjects will be invited to fill in the form in order to validate the eligibility of the state support through „ad hoc minimal aid“ according to the Commission regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid (later on “the regulation”).

In case of the fulfilling of the conditions of the regulation Agreement about financial support and Notification on the minimal aid contribution will be signed.

Granting

The Agency provides the financial support of the project on the base of the signed Agreement about financial support 2 months after the agreement was signed at the latest.

Appendixes

Inseparables of the call:

Appendix 1: Form of the Project Proposals

Appendix 2a: Instruction for Reimbursement on Project Cost Calculation – Slovak version

Appendix 2b: Instruction for Reimbursement on Project Cost Calculation – English version

Appendix 3a: Technical and Formal Conditions of the Application – Slovak version

Appendix 3b: Technical and Formal Conditions of the Application – English version

Appendix 4: Evaluation Procedure and Evaluation Criteria – Slovak version

Appendix 5: Manual for Electronic System for Project Proposing – Slovak version

Contacts

Slovak Republic

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