

# **CALL FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS FOR COMMON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL PROJECTS ON COOPERATIONS BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC AND THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA IN YEARS 2009 AND 2010**

## **1. LEGAL FRAME**

Based on the Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria on Cultural, Technological, Educational and Scientific Cooperation, signed on December 1, 2005 in Sofia, the Slovak Research and Development Agency in cooperation with the Division of Science and Technology of the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic opens a Call for submitting proposals for common scientific and technological projects between collaborating organizations in the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria.

## **2. THEMATIC FIELDS**

The priority areas were mutually agreed as follows:

- Information Society
- Quality of life, Environment
- Agriculture, Biotechnology
- New materials and technology, contemporary research in the field of energy
- Social and Humanity sciences in favor of establishing the global „European Society“

On the basis of common RTD activities the proposals from any RTD field can be submitted with duration of two years.

Cooperating partners from RTD organizations with common objectives and complementary skills are invited to submit joint proposal. The projects will be implemented by means of exchange of scientists and information.

## **3. ELIGIBLE PROPOSERS**

Project proposals can be submitted by any legal or physical body in science and technology in the Slovak Republic within all research and development sectors (universities, entrepreneurs, governmental, non-profit) that is involved in an agreed research program by means of existing supported projects. At least one partner within the proposal must be from Bulgaria.

## **4. CALL DURATION AND SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL**

The Call was opened on **May 15, 2008**, the deadline being **July 15, 2008**. Applications must be submitted in electronic form using on-line system in Slovak and English language with deadline 15. 7. 2008 until 13.00. An original signed form should be delivered to the Agency at the latest by 18.00 on **July 15, 2008**, or sent by mail to the address Slovak Research and Development Agency (APVV), Mýtna 23, P.O.Box 346, 814 99 Bratislava with post stamp date latest July 15. After this deadline it is impossible to submit proposals. The proposal must be signed by all participating organizations (signatures of responsible project leaders, statutories and stamps). Signatures and stamps of Bulgarian partners sent by fax will be accepted.

## 5. START AND TERMINATION OF THE PROJECT

The projects submitted in the frame of this Call can start at the earliest on February 1, 2009, and must be completed on December 31, 2010.

## 6. FINANCING

The financial support offered within this call is strictly limited to *mobility* (travelling costs and daily subsistence allowances). The involved organizations must be able to demonstrate that they have the other necessary resources to carry out the project (a grant, institutional resources, commercial funding, etc.). The numbers of grants and the way of financing should be declared in box „Actual ensured financial resources“.

It is possible to plan short-time stays maximum 2x10 days/year or long-time stay maximum 1x21 till 90 days/year.

The Slovak party provides:

- travel expenses up to the level of return plane ticket price - economy class - to Bulgaria for Slovak employees/experts of research and development
- health insurance of Slovak experts during their stay in Bulgaria
- daily allowances for Bulgarian experts in Slovakia in accord with the Slovak law on reimbursement of travel expenses (Art. 283/2002)
- accommodation for Bulgarian experts in Slovakia maximum 20 nights/year in case of short-time stays (max. 2000,-Sk/night) or in case of long-time stay 21 till 90 nights/year (max. 1500,-Sk/night)
- travel expenses, daily allowances and accommodation for Slovak employees/experts of research and development which accompanied Bulgarian experts in Slovakia

Similarly, the Bulgarian party will cover travel and insurance for Bulgarian experts coming to Slovakia. Further, daily allowances for Slovak experts during their stay in the Bulgaria will be provided.

Finances will be provided in accordance with the approved budget of the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic by the Slovak Research and Development Agency for project duration. The expenses in Slovak Republic will be provided in accord with approved budget for bilateral scientific and technological cooperation for years 2009 and 2010.

## 7. EVALUATION

The selection of projects has two stages. In the first stage the proposals will be treated separately by national committees, the second round will be done by the International Joint Committee.

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

- I. Scientific and application targets (60 points)
  - Added value in given RD sector (10 points)
  - Originality at national and international level (10 points)
  - Quality of presentation and targets (10 points)
  - Reasons for cooperation (10 points)
  - Appropriateness and emergency of proposed methods (10 points)
  - Potential socio-economic and scientific contribution (10 points)

- II. Expertise of proposer and organization (20 points)
- Professionality (15 points)
  - Infrastructure (5 points)

Maximum points: 80

The evaluation in Joint Committee will be done under these conditions:

- Single party proposal will be not evaluated
- Proposal with high ranking from both parties will have priority as compared to contraversial ones
- Discrepances will be discussed having in mind mutual interest

**Evaluation results and final list of financed projects will be announced after Joint Committee meeting.**

## **8. RULES FOR PROPOSERS**

Each project must have one responsible person from Slovak and Bulgarian participating organisations. The proposal must be submitted parallel by the leading Slovak partner in Slovakia and the leading Bulgarian partner in Bulgaria. The responsible persons submit forms filled in Slovak and English or Bulgarian and English, respectively. The proposals must involve the title, list of all participants, duration and specific goals. Further, the timetable and financial requirements distributed in chapters and years, brief CV's of Slovak participants, list of Bulgarian participants and clear arguments for international cooperation should be present. If the projects is linked to already existing cooperation, the responsible proposer should mention the anticipated results and their added value for Slovakia.

## **9. OBLIGATIONS OF THE PROPOSER**

The statutory of the Slovak organization will sign a contract for financial support with the Slovak Research and Development Agency. At the end of each calendar year the responsible person reports to the Agency. The report must include a statement of progress with the project and cost statements relating to the claimed travel and subsistence expenses for the period in question. After the project is terminated the responsible person must provide a final report to the Agency.

### **Contact:**

#### ***Slovak Republic***

#### **RNDr. Soňa Ftáčniková, CSc.**

Head of Department for bilateral and multilateral cooperation

Slovak Research and Development Agency

Mýtna 23, P.O.BOX 346

814 99 Bratislava

Tel: 004212-57204502

Fax: 004212-57204599

e-mail: [ftacnik@apvv.sk](mailto:ftacnik@apvv.sk)

<http://www.apvv.sk>

**Ing. Zuzana Hlaváčiková**

Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic

Science and Technology Division

Department of International Cooperation in Research and Development

Stromová 1

813 30 Bratislava

Tel.: 004212-59102623

Fax.: 004212-59102620

e-mail: [zuzana.hlavacikova@minedu.sk](mailto:zuzana.hlavacikova@minedu.sk)

<http://www.minedu.sk>

***Republic of Bulgaria***

**Marina Borisova**

Ministry of Education and Science

Dondukov Blvd. 2A

1000 Sofia

Bulgaria

Tel.: 00359 2/921 76 49

Fax.: 00359 2/981 14 04

e-mail: [b.marina@mon.bg](mailto:b.marina@mon.bg)

<http://www.nsfb.net>