

CALL FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS FOR COMMON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL PROJECTS ON COOPERATIONS BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC AND THE ITALY IN YEARS 2008 AND 2010

1. LEGAL FRAME

Based on the Agreement between governments of the Slovak Republic and the Italy, signed on Nov 30, 1990 in Rome, the Slovak Research and Development Agency (SRDA) in co-operation with Science and Technology Division of the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic opens a Call for submitting proposals for scientific and technological projects between collaborating organizations in the Slovak Republic and the Italy.

2. THEMATIC FIELDS

The priority areas were mutually agreed as follows:

- Basic Sciences
- ICT
- Energy Resources
- Agriculture
- Environment
- Life Sciences
- New Technologies and Innovative Materials
- Geology and Earth Science

Maximum duration of such a project is three years. Partners who are already involved in running projects will propose together parallel and complementary "mobility projects".

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

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 Italy.

4. CALL DURATION AND SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL

The Call is being effectively opened on March, 3. 2008, the deadline for submission being May, 5. 2008. Applications from Slovak side must be submitted in electronic form using on-line system in Slovak and English language by 13.⁰⁰ on May, 5. 2008. The original signed form should be delivered to the Agency at the latest by 18.⁰⁰ on May, 5. 2008, or sent by mail to the address APVV, Mýtna 23, P.O.BOX 346, 814 99 Bratislava with post stamp date latest May, 5. 2008.

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 Italian 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 September, 1. 2008, and must be completed at the furthest 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 the box „Actual assured financial resources“. It is possible to plan 2 short-time stays up to 10 days each per year.

The Slovak party provides:

- travel expenses up to the level of return plane ticket price - economy class - to Italy for Slovak researchers
- health insurance of Italian researchers (on the basis of the rules in force in Slovakia, against work accidents and illnesses, excluding already existing and chronic diseases) during their stay in Slovakia
- daily allowances for Italian researchers in Slovakia in accord with the Slovak law on reimbursement of travel expenses (Art. 283/2002), maximum 20 person days/year
- accommodation for Italian researchers in Slovakia maximum 20 nights/year (max. 2000,- SKK/night)
- potential travel expenses, daily allowances and accommodation for Slovak researchers which accompanied Italian researchers in Slovakia
- conference expenses for Slovak researchers (travel, daily allowances, accommodation, no conference fee) in Slovakia in case when the conference is clearly connected with project's subject.

Similarly, the Italian party will cover travel expenses for Italian researchers coming to Slovakia. Further, daily allowances and health insurance (against work accidents and illnesses, excluding already existing and chronic diseases) for Slovak researchers during their stay in Italy will be provided by the Italian party.

Finances in the Slovak Republic (SR) will be provided in accordance with the approved budget of the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic by the SRDA for the mobility project duration. The expenses in the Slovak Republic will be provided in accord with the approved budget for bilateral scientific and technological cooperation for the years 2008, 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 accomplished by a Joint Committee.

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

- I. Scientific and applicable value of the project (60 points)
 - Current relevance in given area of Science and Technology (10 points)

- Originality at national and international level (10 points)
 - Clarity of stated aims and formal presentation (10 points)
 - Justification of suggested bilateral cooperation (10 points)
 - Current relevance and convenience of used methods (10 points)
 - Applicability of anticipated results (socio-economic benefits) (10 points)
- II. Expertise of project leader (20 points)
- Expert ability and experience of the project leader and his/her team (15 points)
 - Existence of necessary infrastructure (5 points)

Maximum points: 80

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

- Single party proposal will be excluded from the evaluation process
- Each researcher (in position of Principal Investigator) may submit just one project in particular call
- Proposal with high ranking from both parties will have priority as compared to controversial 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 proposal must designate one responsible person from each Slovak and each Italian participating organisation. The proposal must be submitted in parallel by the Principal Investigator (PI) in Slovakia and PI in Italy. On Slovak side PI submits forms filled in Slovak and English. The proposals must involve the title, list of all participants, duration and specific goals. Further, the timetable and detailed financial requirements, brief CV's of Slovak participants, list of Italian participants and clear arguments for international cooperation should be present. If the projects are 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 SRDA. At the end of each year PI must provide a written report 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 written report to the Agency.

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