



CONSOLIDATED VERSION OF THE PUBLIC CALL

The Slovak Research and Development Agency (hereinafter referred to as the "agency" or "APVV") in accordance with Act No. 172/2005 Coll. on the Organization of State Support for Research and Development and with the amendment of Act No. 575/2001 Coll. on Organization of the Government Activities and the Organization of the Central State Administration (hereinafter referred to as Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended) and based on the Agreement between the Governments of the Slovak Republic and the People's Republic of China on Scientific and Technical Cooperation, signed on 17. 02. 1997 in Beijing and Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China on Joint Funding of Research and Development Projects, signed on 27.11.2017 in Bratislava

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public call for submitting applications for joint projects supporting cooperation between organizations in the Slovak Republic and the People's Republic of China pursuant to § 12 sect. 2 point c) of Act no. 172/2005 Coll. as amended.

Intentions and Objectives of the Public Call

Within the public call SK-CN 2021, project proposals from all research and development areas can be submitted. The aim of bilateral cooperation projects is to establish new or intensify the existing scientific and technological cooperation, using mainly the following instruments:

- preparation of joint international projects;
- preparation of joint publications and other outputs;
- active participation in conferences, organizing the joint scientific events;
- mutual use of instrumentation and laboratory techniques;
- gathering the research materials;
- involvement of Ph.D. students and/or young R & D staff (aged under 35).

In the submitted project proposal, the applicant shall indicate the field of science and technology the application falls into. Applications may be submitted by Slovak legal entities and Slovak natural persons - entrepreneurs without any limitation of their membership in the research and development sector.

Definition of Basic Terms

- **Project** is a set of intentions, objectives and planned time-bound activities in the content-defined field of science and technology. The project includes data on the personnel, material, instrumental and financial conditions needed for its solution.
- **Project Solution** is the implementation of planned activities and measures, and thus the implementation of the project's intentions and objectives.
- **Applicant** is a Slovak legal entity or a Slovak natural person - an entrepreneur who holds valid certificate of competence to carry out research and development under § 26a sect. 11 or 12 of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended, and who is submitting an application for funds to solve the project. The Project for which the applicant requests funds comprises a part of the Application.

- **Recipient** is a Slovak legal entity or a Slovak natural person - an entrepreneur who holds a valid certificate of competence to carry out research and development under § 26a sect. 11 or 12 of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended, and which has been allocated funds from the state budget for the project solution. The recipient is responsible for managing these funds.
- **Partner Organization** is scientific and research institution that submits a project on the partner side and which will solve the project in cooperation with the recipient.
- **Slovak legal entity** is a legal person established under the Slovak legal order with the registered seat in the Slovak Republic.
- **Slovak natural person - entrepreneur** means an entrepreneur authorised to conduct business in the Slovak Republic with a place of business in the Slovak Republic.
- **Provider - APVV** is an institution that decides on providing the state budget funding to the applicants.
- **Principal Investigator** is a person responsible for the project solving and for the effective use of the funds granted for its solution.

Requirements for the Public Call

1. The cooperating partners from the research and development organizations on both sides shall jointly develop content-identical projects.
2. Under § 18 sect. 2 point f) of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended, an integral part of the Application shall be the Declaration of honour by the Slovak applicant stating that they have a valid Certificate of research and development competence. In case the applicant do not have the mentioned certificate, their application shall be refused.
3. The Declaration of honour the principal investigator confirming that the information given in the section "Basic information on Principal Investigator" is true, comprises an integral part of the application.
4. An copy of the letter of mutual intent to cooperate between the applicant and **partner organization** shall be an integral part of the application.

Specific Conditions for a Public Call

1. The total amount of funding allocated for the whole projects period and assessment supported in this call shall amount to **EUR 150 000** in maximum.
2. The projects funding is subject to the approval of the required amount of the state budget funds for the agency within the state budget of the Slovak Republic by the National Council of the Slovak Republic, and subsequently to their subdivision from the chapter of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic for the agency.
3. The total amount of funds provided by the Agency to solve one project is limited to a maximum of **EUR 12 000** for the whole project duration and a maximum of **EUR 6 000** per a calendar year of the project.
4. One natural person may be the principal investigator in the given call only in one submitted application. In case of submitting multiple applications with the same principal investigator, the agency shall cancel all such applications as illegible from further assessment. A principal investigator is person having an employment relationship with the applicant.
5. The research capacity of any researcher must not exceed 2 000 hours in total per year for projects solution at the same time, regardless of the source of support granted, and/or the project funds provider.

6. The SK-CN 2021 call does not set minimum limits for planned annual researcher capacity. The annual principal investigator capacity must not reach 0 hours within individual calendar years of the duration of the project. The total researcher capacity of the nominal RTMs must not reach 0 hours.
7. The principal investigator must be registered in one of the listed scientific databases (WoS - Web of Science, Scopus or ORCID) and have his unique identifier in one of these databases. This information shall be provided in the application submitted. Failure to comply with this condition results in the withdrawal of the application.
8. The applicant notes that in relation to investigators he is required to comply with the Regulation No. 679/2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (General Data Protection Regulation) and the Act No. 18/2018 Coll. on personal data protection as amended (hereinafter referred to as Act on Data Protection). The applicant acknowledges that the processing of personal data of investigators by the Agency is necessary in accordance with § 18 of the Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended. The Agency will in accordance with the above mentioned provision and pursuant to § 13 par. 1 letter c) of the Act on Data Protection process personal data of investigators to the extent defined in the application (Annex 4 of the Public Call). In the case of concluding a funding agreement, to which the applicant will be a party, the processing of these personal data of the investigators by the Agency is necessary for the performance of this agreement pursuant to § 13 par. 1 letter b) of the Act on Data Protection.
9. In this call, the agency does not provide any capital funds for procurement of tangible and intangible assets.
10. The other expenses associated with the project solution covered by the agency's resources are set at a minimum of EUR 100, while not exceeding 30 % of the total project costs provided by the agency in each financial year.
11. For non-business entities, the agency may provide funding for project up to 100 % of the costs.
12. For business entities, the agency's funding is governed by Act No. 358/2015 on regulation of certain relations in state aid and de minimis aid and on the amendment of certain laws (the State Aid Act).
13. The principal investigator of any project funded by the agency, which received a "insufficient level of project solving" after completing project solution of the public call, cannot be the principal investigator in any application submitted within the agency's public calls for the given year and for further 3 calendar years from the year in which the final project assessment report was delivered by the agency to the recipient and to the principal investigator. The period shall begin to lapse from the day following the date of receipt of such decision by the aid recipient. Failure to comply with this condition results in the withdrawal of the application.
14. If the funding Agreement was terminated by the APVV by withdrawal, termination, or the Decision on suspending the public call project funding because of the recipient's breach of obligations set under the Agreement, the principal investigator of such project cannot be the principal investigator in any applications submitted within the agency's public calls for a given year and for further period of 3 calendar years from the date of such termination, withdrawal or Decision on suspending the project funding. The period shall begin to lapse from the day following the date of receipt of such decision by the aid recipient. Failure to comply with this condition results in the withdrawal of the application.

Submission of Applications

Term for submitting the applications are from 19 April 2021 to 21 June 2021.

Applications shall be submitted electronically only through the electronic application system available on the agency's website www.apvv.sk. The electronic application system will be closed on **21 June 2021 at 12.00 a.m.** The agency does not guarantee successful submission

of the electronic forms via electronic application system in case of the system overloading or sending an electronic version of the application in the last hours before closing the system. In this case, the applicant assumes full responsibility for such unsuccessful submission of electronic version of the application. **Only the required sections applications** generated by the system shall be submitted in their paper forms enclosed in annex 1 of Consolidated version of the public call. The applicant is obliged to deliver the required application sections within the stated period **up to 21th June 2021** at the latest to the agency address (Slovak Research and Development Agency, Mýtna 23, P..BOX 839 04, 839 04 Bratislava 32). The deadline for submitting the applications is retained if the application is submitted on the last day of the deadline to the authority responsible for its delivering.

The agency will only include those applications in the evaluation process which simultaneously meet all three of the following criteria:

- a) application is submitted through an electronic submission system for project applications;
- b) Application must be submitted and subsequently assessed simultaneously on both the Slovak and the partner's side. On the Slovak side, the Slovak applicant applies to the Agency, and a partner organisation submits the Application according to the instructions of the organisation that opens the call in a partner country;
- c) application meets all the conditions of the public call SK-CN 2021.

Project Duration

The expected launch of the project solution is 01 January 2022. Duration of the project cannot exceed 24 months.

Assessment of Applications

When assessing the applications, the agency shall proceed in accordance with § 19 of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended. Technical and formal terms of the application are set out in annex 1 of Consolidated version of the public call. The assessment procedure and the assessment criteria are set out in annex 2 of Consolidated version of the public call.

Disclosure of Decisions on Applications

Decisions on non-compliance with the technical and formal conditions under § 19 sect. 1 of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended shall be notified by the APVV to all applicants.

Decisions on applications under of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended shall be published by the agency via its webpage www.apvv.sk. The webpage is also to publish the information on all applications to the following extent: application number, project title, applicant, principal investigator and decision on grant. In case of decision on not funding the name of principal investigator is not stated.

Entrepreneurs will be invited to submit an Applicant's Declaration on Ad hoc de Minimis aid under Act No. 358/2015 Coll. on Regulation of Certain Relations in State Aid and de minimis Aid and on Amending and Supplementing Certain Acts, and the agency shall set a deadline for delivering it. Before granting the Ad hoc de minimis aid, the de minimis aid provider is obliged to ask the aid coordinator for an opinion identifying whether the measure in question meets the conditions for de minimis aid under the specific minimum aid rules. The aid coordinator shall send an opinion on such proposals within 30 days after receiving the proposal. **The aid provider is bound by such aid coordinator's opinion.** The agency shall inform the applicants of the granting the de minimis aid.

Granting the Funds

The project funding is provided to the recipient by the agency on the basis of a written project funding agreement. The agency shall provide the applicant with funds to solve the project to the account specified in the project funding agreement, as soon as possible as from the date the contract is signed. Signing of the project funding agreement is conditioned by submitting an updated project under the funding conditions specified in the application assessment report or other terms of the agency (especially in connection with Act no. 523/2004 Coll).

Annexes

The following annexes comprise part to the public call:

Annex 1: Technical and formal conditions

Annex 2: Assessment procedure and assessment criteria

Annex 3: Budgeting principles

Annex 4: Form template (Application form and material intent)

Annex 5: Template of the Letter of mutual intent to cooperate

Annex 6: Project electronic application system manual

Contact

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