**CONSOLIDATED VERSION OF THE PUBLIC CALL**

The Slovak Research and Development Agency (hereinafter referred to as the "Agency" or "APVV"), Mýtna 23, 811 07 Bratislava, reg. no: 30 797 764 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 Government 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 November 27, 2017 in Bratislava

**o p e n s**

**Public Call for submitting applications for joint projects supporting cooperation between organizations in the Slovak Republic and People's Republic of China pursuant § 12 sect. 2 point c) of Act no. 172/2005 Z. z. as amended denoted as SK-CN 2026**

## Intentions and Objectives of the Public Call

Within the Public Call SK-CN 2026, 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, 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.

**Within the Public Call SK-CN 2026, the following topics/areas are excluded from the scope of scientific and technical cooperation: artificial intelligence, semiconductors, quantum technologies and biotechnology.**

## 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 implementation.

- **Implementation of a Project** is to carry out 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 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 comprise a part of the application.
- **Recipient** is a je 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 of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended, and which has been allocated funds from the state budget for the project implementation. The recipient is responsible for managing these funds.
- **Partner organisation** is an eligible scientific and research institution that submits a research and development 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 state budget to support research and development to the applicant.
- **Principal Investigator** is a person responsible for the project implementation and for the effective use of the funds granted for its implementation.

## Requirements for the Public Call

1. The cooperating partners from the research and development organisations on both sides shall jointly develop projects with the same thematic focus. The projects will be submitted separately through the agencies/organisations launching the Call in the partner country.
2. Following the § 18 sect. 2 of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended, an integral part of the application shall be the declaration of honour by the applicant stating that they have a valid certificate of research and development competence. In case the applicant does not have the mentioned certificate, their application shall be refused.
3. An integral part of the application is also a declaration on honour that the information provided in the part “Basic information on the Principal Investigator” is true (part A4).
4. **The part F of the application must not exceed the maximum limit of 10 standard pages for Obligatory scheme.** Failure to comply with the maximum number of **standard pages** of the Obligatory scheme at the time of submission will be grounds for the elimination of the application from the evaluation process

## Specific Conditions for a Public Call

1. The total amount of funding allocated for the whole project period is **EUR 180,000.**
2. The project funding is subject to the approval of the required amount of the state budget funds for the Agency within the state budget of the SR by the National Council of the Slovak Republic, and subsequently to their subdivision from the chapter of the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth 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 9 000** for the whole project duration.
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 implementation at the same time, regardless of the source of support granted, and/or the project funds provider.
6. The SK-CN 2026 Call does not set minimum limits for planned annual researcher capacity. However, the annual Principal Investigator capacity must not be 0 hours within individual calendar years of the duration of the project. The total researcher capacity of each research team member must not be 0 hours. The Agency is entitled to request from the beneficiary reports on the fulfilment of time allocations for the Principal Investigator and members of the research team.
7. The Principal Investigator must be registered at least 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. Failure to comply with this condition results in the rejection of the application. In case of WoS researcher ID it is recommended that the researcher profile is claimed and verified by the Principal Investigator. Only claimed and verified profile of the Principal Investigator is publicly available in WoS ensuring unrestricted access.
8. The applicant acknowledges that, in relation to its researchers, it is obliged to ensure compliance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) and Act No. 18/2018 Coll. on personal data protection as amended. The applicants also note that within pre-contractual relations the processing of investigators' personal data by the Agency is necessary. In the case of concluding an Agreement on the provision of funds, to which the applicant will be a contracting party, the processing of investigators' personal data by the Agency is necessary for the fulfilment of this agreement. Based on the aforementioned legal basis, the Agency shall process investigators' personal data such as first name, last name, title, position and date of birth for the purposes of their unambiguous identification.
9. In this Call, the Agency does not provide any capital funds for procurement of tangible and intangible assets.
10. Eligibility of activities under individual project implementation cost items in accordance with §17 sect. 2 of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended, is specified in Annex 3 of the full text of the Call.
11. The other expenses associated with the project implementation covered by the Agency's resources shall not exceeding 30% of the total project costs provided by the Agency in each financial year.
12. For non-business entities [1] the Agency may provide funding for basic, applied research and development up to 100% of the costs.
13. In case of business and non-business entities that are considered to be enterprises/" business" as defined in Article 107 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, the

[1] See § 2 sect. 1, 2 of Act No. 513/1991 Coll. for details

provision of funds by the Agency is governed by Act No. 358/2015 Coll. on regulation of certain relations in state aid and *de minimis* aid and on the amendment of certain laws (the State Aid Act) and under Article 107 of the Treaty on the functioning of the EU.

14. The Principal Investigator of any project funded by the Agency, which received a "insufficient level of project implementation" after completing the project implementation 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. Non-fulfilment of the condition results in the refusal of application.
15. If the funding agreement was terminated by the APVV by withdrawal, termination, or the decision on suspending 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. Non-fulfilment of the condition results in the refusal of application.
16. The Agency reserves the right to amend the Public Call SK-CN 2026 based on the decision made by the Presidium of the APVV only. If these changes will be made, the APVV will announce their content, reasons and impact on applicants on their website.
17. The Agency reserves the right to conduct an internal check of the originality of projects as part of the evaluation of applications in order to determine whether the same project has been supported.

## Submission of Applications

**The term for submitting the applications runs from the date of announcement of Call from 16 November 2026 to 18 January 2027.**

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 **18 January 2027 at 12.00 (noon).** The Agency does not guarantee the successful submission of the electronic forms via the 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 the electronic version of the application.

**Only the required sections of application** generated by the system listed in Annex No. 1 of the Consolidated Version of the Public Call shall be submitted in paper form. The applicant is obliged to deliver the required sections of the application **by 18 January 2027** at the latest to the Agency address:

**Slovak Research and Development Agency**
Mýtna 23
P.O.BOX 14
851 05 Bratislava.

The deadline for submitting applications shall be deemed to have been observed if the required parts of application are dispatched to the Agency's address on the last day of the deadline that is **18 January 2027**. Applications submitted after the deadline shall be rejected.

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

a) Application is submitted through an electronic application system;

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 organization submits the Application according to the instructions of the organization that opens the Call in the partner country (projects with the same thematic focus must have correctly identified responsible Principal Investigators and cooperating Partner organisations);

c) **The maximum length of the Part F of the Application (Obligatory Scheme), submitted through the application system is 10 standard pages;**

d) Application meets all the conditions of the Public Call SK-CN 2026.

**The Agency shall send the applicant a notification of the registration of the application no later than 14 days after receipt of the application, to the email address of the principal investigator specified in the application and to the email address of the project administrator (the user who created the application) as specified in the electronic system for submitting applications and managing projects.**

## Project Duration

The expected start of the project implementation is **01 August 2027**. The duration of the project cannot exceed **24 months**.

## Assessment of Applications

For the application assessment, the Agency shall proceed in accordance with § 19, § 19b, §19d of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended. Technical and formal terms of the application are set out in annex 1 of the Consolidated version of the Public Call. The assessment procedure and the assessment criteria are set out in Annex No. 2 of Consolidated version of the Public Call.

## Disclosure of Decisions on Applications

APVV shall notify applicants on the Decision on non-compliance with the technical and formal conditions pursuant to the § 19 sect. 1 of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended.

Decisions on applications under of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended shall be published by the Agency on its website www.apvv.sk **up to 16 July 2027** at the latest. The following information on all applications shall be published on the website: application number, project title, applicant, Principal Investigator and funding decision. The name of the Principal Investigator shall not be published for applications that were not selected for funding.

Business entities and non-business entities that are considered a "business" as defined under Article 107 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU will be invited to submit a Declaration of the applicant for minimum aid pursuant to Commission Regulation (EU) No. 2023/2831 of 13 December 2023 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to *de minimis* ad hoc aid under Act No.358/2018 Coll. on the regulation of certain relations in the field of the state aid and minimum aid and on amending and supplementing certain acts, and the Agency will set a deadline for its submission. Before granting ad hoc de minimis Aid (entry into force of the Funding Agreement), the provider is

obliged to request an opinion from the aid coordinator on whether the measure in question meets the conditions for granting *de minimis* aid under Commission Regulation (EU) No.2023/2831 of 13 December 2023 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to *de minimis* aid. The opinion on such proposals shall be sent by the aid coordinator to the provider within 30 days of receipt of the proposal. Such opinion of the aid coordinator shall be binding on the provider. The Agency shall notify applicants of the granting of the *de minimis* aid.

## Granting the Funds

The project funding is provided to the recipient by the Agency based on a written Project Funding Agreement **no later than 01 October 2027**. The Agency shall deposit the carry-out of the project to the account specified in the project funding agreement, as soon as possible 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 requirements of the Agency (especially in connection with Act No. 523/2004 Coll. of Budget Rules of the Public Service and of Change and Amendment of Some Acts) or Act No. 358/2015 Coll. on the adjustment of certain relations in the field of state aid and *de minimis* and Change and Amendment of Some Acts (the State Aid Act)).

## Questions and answers

Information regarding the Call is provided through the contact form available at: https://www.apvv.sk/kontakt/kontaktny-formular.html

## 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 Obligatory Scheme)

Annex 5: Funding agreement

## Contacts

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