



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 Government of the Slovak Republic and the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on Scientific and Technological Cooperation signed on 26 February, 2001 in Bratislava

o p e n s

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

Intentions and Objectives of the Public Call

Within the public call SK-SRB 2023, project proposals from all research and development areas can be submitted. The aim of bilateral cooperation projects under this call is to establish new or intensify the existing scientific and technological cooperation, with the use of the following instruments, in particular:

- 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 implementation.
- **Project Implementation** 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 holding a valid Certificate of research and development competence under § 26a sect. 11 or 12 of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended, submitting an application for the project funding. The Project for which the applicant requests funds makes a part of the Application.
- **Recipient** is a Slovak legal entity or a Slovak natural person—an entrepreneur holding a valid certificate of competence to carry out research and development activities under § 26a sect. 11 or 12 of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended, which has been allocated funds from the state budget for the project implementation. 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 implement the project in cooperation with the recipient.
- **Slovak legal entity** is a legal person established under the Slovak law order with the registered seat in the Slovak Republic.
- **Slovak natural person—entrepreneur** is 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 implementation and for the effective use of the funds granted for this purpose.

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. **The Part F of the application (obligatory scheme) must not exceed the maximum limit of 10 pages.**
3. Following the § 18 sect. 2 of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended, the agency requires Slovak applicants to produce a Declaration of honour 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.
4. 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.
5. A 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 implementation period of the projects supported in this call shall amount to **EUR 96 600** in maximum.

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 Slovak Republic by the National Council of the Slovak Republic, and subsequently to their allocation from the chapter of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic to the agency.
3. The total amount of funds provided by the Agency to implement one project is limited to a maximum of **EUR 4 700** for the whole project duration and a maximum of **EUR 2 350** 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 uneligible for further assessment. A principal investigator is a person having an employment relationship with the applicant.
5. The research capacity of any researcher working on the project must not exceed 2 000 hours in total per year for at the same time, regardless of the source of support granted, and/or the project funds provider.
6. The SK-SRB 2023 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.
7. The principal investigator must be registered and have their unique identifier in one of the following scientific databases: WoS – Web of Science, Scopus or ORCID. This information shall be included in the submitted application. Failure to fulfil this condition shall result in the rejection of the application.
8. The applicant recognizes that in relation to the members of their research team s/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. The applicant recognizes the agency is entitled on the grounds of the Act No. 172/2005 Coll. to process personal data of the applicant and all researchers.
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 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.
12. For non-business entities, the agency may provide project funding for up to 100% of the costs.
13. For business entities, the agency's funding 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).

14. The principal investigator of an agency-funded project is obliged to include in the final report the mandatory outputs in the form of at least 1 submitted WoS-, Scopus- or ORCID-level publication. Failure to fulfill this mandatory output shall result in the evaluation of the project implementation as insufficient.
15. The principal investigator of any project funded by the agency, which received a "insufficient level of project implementation" after completing project implementation of the project within 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 shall result in the withdrawal of the application.
16. If the funding Agreement was terminated by the APVV by withdrawal, termination, or the Decision on suspending the public call project funding as a result of the breach of obligations set under the Agreement by the recipient, the principal investigator of such project cannot be the principal investigator in any applications submitted within the agency's public calls for the 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 shall result in the withdrawal of the application.

Application Procedure

The application period is from 22 May 2023 to 24 July 2023.

Applications shall be submitted electronically only through the electronic application system available on the agency's website www.apvv.sk. The electronic application system shall close on **24 July 2023 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 parts of the application** generated by the system shall be submitted in their paper forms enclosed in Annex 1 of the Consolidated version of the public call. The applicant is obliged to deliver the required parts of the application within the given period **up to 24 July 2023** at the latest to the address of the agency (Slovak Research and Development Agency, Mýtna 23, P.O.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. Applications submitted after the deadline shall be rejected.

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 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 organisation submits the Application according to the instructions of the organisation that opens the call in the partner country;

c) Application meets all the conditions of the public call SK-SRB 2023.

Project Duration

The expected start of the project implementation is 01 February 2024. 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

SRDA 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 24 January 2024** 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.

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 **up to 31 March 2024** at the latest. The agency shall deposit the carry out 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.

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

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