



ANNEX 2 – ASSESMENT PROCEDURE AND ASSESMENT CRITERIA

Part A

Project draft assessment procedure under public call SK-SRB 2023

1. The Office of the Slovak Research and Development Agency (hereinafter referred to as “agency” or “APVV”) through the application committee appointed by the director of the agency shall assess the submitted applications for fulfilment of technical and formal requirements (hereinafter referred to as “technical requirements”) stated in the public call SK-SRB 2023.
2. If the application does not meet the technical requirements, the APVV shall invite the applicant to remedy the deficiencies within 14 days.
3. If the deficiencies of the application are left not remedied under paragraph 2, the APVV shall decide to reject the application for failure to comply with the technical requirements, and shall notify the applicant of the decision on excluding the application. The decision on excluding the application contains specific reasons for the application’s non-compliance with the technical requirements.
4. Council of the Agency shall appoint one of its members to be a rapporteur for each evaluated application.
5. The agency shall provide three independent reviews prepared by national and foreign expert in the given field for each application complying with the technical and formal requirements. The reviews may be prepared in Slovak, Czech or English languages. The reviews are the basis for the application evaluation by the council of the agency. The council of the agency may set up a working group in the evaluation of applications pursuant to §15 sect. 11 of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended.
6. Assessing the project quality is the basic principle for assessing the application for project funding.
7. Application assessment shall be done based on the assessment criteria set.
8. The evaluator shall provide a verbal evaluation of compliance with the criterion. At the same time, the evaluator shall allocate points to the given criterion from the range of points set for each criterion. The maximum number of points for the application evaluation from one evaluator is 100. In addition, in the conclusion the reviewer shall identify an overall project assessment, which is in line with the point - based project assessment.
9. Weighted average median rounded to one decimal point shall be calculated from the scores given by the evaluators. The score thus obtained shall be considered the weighted average median score of the project given by the evaluators. To calculate the weighted average median of the scores, following formula shall be used:

$$\text{Weighted average median} = \frac{B - \left\{ \frac{[100 - k(B - A)]}{100} \times (B - A) \right\} + B + B + \left\{ \frac{[100 - k(C - B)]}{100} \times (C - B) \right\}}{3}$$

where:

A is the lowest given score

B is the medium given score

C is the highest given score

k is the coefficient; k = 2/5

10. Based on an assessment of project proposals, the Council of the Agency may adjust, downward or upward, the average score of two project reviewers by up to **± 3 points**.
11. Council of the Agency shall prepare ranking of the projects according to the final number of points obtained, and identify the projects recommended for funding.
12. The minimum threshold for selection of the projects for funding is 75 points.
13. Subsequently, an international assessment shall be carried out by a joint committee.
14. The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic organizes the evaluation of the joint commission within the terms agreed with the partner country. Rules for selecting the projects in an international joint commission are as follows:
 - the projects not submitted or unrated on both sides will be excluded due to non-compliance with the terms of the call;
 - two-sided highly rated projects at national levels will benefit against the projects that are assessed differently;
 - differences in project assessment on both sides will be addressed in discussion, taking mutual interest into the account.

Final number of the projects selected to be supported by the joint committee depends on the amount of funds allocated to the call in all the participating countries.
15. After completion of the assessment process, i.e. following an assessment of the joint committee that has agreed a list of the projects recommended for funding, the agency shall notify the applicants of the decision on their applications. The annex to the decision comprises an assessment report and information on the reviews.

Part B

Project Assessment Criteria

1. **Timeliness and scientific nature of the objectives and originality of the research intent (0 – 20 points)**
 - Assess the degree of topicality of the problem solved in the given field of science and technology
 - Evaluate the scientific level of the research intent from the point of the objectives set
 - Assess to what extent the objectives of the research intent are clearly defined and realistically achievable
 - Assess the degree of originality of the research intent
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2. Timetable of solving the research intent and relevance of the activities with regard to the character of the call (0 – 10 points)

- Evaluate the realisation of the research intent in terms of timetable and the objectives set
 - Assess the justification of the activities with regard to the character of the call
 - Assess the suitability of the timing of mobility activities in the individual stages of the project solution
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3. Significance and justification of the international bilateral co-operation in solving the research intent (0 – 25 points)

- Evaluate the necessity for international bilateral co-operation for solving the research intent
 - Assess the justification of a foreign partner's participation in the research project
 - Assess the effectiveness of the bilateral planned mobility activities
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4. Benefits of the international bilateral co-operation and research intent (0 – 25 points)

- Assess the expected social or economic benefits of the international bilateral cooperation for the Slovak Republic
 - Assess to what extent the international bilateral cooperation contributes to the expected benefits
 - Assess the fulfilment of the objectives of the call
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5. Professional qualifications of the principal investigator and the Slovak research team with regard to the involvement of Ph.D. students and/or young R & D staff (0 – 20 points)

- Assess the quality of scientific outputs of the principal investigator and professional quality of the research team
 - Evaluate the share of Ph.D. students and/or young R & D staff in the project solving
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In criterion 5, the reviewers and the council shall consider the time (in the case of women - maternity leave) of active professional life of the principal investigator and members of the team.