

Call for submission of proposals for common research and development projects on cooperation between institutions of the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria in years 2011 – 2012

1. LEGAL FRAME

Based on the Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria on Scientific and Technological Cooperation, signed on December 1, 2005 in Sofia the Slovak Research and Development Agency (SRDA) in cooperation with the Division of Science and Technology, Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic, opens the Call for submitting proposals for common research and development projects supporting the collaborating between organizations in the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria.

The legal framework for submitting of research and development projects in 2010 issues from the Act. No.172/2005 Coll. on the Organisation of State Support of Research and Development and on amendment of Act. No. 575/2001 Coll. on the Structure of Activities of the Government and Central State Administration as amended by later regulations and as in Act No. 233/2008 Coll.(hereinafter referred to as the Act 172/2005 Coll. as amended by later regulations).

2. THEMATIC FIELDS AND OBJECTIVES

This Call does not define any priority research areas. On the basis of joint R&D activities the proposals from any R&D field can be submitted with duration of maximum 24 months.

Cooperating partners from R&D organizations on both sides are invited to submit joint proposals. The projects will be implemented by means of exchange of scientists and information.

The projects of bilateral cooperation are to be aimed at these objectives:

- preparation of joint international projects
- preparation of joint publications and other outputs
- common active participation at conferences as an output from joint R&D activities
- mutual use of special laboratory equipment and apparatus
- research materials collection

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 and non-profit).

4. CALL DURATION AND SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL

The Call was opened on **May 17, 2010** the deadline being **July 16, 2010**. Applications must be submitted in electronic form using on-line system in Slovak and English language with deadline **July 16, 2010** until **12:00**. One original signed form (in Slovak and also in English version) should be delivered to the Agency at the latest by **16:00** on **July 16, 2010**, or sent by mail to the Agency

address (Slovak Research and Development Agency, Mýtna 23, P.O.Box 346, 814 99 Bratislava) with post stamp date latest **16. 07. 2010**.

After this deadline it is impossible to submit proposals. The proposal must be signed by both participating organizations (signatures of responsible project leaders, statutaries). Signatures of Bulgarian partners sent by fax will be accepted.

5. PROJECT START AND TERMINATION

The projects submitted in the frame of this Call can start at the earliest on **01. 01. 2011**, and must be completed latest on **31. 12. 2012**.

6. FINANCING

For this call the agency allocates **80 000 €** for the 2 year period of the project realization.

The financial support offered within this call is strictly limited to participants mobility up to the maximum **2 600 € for calendar year/project** and **5 200 € for 24 months/project**.

The Slovak party provides:

- travel expenses up to the level of economy class air ticket for Slovak researchers for travel to Bulgaria
- health insurance of Slovak researchers during their stay in Bulgaria
- daily allowances for Bulgarian researchers in Slovakia in accord with the Slovak Law on Reimbursement of Travel Expenses (Art. 283/2002)
- accommodation for Bulgarian researchers in Slovakia up to maximum **100 €/night**
- possible relevant travel expenses, daily allowances and accommodation for Slovak researchers who accompany Bulgarian researchers in Slovakia
- other relevant expenses connected to transportation services (visa fees...)

Similarly, the Bulgarian party will cover travel cost and health insurance cost for Bulgarian researchers coming to Slovakia and daily allowances and accommodation for Slovak researchers during their stay in Bulgaria.

Finances will be provided in accordance with the approved budget of the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic by the Slovak Research and Development Agency for project duration. The expenses in the Slovak Republic will be covered in accord with approved budget for bilateral research and development cooperation for years 2011 to 2012.

7. PROJECT 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 done by the International Joint Committee.

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

1. Specific project targets and their relevance to the call
(25 points with minimum 20 points required for financing)
2. Originality of the project (15 points)
3. Importance of international cooperation at project participation (25 points)
4. The anticipated contribution of international cooperation project for Slovakia (25 points)

5. Professionalism of Slovak responsible principal investigator - PI (10 points)

Maximum points: 100

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

- single party proposals will not be evaluated
- proposal with high ranking from both parties will have priority as compared to controversial ones
- discrepancies will be discussed having in mind mutual interest.

Evaluation results and the final list of financed projects will be announced after Joint Committee meeting.

8. RULES FOR PROPOSERS

Each project must have one responsible person from Slovak and Bulgarian participating party, also in a case of a multilateral cooperation of more cooperating organizations from both countries. The proposal must be submitted parallel by Slovak PI in Slovakia and by Bulgarian PI in Bulgaria. The responsible person submits forms filled in Slovak and English or Bulgarian and English, respectively.

Slovak participant selected for financial contribution shall provide to the Agency the Licence on Qualification to perform R&D in compliance with the Slovak Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended by later regulations before signing the Agreement.

The proposal on the Slovak side will involve:

1. the title
2. the names of Slovak and Bulgarian PI
3. the name and the address of Slovak and Bulgarian participant
4. project annotation
5. specific goals and activity focus
6. clear arguments for international cooperation
7. the anticipated results
8. the time schedule
9. professionalism of Slovak PI and lists of Slovak and Bulgarian research team members
10. the budget (see [instructions](#)).

If the projects are linked to an already existing cooperation, the PI should mention the results and their contribution for Slovakia.

9. OBLIGATIONS OF THE PROPOSER

The statutory of the Slovak organization will sign an Agreement for the financial support with the Slovak Research and Development Agency. At the end of each calendar year PI reports to the Agency. The report must include a statement of progress with the project and a cost statement related to the expenses of the period in question. After the project is terminated PI must provide a final report to the Agency.

CONTACTS

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