



## ANNEX 2 – ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE AND CRITERIA

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### Part A

#### Project Draft Assessment Procedure under Public Call DS-FR 2026

1. The Office of the Slovak Research and Development Agency (hereinafter referred to as the "Agency" or "SRDA"), through the applications Committee appointed by the Director of the Agency, will evaluate the submitted applications for compliance with the technical and formal requirements (hereinafter referred to as "the technical requirements") specified in the DS-FR 2026 Public Call.
2. The SRDA will request the Applicant to remedy the deficiencies within 14 days if the application does not meet the technical and formal requirements or will exclude the application from the evaluation process if it does not comply with the rules set forth in the Consolidated version of the Public Call.
3. If the deficiencies in the application are not remedied in accordance with paragraph 2, the SRDA shall decide to reject the application for non-compliance with the technical requirements and shall notify the Applicant of the decision to reject the application. The decision to reject the application shall include the specific reasons for the non-compliance of the application 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 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 points. The scoring scale is set at 1 point.
9. Weighted average median rounded to the nearest whole number 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. The sum of the weighted average of the scores of all the criteria determined under point 9 shall be considered as the weighted average score of the application proposal by the reviewers.
  11. Based on an assessment of project proposals, the Council of the Agency may adjust, downward or upward, the average score of three project reviewers by up to **± 3 points**.
  12. 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.
  13. The minimum threshold for selection of the projects for funding is 50 points.
  14. Subsequently, an international assessment shall be carried out by a joint committee.
  15. The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Youth 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.
16. The Council of the agency issues a draft decision on funding for individual projects taking into account the projects evaluation as well as the amount of available funds allocated for the applications in the given call.
  17. The draft decision on funding for all submitted applications shall be submitted by the Council of the agency to the director of the agency.

## Part B

### Project Assessment Criteria

#### 1. Scientific value of the proposed research intent (0 – 25 points)

- Assess the degree of topicality of the addressed problem in the given field of science and technology
  - Evaluate the scientific level of the research intent considering the objectives of the project
  - Assess the originality of the research intent
  - Assess the clarity and achievability of the objectives of the research intent
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#### 2. Feasibility of the joint research plan and adequacy of the proposed methodology (0 – 15 points)

- Evaluate the feasibility of the research intent with regard to the proposed timeline and objectives of the project
  - Assess the justification of the proposed research methods
  - Assess whether the proposed mobility activities in the individual stages of the project implementation are planned appropriately
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#### 3. Professional qualifications of the Principal Investigator and the Slovak research team (0 – 20 points)

- Assess the quality of scientific outputs of the Principal Investigator
  - Assess professional quality of the research team
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#### 4. Significance and justification of the international multilateral cooperation with regard to the implementation of the project intent (0 – 15 points)

- Evaluate whether the international multilateral cooperation is necessary for implementation of the research intent
  - Assess the justification of a foreign partner's participation in the research intent
  - Assess the purpose of the planned mobility activities
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#### 5. Potential for further or future international cooperation (0 – 15 points)

- Assess the expected social or economic benefits of the international multilateral cooperation for the Slovak Republic
  - Assess to what extent the international multilateral cooperation creates possibilities for further cooperation
  - Assess the fulfilment of the objectives of the Call
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#### 6. Involvement of young R&D staff and/or of Ph.D. students in the project implementation and gender balance of the Slovak research team (0 – 10 points)

- Evaluate the share young R&D staff and/or of Ph.D. students in the project implementation (max. 5 points)
  - Evaluate the gender balance of the Slovak research team (max. 5 points)
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**In criteria 3 and 6, the reviewers and the Council shall consider the time of active professional life, incl. the maternity and/or parental leave (in case of women), of the Principal Investigator and research team members.**