



CONSOLIDATED VERSION OF THE PUBLIC CALL

The Slovak Research and Development Agency (hereinafter referred to as the "Agency" or "SRDA"), 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),

o p e n s

Public Call for submitting applications for research and development projects (hereinafter referred to as "application") in individual groups of fields of science and technology according to § 6 sect. 3 of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended, designated as VV MVP 2024

Intentions and Objectives of the Public Call

The aim of the Public Call VV MVP 2024 is to provide support to young researchers. The objective of the Agency is to increase the support for research and development activities of young researchers on a competitive basis. Public Call VV MVP 2024 has no restrictions regarding the matter of research & and development projects (hereinafter referred to as 'projects'). Their focus, goals, and content of research and development is determined by the Applicant.

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 limitation of affiliation to the research and development sector.

Definition of Basic Terms

- **Research and development project** is a set of intentions, objectives, and planned time-bound R & D activities in the content-defined field of science and technology. The R & D project includes data on the personnel, material, instrumental, and financial conditions needed for its implementation.
- **Implementation of a Research and Development Project** is to carry out planned activities and measures, and thus the realization of the project's intentions and objectives.
- **Applicant** is a 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 who is submitting an application for funds for implementation of the Project (hereinafter referred to as the application). The project for which the applicant requests funds comprises a part of the application.



CONSOLIDATED VERSION OF THE PUBLIC CALL

- **Recipient** is a 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.
- **Co-recipient** is a 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 sect. Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended and is a co-investigating organization. Funds from the state budget are transferred to the co-recipient for the implementation of part of the Project based on a special Agreement on the Project Implementation. The list of co-recipients suggested is provided by the Applicant in the application. The range of activities carried out by the co-recipient is part of the Project.
- **Slovak legal entity** is a legal person established and exists under the Slovak legal order with the registered seat in the Slovak Republic.
- **Slovak natural person - entrepreneur** means an entrepreneur authorized to do business in the Slovak Republic in accordance with the legal order of the Slovak Republic with a place of business in the Slovak Republic.
- **Provider – SRDA** is an institution that decides on providing a state budget funds to support research and development to the applicant.
- **Principal Investigator** is a young researcher person responsible for the implementation of the project and the effective use of the funds granted for its implementation.
- **Young researcher (MVP)** is defined as a person who has attained a third-level higher education qualification (Ph.D.) and who has not attained the age of 35 years in the year of application or 7 years have not elapsed since attaining a third-level higher education qualification (Ph.D.). The 7-year period does not include any period of maternity, paternity, or parental leave). The period of maternity, paternity, or parental leave shall be proved by a Declaration of Honour.

Requirements for the Public Call

1. The projects may be of basic research, applied research, or development as defined in § 2 sect. 2, 3, 4 of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended. The Applicant clearly marks the type of their project in the application. The project proposal cannot pursue multiple types of research at once. Different assessment criteria will be used for Basic Research Projects and Applied Research and Development projects.
2. Under § 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 and Cooperative research organizations stating that they have a valid Certificate of Research and Development Competence. In case the applicant or/and co-investigators do not have the mentioned certificate, their application shall be refused.
3. Under § 18 sect. 2 point f) of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended, in case of the projects



CONSOLIDATED VERSION OF THE PUBLIC CALL

indicating direct application of their implementation in practice, the original or officially certified copy of the Letter of Intent on Application of the Project Findings in practice **between the Applicant and each purchaser** of the project findings is an integral part of the project of the application, referred to in VV MVP-B 04.

4. Under § 18 sect. 2 point f) of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended, the Agency requires a structured professional curriculum vitae of the Principal Investigator of the project as an integral part of the application.
5. Under § 18 sect. 2 point h) of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended, Agency requires a diploma or other equivalent document as an integral part of the application, together with a Declaration of honour stating that the 7-year time limit from the date of attainment of a third level qualification (Ph.D.), has not been exceeded if applicable (in accordance with Annex No. 9). The Principal Investigator shall demonstrate compliance with the required qualification criteria by submitting a copy of the diploma or a copy of another equivalent document, together with a Declaration of honour in accordance with Annex No. 9, if applicable.
6. **The part VV MVP-F (Obligatory Scheme) of the application must not exceed the maximum limit of 15 pages for the Obligatory scheme for basic research and the Obligatory scheme for applied research and development.** ¹

Specific Conditions for a Public Call

1. The total amount of funding allocated for the whole project period and implementation of projects supported in this Call will be a maximum of **EUR 10,000,000**. The funds will be allocated according to § 6 sect. 3 of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended. If, after the funds have been distributed, the minimum amount of EUR 250,000 is not reached in any of the fields of science and technology, the funds shall be redistributed as follows:
 - a) EUR 250,000 shall be allocated to the group(s) of scientific and technological fields that did not reach the minimum amount of EUR 250,000 after the previous allocation;
 - b) the remaining funds after the application of point (a) shall be distributed according to the needs in the remaining groups of scientific and technological fields in accordance with § 6 sect. 3 of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended.
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 SR for the Agency.
3. The total amount of funds provided by the Agency per project is limited to a maximum of **EUR 250,000** for the whole project duration. The funds will be provided exclusively to the applicant with respect to the financial burden of achieving the Project objectives.

¹ Applications with an obligatory scheme exceeding the maximum number of pages at the time of submission shall not be subject of the evaluation process and will be rejected.



CONSOLIDATED VERSION OF THE PUBLIC CALL

4. A one natural person may be a Principal Investigator in one submitted application under the Public Call VV MVP 2024 only. In case of submitting multiple applications with the same Principal Investigator, the Agency shall reject all such applications as non-eligible. A Principal Investigator may only be the person who is the Applicant's employee.
5. A natural person may be a Principal Investigator within the Public Call VV MVP 2024 if:
 - a) They are not a Principal Investigator in any project funded within the following Public Calls: VV 2020, VV 2021, VV 2022 and VV 2023, or
 - b) They are a Principal Investigator in a project funded within one of the calls mentioned above, however, the implementation of projects does not overlap, and i.e. the implementation of a project funded within these calls must be finished before the start of the project funded within the Public Call VV MVP 2024.

If this condition is not fulfilled, the submitted application will be rejected.

6. A natural person may be a Principal Investigator within the Public Call VV MVP 2024 if:
 - a) They are not involved in a project funded within the Public Call "Scholarships for excellent researchers R2", call code 09I03-03-V04, announced under the Recovery and Resilience Plan of the Slovak Republic, Component 9 More efficient management and strengthening of funding for research, development and innovation, or
 - b) They are involved in a project funded within the Public Call mentioned above, however, the implementation of projects does not overlap, and i.e. the implementation of a project funded within this Public Call must be finished before the start of the project funded within the Public Call VV MVP 2024.

If this condition is not fulfilled, the submitted application will be rejected.

7. The research capacity of any researcher must not exceed 2,000 hours in total per year for implementation of all projects at the same time, regardless of the source of support granted, and/or the project funds provider.
8. The VV MVP 2024 Call sets a limit on the planned minimum annual research capacity of 300 hours for a nominal member of the research team and 500 hours for the Principal Investigator. In case a research team member participates in the project implementation only during a part of the calendar year, the planned maximum annual capacity is limited proportionally to the number of months of participation of the research team member in the project solution in the given calendar year.
9. 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.
10. The applicants note that in relation to investigators they are required to comply with Regulation No. 679/2016 on the protection of natural persons about the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (General Data Protection



CONSOLIDATED VERSION OF THE PUBLIC CALL

Regulation) and the 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.

11. In this Call, the Agency does not provide any capital funds for the procurement of tangible and intangible assets.
12. Eligible activities for the project implementation in respective cost items under § 17 sect. 1 of the Act No. 172/2005 Coll. As amended are specified in Annex No. 3 of the Consolidated Version of the Call.
13. Indirect costs associated with a project implementation financed by the Agency's funds shall not exceed 20% of the total costs of the project solution **provided** by the Agency in each financial year.
14. For non-business entities², the Agency may provide funding for basic, applied research and development up to 100% of the costs.
15. In the case of non-business entities, it is necessary to verify if the applicant is considered a "business" as defined in Article 107 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU.
16. In case of business entities³, the provision of funds by the Agency is governed by the research and development support framework of the Slovak Research and Development Agency (the State Aid scheme) as amended and supplemented ([Schéma SA.109803](#)).
17. The applicant - a non-business entity - may not provide any indirect state aid. No action is considered to be an indirect state aid - if for the co-recipient (business entities) at least one of the following conditions (according to para. 28 of the Framework for State Aid for Research, development and Innovation – 2014 / C 198/01) are fulfilled:
 - a) the participating enterprise shall bear the total costs of the given project, or
 - b) results of cooperation that do not give any rise to the creation of intellectual property rights may be widely disseminated, and any intellectual property rights resulting from the activities of the recipient's research organization shall be fully allocated to the recipient; or
 - c) any intellectual property rights resulting from a project as well as the relevant access rights are allocated to the participating enterprise in a manner that adequately reflects its work packages, contributions, and relevant interests; or
 - d) the research organization/recipient receives, the intellectual property rights resulting from its activities and has been transferred to the participating enterprise or to which

^{2,3} See § 2 sect. 1, 2 of Act No. 513/1991 Coll. for details.



CONSOLIDATED VERSION OF THE PUBLIC CALL

the participating enterprise has obtained the access rights, a compensation corresponding to the market price. Absolute amount of any financial or non-financial contribution of the participating enterprise to the costs associated with the activities of the research organization/recipient resulting in the respective intellectual property rights, may be deducted from this compensation.

18. The Principal Investigator of any project funded by the Agency, which received an "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 Call for the given year and for a further 3 calendar years from the year in which the final project assessment report was delivered by the Agency to the recipient and the Principal Investigator. Non-fulfilment of the condition results in the refusal of application.
19. If the funding agreement was terminated by the SRDA by withdrawal, termination, or the decision to suspend 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 a 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.
20. The Agency reserves the right to amend the public Call VV MVP 2024 based on the decision made by the Presidium of the SRDA only. If these changes will be made, the SRDA will announce their content, reasons and impact on applicants on their website.

Submission of Applications

The term for submitting the applications runs from the date of announcement of the Call from 18 March 2024 to 28 June 2024.

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 **28 June 2024 2024 at 12.00 a.m.** 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 28 June 2024** at the latest to the Agency address:

Slovak Research and Development Agency
Mýtna 23, P.O.BOX 839 04
839 04 Bratislava 32.



CONSOLIDATED VERSION OF THE PUBLIC CALL

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 **28 June 2024**. 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) **The maximum length of the Part VV MVP-F of the Application (Obligatory Scheme), submitted through the application system is 15 pages for any type of research;**
- c) Application meets all the conditions of the Public Call VV MVP 2024.

Project Duration

The expected start of the project implementation is **01 January 2025**. The duration of the project cannot exceed **48 months**.

Assessment of Applications

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

Disclosure of Decisions on Applications

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

Decisions on applications under Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended shall be published by the Agency's on its website www.apvv.sk **no later than 20 December 2024**. 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 shall be invited to submit applications for providing non-repayable financial contributions including required attachments within actual the State aid scheme (published on the Agency's website www.apvv.sk in the "State aid" section [Schéma SA.109803](#)) and the Agency shall set the deadline for delivery. After the assessment of applications for non-repayable financial contributions, the Agency shall decide on providing or non-providing state aid to the projects of the applicants – business entities.



CONSOLIDATED VERSION OF THE PUBLIC CALL

Granting the Funds

The project funding is provided to the recipient by the Agency based on a written Project Funding Agreement **no later than 31 March 2025**. 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 are provided through the contact form available at: <https://www.apvv.sk/kontakt/kontaktny-formular.html>

Annexes

The following annexes comprise part of the Public Call:

- Annex 1: Technical and formal conditions
- Annex 2: Assessment procedure and assessment criteria
- Annex 3: Budgeting principles
- Annex 4: Basic research application form template
(Application form and obligatory scheme)
- Annex 5: Applied research application form template
(Application form and obligatory scheme)
- Annex 6: Template of application for development
(Application form and obligatory scheme)
- Annex 7: Recommended template of the Letter of intent on use of the project findings
- Annex 8: Funding agreement
- Annex 9: Declaration of honour
- Annex 10: Project electronic application system manual