



CONSOLIDATED VERSION OF THE PUBLIC CALL

The Slovak Research and Development Agency (hereinafter referred to as the "Agency" or "SRDA") 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 in accordance with the Agreement between the Government of the State of Israel and the Government of the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic on Cooperation in the fields of Culture, Education and Science, signed on April 29th, 1991 and Work Program for Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Science and Technology of the State of Israel signed on May 17th, 2017

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public call for submitting applications for joint projects research and development (hereinafter referred to as "application") supporting cooperation between organizations in the Slovak Republic and the Israel State pursuant to § 12 sect. 2 point c) of Act no. 172/2005 Coll. as amended denoted as SK-IL RD 2023

Intentions and Objectives of the Public Call

Public Call SK-IL-RD 2023 sets the following priorities identified with regard to the priorities of the Government-approved Research and Development Strategy titled "Knowledge for Prosperity - Strategy for Research and Innovation for Smart Specialization of the Slovak Republic":

- Information systems and ICT – in healthcare, cyber security
- Communication systems – smart cars, space research, navigation systems

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 any limitation of their membership in the research and development sector.

Definition of Basic Terms

- **The 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 solution.
- The research and development **project solution** 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 who holds 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 to solve the Project. The project for which the applicant requests funds comprises a part of the application.

- **Recipient** is a je 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 solution. 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-investigator. The co-recipient shall be paid funds from the state budget by a recipient in order to deal with the project part based on a specific contract on project. The applicant shall state the list of co-recipient in the application. The scope of activities conducted by co-recipient is an integral part of the project.
- **Partner organisation** is an eligible scientific and research institution that submits a research and development project on the partner side and which will solve the project in cooperation with the recipient.
- **Slovak legal entity** is a legal person established and exist under the Slovak legal order with the registered seat in the Slovak Republic.
- **Slovak natural person - entrepreneur** means an entrepreneur authorised to conduct business in the Slovak Republic with a place of business in the Slovak Republic.
- **Provider – SRDA** is an institution that decides on providing state budget to support research and development to the applicant.
- **Principal investigator** is a person responsible for the project solving and for the effective use of the funds granted for its solution.

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 character of the project's solution is clearly defined in the application by the applicant. The project proposal cannot be of a mixed character. Different assessment criteria will be used for basic research projects and applied research and development projects.
2. The cooperating partners from the research and development organisations on both sides shall jointly develop content-identical projects.
3. Following the § 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 co-investigators 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.
4. Under § 18 sect. 2 point. h) of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended, the structured professional resume of the Principal Investigator of project makes an integral part of the application are required by the agency.
5. Under § 18 sect. 2 point f) of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended, in case of the projects indicating direct application of their solution in practice, 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 comprise an integral part of the application, referred to in RD-B 03 of the application.
6. An integral part of the application is also a declaration on honour that the information provided in the part “Basic information on the principal investigator” is true.

7. A copy of the letter of intent on mutual cooperation between the applicant and the partner organisation shall be an integral part of the application.
8. The part RD-F of the application must not exceed the maximum limit of 20 pages for Obligatory scheme for basic research and Obligatory scheme for applied research and development.

Specific Conditions for a Public Call

1. The total amount of funding allocated for the whole project period and assessment supported in this call shall amount to **EUR 480 000** 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 SR by the National Council of the Slovak Republic, and subsequently to their subdivision from the chapter of the Ministry of Education and Research of SR for the Agency.
3. The total amount of funds provided by the agency to solve one project is limited to a maximum of **EUR 80 000** for the whole project duration and. The funds will be provided exclusively to the applicant with respect to the financial burden of achieving the project objectives.
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 illegible from further assessment. A principal investigator is person having an employment relationship with the applicant.
5. The research capacity of any researcher must not exceed 2,000 hours in total per year for projects solution at the same time, regardless of the source of support granted, and/or the project funds provider.
6. The SK-IL RD 2023 call is limiting 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 solution 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.
7. The principal investigator must be registered 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 submitted. Failure to comply with this condition results in the withdrawal of the application.
8. The applicants note that in relation to investigators they are 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 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.
9. In this call, the agency does not provide any capital funds for procurement of tangible and intangible assets.

10. Indirect costs associated with a project solution 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.
11. For non-business entities, the agency may provide funding for basic, applied research and development up to 100% of the costs.
12. In 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.
13. For business entities, the agency's funding is governed by the research and development support framework by the Slovak research and development agency (the State aid scheme) as given by Appendix 3 (the State aid scheme SA. 104223).
14. 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 which do not give any rise to creation of intellectual property rights may be widely disseminated, and any intellectual property rights resulting from the activities of the recipient's research organisation 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 organisation/recipient receives, for the intellectual property rights resulting from its activities and have been transferred to the participating enterprise or to which 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 organisation/recipient resulting in the respective intellectual property rights, may be deducted from this compensation.
15. The principal investigator of any project funded by the agency, which received a "insufficient level of project solving" after completing project solution of 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. Non-fulfilment of the condition results in the refusal of application.
16. If the funding agreement was terminated by the SRDA by withdrawal, termination, or the decision on suspending 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 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.

Submission of Applications

The term for submitting the applications runs from the date of announcement of Call from 29 June 2023 to 07 September 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 will be closed on **07 September 2023 at 2.00 p.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 sections applications** generated by the system shall be submitted in their paper forms enclosed in annex No.1 of Consolidated version of the public call. The applicant is obliged to deliver the required application sections within the stated period **up to 07 September 2023** at the latest to the agency address (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.

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 organization submits the Application according to the instructions of the organization that opens the call in the partner country;
- c) Application meets all the conditions of the public call SK-IL RD 2023.

Project Duration

The expected start of the project implementation is 01 February 2024. Duration of the project cannot exceed 23 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 31 December 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.

Business entities shall be invited to submit applications for providing non-repayable financial contribution including required attachments within the State aid scheme SA. 49175 and the agency shall set the deadline for delivery. After assessment of applications for non-

repayable financial contribution, the agency shall decide on providing or non-providing state aid to solve the projects of the applicants – business entities.

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 requirements of the agency (especially in connection with the law no. 523/2004 Coll. of Budget Rules of the Public Service and of Change and Amendment of Some Acts).

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: Basic research application form template

(Application form and material intent)

Annex 5: Applied research application form template

(Application form and material intent)

Annex 6: Template of application for development

(Application form and material intent)

Annex 7: Recommended template of the Letter of intent on use of the project findings

Annex 8: Template of the Letter of mutual intent to cooperate

Annex 9: Project electronic application system manual

Contacts

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Israeli State

On administrative matters:

Israeli researchers should consult administrative matters directly with the Research Authority at their Affiliated Institution. The Institution will contact the Ministry in case of necessity.

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