

Request for Expressions of Interest (Eoi) for Evaluators of the applications for the Call for co-financing of cooperation projects with the scientific diaspora

Background

The Government of Montenegro adopted in July 2024 the [Strategy for Scientific Research Activity of Montenegro 2024-2028 with the Action Plan for 2024-2025](#) (hereinafter: Strategy) which is the most significant sectoral strategic document in the field of science and research.

The Strategy identifies three (3) strategic objectives, the second of which pertains to *Strengthening Human Resources and Institutional Capacities in Science and Research*. To achieve this strategic objective, one of the key operational objectives is Operational Objective 2.2: *Support for Enhancing Scientific Research*. Under this objective, Activity 2.1.4 involves *the Preparatory activities on the Programme for cooperation with scientific Diaspora*.

Under this Activity, the Government of Montenegro adopted the [Programme of Cooperation with the Scientific Diaspora 2025](#). In accordance with the article 11 of the Law on Scientific Research Activity and with the aforementioned Programme, the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation announces a Call for co-financing of cooperation projects with the scientific diaspora.

In line with the article 12 of the Law on Scientific Research Activity and the Programme, the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation publishes the Call for Expressions of Interest (Eoi) for Evaluators of the applications for the Call for co-financing of cooperation projects with the scientific diaspora.

Subject and objectives of the Call for co-financing of cooperation projects with the scientific diaspora

The Call for co-financing of Cooperation with the Scientific Diaspora is aimed at awarding non-repayable funds in the form of grants that support excellent collaborative projects between licensed scientific research institutions in Montenegro, the scientific diaspora, their affiliated institutions abroad, as well as other international and national partners. The subjects of projects that apply for co-financing of cooperation with the scientific diaspora must be aligned with the priority research areas outlined in the Strategy, including:

- I Sustainable agriculture and food value chain;*
- II Energy and sustainable environment;*
- III Sustainable and health tourism;*
- IV Science, education and culture;*
- V Medicine and health;*
- VI Socio-political and socio-economic challenges of Montenegrin society;*
- VII New materials, technologies, products and services;*
- VIII Natural disaster risk management; and*
- IX Information and communication technologies.*

The Call objectives are: to strengthen the capacities of licensed scientific research institutions to conduct top-level research through the transfer of knowledge, methodologies and technologies from prestigious institutions abroad; career development of young researchers; enhancement of international cooperation through an increased number of joint research projects and greater visibility of Montenegrin scientific research institutions; creation of high-quality projects ready for further development and commercialisation and strengthening the capacity to absorb EU funds.

Conditions for the Request for Eoi

As stated in the Program, only applications that meet the administrative criteria shall be admitted to the evaluation against the award criteria.

The evaluation process begins with an administrative check of applications for cooperation projects with the scientific diaspora. After the administrative review, all applications that meet the requirements established by this program will be forwarded for evaluation by international experts in the specific field of research to which the project belongs.

The evaluation process is conducted by three international evaluators, who are international experts in the relevant field of research to which the project relates. The evaluators are tasked with assessing a specific application closely related to their area of expertise and submitting individual evaluation reports in a standardized form prepared and provided by the Ministry.

The international evaluator is expected to provide technical assistance to the Ministry in the form of scientific verification and evaluation of the application for co-financing of cooperation projects with the scientific diaspora, ensuring it meets the eligibility and administrative compliance criteria in accordance with the Program's evaluation standards.

The individual evaluator should evaluate applications for co-financing of cooperation projects with the scientific diaspora based on **five criteria**:

1. Scientific quality, originality and feasibility of the proposed research, taking into account the three sub-criteria:

- 1.1. Does the proposed research represent an important contribution in the field of science to which the research topic belongs?
- 1.2. Are the objectives, purpose and expected results of the proposed research clearly defined and well justified?
- 1.3. Feasibility of the proposed research.

2. Research and Managerial Qualities of the Project Leader, Project coordinator from the diaspora and the Project (Research) Team, evaluated based on four sub-criteria:

- 2.1. Research Qualities of the Project Leader;
- 2.2. Managerial Qualities of the Project Leader;
- 2.3. Research Quality of the Project coordinator from the diaspora;
- 2.4. Research Capacity and Quality of the Project (Research) Team.

3. Potential of the proposed research to strengthen research capacities in Montenegro through knowledge, skills and technology transfer, infrastructure improvement and career development of researchers, taking into account the two sub-criteria:

- 3.1. Potential of the proposed research for knowledge, skills and technology transfer and for infrastructure improvement;
- 3.2. Potential of the proposed research for the career development of young researchers.

4. Sustainability potential of the proposed research, taking into account the two sub-criteria:

- 4.1. Potential of the proposed research to achieve excellent scientific results and to ensure further sustainability of research through funding from competitive sources;
- 4.2. Potential of the proposed research to generate new knowledge with commercial application

5. Financial plan of the proposed project, taking into account the two sub-criteria:

- 5.1. Feasibility and justification of the financial plan;
- 5.2. Efficiency and sustainability of the financial plan.

Criteria for selection of the evaluator are as follows:

- Level 8 of the national qualifications framework, i.e. PhD in a relevant field;
- At least two years of professional scientific research experience, counting from the date of obtaining the scientific title of PhD, in the field of science for which he/she is submitting the EoI;
- Has published at least three research papers in journals indexed in Web of Science Core Collection (WoSCC) or Scopus database and that are relevant to the field of science for which he/she submitting the EoI;
- Active knowledge of written and spoken English, at least C1 level according to CEFR Global Scale - Common European Framework of Reference for Languages;
- Experience in participating in at least two research projects, at least one of which should be an international project funded by the European Union or other international sources;
- Experience in evaluating scientific research programs and/or or experience as a reviewer of scientific publications relevant to the field of science for which he/she is submitting the EoI.

Evaluators assess the individual sub-criteria that make up each evaluation criterion, rating each sub-criterion on a scale from one to five – 1 - 5. The score for each criterion is calculated as the average of the scores for the individual sub-criteria. Evaluators are expected to provide comments alongside each score in a format that offers clear feedback to the applicants.

The final score (K) is determined based on the following formula:

$$K= 0,20I+0,20II+0,20III+0,20IV+0,20V$$

where I, II, III, IV and V are the average scores assigned by three evaluators for the respective criterion, and K is the final score of the project application. The final score is rounded to two decimal places.

For a project application to qualify for co-funding, it must achieve a final score **(K) of at least 4.00**.

Note: Evaluator identities will remain confidential.

Engagement of the evaluators

The Ministry will issue a Decision appointing an evaluator.

A Declaration of Impartiality (i.e. no conflict of interest) and a Declaration of Confidentiality are mandatory for all evaluators.

Submission of the EoI

Interested candidates must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the evaluation process (CV, list of references of similar assignments performed, experience in similar projects etc.)

Expressions of interest must be delivered by November 17, 2025, on the following e-mail address:
milica.lakcevic@mpni.gov.me

Additional information is available upon request at the same email address.

The application evaluations are expected to be carried out during November-December 2025, when the availability of evaluators is required.