Pursuant to article 13 paragraph 1 of the Law on science-research activity

(„Official gazette CG“, no. 80/10 and 57/14)

**THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE**

**Is hereby publishing**

**THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

**FOR AWARDING GRANTS FOR SCIENCE-RESEARCH PROJECTS**

With a total of 1.000.000 € amount of funds for grants for scientific-research projects (hereinafter: Projects) as per this Call for Proposals.

**I Subject of the Call for Proposals**

The subject of the Call for Proposals is the awarding of grants for scientific research projects that are in accordance with the thematic priorities defined by the Strategy of Scientific Research: Energy, Information Communication Technologies; New materials, products and services; Medicine and human health; Agriculture and food production; Sustainable development and tourism; and Science, education and identity.

**II Objectives of the Call for Proposals**

The objective of the Call for Proposals is to increase the capacity of scientific teams in Montenegro in order to strengthen quality and sustainable partnerships that show the potential to integrate research into the dominant economic drivers in Montenegro and grow into future centers of excellence.

Also, the objective is to integrate scientific and professional potential in Montenegro in order to contribute to the development of a knowledge-based society and to stimulate applied and developmental scientific researches, creating the potential for competitiveness at the international level.

The Call for Proposals will support research focusing on scientific excellence in all types of research, including basic ones, which will be recognizable at the international level, so that Montenegro becomes a preferred place for top scientists from abroad (including those from the Diaspora).

Specific goals of the Call for Proposals are:

* Strengthening human resources and creating new jobs;
* Encouraging and facilitating cooperation between domestic institutions;
* Stimulating cooperation with the Montenegrin scientific and industry representatives from Diaspora in order to create the conditions for their return, i.e., to strengthen the connection and reintegration into the local community; and
* To encourage international cooperation, as well as cooperation with the industry sector, in order to contribute to the creation of commercial innovations and the strengthening of the Montenegrin economy.

**III Conditions of the Call for Proposals**

Scientific research institutions carrying out scientific research work, registered in the Register of licensed scientific research institutions at the Ministry of Science of Montenegro (hereinafter: the Ministry), can apply for the Call for Proposals.

The applicant can not independently apply for the Call for Proposals, but only in partnership with at least one partner.

The project partner may be a research institute from abroad or a business entity from Montenegro or abroad.

Including of another institution from Montenegro that will contribute to the interdisciplinary nature of the proposed project is recommended.

**IV The project selection criteria and evaluation**

Criteria for the evaluation of project proposals are:

* Capacity / quality of the Applicant, partner and project team members (max 20 points);
* Scientific / technological quality and innovation of the proposed Project (max 30 points);
* The quality of the proposed activity plan, the project management and the quality of the Project budget (max 30 points); i
* Encouraging international cooperation and project sustainability and / or potential for commercialization and market application (max. 20 points).

Priority will be given to Applicants who:

• Create new jobs, i.e. young researchers are engaged in their Project team: doctoral students and postdoctoral students, full-time engaged;

• The project team includes scientists or industry representatives from the Diaspora;

• Propose projects with potential for future application within international programs (e.g. HORIZONT 2020, EUREKA, COST) or projects that have realized or have potential for networking with renowned research international infrastructures or international excellence teams (e.g. CERN, EMBL, EMBO, ESA, GSI -FAIR).

These advantages will be taken into account when selecting projects that have the same number of points.

A list of selected scientific research projects will be published on the Ministry's website.

**V Evaluation of Project applications**

The evaluation process is carried out by international experts appointed by the Ministry.

The administrative check of the received applications for the Call for Proposals will be done by the Ministry. After the administrative check, all project applications that met the required conditions will be referred to the evaluation.

Each project application is referred to the evaluation by international experts appointed by the Ministry. Their task is to evaluate a particular application electronically, which is closely related to their field of expertise and submit an individual evaluation report, using a form prepared and submitted by the Ministry.

**VI Budget per accepted science-research project**

The Ministry shall award up to 100.000 € grant amount per each accepted project.

If the project envisages the employment of young researchers, doctoral students and / or postdoctoral students, the grant can be up to € 130,000.

The applicant, together with project partners, is obliged to provide 20% participation of the total proposed budget, that could be expressed through all categories of Eligible costs.

If the partner is a company, the maximum amount of the part of the grant that belongs to the company, in accordance with the Government’s assistance rules, may be as follows:

- 70% for micro and small enterprises / organizations with up to 49 employees;

- 60% for medium-sized enterprises / organizations with between 50 and 249 employees; i

- 50% for large enterprises / organizations with over 250 employees.

The remaining part of the funds up to 100% of the part of the grant belonging to the company is to be provided by the company.

The total budget of the project includes the Applicant's and other partners' calculation of costs, which are submitted together with the Project application, that is approved by the Ministry, in accordance with the proposal of the experts evaluating the project applications.

**Eligible costs**

*Direct costs – costs for the work on the Project:*

* Costs related to the engagement of project team members,
* Costs for full-time engagement of young researcher/s during the project lifetime; and
* Expert/consulting services for research and development;

*Direct costs – material costs:*

* Procurement and purchase of relevant equipment;
* Travel costs;
* Costs for organisation of conferences and workshops in Montenegro, as well as events for dissemination of the project results and popularisation in the society;
* Intellectual property protection costs (patent application and accompanying costs, certification, standards, substantive patent examination, etc.);
* Prototype production costs;
* Costs for subscription to databases;
* Other operating costs, including the costs of materials, consumables and similar products in direct relation to the result of research / innovation activity;
* Other costs that the evaluators estimate as necessary and suitable for the project implementation.

*Indirect and contingency costs:*

* + Indirect costs (overhead and administrative) that may be in amount of up to 15% at the most compared with direct costs;
	+ Contingency costs may amount up to 5% of direct costs, within the grant.

**Non eligible costs:**

* Costs already financed through another domestic or international project or program;
* Any costs incurred before the start date of the project;
* Purchase and rent of land and real estate, purchase of vehicles, buildings, construction works, including any reconstruction;
* Losses due to negative exchange rate differences, fees and penalties;
* Repayment of interest or debt towards anyone;
* Advance payments, unless there is an advance guarantee); and
* Other costs estimated by the evaluators as unnecessary, unauthorized or inappropriate, either due to their amount or content.

Foreign partner costs may refer to costs for engaging the experts – researchers or technical or assistant staff, as well as on travel costs.

**VII Contents of the Project Application**

The project application should include:

• Signed and sealed Application Form;

• Project budget;

• Biographies (CVs) of Project Leader and key project team members - up to 5 members (CV);

• Statement of the partners that they have intention to participate in the Project and their contribution;

• Proof of the ensured participation of eligible costs for the realization of the project from its own sources;

• The applicant’s statement that he had fulfilled the contractual obligations from the previous projects financed from the state budget in the last five years; and

• Proof of record in the Register of Scientific Research Institutes.

In addition, if the project partner is a business entity, it is necessary to submit the following documents:

• Copy of the Excerpt from the Central Registry of Business Entities;

• Annual balance sheets for the previous two years;

• Certificate of settled tax liabilities or relevant document on the reprogramming of tax debt; and

• Confirmation or assurance that no procedure has been initiated against the company and that bankruptcy and liquidation proceedings are not being conducted.

**VIII Period of implementation**

The approved projects under this Call for Proposals will be financed for a period of up to two years, that is, from December 2018, and by December 2020 at the latest.

**IX Ethical issues**

During the process of preparing the project application, the Applicant is obliged to take care of respecting ethical principles and rules.

If the project application implies an ethical question, the Applicant is obliged to submit the Ethics Committee's approval (if applicable) and / or provide other relevant evidence on how to resolve the ethical issue.

**X Application deadline**

Applications for the Call for Proposals must be submitted no later than Monday, November 19, 2018 until 14:00.

**XI Application method:**

Filled and signed Application form in Montenegrin and English language, accompanied by supporting documents, must be submitted in one printed copy, as well as one copy of the documentation in electronic form (CD / USB), PDF format, to the Ministry of Science, address: Rimski trg br. 46, 81 000 Podgorica.

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