



Pursuant to Article 13 paragraph 1 of the Law on Scientific Research Activities (Official Gazette of Montenegro 80/10, 57/14 and 82/20), the Rulebook on conditions for approval and the manner of using funds from the state budget for national scientific research projects (Official Gazette of Montenegro 42/23), the Rulebook amending the Rulebook on conditions for approval and the manner of using funds from the state budget for national scientific research projects (Official Gazette of Montenegro 48/23) and the Decision on publishing the Call for co-financing national scientific research projects, number: 01-082/23-771 of 10 May 2023,

THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT
publishes the
CALL
FOR CO-FINANCING NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROJECTS
with total funds amounting to €2,300,000

I Subject of the Call

The subject of the Call is the co-financing of scientific research projects of basic, applied and developmental research, which are in line with the strategic thematic priorities of Montenegro: Energy; Information and communication technologies; New materials, products and services; Medicine and human health; Agriculture and food production; Sustainable development and tourism; Science, education and identity.

II Objectives of the Call

The objective of the Call is to strengthen the capacities of research teams in Montenegro, in order to encourage excellence, thereby contributing to the development of a society based on knowledge and competitiveness at the international level.

The specific objectives of the Call include:

- Strengthening human resources and creating new jobs for researchers;
- Encouraging cooperation with the business sector;
- Encouraging research interdisciplinarity;
- Encouraging the engagement of young researchers;
- Encouraging gender equality in research;
- Encouraging cooperation with renowned international research teams; and
- Stimulating cooperation with the Montenegrin scientific diaspora.

III Requirements of the Call

The Call is open to the institutions licensed by the Ministry of Science and Technological Development of Montenegro (hereinafter referred to as the Ministry) to conduct scientific research activities.

A single institution cannot apply to the Call on its own, but rather in partnership with at least one:

- scientific research institution either from Montenegro or abroad or
- partner from the business sector either from Montenegro or abroad or
- partner from the public sector from Montenegro.

IV Project Selection Criteria and the Evaluation Method

The criteria for the evaluation of project applications include:

1. Originality, quality and topicality of the proposed research (maximum 10 points);
2. Impact and dissemination of project results (maximum 10 points);
3. References of the project manager and research team members (maximum 7 points);
4. Compliance of the proposed project financial plan with the envisaged project activities and their implementation (maximum 7 points);
5. Involvement and development of young researchers (maximum 3 points);
6. Potential for establishing and/or expanding existing international cooperation (maximum 1 point);
7. Participation of researchers from the diaspora (maximum 1 point); and
8. Gender-balanced research team (maximum 1 point).

V Evaluation of Project Applications

Each project application will be independently evaluated by two experts.

If the two experts evaluate the project differently (against the defined threshold), the final score of the project will be determined after the project is evaluated by a third expert.

The final score of the project proposal is determined by adding up the total number of points awarded by both experts (whose scores are on the same side of the defined threshold) and dividing the sum by two.

If both experts award 0 (zero) points for the same criterion, the project will receive a final grade of 0 (zero). This refers to criteria 1 through 4 for project proposals evaluation, as referred to in Chapter IV of this Call.

In order to be considered for financing by the Ministry, the project application should score at least 20 points (the threshold). For project proposal evaluation criteria 1 through 4, as referred to in Chapter IV of this Call, one should achieve at least 50% of the maximum number of points defined for each of those criteria.

If two or more project applications are awarded the same number of points, priority will be given to the project application that has been awarded a higher number of points according to individual criteria, in the order in which the criteria are listed in Chapter IV of this Call.

The list of scientific research projects with 20 or more points will be published on the website of the Ministry.

VI Scientific Research Project Budget

The total budget of the Ministry provided for this Call amounts to **€2,300,000**.

The Ministry will co-finance scientific research projects with a maximum amount of up to:

- €130,000, if the project involves full-time employment of young researchers (for which a maximum amount of €50,000 is provided for the entire project duration, but not exceeding 50% of the total funds for project implementation), i.e.
- €85,000 if the project does not involve full-time employment of young researchers.

The Ministry will provide co-financing for national scientific research projects, in the following proportions:

- up to 100% for basic research;
- up to 90% for applied research; and
- up to 80% for developmental research.

The applicant submitting the scientific research project proposal is obliged to provide own contribution to project implementation financing, together with the project partner(s), namely, at least 10% for applied research and at least 20% for developmental research. The own contribution can be in the form of a monetary or non-monetary (“in kind”) contribution.

The funds for the national scientific research project implementation include:

- personnel fees;
- gross salaries and other work-related income;
- material costs; and
- administrative and overhead costs.

Personnel fees should be calculated for:

- project manager - minimum 2 (two) and maximum 4 (four) months per year;
- active researchers who have a full-time employment contract with the institution, or who do not have a full-time employment contract with the institution but have been engaged in the project to conduct research - maximum 4 (four) months per year;
- research associates who have a full-time employment contract with the institution, or who do not have a full-time employment contract with the institution but have been engaged in the project to work on their doctoral thesis - maximum 4 (four) months per year;
- professional assistants - maximum 4 (four) months per year. The time commitment of all professional assistants at a national project is calculated in relation to the time

- commitment of active researchers on that project, and can be up to 30% of the total time commitment of active researchers; and
- technical assistants - maximum 4 (four) months per year. The time commitment of all technical assistants on a single project can be, for:
 - o desk research - up to 20% of the total time commitment of active researchers;
 - o laboratory research - up to 40% of the total time commitment of active researchers;
 - o field research - up to 60% of the total time commitment of active researchers.

Personnel fees can amount to up to 40% of the total funds for project implementation.

The maximum number of projects on which researchers can simultaneously be engaged is:

- two projects as a project manager;
- two projects as an active researcher;
- one project as a research associate.

Same researcher can be engaged as a project manager and as an active researcher on maximum two projects at the same time.

Gross salaries and other work-related income are calculated for:

- active researchers engaged in a project for the purpose of being employed at the institution over a set period of time, i.e., maximum until the research on the project is completed (up to three years) - maximum 12 (twelve) months per year; and
- research associates engaged in a project for the purpose of being employed at the institution over a set period of time, i.e., maximum until research on the project is completed (up to three years) - maximum 12 (twelve) months per year.

Material costs include costs for materials and chemicals; costs of laboratory and ICT equipment, small equipment and consumables; costs of production and non-production services provided by other persons for the purpose of the project; travel costs and other costs related to the project implementation.

Administrative and overhead costs include fees for the administrative management of the project, as well as the institution's costs for electricity, telephone, postal services and similar costs, which are necessary for the project implementation.

Administrative and overhead costs make up 10% of the total amount of personnel fees proposed for the national project.

Funds for the national scientific research project implementation are calculated on the basis of the ***Instructions and methodology for completing the Project Financial Plan***, which is an integral part of this Call.

VII Deadline for Project Implementation

Projects approved under this Call will be financed over a period of up to three years, in accordance with the dates and dynamics defined in the contract.

VIII Ethical Issues

In the process of project application preparation, the applicant is obliged to observe the ethical rules and principles.

If the project application implies an ethical issue, the applicant is obliged to provide the approval of the institution's Ethics Committee (if applicable) and/or other relevant proof of the manner of resolving the ethical issue.

IX Deadline for Application Submission

Applications for the Call should be submitted no later than **26 June 2023, by 2:00 p.m.**

X Application Procedure

The application procedure involves the submission of the following documents:

- Application form for a national scientific research project - form 1;
- Project financial plan - MS Excel table - form 2;
- Proof of/Statement on guaranteed contribution for project implementation provided from the institution/project partner resources;
- Statement of partner(s) on project participation, including a description of their contribution; and
- CV of the project manager, active researchers and research collaborators, including other references relevant to the project (papers published in scientific journals and at international conferences, book chapters, monographs, projects, guest lectures, etc.) in Europass format, maximum 5 pages, per team member.

The above documents should be submitted in both Montenegrin and English, in printed (2 copies) and electronic forms. The documents in electronic form must be submitted in MS Word format, with the exception of the Project Financial Plan (Form 2), which must be submitted in MS Excel format. The required documentation must also be submitted in PDF format, with all items appropriately signed and stamped as specified in each of the documents.

The application and the accompanying documents should be submitted within the specified deadline, to the following address:

Ministry of Science and Technological Development, Rimski trg bb, 81000 Podgorica.

XI Contact persons at the Ministry of Science and Technological Development

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