



**Montenegro
Ministry of Science**

Pursuant to Article 13, paragraph 1 of the Law on Scientific Research Activity (Official Gazette of Montenegro 80/10 and 57/14)

THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE

ANNOUNCES

THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

FOR GRANTS FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROJECTS

in the total amount of EUR 1,500,000

I. Subject

The Call for Proposals is announced with a view to awarding the grants for scientific research projects that are corresponding to the thematic priorities established by the Strategy of Scientific Research Activity: Energy; Information and communications technology; New materials, products and services; Medicine and human health; Agriculture and food production; Sustainable development and tourism; and Science, education, and identity.

Due to COVID-19 epidemic / pandemic, the Ministry has earmarked funds for co-financing projects in the field of medical and social sciences, as well as interdisciplinary research, provided that the research topic is focused on managing and facing major crises such as the current one, and mitigating its consequences to the health and economic system of Montenegro.

II. Goals

The goal of the Call for Proposals is to increase the capabilities of research teams in Montenegro, as part of an effort to strengthen quality and sustainable partnerships and to foster excellence, which would contribute to development of society based on knowledge and international competitiveness.

The focus is on the project engagement of young researchers (doctoral and postdoctoral students), with significant additional funding earmarked to this end. In this way, an effort is made to prevent brain drain and to strengthen the research capacities of Montenegrin scientific research institutions.

The specific goals of the Call for Proposals are:

- Strengthening human resources and creating new jobs for young researchers;
- Encouraging interdisciplinary research;
- Encouraging cooperation with renowned international research teams and participation in international programmes and projects;
- Encouraging cooperation with the business sector; and



- Stimulating cooperation with the Montenegrin research diaspora.

II-1. Additional goal

An additional goal of the Call for Proposals is to encourage scientific research work that creates and applies knowledge of COVID-19 communicable disease and its broader, social consequences. The projects to be supported should aspire to provide applicable knowledge and solutions for better crisis management in similar situations.

III. Eligibility criteria

The Call for Proposals is open to scientific research teams applying through a scientific research institution listed in the Register of Licensed Scientific Research Institutions of the Ministry of Science of Montenegro (hereinafter: the Ministry).

The applicant institution may not apply to the Call for Proposals on its own, but only in partnership with at least one scientific research institution or partner from the business sector, from the country or abroad.

IV. Criteria for project selection and evaluation

The criteria for evaluation of project proposals are:

- Originality and quality of the proposed research programme (max 30 points);
- Capacities of the institutions, project leader and project team (max 25 points);
- Project management capacity and proposed project budget quality (max 25 points); and
- Quality of development programme for young researchers: doctoral and postdoctoral students (max 20 points).

V. Evaluation of project proposals

The evaluation of project proposals shall be carried out by international experts appointed by the Ministry.

The administrative verification of the proposals submitted under the Call for Proposals shall be carried out by the Ministry.

Following the administrative verification, all project proposals meeting the required criteria shall be submitted for evaluation by international experts in their respective fields of expertise.

All project proposals with an average score of at least 70 points shall be considered as positively rated proposals. The funding shall be approved for projects in line with the threshold set against the budget available (running threshold).

Projects shall be approved in the following proportion:

- 70% of projects will be in the fields of: natural-mathematical, engineering, medical and agricultural fields of science,
- 30% of the projects will be in the fields of social sciences and humanities.

The proportion shall be applied to positively rated projects that have received a score above the established threshold.



The list of selected scientific research projects shall be published on the Ministry's website.

Evaluation of proposals referred to in item 1, paragraph 2 of this Call for Proposals and publication of a separate ranking list of selected projects shall be done under a summary procedure, with a view to ensuring timely reaction to COVID-19 pandemic in Montenegro.

VI. Budget for scientific research projects

The total budget of the Ministry earmarked under this Call for Proposals amounts to EUR 1,500,000, of which an amount of up to EUR 200,000 shall be earmarked for projects on the topic of COVID-19, referred to in item 1, paragraph 2 of this Call.

The Ministry shall co-finance projects with a maximum grant amount of up to EUR 70,000, or up to EUR 100,000 if the project also provides full time employment of young researchers: doctoral or postdoctoral students.

Together with the project partner(s), the project applicant shall provide a minimum of 10% of the total proposed budget, which can be expressed within the categories of eligible costs.

If a project partner is a company, the amount of funds earmarked for a part of scientific research project grant that is intended for that company is determined depending on the type of eligible cost and size of the company. The maximum amount of support is determined on the basis of state aid rules for the field of research, development and innovation, which are available in the document titled Project Budget.

Eligible costs

Direct costs – engagement of researchers / experts:

Costs of the research team and project management – maximum 25% of the total proposed project budget, annually up to:

- Three research months for the Project Leader;
- Two research months for members of the research team; and
- Four research months for young researchers (doctoral or postdoctoral students), who are engaged part-time;

Costs of engaging young researchers: doctoral or postdoctoral students, for full-time employment, for the duration of the project.

Direct costs – material costs:

- Mobility and training costs;
- Procurement or rental of necessary equipment;
- Costs of research supplies (consumables);
- Costs of dissemination of project results and its popularisation in society (organisation of conferences or events, participation in scientific conferences – maximum one participation per team member per year; publication of research papers, production of scientific publications);
- Costs for protection of intellectual property rights;
- Costs of subscription to databases of scientific journals; and
- Other direct costs necessary for the implementation of the project.

Indirect costs and contingencies:

- Indirect costs (overheads) that can amount up to 5% of the proposed project budget;



VII. Project proposals contents

Project proposals shall include:

- Signed and stamped Institutional form;
- Application Form;
- Project Budget;
- Resumes (CVs) of the Project Leader and key project team members – up to five members, as well as of young researchers;
- Proof/statement for co-financing of project from own sources;
- Data form about project partners; and
- Partners' statements on participation in the project and their contribution.

The above documentation shall be submitted in Montenegrin and English, in Word and PDF format (the budget shall be submitted in Excel format as well).

In addition, if a project partner is a company, the following documents shall also be submitted, in Montenegrin:

- A copy of Certificate from the Central Register of Companies;
- A certificate of settled tax liabilities or an adequate tax debt rescheduling document; and
- Certificate or confirmation that no bankruptcy or liquidation proceedings have been initiated against the company.

VIII. Deadline for project implementation

Projects approved under this Call for proposals shall be financed for a period of up to two years, from the Contract effective date.

The deadline for completion of implementation of the projects submitted under item 1, paragraph 2 shall be 30 October 2020, so that project results are usable as soon as possible for decision-making underpinned by scientific research and for mitigating the consequences of the crisis.

IX. Ethical considerations

During the process of preparing the project proposal, the applicants shall ensure that the ethical principles and rules are observed.

If the project proposal entails an ethical issue, the applicant is required to submit an approval of the Ethical Committee (if applicable) and / or provide other relevant evidence on the manner in which the ethical issue is resolved.

X. Deadline for applications

The applications shall be submitted by **22 April 2020 (2.00 pm)** at the latest.

Applications referred to in item 1, paragraph 2 of the Call (COVID-19) shall be submitted by 4 May 2020 at the latest.



XI. Manner of applying

The applications shall be submitted electronically, via Naučna mreža portal (www.naucnamreza.me), within the deadlines indicated, and can be signed electronically by the applicant. Subsequently, once the situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic stabilises, the same documents shall be submitted to the Ministry via mail as well, at the following address: Ministarstvo nauke, Rimski trg br. 46, 81 000 Podgorica.

If they cannot be submitted in the requested manner due to the newly created circumstances resulting from COVID-19 pandemic, all the forms, statements and evidence that are an integral part of the project proposal referred to in item VII (Project proposal contents) can be submitted electronically via email by the person responsible, subject to the obligation to submit the originals in the manner described in item VII (Project proposal contents) of this Call subsequently, once the situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic stabilises.

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