



CONSOLIDATED VERSION OF THE PUBLIC CALL

The Slovak Research and Development Agency (hereinafter referred to as the "Agency" or "SRDA"), Mýtna 23, 811 07 Bratislava, reg. no: 30 797 764 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 Programme for Funding Multilateral Scientific and Technological Cooperation Projects in the Danube Region, where it is stated Further Participants may join the Programme later on signed on 14th July 2016 by Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy; Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic; Ministry of Education, Science, Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.

o p e n s

Public Call for submitting applications for joint projects supporting cooperation between organizations in the Slovak Republic, the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Bulgaria, the Republic of Croatia, the Czech Republic, Montenegro, the Republic of Slovenia, the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of France pursuant § 12 sect. 2 point c) of Act no. 172/2005 Z. z. as amended denoted as DS-FR 2026

Intentions and Objectives of the Public Call

Within the Public Call DS-FR 2026, project proposals from all research and development areas can be submitted. The aim of multilateral cooperation projects is to establish new or intensify the existing scientific and technological cooperation, using mainly the following instruments:

- contribute to scientific development in the above countries by funding mobility of the researchers within the joint research projects;
- contribute to the development of research capacity in the region;
- support the development of cross-border research cooperation;
- provide opportunities for young scientists from the above countries to cooperate in an international setting and develop their scientific careers;
- enable joint participation in European research projects.

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

- **Project** is a set of intentions, objectives and planned time-bound activities in the content-defined field of science and technology. The project includes data on the personnel, material, instrumental and financial conditions needed for its solution.
- **Project implementation** 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 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.
- **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 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 implementation and for the effective use of the funds granted for its implementation.

Requirements for the Public Call

1. The application must specify at **least two partner organizations**. Each partner organization with which the applicant will cooperate, must be **from another partner country**. Failure to comply with this condition results in the withdrawal of the application.
2. Cooperating R&D partners of all the participating parties 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 stating that they have a valid certificate of research and development competence. In case the applicant do not have the mentioned certificate, their application shall be refused.
4. **The part F of the application must not exceed the maximum limit of 10 pages for Project Intent - Obligatory scheme. Failure to comply with the maximum number of pages of the Project Intent - Obligatory Scheme at the time of submission will be grounds for the elimination of the application from the evaluation process.**

Specific Conditions for a Public Call

1. The total amount of funding allocated for the whole project period is **EUR 200,000**.
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, Science, Research and Youth of the SR for the Agency.
3. The total amount of funds provided by the agency to solve one project is limited to a maximum of **10,000 EUR** for the entire project period if 3 countries are involved in the project; for 4 countries the maximum amount is **12,500 EUR** for the whole project period, and a maximum of **15,000 EUR** for the whole project period for 5 countries, the maximum of **17,500 EUR** for the whole project period for 6 and more countries.
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 DS-FR 2026 Call does not set minimum limits for planned annual researcher capacity. However, the annual Principal Investigator capacity must not be 0 hours within individual calendar years of the duration of the project. The total researcher capacity of each research team member must not be 0 hours.
7. The Principal Investigator must be registered at least 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. Failure to comply with this condition results in the rejection of the application. In case of WoS researcher ID it is recommended that the researcher profile is claimed and verified by the Principal Investigator. Only claimed and verified profile of the Principal Investigator is publicly available in WoS ensuring unrestricted access.
8. The applicants note that in relation to investigators they are required to comply European parliament and Council of EU 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. Eligibility of activities under individual project implementation cost items in accordance with §17 sect. 2 of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended, is specified in Annex 3 of the full

text of the Call.

11. The other expenses associated with the project implementation covered by the agency's resources shall not exceeding 30% of the total project costs provided by the agency in each financial year.
12. For non-business entities ¹ that are not considered an undertaking within the meaning of Article 107 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, the agency may provide funding up to 100% of the costs.
13. Funds provided by the Agency to entities that are considered to be an undertaking within the meaning of Article 107 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union shall be granted as ad hoc *de minimis* aid in accordance with Act No 358/2015 Coll. on the regulation of certain relations in the field of state aid and minimum aid and on the amendment and supplementation of certain acts (the State Aid Act) and Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/2831 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to *de minimis* aid.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. The Agency reserves the right to amend the public Call DS-FR 2026 based on the decision made by the Presidium of the SRDA only. If these changes will be made, the SRDA will announce their content, reasons and impact on applicants on their website.
17. The Agency reserves the right, as part of the evaluation process, to conduct an internal originality check on project proposals to determine whether the same project has been funded.

Submission of Applications

The term for submitting the applications runs from the date of announcement of Call from 30 April 2026 to 30 June 2026.

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 **30 June 2026 at 12.00 a.m.** The Agency does not guarantee the successful submission of the electronic forms via the 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 the electronic version of the application.

¹ See § 2 sect. 1, 2 of Act No. 513/1991 Coll. for details; as well as the Methodological Guideline PMU cases not subject to the rules in the field of state aid (gov.sk): 1707_1nehospodarska-cinnost_aktualizacia-marec-2022.pdf (gov.sk)

Only the required sections of application generated by the system listed in Annex No. 1 of the Consolidated Version of the Public Call shall be submitted in paper form. The applicant is obliged to deliver the required sections of the application **by 30 June 2026** 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 applications shall be deemed to have been observed if the required parts of application are dispatched to the Agency's address on the last day of the deadline that is **30 June 2026**. Applications submitted after the deadline shall be rejected.

The Agency will only include those applications in the evaluation process that 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) **The maximum length of the Part F of the Application (Project Intent - Obligatory Scheme), submitted through the application system is 10 pages;**
- d) Application meets all the conditions of the Public Call DS-FR 2026.

The Agency will send the applicant a notification of the application's registration no later than 14 days after receiving the application, to the email address of the Principal Investigator listed in the application and to the email address of the project administrator (the user who created the application) listed in the SRDA information system.

Project Duration

The expected start of the project implementation is **01 January 2027**. The duration of the project cannot exceed **24 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 30 December 2026** 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 and non-business entities that are considered “undertakings” within the meaning of Article 107 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union will be required to submit an Applicant’s Declaration on de minimis aid pursuant to Commission Regulation (EU) No. 2023/ 2831 of December 13, 2023, on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid, and the agency shall set a deadline for its submission. Prior to the provision of ad hoc de minimis aid (upon the entry into force of the Grant Agreement), the provider is required to request an opinion from the aid coordinator as to whether the relevant measure meets the conditions for the provision of de minimis aid pursuant to Commission Regulation (EU) No. 2023/ 2831 of December 13, 2023, on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid. The aid coordinator shall send an opinion on such proposals to the provider within 30 days of receiving the proposal. Such an opinion from the aid coordinator is binding on the provider. The Agency shall notify applicants of the granting of de minimis aid.

Granting the Funds

The project funding is provided to the recipient by the Agency based on a written Project Funding Agreement **no later than 31 March 2027**. The Agency shall deposit the carry-out of the project to the account specified in the project funding agreement, as soon as possible 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 Act No. 523/2004 Coll. of Budget Rules of the Public Service and of Change and Amendment of Some Acts) or Act No. 358/2015 Coll. on the adjustment of certain relations in the field of state aid and *de minimis* and Change and Amendment of Some Acts (the State Aid Act)).

Questions and answers

Information regarding the Call are provided through the contact form available at: <https://www.apvv.sk/kontakt/kontaktny-formular.html>

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: Form template (Application form and Project Intent - Obligatory Scheme)

Annex 5: Funding agreement

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