



Call for Mobility Project Proposals

Identification information

Partner country:	Estonia
Partner organisation:	Estonian Academy of Sciences
Programme:	Mobility projects
Period:	1 January 2024 – 31 December 2025

Legal framework

The call is based on the Agreement on Scientific Cooperation between the Slovak Academy of Sciences (hereinafter referred to as SAS) and the Estonian Academy of Sciences concluded in 2023.

Basic definitions

Objectives

- Improvement of scientific cooperation between both countries;
- Stimulation of involvement of young researchers and PhD students;
- Supporting research teams aspiring to cooperate on large international projects in the future;
- Enabling the use of methodology, infrastructure and equipment for the mutual benefit of both institutions.

Eligibility criteria

Project proposals from **all research fields** are accepted.

Maximum project duration is **2 years, i.e. 24 months**; an extension beyond this period is not permitted.

Project proposals can be submitted:

- **On the Slovak side** by a SAS institute;
- **On the Estonian side** by scientists and researchers working in the universities or scientific institutes in Estonia.
- In case an applicant submits more than one project proposal within one call, only one of them can be funded.

Only two subsequent projects realized by the same research teams can be funded.

The applicant submitting a project proposal following a running project with the same team must justify the need for a continuing project and describe outcomes of the running project. This shall be stated in the Project Proposal form in the part "Description of the project".

The topic of the new MP proposal cannot be the same as a previous one”.

Research team

Each research team consists of:

- One principal investigator (senior or junior researcher);
- One or more co-investigators.

Research team members are divided into four categories:

- Senior researchers (5 or more years after receiving PhD);
- Junior researchers – postdocs (less than 5 years after receiving PhD);
- PhD students;
- Others (e.g. engineers, technicians).

On the Slovak side:

- All members must be employees of the SAS institutes.
- Out of the whole team, at least 1/3 must be junior researchers or PhD students.

On the Estonian side:

- All members must be employees of Estonian universities or scientific institutes.
- Out of the whole team, at least 1/3 must be junior researchers or PhD students.

Range of exchanges

The number and length of exchanges and shares of individual research team members in exchanges must reflect the scope and objectives of the project and planned activities. **Days not used** during one calendar year cannot be transferred to subsequent years of the project.

Maximum exchange quota is **14 days per research team and year/project** for each of the parties.

Maximum number of approved projects: 3

Financial provisions

Funding is provided in the form of **financial contributions toward the costs of mobility** (exchanges of Slovak and partner research team members) in direct connection with the implementation of the project.

Financial contributions must be calculated and provided in compliance with the valid national legislation and internal regulations of the partner organisations.

Financial contributions can be provided only in the year of the exchange realisation, i.e. unclaimed requirements for financial contributions cannot be claimed in subsequent years.

The provision of financial contributions by the partner organisations is subject to availability of funds.

Financial contributions to Slovak research team members

- a) **For international transportation – the SAS institute** covers the **international transport expenses** from the Slovak Republic to Estonia and back inclusive **travel insurance**.

b) b) **For subsistence in Estonia – the Estonian Academy of Sciences covers:**

- **Accommodation with breakfast** expenses up to **65 €/person/night**. Hotel reservation will be made by the EAS based on the travel schedule received from the partner academy;
- **Daily allowances: 30 EUR per day;**
- **A single local transport allowance in amount of 20 EUR** in case of travel from Tallinn to Tartu (200 km).

Financial contributions to partner research team members

a) **For international transportation** – sending party covers the **international transport expenses** from Estonia to the Slovak Republic and back inclusive **travel insurance**.

b) **For subsistence – the SAS** covers:

- **Accommodation expenses** of up to **55, - €/person/night;**
- **Meal allowance and pocket money** in accordance with applicable legislation and in accordance with the internal rules - the maximum amount in 2023 is **45,90-€/person/day;**
- **Domestic transport expenses** by Slovak long-distance public transport (bus, train) in the actual amount spent, original ticket receipts required; the daily transfers between the accommodation facility and the workplace are not reimbursable.

The above stated amounts are valid on the date of the call for proposals and are meant for the purposes of calculation of the project budget. In the event of significant changes in price levels or a change in legislation in the field of travel expenses, partner organizations reserve the right to make appropriate modifications to the above stated amounts and/or the method of calculation.

Project proposal submission

Project proposals must be submitted in parallel to both partner organisations.

On the Slovak side:

- Project proposals in English must be completed and submitted within the stated deadline exclusively via the online application (<https://oms.sav.sk/en/open-sas-eas-call-2023/>)
- Proposals submitted in any other way may be rejected on formal grounds.

By submitting project proposal, the applicant:

- Agrees to processing of personal data within the meaning of the Act No. 18/2018 Coll., On Personal Data Protection, as amended;
- Declares that the information he/she stated is accurate, true and complete and that he/she is aware that if otherwise, they will face all the legal consequences;
- Declares that, if approved, he/she will during the realization of the project follow:
 - [The Code of Ethics of researchers at the Slovak Academy of Sciences;](#)
 - [The Estonian Code of Conduct for Research Integrity;](#)
 - [The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity.](#)

On the Estonian side: The project proposal must be submitted through the application available on the EAS website: <https://www.akadeemia.ee/en/cooperation/joint-research-projects/open-calls/>

- **Proposals submitted in other than the above-described way may be rejected on formal grounds.**

Evaluation and Selection

Consists of a two-step process:

- At the national level, each partner organisation evaluates submitted proposals based on its internal rules and prepares a ranking list.
- At the international level, both partner organisations exchange their ranking lists, merge them, negotiate the final ranking and approve the proposals selected for funding. A total number of projects approved for funding is dependent on the financial possibilities of both partner organizations.

Criteria for evaluation of project proposals

- **Quality of the project:**
 - Scientific relevance (concept, innovative character in relation to the state-of-the-art, quality of objectives);
 - Methodology, work plan of activities and outputs;
 - Impact of project results, their dissemination and exploitation.
- **Quality of research teams:**
 - Composition and expertise of research teams;
 - Complementarity, methodology and equipment; previous cooperation and outputs;
 - Justification of collaboration needs.
- **Active involvement of junior researchers and PhD students.**

Added value and broader impact of bilateral cooperation.

Schedule

15. 05. 2023	Announcement of the call for project proposals
30. 06. 2023 24:00	Deadline for submission of project proposals
September 2023	Completion of the assessment at the national level
October 2023	Completion of the joint assessment at the international level
November 2023	Approval of the final results by both partner organisations
December 2023	Announcement of results

Contact persons

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