

## Call for Mobility Plus Project Proposals

### Identification information

Partner country:	<b>Belgium</b>
Partner organisation:	<b>Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO)</b>
Programme:	<b>Mobility Plus Projects</b>
Period:	<b>2021 – 2022</b>

### Legal framework

The call is based on Agreement on Scientific Cooperation of the year 2016 between the Czech Academy of Sciences (hereinafter referred to as CAS) and the Research Foundation – Flanders (hereinafter referred to as FWO), and in accordance with art. 2 par. 2 of the Act No. 283/1992 Coll., on the Czech Academy of Sciences, as amended, and art. 3 par. 2 of the Statutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences.

### Basic definitions

#### Objectives

- Improvement of scientific cooperation between both countries;
- Stimulation of involvement of young researchers and PhD students;
- Support of 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**; extension beyond this period is not permitted.

Project proposals can be submitted:

- **On the Czech side:** by a [CAS institute](#);
- **On the Flemish side:** the applicant (Principal Investigator) needs to hold, throughout the entire period of the project, an appointment of at least 50% at:
  - a university in the Flemish Community (including the academic programmes within the corresponding association), or at
  - a federal or Flemish scientific institute as scientific staff of the Dutch-speaking community of, or at
  - a university hospital in the Flemish Community as scientific staff, or at
  - a hospital with an academic character recognized as research centre in the Flemish Community as scientific staff.

In case 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.

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”.

### **Research team**

Each research team consists of:

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

### **On the Czech side:**

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).

All members must be employees of the CAS institutes.

Out of the whole team, at least 1/3 must be junior researchers or PhD students.

### **On the Flemish side:**

- The Principal Investigator (promotor-spokesman), submitting the application, must have obtained a PhD degree.
- At least one junior researcher (PhD student or a postdoctoral researcher with less than 6 years of experience after obtaining the PhD degree) must be included in the project and be involved in the exchanges.
- Throughout the entire period of the project, all research team members must be affiliated to:
  - a university in the Flemish Community (including the academic programmes within the corresponding association), or to
  - a federal or Flemish scientific institute as scientific staff of the Dutch-speaking community, or to
  - a university hospital in the Flemish Community as scientific staff, or to
  - a hospital with an academic character recognized as research centre in the Flemish Community as scientific staff.

### **Range of exchanges**

**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 typically 21 days per research team and year/project** for each of the parties. Maximum length of one visit is not assigned.

### **Financial provisions**

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

**On the Czech side:**

- Financial contribution shall be provided by the CAS towards the mobility costs of the Czech research team.
- The maximum financial contribution shall be **CZK 100,000** per mobility project per year.
- Approved financial contribution shall be used to cover mobility costs: travel, living expenses.
- The course of project implementation will be monitored through annual and final reports including use of financial means and justification of costs.

**On the Flemish side:**

- **For international transportation: the FWO** covers the international transport expenses from Belgium to the Czech Republic and back, to be booked through [a travel agency authorized by the FWO](#).
- **For subsistence in the Czech Republic: the FWO** pays a living allowance of **EUR 66 per person per day (or max. EUR 1,386 per person per 21 days)**, to cover accommodation, meals, domestic long-distance public transport and incidental expenses.

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.

**Following expenses are not covered:**

- Registration fees (conference, symposia, workshops etc.);
- Remuneration for scientific activities (lectures, reports etc.);
- Local daily transfers from the accommodation facility to the receiving institution (only applies to the Flemish teams);
- Consumables and staff costs.

During their travel and stay abroad, all researchers (from the Flemish as well as from the Czech research teams) involved in CAS-FWO projects and independent of nationality, can rely on a **travel and assistance insurance** ('reis- en bijstandsverzekering') and repatriation covered by FWO. This insurance is not a health insurance. Regardless of the aforementioned insurance, all researchers should have a valid health insurance entitling the holder to free emergency medical treatment in the host country.

The responsibility for the provision of adequate **insurance against accidents** that may occur during the stay in the host country rests with the **research institution** to which the researcher stays affiliated during the joint exchange project. The research institution to which the researcher is travelling, shall provide the visitor with all indispensable organisational assistance in situations requiring such steps.

**Project proposal submission**

Project proposals must be submitted in English in parallel to both partner organisations, whereas the names of Czech and Flemish submitting institutions, applying Principal Investigators and other research team members, project title, project description, methodology, work plan of activities and outputs etc. must be identical.

**Please be aware:** All members of the Czech and Flemish research teams should have or create an account on [the FWO e-portal](#) and keep their publication list up to date.

#### On the Czech side:

- Project proposals in English must be complete and submitted within the stated deadline exclusively via the “KIS” online application.
- You are requested to register in the KIS application using the following link <https://kis.avcr.cz/kis2/oms/register> and fill in a project proposal. After finishing your proposal, you shall forward it through your KIS account to the Director of your CAS Institute for its approval. The Director shall approve your proposal by submitting the project proposal to OMS KAV ČR (Division of International Cooperation, Head Office of the CAS) via his KIS account. **Bear in mind that all project proposals must be submitted by the CAS Institute Directors by 1 June 2020.**
- Proposals submitted in any other way may be rejected on formal grounds.

By submitting project proposal, the applicant:

- Agrees to processing of personal data contained in the project proposal pursuant to the relevant Czech legislation;
- 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 Czech Academy of Sciences;](#)
  - [The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity;](#)
  - [Recommendations of the International Commission "Self-Control in Science" \(Recommendations of the International Commission on Professional Self-Regulation in Science\)](#)

#### On the Flemish side:

- The Flemish PI should submit the form ‘*Application for international cooperation programmes*’ (to be found on the FWO website) to [interprog@fwo.be](mailto:interprog@fwo.be) .
- More conditions for submission and relevant forms are available on the webpage: <http://www.fwo.be/en/fellowships-funding/international-collaboration/scientific-cooperation/cooperation-with-the-czech-republic/> .

### Evaluation and Selection

Consists of 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. 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.**

### **Evaluation of the final report on the Czech side**

The project results and outputs will be evaluated. For definition of results see the Methodology for Evaluating Research Organisations and R&D&I Purpose-tied Aid Programmes (2017+) (<https://www.vyzkum.cz/FrontClanek.aspx?idsekce=799796> ).

### **Schedule**

1 April 2020	Announcement of the call for project proposals
<b>1 June 2020</b>	<b>Deadline for submission of project proposals</b>
Sep/Oct 2020	Completion of the assessment at national level
Oct/Nov 2020	Completion of the joint assessment at international level
November 2020	Approval of the final results by both partner organisations
Mid-December 2020	Announcement of results
1 January 2021	Start of the projects

### **Contact persons**

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