Czech Academy of Sciences

Version 2026-2
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Changes compared to the previous version (2026-1): updated CAS website links.

Mobility Plus programme
CALL 2026
for projects starting in 2027

OBJECTIVES

The primary mission of the Czech Academy of Sciences (CAS) and its research institutes is to advance scientific knowledge and conduct research across the natural, technical, and social sciences, as well as the humanities. Through international cooperation programmes, CAS supports the internationalisation of its institutes and fosters opportunities to establish or strengthen scientific collaborations, with particular emphasis on the involvement of early-career researchers.

The project-based Mobility Plus programme supports the mobility of CAS research teams to partner countries. The joint 2–3-year Mobility Plus Projects (MPP) aim to establish or intensify international scientific collaboration between Czech and foreign research teams, with each partner organisation funding its own research team and issuing its own calls under specific conditions. The MPPs facilitate long-term access to equipment, unique research infrastructure, and complementary techniques and methods of the collaborating partner research team. Joint activities are expected to contribute to preparing larger joint international projects. MPPs are implemented under bilateral agreements on scientific cooperation between the CAS and its partner organisations.

TIMEFRAME

Please note that partner organisations may have different schedules (Annex 1).

13 April 2026	Announcement of the call for project proposals
8 June 2026	**Deadline for submission of project proposals**
September–October 2026	Completion of evaluation at national level
November 2026	Completion of joint evaluation at international level
November–December 2026	Approval of results by both partner organisations
December 2026–January 2027	Announcement of results
1 January 2027–31 December 2028/9	Implementation period of Mobility Plus projects

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

ELIGIBILITY AND RESEARCH TEAM COMPOSITION

- Project proposals from all research fields are accepted (exceptions in Annex 1).
- Project proposals may only be submitted by CAS institutes. All research team members must be employees of the CAS institutes, either in an employment relationship or based on an agreement outside an employment relationship.
- At least one third of the CAS research team should be early-career researchers (junior researchers or PhD students).
- The research team consists of
  - one principal investigator (PI) (senior or junior researcher)
    and
  - one or more co-investigators.

Research team members are divided into four categories:

Senior researcher	**1 Senior researcher**	8 or more years after receiving a PhD at the time of project proposal submission
Early-career researcher	**2 Junior researcher**	less than 8 years after receiving a PhD at the time of project proposal submission
	3 PhD student	
Others	**4 Others**	e.g., undergraduate students, engineers, technicians

Please note that the time limit after receiving PhD can be extended in the following cases:

- Maternity or parental leave
- Disability lasting more than 90 days
- Military service
- Time spent caring for people considered dependent on another person's assistance, as established in the Social Services Law[1]
- Alternatively, according to the institute's proposal, a period of 18 months per child may be considered a non-counted period instead of the actual duration of maternity and parental leave.

Personal changes in the CAS research team during the implementation period are possible but must be reported via email to the contact person (Annex 1) and duly justified in project reports. In the event of a replacement of the PI, a written request for approval of the change must be submitted to the contact person via the CAS data mailbox as soon as possible. Changes to the research team must not result in a budget increase compared to that approved in the project proposal.

Any changes to the partner organisation's team shall be managed by the partner organisation's PI in accordance with their internal rules.

[1] Act No. 108/2006 Coll., on Social Services, as amended by subsequent legislation

FUNDING CONDITIONS

CAS provides a financial contribution exclusively to cover the costs of the CAS research team directly related to the implementation of the project, in line with the planned activities outlined in the approved project proposal. Maximum amount of the financial contribution varies depending on the partner organisations (Annex 1).

Eligible costs include non-investment costs of the CAS research team, and are classified into two main categories:

- **Mobility costs**
  = all costs related to international mobility and stays abroad:
  - **Travel costs**
  - **Living costs** (accommodation, daily allowances)
  - **Conference fees** for conferences held in the partner country
  - Mobility costs **in another country**, if duly justified (e.g., active participation in a conference directly related to the project).

- **Research costs**
  = all other costs within the following categories:
  - Consumables
  - Services (incl. travel costs within the Czech Republic if project-related and duly justified; accommodation costs in the Czech Republic are not eligible)
  - Small equipment (up to CZK 80,000)
  - Networking (e.g., costs related to organising a conference or workshop in the Czech Republic, or conference fees for events held in the Czech Republic)

Non-eligible costs include personnel, large equipment (exceeding CZK 80,000), overheads, and investment costs.

Each year of project implementation, at least 50% of the requested financial contribution must be allocated to mobility costs. This condition is binding and cannot be modified by requesting a change in the budget structure. If not met, the CAS institute will be required to return the corresponding amount of financial contribution used in violation of this condition.

All changes to the allocation of financial contribution compared with the approved project proposal must be reported and duly justified in the progress or final project report. These changes are monitored and evaluated by the project evaluator.

A project proposal approved for funding is financed with a yearly CAS grant, in accordance with the Guideline of the Academy Council of the CAS on Grants Provided by the CAS, if not defined otherwise in this call. For each calendar year, up to the maximum amount specified in the approved project proposal, the grant is provided to the CAS institute based on a **grant application** submitted by the CAS institute under the relevant call for grant applications, published annually on the CAS website. Grants for subsequent calendar years can be provided only after the **progress project report** and **grant financial report** for the previous calendar year have been evaluated. The grant cannot be transferred to the next year.

Any questions or concerns regarding the use of the grant should be consulted with the relevant person from the Grant Administration Section (Annex 1).

HOW TO APPLY

The application process is carried out through the **KIS application** at https://kis.avcr.cz/kis2/oms/login.

CAS project proposals must be submitted through the KIS application and via the CAS data mailbox (ID fr6adt5) within the stated deadline (Annex 1). **Only project proposals submitted simultaneously through the KIS application and via the CAS data mailbox by the call deadline are considered submitted.** Project proposals submitted in any other way will be rejected on formal grounds. Project proposals may be in Czech or English.

The CAS research team submits its project proposal to CAS. In parallel, the partner research team submits its project proposal to the partner organisation according to its instructions. **Only project proposals considered eligible by both partner organisations will be evaluated.**

How to submit a project proposal:

1) The applicant (PI) registers in KIS under an Applicant account and completes the project proposal.
2) Subsequently, PI submits the completed project proposal via her/his KIS account to the director of the respective CAS institute for approval.
3) The director of the CAS institute approves the project proposal and submits it to OMS KAV ČR (Division of International Cooperation, Head Office of the CAS) via her/his KIS account and simultaneously sends the proposal as a PDF file to the CAS data mailbox by the deadline.

The project proposal includes (Annex 2):

1) CV of the CAS PI and a list of up to five publications (PDF),
2) CV of the partner PI and a list of up to five publications (PDF),
3) where required, CVs of all partner research team members (Annex 1).

If an applicant submits more than one project proposal with the same partner organisation in the same call, only one proposal may be funded.

A maximum of two consecutive mobility projects carried out by the same research teams may be funded. Applicants whose project with the same partner research team received funding under the previous call are obliged to provide in the application form under the 'Project Description' section a justification for the continuation of their joint work and a description of the results achieved in the previous project.

By submitting a project proposal, the director of the CAS institute and the applicant (PI):

- Confirm that they have read and understood the CAS Privacy Policy.
- Confirm that the partner PI, as well as the members of both research teams, are also familiar with the CAS Privacy Policy.
- Confirm that the CAS institute will support the project in accordance with Guideline No. 15/2019 of the Academy Council of the CAS of 26 November 2019 on the Support for International Cooperation at the Research Institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences, as subsequently amended by Guideline No. 17/2021.
- Declare that the information they have provided is accurate, true and complete, and that they are aware that otherwise, legal consequences may follow.

- Declare that, if the project proposal is approved, during the project implementation they will follow The Code of Ethics for Scientific Research of the Czech Academy of Sciences and The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (revised edition 2023).

EVALUATION AND SELECTION

The CAS International Affairs Council, an advisory committee of the CAS Academy Council, is responsible for the evaluation and selection process of project proposals. Evaluation of project proposals takes place in two stages: first at the national level, then at the international level. Evaluation is based on either the bilateral evaluation principle or the Lead Agency principle.

Bilateral evaluation principle:

- At the national level, following an eligibility check, each partner organisation evaluates the submitted project proposals in accordance with its internal rules and prepares a ranking list. On the CAS side, each proposal is evaluated by two experts of the CAS International Affairs Council, after which a national ranking list is established.
- At the international level, both partner organisations exchange, merge and negotiate their ranking lists, and approve the final selection of project proposals recommended for funding.

Lead Agency principle:

- The scientific evaluation is carried out unilaterally by the partner organisation designated in advance to act as the Lead Party for the respective call. The partner organisations alternate in assuming the Lead Party role for each call. Both partner organisations first conduct a formal check of the submitted project proposals. The Lead Party then evaluates the proposals in accordance with its internal rules and informs the partner organisation of the evaluation results. The evaluation results are subsequently confirmed by both partner organisations.

The number of mobility projects approved for funding depends on the financial capacities of both partner organisations.

Upon completion of the evaluation process and the approval of the results by the Academic Council of the CAS, an official letter announcing the results is sent to the director of the CAS institute via the institute's data mailbox. Project proposals selected for funding are also published on the CAS website. All review reports are available in KIS.

CAS EVALUATION CRITERIA

The evaluation criteria are as follows:

Scientific and formal quality (0–8 points)

- Quality of project implementation (concept, approach, methodology, time schedule, outcomes)
- State-of-the-art
- Innovation potential and perspective to broaden knowledge
- Expected mutual benefits for both research teams
- Potential of project results and its possible outreach

Quality of the research teams (0–8 points)

- Justification of the need for collaboration
- Competence and qualification of research team members
- Level of involvement of junior researchers and PhD students
- Complementarity of the research teams
- Previous cooperation

Appropriate project budget (0–4 points)

- Distribution of costs
- Justification of mobility and research costs

PROJECT MONITORING

The project results and outputs are evaluated through project reports. The evaluation is conducted by the CAS International Affairs Council, an advisory committee to the CAS Academy Council.

The PI is required to submit a **progress project report annually**, or a **final project report** at the end of the implementation period, for the given calendar year by 31 January of the following year. The PI will be notified by email when the report form becomes available in the KIS application (and on the CAS website), usually at the beginning of December. Reports must be submitted through the KIS application (using the account of the CAS institute director) and simultaneously via the CAS data mailbox.

Each project report is reviewed by a project evaluator, a member of the CAS International Affairs Council. A positive evaluation is required for continuation of the ongoing project in the following year. The outcomes of the project report evaluations are made available in KIS in due course (through the account of the CAS institute director).

Outputs and Acknowledgements

The CAS institute and the PI must acknowledge the Mobility Plus programme of the Czech Academy of Sciences and state the project registration number in all outputs created within the Mobility Plus programme.

The PI must record all project outputs in the ASEP database in accordance with the Guideline of the Academy Council of the Czech Academy of Sciences no. 4/2013 from 12 March 2013.

LINKS

KIS application During the implementation of the project, the following documents are available for download in KIS (using the account of the CAS institute director): ◦ Project proposal review report (in December–January) ◦ Progress or final project report forms (in December–January) ◦ Project report reviews (in due course, usually in March)	Registration https://kis.avcr.cz/kis2/oms/register Log-in https://kis.avcr.cz/kis2/oms/login
CAS Mobility Plus Projects	https://www.avcr.cz/en/academic-public/international-cooperation/mobility-plus-programme/
Approved CAS Mobility Plus Projects	https://www.avcr.cz/en/academic-public/international-cooperation/mobility-plus-programme/approved-projects/
CAS call for grant applications for projects approved for funding	www.avcr.cz/cs/veda-a-vyzkum/podpora-vyzkumu/aktualni-vyzvy-av-cr
Economic portal of CAS (incl. deadlines for grant applications for the given calendar year)	https://ekonomika.avcr.cz/cs/
CAS data mailbox	https://www.avcr.cz/en/about-us/contact/
CAS Privacy Policy	https://www.avcr.cz/en/academic-public/international-cooperation/mobility-plus-programme/practical-information-and-links/
ASEP database	https://asep-portal.lib.cas.cz/
Guideline No. 15/2019 of the Academy Council of the CAS of 26 November 2019 on the Support for International Cooperation at the Research Institutes of the Czech Academy	https://kis.avcr.cz/kis2/oms/smernice_17_2021-en.pdf

of Sciences, as subsequently amended by Guideline No. 17/2021	
The Code of Ethics for Scientific Research of the Czech Academy of Sciences	https://www.avcr.cz/en/about-us/legal-regulations/code-of-ethics-for-researchers-of-the-czech-academy-of-sciences/
The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (revised edition 2023)	https://allea.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/European-Code-of-Conduct-Revised-Edition-2023.pdf
Contacts, Division of International Cooperation, CAS Head Office	https://www.avcr.cz/en/academic-public/international-cooperation/contacts/

ANNEXES

Annex 1 | Partner-specific information

Annex 2 | Project proposal template