

Call for Mobility Plus Project Proposals

Identification information

Partner country:	Taiwan
Partner organisation:	Academia Sinica
Programme:	Mobility Plus Projects
Implementation period:	2022 – 2023

Legal framework

The call is based on the Memorandum of Understanding of the year 2021 between the Czech Academy of Sciences (hereinafter referred to as CAS) and the Academia Sinica (hereinafter referred to as AS), 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.

Project proposals can be submitted:

- On the Czech side by the CAS institutes
- On the Taiwanese side by the AS institutes

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.

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);
- Co-Co-investigator/co-investigators (senior researcher/s, junior researcher/s, PhD student/s and others as described below)

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 Czech side:

- 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 Taiwanese side:

- All members must be employees of the AS institutes.

Financial conditions

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

Up to 3 (three) projects shall be selected for funding.

On the Czech side:

- Financial contribution shall be provided by the CAS towards the costs of the Czech research team.
- The maximum financial contribution shall be CZK 250,000 per mobility project per year.
- Min. 50% of the approved financial contribution shall be used to cover mobility costs: travel and living expenses.
- Min. 30% of the approved financial contribution shall be used to cover research costs: consumables, services, small equipment, and networking.
- Non-eligible costs are: personnel, large equipment (exceeding CZK 40,000), overheads.
- The ratio between mobility and research costs shall be maintained on the project level as well as yearly. Transferring financial contributions between these two categories is allowed if the minimal ratio for both categories is maintained.
- The course of project implementation will be monitored through annual and final reports including use of financial means, justification of costs and possible transfers between categories.

On the Taiwanese side (for information only):

- The maximum financial contribution for AS researcher team is TWD 700,000 per project for two-year duration (i.e. TWD350,000 per project per year).
- Eligible costs are: travel, living expenses;
- The course of project implementation shall be monitored through annual and final reports.

Project proposal submission

Prior to preparation of a project proposal, teams on CAS and AS sides should reach to the common research goals and agree with the methodologies. The project proposal must be written together through the joint effort by CAS and AS members. The same project proposal must be submitted in parallel to both partner organisations.

On the Czech side:

- Project proposals in Czech or English must be complete and submitted within the stated deadline exclusively via the “KIS” online application.
- The applicant is 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 the proposal, the applicant shall forward it through his KIS account to the Director of his CAS Institute for its approval. The Director shall approve the 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 30. 07. 2021.**
- 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 Taiwanese side:

- A complete application package includes the following documents:
 - The Application
 - Curriculum vitae of the two co-PIs and of co-applicants, including lists of publications (maximum of 10 relevant publications) and grants received (for the past 3 years).
 - A budget
- Applications must be submitted by email to lsd@gate.sinica.edu.tw. Proposals should be written in the English language. No proposal will be accepted after the closing date for submission, nor will any addendum or explanation be accepted.

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 organizations 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

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

01.06. 2021	Announcement of the call for project proposals
30.07.2021 24:00	Deadline for submission of project proposals
September 2021	Completion of the assessment at national level
Oct. /Nov. 2021	Completion of the joint assessment at international level
Nov. / Dec. 2021	Approval of the final results by both partner organisations
December 2021	Announcement of results

Czech/Taiwanese principal investigators, therefore, should be sure that their counterpart submits a matching application by the relevant deadline.

Contact persons

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