

Call for Joint Research Project Proposals

Identification information

Partner country:	Belgium (Wallonia-Brussels Federation)
Partner organisation:	Fund for Scientific Research-FNRS (F.R.S.-FNRS)
Programme:	Mobility Plus Projects
Implementation period:	2017–2019

Legal framework

The call is based on the Agreement on scientific cooperation of the year 1997 between the Czech Academy of Sciences (hereinafter referred to as CAS) and the Fund for Scientific Research-FNRS (hereinafter referred to as F.R.S.-FNRS), 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 **3 years, i.e. 36 months**; extension beyond this period is not permitted.

Project proposals can be submitted:

- **On the Czech side:** By a CAS institute (<http://new.avcr.cz/en/about-us/cas-structure/research-institutes/>);
- **On the Belgian side:** For details see the F.R.S.-FNRS website (<http://www.fnrs.be/index.php/news-international>).

In case the principal investigator submits more than one project proposal within one call, only one of them can be funded.

Second application might be submitted only after the end of the first project's implementation.

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

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, eventually pregraduate students).

All members must be employees of the CAS institute.

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

On the Belgian side:

For details see the F.R.S.-FNRS website (<http://www.fnrs.be/index.php/news-international>).

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 2 projects shall be selected for financing.

On the Czech side:

- Financial contribution shall be provided by the CAS towards the costs of the Czech research team.
- Financial contribution shall be CZK 200,000 for 1 year.
- Minimally 50% of the approved financial contribution shall be used to cover mobility costs.
- Non-eligible costs are: personnel, large equipment (exceeding CZK 40,000), overheads.
- The course of project implementation will be monitored through annual and final reports including use of financial means and justification of costs.

On the Belgian side:

For details see the F.R.S.-FNRS website (<http://www.fnrs.be/index.php/news-international>).

Project proposal submission

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

On the Czech side:

- The call and the form of project proposal are available for download on the CAS website in the International cooperation section (http://int.avcr.cz/sd/novinky/hlavni-stranka/news_0002.html).
- The project proposal must be submitted to the CAS by the institute within the above stated deadline (the date of posting is decisive), namely:
 - By mail in one copy (printed single sided in the A4 format, signed, stamped and unbound), envelope labelled „F.R.S.-FNRS – Mobility Plus Projects“, addressed to the contact person (see below); and simultaneously
 - Electronically (one file copy - a completed form for administrative purposes) to the e-mail address of the contact person (see below).
- Proposals submitted in other than the above described 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. 101/2000 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 Czech Academy of Sciences (<http://new.avcr.cz/cs/o-nas/pravni-predpisy/eticky-kodex-vyzkumnych-pracovniku-v-av-cr/>);
 - The European Charter and Code for researchers (http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/pdf/brochure_rights/kina21620b1c_cs.pdf);
 - Recommendations of the International Commission "Self-Control in Science" (Recommendations of the International Commission on Professional Self-Regulation in Science). (http://www.dfg.de/download/pdf/dfg_im_profil/reden_stellungnahmen/download/empfehlung_wiss_praxis_1310.pdf).

On the Belgian side:

The project proposal must be submitted **to the F.R.S.-FNRS**. Conditions for submission and relevant form/s are available from the website of the F.R.S.-FNRS (<http://www.fnrs.be/index.php/news-international>).

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. Absence of at least one joint result will hold the submission of a subsequent project proposal back for 6 years. For definition of results see the **Methodology of Evaluation of Research Organizations and Evaluation of Finished Programmes** (<http://www.vyzkum.cz/FrontClanek.aspx?idsekce=754005>).

Schedule

19.07.2016	Announcement of the call for project proposals
08.09.2016	Deadline for submission of project proposals
1 st half of 11/2016	Completion of the assessment at national level
11/2016	Completion of the joint selection at international level
11-12/2016	Approval of the final results by both partner organisations
2 nd half of 12/2016	Announcement of results

Contact persons

On the Czech side:

Ms. Jana VLACHOVÁ

Division of International Cooperation

The Czech Academy of Sciences

Address: Národní 1009/3

CZ-117 20 Praha 1

Tel: +420-221 403 421

E-mail: vlachova@kav.cas.cz

URL: <http://int.avcr.cz>

On the Belgian side:

Ms Déborah MATTERNE

Name of division

Fund for Scientific Research-FNRS

Address: Rue d'Egmont 5

BE-1000 Brussels

Tel: +32-25 049 242

E-mail: deborah.matterne@frs-fnrs.be

URL: <http://www.fnrs.be>