



## **CONSOLIDATED VERSION OF THE PUBLIC CALL**

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The Slovak Research and Development Agency (hereinafter referred to as the "Agency" or "SRDA"), Mýtina 23, 811 07 Bratislava, reg. no: 30 797 764 in accordance with Act No. 172/2005 Coll. on the Organization of State Support for Research and Development and with the amendment of Act No. 575/2001 Coll. on Organization of the Government Activities and the Organization of the Central State Administration (hereinafter referred to as Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended),

**o p e n s**

**Public Call for submitting applications for research and development projects (hereinafter referred to as "application") in individual groups of fields of science and technology according to § 6 sect. 3 of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended, designated as VV 2024**

### **Intentions and Objectives of the Public Call**

The Public Call VV 2024 does not have any restrictions regarding the matter of research and development projects (hereinafter referred to as 'projects or applications'). Their focus, goals, and content of research and development is determined by the Applicant. The main objective of the Agency is to increase the support for research and development by competition of all applicants in the competitive environment with regard to the priorities of the strategy approved by the Slovak government "Research and innovation strategy for intelligent specialization of the Slovak Republic 2021-2027" (hereinafter referred to as the "SK RIS3 2021+")<sup>1</sup> and Summary report of the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process belonging to the strategy SK RIS3 2021+<sup>2</sup> (hereinafter referred to as the "Summary report of EDP"), which represents indispensable part of the strategy for specification of priority areas and their thematic area of project support.

In the submitted project, the applicant shall indicate the field of science and technology the application falls into. Applications may be submitted by Slovak legal entities and Slovak natural persons - entrepreneurs without limitation of affiliation to the research and development sector.

### **Definition of Basic Terms**

- **Research and development project** is a set of intentions, objectives, and planned time-bound R & D activities in the content-defined field of science and technology. The R & D project includes data on the personnel, material, instrumental, and financial conditions needed for its implementation.

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<sup>1</sup> Research and innovation strategy for intelligent specialization of the Slovak Republic.

Available at: <https://vaia.gov.sk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Strategia-vyskumu-a-inovacii-pre-inteligenntnu-specializaciu.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Summary report of the EDP process belonging to the strategy SK RIS3 2021+.

Available at: <https://vaia.gov.sk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Suhrnna-sprava-z-procesu-EDP.pdf>

- **Implementation of a Research and Development Project** is to carry out planned activities and measures, and thus the realization of the project's intentions and objectives.
- **Applicant** is a Slovak legal entity or a Slovak natural person - an entrepreneur who holds a valid Certificate of Competence to carry out research and development under § 26a of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended, and who is submitting an application for funds for implementation of the Project (hereinafter referred to as the application). The project for which the applicant requests funds comprises a part of the application.
- **Recipient** is a Slovak legal entity or a Slovak natural person - an entrepreneur who holds a valid Certificate of competence to carry out research and development under § 26a of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended, and which has been allocated funds from the state budget for the project implementation. The recipient is responsible for managing these funds.
- **Co-recipient** is a Slovak legal entity or a Slovak natural person – an entrepreneur who holds a valid Certificate of competence to carry out research and development under § 26a sect. Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended and is a co-investigating organization. Funds from the state budget are transferred to the co-recipient for the implementation of part of the Project based on a special Agreement on the Project Implementation. The list of co-recipients suggested is provided by the Applicant in the application. The range of activities carried out by the co-recipient is part of the Project.
- **Slovak legal entity** is a legal person established and exists under the Slovak legal order with the registered seat in the Slovak Republic.
- **Slovak natural person - entrepreneur** means an entrepreneur authorized to do business in the Slovak Republic in accordance with the legal order of the Slovak Republic with a place of business in the Slovak Republic.
- **Young researcher** is defined as a person who has attained a third-level higher education qualification (Ph.D.) and who has not attained the age of 35 years in the year of application or 7 years have not elapsed since attaining a third-level higher education qualification (Ph.D.). The 7-year period does not include any period of maternity, paternity, or parental leave).
- **Provider – SRDA** is an institution that decides on providing a state budget funds to support research and development to the applicant.
- **Principal Investigator** is a person responsible for the implementation of the project and the effective use of the funds granted for its implementation.

## Requirements for the Public Call

1. The projects may be of basic research, applied research, or development as defined in § 2 sect. 2, 3, 4 of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended. The Applicant clearly marks the type of their project in the application. The project proposal cannot pursue multiple types of research at once. Different assessment criteria will be used for Basic Research Projects and Applied Research and Development projects.
2. Under § 18 sect. 2 of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended, an integral part

of the application shall be the Declaration of Honour by the Applicant and Cooperative research organizations stating that they have a valid Certificate of Research and Development Competence. In case the applicant or/and co-investigators do not have the mentioned certificate, their application shall be refused.

3. Under § 18 sect. 2 point f) of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended, in case of the projects indicating direct application of their implementation in practice, the original or officially certified copy of the Letter of Intent on Application of the Project Findings in practice **between the Applicant and each purchaser** of the project findings is an integral part of the project of the application, referred to in VV-B 04.
4. Under § 18 sect. 2 point f) of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended, the Agency requires a structured professional curriculum vitae of the Principal Investigator of the project as an integral part of the application.
5. **The part VV-F (Obligatory Scheme) of the application must not exceed the maximum limit of 15 pages for the Obligatory scheme for basic research and the Obligatory scheme for applied research and development.** <sup>3</sup>

### Specific Conditions for a Public Call

1. The total amount of funding allocated for the whole project period supported in this Call will be a maximum of **EUR 45,000,000** and additional EUR 290,000 will be allocated for R&D popularization. The funds will be allocated according to § 6 sect. 3 of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended and according to demand for basic research projects and for applied research and development projects in the individual fields of R&D specialization.
2. The project funding is subject to the approval of the required amount of the state budget funds for the Agency within the state budget of the SR by the National Council of the Slovak Republic, and subsequently to their subdivision from the chapter of the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the SR for the Agency.
3. The total amount of funds provided by the Agency per project including R&D popularization is limited to a maximum of **EUR 301,800** for the whole period of project duration, of which a maximum of EUR 300,000 will be provided for solving the project and of which a maximum of EUR 1,800 will be provided for the R&D popularization. The funds will be provided exclusively to the applicant with respect to the financial burden of achieving the Project objectives.
4. A one natural person may be a Principal Investigator in one submitted application under the Public Call VV 2024 only. In case of submitting multiple applications with the same Principal Investigator, the Agency shall reject all such applications as non-eligible. A Principal Investigator may only be the person who is the Applicant's employee.
5. A natural person may be a Principal Investigator within the Public Call VV 2024 if:
  - a) They are not a Principal Investigator in any project funded within the following Public Calls: VV 2021, VV 2022, VV 2023 and VV MVP 2024.

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<sup>3</sup> Applications with an obligatory scheme exceeding the maximum number of pages at the time of submission shall not be subject of the evaluation process and will be rejected.

- b) They are a Principal Investigator in a project funded within one of the calls mentioned above, however, the implementation of projects does not overlap, and i.e. the implementation of a project funded within these calls must be finished before the start of the project funded within the Public Call VV 2024.

If this condition is not fulfilled, the submitted application will be rejected.

6. The research capacity of any researcher must not exceed 2,000 hours in total per year for implementation of all projects at the same time, regardless of the source of support granted, and/or the project funds provider.
7. The VV 2024 Call sets a limit on the planned minimum annual research capacity of 300 hours for a nominal member of the research team and 500 hours for the Principal Investigator. In case a research team member participates in the project implementation only during a part of the calendar year, the planned maximum annual capacity is limited proportionally to the number of months of participation of the research team member in the project solution in the given calendar year.
8. The principal investigator must be registered at least in one of the listed scientific databases (WoS - Web of Science, Scopus, or ORCID) and have his unique identifier in one of these databases. This information shall be provided in the application. Failure to comply with this condition results in the rejection of the application. In case of WoS researcher ID it is recommended that the researcher profile is claimed and verified by the Principal Investigator. Only claimed and verified profile of the Principal Investigator is publicly available in WoS ensuring unrestricted access.
9. The applicants note that in relation to investigators they are required to comply with Regulation No. 679/2016 on the protection of natural persons about the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (General Data Protection Regulation) and the Act No. 18/2018 Coll. on personal data protection as amended. The applicants also note that within pre-contractual relations the processing of investigators' personal data by the Agency is necessary. In the case of concluding an Agreement on the provision of funds, to which the applicant will be a contracting party, the processing of investigators' personal data by the Agency is necessary for the fulfilment of this agreement. Based on the aforementioned legal basis, the Agency shall process investigators' personal data such as first name, last name, title, position, and date of birth for the purposes of their unambiguous identification.
10. In this Call, the Agency does not provide any capital funds for the procurement of tangible and intangible assets.
11. Eligible activities for the project implementation in respective cost items under § 17 sect. 1 of the Act No. 172/2005 Coll. As amended are specified in Annex No. 3 of the Consolidated Version of the Call.
12. Indirect costs associated with a project implementation financed by the Agency's funds shall not exceed 20% of the total costs of the project solution **provided** by the Agency in each financial year.
13. For non-business entities<sup>4</sup>, who are not considered to be a company/business/enterprise

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<sup>4</sup> See § 2 sect. 1, 2 of Act No. 513/1991 Coll. for details and also see the Antimonopoly office of Slovak republic methodological guidelines for cases not subject to state aid rules

according to the article No. 107 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the Agency may provide funding for basic, applied research and development up to 100% of the costs.

14. Provision of the state budget funds to the subjects, which are considered to be a company/business/enterprise according to the article No. 107 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, will be provided by SRDA in accordance with the Research and development support framework (the State Aid scheme) [Scheme SA.109803](#) as amended and supplemented.
15. The applicant - a non-business entity - may not provide any indirect state aid. No action is considered to be an indirect state aid - if for the co-recipient (business entities) at least one of the following conditions (according to para. 28 of the Framework for State Aid for Research, development and Innovation – 2014 / C 198/01) are fulfilled:
  - a) the participating enterprise shall bear the total costs of the given project, or
  - b) results of cooperation that do not give any rise to the creation of intellectual property rights may be widely disseminated, and any intellectual property rights resulting from the activities of the recipient's research organization shall be fully allocated to the recipient; or
  - c) any intellectual property rights resulting from a project as well as the relevant access rights are allocated to the participating enterprise in a manner that adequately reflects its work packages, contributions, and relevant interests; or
  - d) the research organization/recipient receives, the intellectual property rights resulting from its activities and has been transferred to the participating enterprise or to which the participating enterprise has obtained the access rights, a compensation corresponding to the market price. Absolute amount of any financial or non-financial contribution of the participating enterprise to the costs associated with the activities of the research organization/recipient resulting in the respective intellectual property rights, may be deducted from this compensation.
16. The Principal Investigator of any project funded by the Agency, which received an "insufficient level of project implementation" after completing the project implementation of the Public Call, cannot be the principal investigator in any application submitted within the Agency's Public Call for the given year and for a further 3 calendar years from the year in which the final project assessment report was delivered by the Agency to the recipient and the Principal Investigator. Non-fulfilment of the condition results in the refusal of application.
17. If the funding agreement was terminated by the SRDA by withdrawal, termination, or the decision to suspend project funding because of the recipient's breach of obligations set under the agreement, the principal investigator of such project cannot be the principal investigator in any applications submitted within the Agency's Public Calls for a given year and for a further period of 3 calendar years from the date of such termination, withdrawal or decision on suspending the project funding. Non-fulfilment of the condition results in the refusal of application.
18. The Agency reserves the right to amend the public Call VV 2024 based on the decision made by the Presidium of the SRDA only. If these changes will be made, the SRDA will announce their content, reasons and impact on applicants on their website.

## Submission of Applications

**The term for submitting the applications runs from the date of announcement of the Call from 23 October 2024 to 7 February 2025.**

Applications shall be submitted electronically only through the electronic application system available on the Agency's website [www.apvv.sk](http://www.apvv.sk). The electronic application system will be closed on **7 February 2025 at 12.00 a.m.** The Agency does not guarantee the successful submission of the electronic forms via the electronic application system in case of the system overloading or sending an electronic version of the application in the last hours before closing the system. In this case, the applicant assumes full responsibility for such unsuccessful submission of the electronic version of the application.

**Only the required sections of application** generated by the system listed in Annex No. 1 of the Consolidated Version of the Public Call shall be submitted in paper form. The applicant is obliged to deliver the required sections of the application **7 February 2025** at the latest to the Agency address:

### **Slovak Research and Development Agency**

Mýtna 23  
P.O.BOX 839 04  
839 04 Bratislava 32.

The deadline for submitting applications shall be deemed to have been observed if the required parts of application are dispatched to the Agency's address on the last day of the deadline that is **7 February 2025**. Applications submitted after the deadline shall be rejected.

The Agency will only include those applications in the evaluation process that simultaneously meet all three of the following criteria:

- a) Application is submitted through an electronic application system;
- b) **The maximum length of the Part VV-F of the Application (Obligatory Scheme), submitted through the application system is 15 pages for any type of research;**
- c) Application meets all the conditions of the Public Call VV 2024.

Within 5 days at the latest after receiving the application registration notification the applicant has to confirm to the agency its acceptance in the form of an e-mail reply to this notification.

## Project Duration

The expected start of the project implementation is **01 September 2025**. The duration of the project cannot exceed **48 months**.

## Assessment of Applications

For the application assessment, the Agency shall proceed in accordance with § 19, § 19b, and §19d of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended. Technical and formal terms of the application are set out in Annex No. 1 of the Consolidated version of the Public Call. The assessment

procedure and the assessment criteria are set out in Annex No. 2 of the Consolidated version of the Public Call.

## Disclosure of Decisions on Applications

SRDA shall notify applicants of the Decision on non-compliance with the technical and formal conditions under the § 19 sect. 1 of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended.

Decisions on applications under Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended shall be published by the Agency's on its website [www.apvv.sk](http://www.apvv.sk) **no later than 7 August 2025**. The following information on all applications shall be published on the website: application number, project title, applicant, principal investigator, and funding decision. The name of the principal investigator shall not be published for applications that were not selected for funding.

Subjects according to point 14 of the Specific conditions for the Call shall be invited to submit applications for providing non-repayable financial contributions including required attachments within actual the State aid scheme (published on the Agency's website [www.apvv.sk](http://www.apvv.sk) in the "State aid" section [Schéma SA.109803](#)) and the Agency shall set the deadline for delivery. After the assessment of applications for non-repayable financial contributions, the Agency shall decide on providing or non-providing state aid to the projects of the applicants – business entities.

## Granting the Funds

The project funding is provided to the recipient by the Agency based on a written Project Funding Agreement **no later than 31 October 2025**. The Agency shall deposit the carry-out of the project to the account specified in the project funding agreement, as soon as possible from the date the contract is signed. Signing of the project funding agreement is conditioned by submitting an updated project under the funding conditions specified in the application assessment report or other requirements of the Agency (especially in connection with Act No. 523/2004 Coll. of Budget Rules of the Public Service and of Change and Amendment of Some Acts) or Act No. 358/2015 Coll. on the adjustment of certain relations in the field of state aid and *de minimis* and Change and Amendment of Some Acts (the State Aid Act)).

## Questions and answers

Information regarding the Call are provided through the contact form available at: <https://www.apvv.sk/kontakt/kontaktny-formular.html>

## Annexes

The following annexes comprise part of the Public Call:

Annex 1: Technical and formal conditions

Annex 2: Assessment procedure and assessment criteria

- Annex 3: Budgeting principles
- Annex 4: Basic research application form template  
(Application form and obligatory scheme)
- Annex 5: Applied research application form template  
(Application form and obligatory scheme)
- Annex 6: Template of application for development  
(Application form and obligatory scheme)
- Annex 7: Recommended template of the Letter of intent on use of the project findings
- Annex 8: Funding agreement
- Annex 9: Project electronic application system manual