



## ANNEX 2 – ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

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### Part A

#### Project Draft Assessment Procedure under Public Call SK-CN-RD 2018

##### Basic Principles and Assessment Process Procedure:

1. The Office of the Slovak Research and Development Agency (hereinafter referred to as Agency) through the Application Committee appointed by the Director of the Agency shall assess the submitted applications for fulfilment of technical and formal conditions stated in the public call and, if the application does not meet the technical requirements, the Applicant is called by the SRDA to remedy the deficiencies within 14 days of receiving request for their removal.
2. If no deficiencies of the Application remedied under paragraph 1, the SRDA shall decide to exclude the Application for failure to comply with the technical conditions, and shall notify the Applicant of the Decision on excluding the Application. The Decision on excluding the Application contains specific reasons for the Application's non-compliance with the technical terms.
3. Council of the Agency shall appoint one of its members to be a Rapporteur for each evaluated Application.
4. Council of the Agency shall provide two independent reviews prepared by national and foreign expert in the given field for each Application complying with the technical and formal requirements. The reviews are the basis for the application assessment by the Council of the Agency. An Application may only be reviewed by domestic reviewers solely for the reasons of copyright protection of the protected planned outputs (e.g. patents) in a competitive environment, namely if stated so by the Applicant in the accompanying letter to the Application.
5. Assessing the project quality is the basic principle for assessing the Application for Project Funding.
6. Application Assessment shall be done based on the assessment criteria set separately for solving the basic research project and separately for solving the applied research and development project.
7. Projects irrelevant to the priorities set out in the Call shall be excluded from the assessment process.
8. The maximum number of points for the application assessment from one reviewer is 100, at least 0. The reviewer shall individually and duly justify the assigned points for each criterion. In addition, in the conclusion the reviewer shall identify an overall project assessment, which is in line with the point - based project assessment.
9. The average point score shall be calculated from the assessment score points by the independent reviewers, rounded to one decimal place. The average score calculated so is considered as the average rating of the reviewers.
10. Based on the project proposals assessment, the Council of the Agency may adjust downward or upward the average point score of two project reviewers by a value of between -5 and +5 points (that is -5% to +5% of the maximum possible number of points). This fact shall be recorded and justified in the Assessment Report.
11. Council of the Agency shall prepare ranking of the projects according to the final number of points obtained, and identify the projects recommended for funding.
12. The minimum threshold for selection of the projects for funding is 75 points.

13. Subsequently, an international assessment shall be carried out by a Joint Committee.
14. The assessment of the Joint Committee is organised by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science of SR within the terms agreed with the partner party. Rules for selecting the projects in the International Joint Committee are as follows:
  - Projects not submitted or unrated on both sides will be excluded due to non-compliance with the terms of the Call;
  - Two-sided highly rated projects at national levels will benefit against the projects that are assessed differently;
  - Differences in the project assessment on both sides will be addressed in discussion, taking mutual interest into the account.

Final number of the projects selected to be supported by the Joint Committee depends on the amount of funds allocated to the call in both the participating countries.

15. After completion of the assessment process, i.e. following an assessment of the Joint Committee that has agreed a list of the projects recommended for funding, the Agency shall notify the Applicants of the decision on their Applications. The annex to the Decision comprises an Assessment Report and information on the reviews.

## Part B

### Basic Project Assessment Criteria

#### A) APPLICATION RELEVANCY ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE CALL PRIORITIES

(fully/not at all)

If "not at all", a detailed narrative is needed.

If "not at all", the reviewer does not evaluate the Application from a professional point.

#### B) PROFESSIONAL ASSESSMENT OF THE APPLICATION

##### 1. Timeliness and Science Degree of the Objectives, Scientific Level and Project Quality (0-20 points)

- Assess the relevance of objectives and the relation to the priorities of the call, the timeliness degree of the problem solved in the given field of science and technics
- Assess the project's scientific level and the science degree of the project methods
- Evaluate to what extent the project objectives are clearly defined and achievable in practice
- Assess the correctness and relevance of the proposed project methodology and its effectiveness from meeting the declared objectives point of view
- Assess the justness of international bilateral co-operation in solving the research project

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##### 2. Project Originality and Solution Concept (0-20 points)

- Evaluate the project originality extent
- Assess the proposed concept of solution, clarity of the scientific hypothesis formulation
- Evaluate significance of preliminary findings, interlinking the proposed solution to own published findings
- Evaluate relevance of the foreign partner's participation in solving the research project

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##### 3. Project Structure, Quality of Processing, Logical Follow-Up of the Solution Procedures (0-20 points)

- Evaluate the level and quality of the content and formal project design, the clarity and the logical follow-up of the procedures and declared objectives
- Assess the clarity, scientific level and adequacy of the methodology used
- Assess the project implementation in terms of timing and scientific objectives
- Assess the project from a financial point of view

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##### 4. Professional Qualifications of the Slovak Principal Investigator (0-20 points)

- Evaluate the quality of scientific outputs of the Slovak Principal Investigator
  - Evaluate the quality and number of the projects solved led by the Slovak Principal Investigator so far or having cooperated on their management
  - Characterise personality of the Slovak Principal Investigator in the given area of fundamental research world-wide, and/or in the European Research Area.
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#### **5. Professional Qualifications of the Slovak Research Team (0-10 points)**

- Assess the competence level of the Slovak research team to solve the submitted project
  - Assess the competence degree of the individual members of the Slovak research team to solve the submitted project
  - Evaluate ability of the Slovak team members to cooperate, their mutual complementarity and representativeness in the project solution
  - Assess the existing infrastructure of the workplace and its guarantee of quality project solution
  - Assess the level of young R & D staff involvement in the project solution
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#### **6. Professional Qualifications of the Partner Organisation's Research Team (0-10 points)**

- Evaluate the quality of scientific outputs of the partner organisation's Principal Investigator
  - Evaluate the competence level of the partner organisation's research team and of the participating research organisations to solve the submitted project
  - Assess the existing infrastructure of the workplace (s) of the partner organisation and its (their) guarantee of quality project solution
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**In criteria 4 to 6, the reviewers and the Council shall consider time (in the case of women - maternity leave) of active professional life of the Principal Investigator and members of the team.**

### **Part C**

#### **Applied Research and Development Project Assessment Criteria**

#### **A) APPLICATION RELEVANCY ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE CALL PRIORITIES**

(fully/not at all)

If "not at all", a detailed narrative is needed.

If "not at all", the reviewer does not evaluate the Application from a professional point.

#### **B) PROFESSIONAL ASSESSMENT OF THE APPLICATION**

##### **1. Project Timeliness and Applicability of Research Results and Solution Procedure (0-20 points)**

- Assess the relevance of objectives and the relation to the priorities of the call, timeliness of the project objectives for the given field of application science and technology
  - Assess timeliness of the proposed solution procedures and the application level of the expected results
  - Assess to what extent the project objectives are clearly defined and achievable in practice
  - Assess the correctness and relevance of the proposed project methodology and the extent of its ability to meet the declared objectives
  - Assess the justness of international bilateral co-operation in solving the research project
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**2. Originality and Innovative Nature of the Project, Research and Development Significance of the Project results, and the Usability Rate (0-20 points)**

- Assess the extent of the project originality
  - Identify the benefits of the project to the development of innovations (new products, improved products, new industrial materials, new technologies, new services, etc.)
  - Assess the way and extent of applicability of the declared project results for the Applicant/user in SR and abroad
  - Define the rate of economic and social benefits of international bilateral co-operation for SR (increasing the share of added value, saving resources, employment effects, domestic raw materials using, improving human resources, protecting the environment)
  - Assess the what extent the international bilateral cooperation contributes to the expected benefits
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**3. Project Structure, Quality of Processing, Logical Follow-Up of the Solution Procedures (0-20 points)**

- Evaluate the level and quality of the project processing, comprehensiveness and the logical follow-up of the procedures and the declared objectives
  - Assess the clarity and application-research level of the project methods
  - Assess whether the proposed solution process and its logical context ensure the achievement of declared objectives and application outputs
  - Assess the project from a financial point of view
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**4. Professional Qualifications of the Slovak Principal Investigator (0-20 points)**

- Evaluate the quality of application research outputs of the Slovak Principal Investigator
  - Evaluate the quality and number of the projects led by the Slovak Principal Investigator so far or having participated on their management
  - Evaluate the personality of the Slovak Principal Investigator in the given area of the applied research or experimental development and application of his/her research solutions
  - Assess the level of recognition of the leading research team in the applied research (international, European, national levels)
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**5. Professional Qualifications of the Slovak Research Team (0-10 points)**

- Assess the competence degree of the Slovak research team to solve the submitted project
  - Assess the competence degree of the individual Slovak research team members to solve the submitted project
  - Evaluate ability of the Slovak research team members to cooperate, and their potential contribution to successful project solution
  - Assess the existing infrastructure of the workplace and its guarantee for quality project solution and achievement of its objectives
  - Assess the level of young R & D staff involvement in the project solution
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**6. Professional Qualifications of the Partner Organisation's Research Team (0-10 points)**

- Evaluate the quality of the applied research outputs of the partner organisation's Principal Investigator
- Evaluate the competence degree of the partner organisation's research team and of the participating research organisations to solve the submitted project
- Assess the existing infrastructure of the workplace (s) of the partner organisation and its (their) guarantee for quality project solution.