



Part A

Project draft assessment procedure under public call DS-FR 2019

1. The Office of the Slovak Research and Development Agency (hereinafter referred to as “agency” or “APVV”) through the application committee appointed by the director of the agency shall assess the submitted applications for fulfilment of technical and formal requirements (hereinafter referred to as “technical requirements”) stated in the public call DS-FR 2019.
2. If the application does not meet the technical requirements, the APVV shall invite the applicant to remedy the deficiencies within 14 days.
3. If the deficiencies of the application are left not remedied under paragraph 2, the APVV shall decide to reject the application for failure to comply with the technical requirements, 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 requirements.
4. Council of the Agency shall appoint one of its members to be a rapporteur for each evaluated application.
5. 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 may be prepared in Slovak, Czech or English languages. The reviews are the basis for the application evaluation by the council of the agency. The council of the agency may set up a working group in the evaluation of applications pursuant to §15 sect. 11 of Act No. 172/2005 Coll. as amended.
6. Assessing the project quality is the basic principle for assessing the application for project funding.
7. Application assessment shall be done based on the assessment criteria set.
8. The evaluator shall provide a verbal evaluation of compliance with the criterion. At the same time, the evaluator shall allocate points to the given criterion from the range of points set for each criterion. The maximum number of points for the application evaluation from one evaluator is 100. 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 evaluation score points awarded 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 an assessment of project proposals, the Council of the Agency may adjust, downward or upward, the average score of two project reviewers by up to **± 5 points**. If the Council of the Agency changes the average score by more than **± 5 points**, a reasoned and unambiguous justification for that decision must be given.
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 Ministry of Education, Youth and Science of SR organizes the evaluation of the joint commission within the terms agreed with the partner countries. Rules for selecting the projects in an international joint commission are as follows:
 - the projects not submitted or not evaluated by all the participating parties shall be rejected due to their non-compliance with the terms of the call;
 - multilaterally highly rated projects at national levels shall be favoured over the projects rated differently;
 - differences in project evaluation by the partners shall be addressed through discussion, while considering the mutual interest of all the participating parties.

Final number of the projects selected to be supported by the joint committee depends on the amount of funds allocated to the call in all 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

Project Assessment Criteria

1. Scientific value of the intended research intent (0 – 25 points)

- Assess the degree of topicality of the problem solved in the given field of science and technology
 - Evaluate the scientific level of the research intent from the point of the objectives set
 - Assess the degree of originality of the research intent
 - Assess to what extent the objectives of the research intent are clearly defined and realistically achievable
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2. Feasibility of the joint research plan and adequacy of the scientific method (0 – 15 points)

- Evaluate the realisation of the research intent in terms of timetable and the objectives set
 - Assess the justification of the scientific methods used
 - Assess the suitability of the timing of mobility activities in the individual stages of the project solution
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3. Professional qualifications of the principal investigator and the Slovak research team (0 – 20 points)

- Assess the quality of scientific outputs of the principal investigator
 - Assess professional quality of the research team
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4. Significance and justification of the international multilateral cooperation in solving the research intent (0 – 15 points)

- Evaluate the necessity for international bilateral cooperation for solving the research intent
 - Assess the justification of a foreign partner's participation in the research intent
 - Assess the effectiveness of the planned mobility activities
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5. Potential for further or future the international cooperation (0 – 15 points)

- Assess the expected social or economic benefits of the international multilateral cooperation for the Slovak Republic
 - Assess to what extent the international multilateral cooperation contributes to the expected benefits
 - Assess the fulfilment of the objectives of the call
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6. Participation of young R & D staff involvement and/or of Ph.D. students in the project solution (0 – 10 points)

- Evaluate the share young R & D staff and/or of Ph.D. students in the project solving
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In criterion 3 a 6, the reviewers and the council shall consider the time (in the case of women - maternity leave) of active professional life of the principal investigator and members of the team.