Based on the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the Government of the Slovak Republic on Scientific and Technical Cooperation, signed on June 21, 2017 in Podgorica, the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation is announcing

 **CALL**

**FOR JOINT RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSALS**

**2026-2027**

Between Montenegro and the Slovak Republic

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| **OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL** |

Within this public call project proposals from all research and development areas can be submitted. The aim of bilateral cooperation projects is to establish new or intensify the existing scientific and technological cooperation, using mainly the following instruments:

* + preparation of joint international projects;
	+ preparation of joint publications and other outputs;
	+ active participation in conferences, organizing the joint scientific events;
	+ mutual use of instrumentation and laboratory techniques;
	+ gathering the research materials;
	+ involvement of Ph.D. students and/or young R & D staff (aged under 35).

In the submitted Project, the Applicant shall indicate the field of science and technology the Application falls into.

The Parties invite the submission of joint project proposals, up to ten (10), involving the participation of researchers from both countries and facilitating their mutual visits to foster collaboration on joint research initiatives.

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| **FINANCIAL PROVISIONS** |

Funding will be provided to support the **mobility of researchers** engaged in joint research projects. **Research stays in both countries are obligatory.**

Each Party will cover expenses for its own researchers, including:

* Travel expenses;
* Accommodation and daily expenses;
* Optional project-related material costs (up to a defined limit).

The Parties agree to contribute on an equal basis to the financing of the Programme, subject to the availability of the Parties’ funds.

Funding will be provided **only** for activities within the scope of these guidelines.

***MONTENEGRO***:

**Maximum funding per project:** **8.000 EUR**, up to **4.000 EUR** per year.

Eligible costs:

* **Travel expenses:** Travel costs will be reimbursed based on submitted invoices and supporting documentation (e.g., boarding passes). Eligible expenses include airfare (economy class) and local transfers (bus/train) to the location of the activity. Travel by car is also possible if it proves more cost-effective, in which case the reimbursement will be calculated based on the applicable rates from the applicable national Decree on Reimbursement of Expenses for Public Sector Employees.
* **Daily subsistence allowance:**
	+ **100 EUR** **gross** per day (for up to 15 days per month); OR
	+ **1,500 EUR** per month (for stays longer than 15 days, up to 3 months maximum).

**Note:** To ensure responsible use of funding, beneficiaries are encouraged to schedule mobility outside of holiday periods.

* **Optional project-related material costs:** Optional material costs necessary for the project’s implementation may be funded up to 10% of the total project budget, subject to consultation and consent of the respective Ministry. Eligible costs could include: research materials (e.g., chemicals, reagents), consumables, literature and publications, lab supplies. General-purpose equipment (e.g., computers, phones, cameras), office supplies, and non-research-related services are not eligible for funding.

***SLOVAK REPUBLIC:***

**Maximum funding per project:** **8,000 EUR**, i.e., up to **4,000 EUR** per year.

The support given by the Parties to the research teams shall complement the proper resources of each team, and is intended to subsidize the general costs linked to the international nature of the projects, the costs of international travel (mainly transportation and per-diem expenses). Each research team may apply for complementary support from other institutions.

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| **ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS** |

The Call is open to scientific and research institutions that meet the eligibility criteria set by the respective national regulations.

***MONTENEGRO:***

* Institutions must be licensed by the Montenegrin Ministry responsible for research.
* The **project coordinator** must hold a PhD and be employed by a **licensed Montenegrin scientific research institution**, as confirmed by an official statement from the institution.

***SLOVAK REPUBLIC:***

* Institutions must meet the Slovak legal framework for research organizations.
* The **project coordinator** must be an employee of a **recognized Slovak research institution**, as per Slovak regulations.

**Each project must have one coordinator from Montenegro and one from the Slovak Republic.** Both coordinators must jointly prepare project documentation and submit it to their respective authorities.

**Each coordinator may submit only one project proposal.**

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| **PROJECT REQUIREMENTS** |

Project proposals must be drafted in English.

Proposals must be **submitted simultaneously** to both Parties. Proposals submitted to only one Party will **not** be considered.

The cooperating partners from the research and development organisations on both sides shall jointly develop content-identical projects.

Projects involving living organisms and humans must ensure compliance with the **International Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes**. This includes a responsibility to protect and promote the welfare of animals used in research.

Projects that do not comply with these requirements **will be not accepted**.

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| **PROCEDURES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS** |

Research teams must submit joint project proposals simultaneously to the relevant institutions in both countries, using the prescribed application forms. The application forms constitute an integral part of this Call.

The application form, along with the supporting documents, must be submitted in hard copy (one copy) to the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation (Vaka Đurovića bb, 81000 Podgorica) and electronically via e-mail to the contact person: snezana.vukotic@mpni.gov.me

The deadline for submitting project proposals is **July 16, 2025 by 12:00 p.m.**

Incomplete applications, or those submitted after the deadline, will not be considered.

Applicants are advised to ensure that their partner from the other country has submitted an identical project proposal to their respective national authority.

The completed and signed application form must be submitted **in English**, together with the following attachments:

1. CV of the Montenegrin project leader, with a list of relevant publications from the last five years related to the project (up to 15 most significant references);
2. CV of the Slovakian project leader, with a list of relevant publications from the last five years related to the project (up to 15 most significant references);
3. CV of all other team members from Montenegro;
4. CV of all other team members from Italy.

A project leader must be designated for each project, in both Montenegro and Slovak Republic. The project leader must hold a PhD degree.

One project leader may submit only one project proposal.

Unilaterally submitted project proposals will not be considered.

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| **PROJECT EVALUATION AND SELECTION**  |

The final decision on projects approved for co-financing will be made by the Joint Scientific and Technological Cooperation Committee of Montenegro and the Slovak Republic. The decision will be based on the evaluation results in each country according to the following criteria:

* Relevance and innovativeness of the project;
* Quality and originality of the research approach;
* Multilateral networking;
* Involvement of young researchers;
* Complementarity of project partners and mutual interest;
* References of the project leader and the project teams.

Additional value will be given to projects that:

* Involve industrial counterparts
* Benefit from third-party funding (such as public or private research institutes and organizations)
* Participate in multilateral or European research programs, particularly the **EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation “Horizon Europe”**

Based on the peer review results, a joint Montenegrin-Slovak committee will assess the evaluations and make the final funding decisions.

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| **DURATION** |

The maximum project duration is **24 months**.

The anticipated project implementation start date is **January 1, 2026**, and end date is **December 31, 2027**.

Project coordinators will be required to submit a progress report at the end of the first year as a precondition for further funding, and final report within one month after the project completion.

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| **PUBLICATION OF RESULTS** |

***MONTENEGRO:***

The list of the selected projects and funding procedures will be published on the website of the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation (<https://www.gov.me/mps>). Applicants will also be notified of the evaluation outcome via email, and a formal Decision on acceptance or rejection will be issued accordingly.

***SLOVAK REPUBLIC:***

Results will be published according to the procedures established by the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic.

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| **CONTACT INFORMATION** |

For further information, applicants may contact:

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| **In Montenegro** | **In the Slovak Republic** |
| **Snežana Vukotić,**Ministry of Education, Science and InnovationDivision for International Cooperation and EU funds in the field of Science and InnovationVaka Đurovića b.b.81000 Podgoricasnezana.vukotic@mpni.gov.me | **Marcel Sládok,**  Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak RepublicDepartment of European and International Science Policy Division of Research and Development Černyševského 50, 851 01 Bratislava813 30 Bratislavamarcel.sladok@minedu.sk**Mgr. Petra Kozáková, PhD.**Slovak Research and Development AgencyMýtna 23, P.O.BOX 839 04839 04 Bratislava 32Phone: +421 918 704 028E-mail: petra.kozakova@apvv.sk |