

**Joint Call Text
For Funding V4-Korea Joint Research Projects**

Established between the following partners: The Visegrad Group (V4) countries;

- **Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic, hereafter referred to as “MEYS”**
- **National Office for Research, Development, and Innovation of Hungary, hereafter referred to as “NKFIH”**
- **National Centre for Research and Development of Poland, hereafter referred to as “NCBR”**
- **Slovak Academy of Sciences, hereafter referred to as “SAS”**

Korea;

- **National Research Foundation of Korea, hereafter referred to as “NRF”**

The above entities (hereinafter singularly referred to as “Participant” and collectively as “Participants”) have launched joint call for proposals to support collaborative research projects in priority areas in accordance with the “Memorandum of Cooperation on Scientific and Technological Cooperation”.

1. General Description of the Program

1-1. The V4-Korea Joint Research Program (hereinafter referred to as “KRP”) is:

- A mechanism for formulating and supporting concrete fundamental and applied research projects that would involve scientists from V4 countries (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia) and Korea.

1-2. V4-Korea Joint Call for Proposals

- The aim of the Joint Call is to develop high quality research networking and to pursue state-of-the-art science and technology through collaboration, towards realization of innovative and robust economies and societies in participating countries.

2. Design of the V4-Korea Joint Call

2-1. Research Field

For the first joint call, the Participants shall invite researchers from their countries to submit joint proposals for cooperative research projects in the field of chemistry and chemical engineering including IT, BT, NT based on the Chemistry and Chemical engineering.

2-2. Prospective Applicants

All applicants must fulfill their respective national eligibility rules for research grant application. The Participants, or funding institutions participating in the Call, will individually decide on the eligible beneficiaries in their countries according to their national regulations and restrictions.

2-3. Composition of the Consortia

For the first Joint Call, each project consortium should consist of at least 3 partners: one from Korea and two from two different V4 countries participating in the Joint Call. Proposals eligible for the call are those that follow the models of Korea+2 countries (1+2), Korea+3 countries (1+3), and Korea+4 countries (1+4), which means that the bilateral model of Korea+1 country (1+1) is not eligible.

Researchers should be affiliated with a research institute. The number of researchers participating in a project consortium should be appropriate for the aims of the research project and reasonably balanced in terms of multilateral participation.

Each project should clearly demonstrate the added value of working together. In each project consortium, principle project leader should be the Korean applicants because he or she should submit the one proposal at the electronic submission system at 'ernd.nrf.re.kr'. In addition, from the V4 countries, he or she should cooperate together with Korean partners to coordinate the proposals and he or she should submit the relevant application forms to the right way in accordance with the national rule of each countries.. All other researchers involved in a project are considered project partners (if they lead a work package) or project members (all other researchers).

Principle project leader: Korean researcher who should gather all relevant information of the research and submit it to ernd.nrf.re.kr under his/her authorities.

Project participants from the V4 countries: they should submit the relevant forms to their own countries in accordance with the national rule.

Since all relevant applicants would use the same English application form and they might share the common background of the project and each work package should be described according to their research plan in '2 work plan'

All project partners are advised to contact their National Contact Persons for further information on eligible costs and national specifications.

2-4. Funding/the V4- Korea Joint Call budget

Funding institutions participating in the Joint Call fund the researchers of their own countries respectively in accordance with the national regulation. The overall budget of the V4-Korea Joint Call is the sum of the individual budgets allocated by each participating funding institution. Some funding institutions might decide to set an upper limit that can be requested per project partner coming from the respective country. The upper funding limits may thus differ from one country to another. Applicants should therefore thoroughly check the national regulations and contact their V4-Korea KRP National Contact Persons for information.

Research Period : 3 years (36 months)

Overall Call Budget:

NRF (Korea): 500,000 EUR in total for 3 years

MEYS (Czech Republic): 500,000 EUR in total for 3 years

NKFIH (Hungary): 300,000 EUR in total for 3 years, only for basic research

NCBR (Poland): 500,000 EUR in total for 3 years

SAS (Slovakia): 240,000 EUR in total for 3 years

1) 1+4 model

This model will be funded by **NRF, MEYS, NKFIH, SAS and NCBR**. Priority will be given to the **1+4 model** projects in consideration of the concept of the V4-Korea collaboration.

2) 1+3 model

This model will be funded by **NRF, 3 funding institutions out of MEYS/NKFIH/NCBR /SAS**.

3) 1+2 model

This model will be funded by NRF and 2 funding institutions out of MEYS/NKFIH/NCBR /SAS.

4) 1+1 model

✓ NOT applicable for this Call for Proposals

The number of joint projects selected for funding and the total funding awarded will depend on the number and quality of project proposals submitted, available funds, and the funding institutions' decision.

2-5. Eligible costs and duration of funding

MEYS, NKFIH, NCBR, SAS, and NRF fund the researchers of their own countries respectively; funding should not in principle cross national borders.

The eligibility of all costs for each applicant depends on **the national regulations** applied by each Joint Call funding institution. However, all costs should fit into to three categories in the Budget Plan in Application Form:

1. Salary
2. Research Activities and Operating Expenses
3. Indirect Cost

All project partners are advised to contact their V4-Korea KRP National Contact Persons for further information on eligible costs, and national specifications. Funding will be provided for the duration of three years (36 months). The funding of projects is expected to start in September 2017

2-6. Intellectual Property Rights

The Participants will respect policies relative to the negotiation of Intellectual Property

(IP) Rights established by researchers' respective institutions.

The participating research institutions may deem it necessary to enter into an agreement for co-operative research to ensure good collaboration and to specify the rights regarding intellectual property. Such an agreement must not restrict the utilization of research results in Korea or the other counterpart countries for the benefit of any country. Once an agreement is concluded, it should be reported to the Participants. The Participants may suggest that intellectual property agreement should be concluded between the partners and may withhold funds until such an agreement is in place.

2-7. Proposal Submission

The project proposal should be submitted via the ERND system (ernd.nrf.re.kr) only by the Korean researchers. Foreign researchers are not given access to the electronic submission system.

The Korean researcher (principal project leader) should submit the proposal on behalf of the whole consortium. Thus only one proposal per project is needed. The Korean researcher (principal project leader) has to confirm the information contained in the proposal is correct and that the proposal is endorsed by all project partners by checking the boxes on the front page of the application form.

As a part of proposal submission, a word-template has to be downloaded, completed and submitted by the Korean researcher (principal project leader or second project leader). The following information should be included in the form:

Project title:

Project acronym:

5 Keywords for the project:

Information and contact data of the principal project leader , second project leader and other project partners:

- The Project Description template is structured as follows (a maximum number of pages will be given for each item to avoid overly long proposals):

1. General information

1.1 Short abstract of the project

1.2 Main objectives of the project

1.3 The project description

1.4 Scientific excellence of the project and the project partners

1.5 Project coordination and management

2. Work plan

2.1 Research methodology

2.2 Work plan (timetable)

2.3 Envisaged types of activities (including main milestones, deliverables and event locations)

2.4 Involvement of each partner

3. Expected impact of project results**4. Added values of multilateral cooperation**

5. Short CVs of main participating researchers including a list of the five most relevant publications of the last ten years

6. Budget Plan

7. Signature of both V4 and Korea sides (a scan of signatures is also acceptable)

Some funding institutions may ask the applicant to submit a parallel proposal to the funding institution in line with their national requirements. These additional proposals submitted to the national funding organizations may be evaluated or may not be evaluated by the funding institution, according to the rules and regulations of the funding institution.

3. Proposal Evaluation and Funding Decision

A three-step evaluation process will be implemented for the proposals submitted within the V4-Korea Joint Call.

3-1. Eligibility Check

National Contact Institution relevant to Korea-V4 Projects will check the eligibility of all submitted proposals taking into consideration the general Joint Call criteria and the individual national criteria respectively.

The **general eligibility criteria** that will be applied are:

- Inclusion of all necessary information in English
- Participation of at least three partners from a minimum of two different eligible V4 countries and Korea
- Eligibility of requested funding

3-2. Online Evaluation of Proposals

The selection of the proposals for funding is based on an international, independent evaluation by scientific peers. Each proposal is assessed by at least four evaluators, who

may be from any country and are chosen by the Participants (funding institutions).

The following four evaluation criteria are used: (TBC, Each nation abides by their own respective regulation)

1. Scientific excellence of the project and the project partners

- Sound concept and quality of objectives
- Originality, innovative character, uniqueness of the research idea
- Scientific track–record of the partners/publications in scientific journals
- Scientific standing of the organization the applicants belong to

2. Methodology and work plan

- Quality and effectiveness of the methodology
- Feasibility of the work plan (in relation to governance, adequate budget, resources, time schedule)

3. Expected impact of project results

- Impact of the project on the scientific field/community
- Expected exploitation of the results

4. Added values of multilateral cooperation

- Level of the collaborative interaction between project partners
- Added value of the international project consortium
- Sustainability of the expected collaboration
- Interdisciplinarity
- Involvement of early-stage researchers and gender balance

3-3. Meeting of the Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee will **group into A, B, or C the proposals based on the online evaluations and their own internal discussions, and will recommend to the Funding Institutions' Committee a list of proposals to be funded.** After the Scientific Committee meeting, the principle reviewers from each research fields recommend the final awardees to the funding institutions.

All applicants will be informed of the outcomes of the evaluation by **end of June.**

4. Conclusion of the funding contract

After the funding decision, all applicants will be informed by the funding institutions of their countries respectively about the results of the evaluation process and the next steps to be taken. From then, parallel contract negotiations will start between MEYS, NCBR, NKFIH, SAS and NRF and their respective researchers.

The project partners of each proposal to be funded will conclude an individual funding contract with their respective national funding institution. This may mean that partners of a successful proposal will have to submit an additional application to their national

funding institution to receive their funding.

5. Project Implementation and Reporting

Each consortium funded through the V4-Korea Joint Call is required to conclude a **Consortium Agreement** listing the rights and responsibilities of each project partner. Depending on the nature of the funded project, special regulations should be included in the Consortium Agreement regarding **Intellectual Property Rights**. Scientific and technological results and any other information derived from the co-operation activities under this call, can be announced, published or commercially exploited with the agreement of the partners of the funded projects and according to the national regulations as well as international agreements concerning intellectual property rights.

6. Indicative Timetable

Main Task	Time
Publication of the Call for Proposals	November 2016
Deadline for proposal submission	22 February 2017
Eligibility Check	15 March 2017
Online Evaluations	16 March 2017 – 30 April
Scientific Committee / Funding Organization Meeting	May 2017
Notification to applicants about the results of the evaluation	End of May 2017
Preparation of national/ regional funding contracts	June 2017
Start of projects	September 2017
Interim project reports	Check the Nat'l regulation
Final project reports (in English) (including the publishable summaries)	December 2020

To the extent possible, the funding institutions will synchronize the communication of the funding decisions to the applicants.

7. Miscellaneous

Specific information other than the items in this document will be discussed and decided among the Participants through relevant communications. The Participants will maintain the highest ethical and legal standards as funding institutions through their Joint Calls.