



Call for Proposals

“Installation Research Projects”

(Call identifier: UIP-05-2017)

Support to scientists for the establishment of independent
research careers

This call has been prepared in line with the regulation of the Croatian Science Foundation. You are accepting the implementation thereof by your application. The terms relating to the masculine gender are neutral and refer to persons of both genders.

*Please read the Guidelines for Applicants before submission of the documentation to the Call (deadline: May 2017.).
Guidelines can be found on web pages www.hrzz.hr.*

About the programme

Strategic plan of the Croatian Science Foundation (further below: HRZZ) for the period 2014 – 2018 states that the objective is to ensure stable financing of competitive research and installation research projects in regular and predictable multiannual cycles, with even development of research in all fields of science. In order to retain the highest number of young researchers, and also to attract talented researchers from abroad, it is important to continuously improve scientific infrastructure and scientific system as whole. According to the UNESCO report from 2015 (UNESCO SCIENCE REPORT – Towards 2030), among 148 countries, Croatia is ranked 137 for capacity to retain young talented researchers and 141 for capacity to attract talented researchers from abroad.

Goal of the programme is support to the establishment of new research groups of young scientists in order to accelerate establishment of independent research careers after obtaining the PhD award. Establishment of research groups that will work on innovative research topics, shall be enabled to successfully evaluated researchers.

Programme enables young researchers during five year financing period to establish research group and their own laboratory (if laboratory is necessary for research). The project proposal above all has to include development of new research topics and/or methodology.

Suggested research topic has to be internationally recognisable and/or nationally relevant, while applicant has to have an excellent track record.

Scientific organisation where applicant is employed (further below: organisation) has to support the establishment of the research group and its work in a clear and concrete manner as well as the implementation of the project financed by HRZZ. This guarantees strategic interest of the organisation for the successful development of the applicants' career, sustainability of research group and strengthens scientific and organisational capacity for the participation in international and/or national competitive calls.

About the call:

Aim: supporting the development/establishment of the independent research careers of young scientists in key moments when they can establish new research group which will work on internationally competitive and/or nationally relevant scientific topics. .

Opening of call: 3 April 2017

Closing date: 29 May 2017 to 13:00 (CET)

Call is open to all scientific fields

Applicant: scientist with 2 – 7 years of experience since completion of the PhD thesis from the closing date -of the call for proposals

Annual programme budget: 25 000 000 HRK

Maximum amount of financing from HRZZ for the project: to 2 000 000 HRK, for social sciences and humanities to 1 500 000 HRK per project.

Project funding duration: 5 years

Estimated beginning of the project: December 2017 / January 2018

Estimated number of financed projects: about 75

Applicant is a researcher who:

- obtained his PhD at least 2, and no more than 7¹ years before the application deadline for this call;
- is employed at the public university or public research institute in the Republic of Croatia and at other organisations that perform scientific activity and are registered in the Register of the Scientific organisations of the Ministry of Science and Education, fulfil the minimum conditions prescribed by the Regulation on conditions for permit to perform scientific activity, conditions for re-accreditation of scientific organisation and the content of the permit (OG 83/10). Applicant can only submit a proposal in the area for which the scientific organisation he is employed at, or will be employed at for the time of the project duration, is accredited and where the project will be implemented.
- has excellent track record and a potential for leading research group and development of new research topics and/or methodologies ;
- is not a principal investigator of any project financed by the HRZZ, „Unity through knowledge Fund“ (UKF) and wasn't a principal investigator on projects from Installation research projects programme, Research projects programme nor Partnership in research programme and is not a team collaborator on this call (UIP-05-2017);
- applicant can only submit one project proposal for this call.

It is expected that the principal investigator spends 70% of working time on this project.

Organisation:

Support of the organisation is a prerequisite for the submission of the project proposal for this call. It has to be detailed and has to contain clear description of all requested elements. It also has to clearly state that the applicant is employed or will be employed at the organisation during the project funding, how the research fits into organisation's long-term strategy, that it shall give infrastructural, technical and administrative support, ensure 15% of co- financing² for the project and to ensure that project applicant spends enough working time on the project implementation so to enable smooth realisation of the working plan and objectives according to this call.

¹HRZZ shall also take into account applicants with more than 7 years of experience after completion of PhD thesis if they deliver confirmation for maternity leave(s) or long term sickness. This period shall be deducted from time elapsed since the PhD award. For maternity leave time elapsed from PhD award will be extended for 16 months for each child born before or after the PhD award. For paternity leave, time elapsed from PhD award will be extended for real duration of the parental leave for each child born before or after the PhD award. For long term illness or clinical treatment, time after the PhD award shall be extended for the time of leave for illness after the PhD award. For applicants with PhD and specialisation the possibility to apply for this call will be extended for the duration of the specialisation after the PhD award. In none of these cases, the time elapsed since obtaining the first doctorate degree cannot exceed 11 years.

² Applicant also has to submit signed and stamped statement from the Head of the organisation. With this statement the Head commits the organisation to co-finance the project and to place funds at disposal of the principal investigator. These funds can be used only in accordance with the approved financial plan. Co-financing has to amount to at least 15% of the funding provided by HRZZ and together with HRZZ funding is the total amount of the project. Co-financing is allowed only for certain categories of financial plan.

Research:

- in all scientific areas;
- focused on creation of new knowledge, systems, processes, services, patents, resolving practical objectives or their improvement;
- opening new research topic or methodologies that are not financed from other sources;
- encompassing internationally recognisable and/or nationally relevant topics;
- having support from research organisation.

Establishing research group and/or laboratory:

- research group will be established during the first year of the project implementation;
- establishment and development of the research group shall be monitored according to the success of development of the new research topic and/or methodology, publishing in high-quality peer reviewed journals, applications for EU programmes and other competitive research programmes during the implementation of the project, and especially in the last two years of the project implementation, international research networking and similar;
- the smallest number of research group is three (*including principal investigator and postdoctoral researcher or PhD student whose employment is envisaged by financial plan*). During the first year of project implementation the group can be composed of two members if plan envisages that the group shall increase to achieve project' objectives;
- members of the research group during the project life-time can only be the persons who had completed PhD thesis 7 years before the call deadline, PhD students and students;
- other researchers can participate in the implementation of project, but they cannot be research group members.

Financing

Installation research projects programme shall finance projects in the duration of 5 years. The total annual budget of the programme is 25 000 000 HRK. The maximum amount of funding can be requested if it is planned to employ a PhD student or a postdoctoral researcher.

Maximum amount of funding from HRZZ can be 2 000 000 HRK per project. In social sciences and humanities the maximum amount is 1 500 000 HRK per project.

Requested amount must reflect a realistic estimation of research needs and must be completely justified, which shall be evaluated by the evaluation experts. HRZZ will transfer the funds to the organisation submitting the project.

The total amount of project financing shall be distributed over the five years in accordance with the needs of project activities.

Eligible expenses are³:

HRZZ:

- research costs;
- personnel cost (employment of doctoral students or postdoctoral researchers);
- dissemination costs, trainings and cooperation costs for research group members (up to 40 000 HRK annually during first two years of the project implementation, 60 000 HRK from the third year);
- equipment and maintenance costs;
- indirect cost – maximum 10% from total funding requested from HRZZ (*only if they are directly connected with project activities and they cannot be listed in any of the categories of eligible costs and they can be justified.*)

ORGANISATION:

- research costs;
- personnel cost (employment of doctoral students or postdoctoral researchers);
- costs for laboratory set up;
- equipment and maintenance costs;
- dissemination costs, trainings and cooperation costs for research group members (up to 20 000 HRK annually during first two years of the project implementation , 30 000 HRK from the third year);

Application

Deadline for application: 29 May 2017 till 13:00 (CET)

Application documentation is submitted in Croatian and English language. Project applicant is responsible for the equivalence of the project proposal in both languages and the Foundation will not be held responsible for any discrepancies.

All application documentation is submitted at the same time by electronic application system (EPP system) which can be accessed via HRZZ web pages or by link <https://epp.hrzz.hr/>.

Elements of the application

- 1. Administrative form** – must contain the original signatures of the Principal Investigator and the head of the organisation and the organisation's official;
- 2. Project proposal must contain:**
 - **Application form which contains:**
 - Part A – CV of the applicant, 5-year *track record* that includes the most important published papers of the applicant which qualify him for the call;
 - Part B – detailed description of the project proposal based on the latest developments in the research area, methodology, necessary material and human

³ Detailed information about eligible and non-eligible costs can be found in Annex 1. Guidelines for applicants for this Call (call deadline: May 2017).

resources, ethical issues;

- Part C – contains a list, of planned research group members, with description of roles and tasks and short CV (except for the research group members whose employment is planned and for whom profile and description of competences is given).
- **Mandatory documentation:**
 - Organisation Support letter/form (document with a maximum 2 pages with the description of the support of the organisation, including ensuring adequate conditions for the establishment of the research group or laboratory, including co-financing, with the signature of the project proposal applicant and Head of the organisation and stamp of the organisation);
 - Signed Letters of Intent for the participation in the proposed research for all research group members known at the time of the project application who are not employed at the organisation, and for collaborators;
 - Work plan with the activities connected with objectives, their sequencing and time of realisation, milestones and deliverables and the development plan of the research group;
 - Financial plan with elaborated financial resources connected with specific objectives and activities in the work plan;
 - Copy of PhD diploma and proof of employment⁴ or future employment in the organisation.

3. Supporting documentation

- Certificates that prove career breaks (if applicable);
- Other relevant documentation.

All documentation listed under 1 and 2 is mandatory. Incomplete applications and applications submitted after the stated deadline will not be taken into consideration.

Evaluation

Procedure of project proposals evaluation will include Croatian and international experts.

1. Project proposals that passed the administrative check, have complete and appropriately certified documentation and meet the Call conditions will be forwarded to evaluation.
2. Evaluation panel members will evaluate the project proposals according to the evaluation criteria for the Installation research projects call (call May-2017). The highest rated project proposals shall be submitted to peer review.
3. Peer review will be conducted by international experts according to evaluation criteria for the Installation research projects call (call May-2017).
4. After peer review, evaluation panel members will evaluate project proposals according to additional criteria prescribed in the Evaluation form C.

⁴ For applicants not employed in the organisation during the application to call, the intention to employ the applicant for the duration of project will be stated in the Organisation support Letter.

5. After the end of the evaluation, the panels will form the ranking list. Ranking list will serve as a recommendation list for financing project proposals.

HRZZ can, together with regular reports, check the progress of projects and establishment of research groups through official visits to organisations which are implementing projects. The key criteria for monitoring the project progress and subsequently continuation of project funding is realisation of work plan, establishment of new research group and accountable spending of project funds.

Together with the regular evaluation of reports, an evaluation expert will be assigned to each funded project. The evaluation expert shall monitor the establishment of the research group and development of research topic.

Criteria for the evaluation of project proposal are available on the web pages www.hrzz.hr. The principal investigator is obliged to be familiar with and accept the principles of financing and implementation of projects financed by HRZZ and to secure all necessary permits before the use of funds.

Contact

All enquiries related to the Call will be accepted only **via the following e-mail address:** uspostavni@hrzz.hr.