



Call for Proposals “Research Projects”

(Call identifier: IP-01-2018)

This call has been prepared in line with the regulations of the Croatian Science Foundation. By applying to this Call you are accepting the implementation thereof. The terms relating to the masculine gender are neutral and refer to persons of both genders.



About programme

The “Research Projects” programme finances *basic* research that creates new, improves existing knowledge about particular area, and aims at a better understanding of research subjects as well as *applied* research conducted with clear technological, economic or social goals.

The proposed subject must be internationally recognizable and / or nationally relevant, and the applicant of the project must have excellent achievements. The projects that will be supported by this call should be based on strong research teams, whose principal investigators are internationally and nationally recognized scientists, and includes connecting of scientific organizations, researchers and equipment, the development of scientific capacities and planning the development of young researchers. Consolidation of research is encouraged to raise the quality of research and the creation of internationally competitive and recognizable research groups.

The aims of the Call:

- to create new knowledge that will contribute to the strengthening of Croatian economy and the welfare of society;
- to encourage connecting of researchers and the creation of recognizable research groups who are dealing with internationally and / or nationally significant issues, whose principal investigators are prominent scientists with internationally recognized achievements;
- to create a critical mass of research groups that can be competitive at the international level and scientists who may be mentors to the new generation of young researchers;
- to develop Croatian scientific and research space.

About the Call:

Opening of call: 2 November 2017

Closing date: 10 January 2018 until 13:00 (CET)

Call is open to all scientific fields

Applicant: a prominent scientist with internationally recognized achievements in science and/or technology in the area in which the project is submitted

Project: fundamental or applied research conducted by a recognizable research group

Budget for 2018: 60,000,000 HRK

Project funding duration: 4 years

Estimated beginning of the project: September 2018. Projects shall start no later than 3 months after receiving notice about opening negotiations on the Work plan and Financial plan.



Applicant

- researcher responsible for scientific research and conducting the entire project;
- an active researcher (must have a PhD, experience in project management, an active research group, which is evident from the list of achievements of the applicant and the research group members, relevant publications and/or patents within the research field of the proposed project) with internationally recognized achievements and proven successful mentoring of young researchers;
- is permanently employed at a 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 submit a proposal only in the area for which the scientific organisation is accredited, where they are employed and where the project will be implemented.
- regular members of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts can submit project proposal;
- applicant can submit only one project proposal per Call.

*One researcher can be at the same time in the status of a principal investigator and / or collaborator at two research projects at the most and/or installation research projects as a principal investigator and collaborator on another project or as an collaborator on two projects. For this Call the mentioned rule does not apply to those researchers who are principal investigators and/or collaborators on projects ending **until 2 November 2018**. This condition does not exclude the special conditions prescribed by specific calls.*

Detailed information on who can apply for the Call can be found in the Guidelines for applicants for the "Research Projects" Call (deadline: January 2018).

Organisational support

Competitiveness of the research group is not possible without the support of the scientific organization in which the applicant is employed. Therefore, the HRZZ will support projects with clearly defined and real support of the scientific organization in which the proposed project will be implemented (adequate space, existing scientific infrastructure, equipment that will available to the principal investigator, administrative support, etc.).



Terms of the Call

- Projects lasting 4 years dealing with internationally competitive and nationally relevant issues and include connecting of scientific organizations, researchers and equipment;
- Projects carried out with an active research group whose contribution is transparent and planned according to the project's work plan.
Research that has strong and unquestionable support of scientific organisation
- Funds will be awarded to research that does not repeat already conducted research, including participation in longitudinal or long-term research conducted as part of cooperation in international collaborations or as part of international longitudinal research or research already funded from other sources. Research supported by HRZZ should have a relevant impact on society or on creation of new knowledge and technology.
- The applications for the continuation of the project funded by HRZZ must clearly demonstrate development of research goals. HRZZ will not support projects that repeat objectives of the previously funded projects and this will be checked during the project proposal evaluation.
- In the last year of project implementation, applied research can be additionally funded through application of a subproject to connect with end-users or to use research results. Applicants of the applied project proposals should anticipate in the project proposal potential user groups and ways how the project will achieve effect.



Funding

Total budget for "Research Projects" programme for the year 2018 is 60,000,000 HRK.

The amount of funding should be evenly distributed over all years of project implementation.

Total requested amount of funds should reflect a realistic estimation on research needs and must be completely justified.

The largest amount of project funding: up to 1,000,000 HRK, and for projects from the social sciences and humanities up to 600,000 HRK. In case of a justified increase in material costs of research or procurement of scientific equipment for research groups with a larger number of researchers it is possible to apply for up to 1,500,000 HRK, or up to 900,000 HRK for social sciences and humanities.

HRZZ will transfer the funds to the bank account of the scientific organisation that submitted the project.

Eligible expenses ¹:

- research costs;

¹ Detailed explanation of eligible costs can be found in Guidelines for Applicants for the "Research Projects" Call for proposals (deadline: January 2018).

- personnel costs (employment of postdoctoral researchers);
- equipment and maintenance costs;
- dissemination costs, trainings and cooperation costs (up to 70.000 HRK per year);
- indirect costs – maximum 5% of 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.



Application contents and submission process²

All application documentation shall be submitted only in electronic version through electronic application system (EPP system) which can be accessed via HRZZ web pages or via the following link: <https://epp.hrzz.hr/>.

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

Project proposals must be complete and submitted into the electronic system before the Call application deadline. **Incomplete applications and applications submitted after the stated deadline will not be taken into consideration.**

Key elements of the application process:

- The application is submitted by the principal investigator on behalf of the scientific organization (the applicant is a legal entity).
- Application forms, number of pages and characters are defined and exceptions are not possible.
- The submission of project proposals is regulated by the rules that must be studied before submitting the project proposal.

Application contents:

- 1. Administrative form** – it must contain the original signatures of the Principal Investigator and the head of the organisation and the organisation's stamp.
- 2. Application form** which contains:
 - Part A – CV of the applicant, 5-year *track record* that includes applicant's most important papers on which they are leading or corresponding author and other relevant achievements;
 - Part B – detailed description of the project proposal;

² Detailed instructions on application content and guidelines on completing the application can be found in Guidelines for Applicants for the "Research Projects" Call for proposals (deadline: January 2018).

- Part C – contains a list of research group members and their CV.
- 3. Organisational support Form** (one document with a maximum of 2 pages – organisational support description, with signatures of the Principal Investigator and the head of the organisation and the institution's stamp);
- 4. Signed Letters of Intent** for the participation in the proposed project for all research group members known at the time of the project application who are not employed at the organisation,;
- 5. Financial plan** with elaborated financial resources connected with specific objectives and activities from the work plan;
- 6. Work plan** with the activities connected with objectives, their sequencing and time of realisation, milestones and deliverables.

Supporting documentation:

- Ethics approval;
- Other relevant documentation.

During the second round of the project proposals evaluation, applicants who are already principal investigators on HRZZ projects that will finish after the deadline for the IP-01-2018 call will be requested to submit a project progress report according to the form available under the call documentation.

All documentation listed from 1 to 6 is mandatory for all applicants. Incomplete applications will not be taken into consideration.

Before submitting the project proposal it is necessary to study [Guidelines for Applicants for the "Research Projects" Call for proposals \(deadline: January 2018\)](#).



Evaluation

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

1. Project proposals which 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 Research projects call (deadline: January 2018). 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 Research projects call (deadline: January 2018).
4. After peer review, evaluation panel members will evaluate project proposals according to additional criteria prescribed in the Evaluation form C.

At the end of the evaluation, the panels will form the ranking list, which will be base for a recommendation for financing of project proposals.

The estimated duration of the evaluation is between 6 and 9 months.

Evaluation criteria are available on HRZZ website www.hrzz.hr.



Project proposal submission deadline

Deadline for submitting applications is **10 January 2018 until 13:00 (CET)**. **Project proposals submitted after the specified date will not be accepted and we invite all applicants to submit the applications in a timely manner.**



Contact

All enquiries related to the Call will be accepted only via the following e-mail address: istrzivacki@hrzz.hr. Responses to the received questions will be published twice a week in Frequently asked questions section at the HRZZ web site. Before submitting a query to the above mentioned email address, the applicants should check the already listed answers to Frequently asked questions as the HRZZ will not replicate the answers to the already raised questions.