

Call for Proposals „Partnership in Research“

(Call Identifier: PAR-2018)

Croatian Science Foundation

This Call for Proposals is based upon the General Acts of the Croatian Science Foundation. By applying to the Call you accept its terms and obligations. The terms in the masculine gender used in this Call for Proposals are neutral and refer to persons of either gender.

About the programme

- Programme supports partnership in research between public universities or public research institutes in the Republic of Croatia (hereinafter: public scientific institution) and other non-governmental (not funded from the state budget) sources of funding from Croatia and abroad: private companies, local authorities and self-government, foreign foundations and agencies that fund research, foreign scientific organizations etc. (hereinafter: partner institutions).
- The research provider is a researcher employed at a public scientific institution in the Republic of Croatia, which through a partnership project can establish a new or develop an existing collaboration in the implementation of scientific research the results of which can be applied in the economy or society.
- With this program Croatian Science Foundation (hereinafter: HRZZ) supports relevant scientific research that can accelerate the development of new and existing companies and attract those representatives from partner organizations who will significantly contribute to the economic, technological and social development of the Republic of Croatia. The specific objective of this program is the implementation of partnership research in order to:
 - o Support research which has the potential for a visible and relevant economic or social impact
 - o Strengthen links between Croatian public scientific institutions and the economy
 - o Enable knowledge and / or technology transfer
 - o Establish links with users of research results.
- Researchers choose their research theme independently. Evaluation elements are scientific value, originality and innovativeness of the project, proposed research methodology, economic growth potential as well as the achievements of researchers – Principal Investigator and team members.
- The costs of research of the public institution will be borne by the HRZZ, and the partner organization (or organizations) is obliged to provide at least 50% of the total project value. The total amount of funding is paid to the account of the public scientific institution.

The Call in brief:

Call release date: April 2018

Application deadline: 2 July and 3 December 2018 until 13:00 (CET)

Research area: all areas of natural sciences, biomedicine and health, technical sciences, biotechnical sciences, social sciences, humanities and interdisciplinary sciences.

Principal Investigator: a researcher with internationally recognized achievements in science and/or technology within the field of the proposed project.

Total programme budget: 15.000.000,00 HRK

Annual funding amount per project (HRZZ funding): HRZZ funds the project with 200.000,00 to 500.000,00 HRK per year, and the maximum funding amount is 1.500.000,00 HRK.

Project funding duration: from 2 to 3 years

Estimated end of the evaluation procedure: November 2018 for the deadline for applications in July 2018 or March 2019 for the deadline for applications in December 2018

Who?

- Applications can be submitted by Croatian public universities or public research institutes.

Principal Investigator:

- Principal investigator should be a researcher with acknowledged achievements in science and/or technology in the field of the project proposal.

Principal Investigator must be permanently employed at the home institution.

Regular members and employees of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts can be Principal Investigators even if they are not permanently employed at a scientific institution that is also the host institution.

Partner Institution:

- which can provide technical and financial conditions for the project implementation.
- which shows interest and potential for the use of research results.

*Detailed information on who can apply for the Call can be found in the **Guidelines for Applicants for the "Partnership in Research" Call for proposals (deadline: 2018)**.*

Institutional Support

Research group competitiveness is not possible without the institutional support and HRZZ will, therefore, support projects of scientific value with a clearly described and concrete support of the institution at which the proposed project will be implemented (adequate space, administrative assistance, existing infrastructure, equipment which will be made available to the Principal Investigator, etc.).

Important notes:

- A researcher can submit only one project proposal in the role of Principal Investigator per Call.
- Application to this Call for proposals is possible regardless of participation in other HRZZ projects. However, the evaluation will particularly examine the workload of the project proposal applicant in HRZZ projects and other projects.
- Researcher that has the status of a Principal Investigator of an Installation Research Project funded by HRZZ until the deadline of this Call, cannot submit a project proposal to this Call for Proposals of the Partnership in Research programme, nor can he be a team member on a project proposal submitted to this Call.

What?

- Projects lasting from 2 to 3 years dealing with internationally competitive and nationally relevant issues.
- Projects based on real partnership between institutions (clearly stated mutual goal and research methodology, involvement of researchers/experts from interested parties in the project).
- Projects that clearly demonstrate the possibility of using scientific research results with the aim of developing society and economy in the Republic of Croatia.
- Projects carried out with an active and established research group whose contribution is transparent and planned according to the project's work plan.
- Research that has strong and unquestionable institutional support.
- Research that has not been previously conducted or funded from other sources but can show separate relevant impact on society or the creation of new knowledge and technologies.

Funding

- Total budget for "Partnership in Research" programme for the year 2018 is 5.000.000,00 HRK.
- **Financial participation of the partner with at least 50% of the total project funds¹.** HRZZ will only support the projects that justify the amount of co-funding of the partner institution and in which the partner **makes a payment of funds to the account of the public scientific institution conducting the project** (with clearly stated purpose for needs of the project).
- Total requested amount of funds should reflect a realistic estimation on research needs and must be completely justified.

¹ If more than one partner is included in the project, all partners together must provide the 50% of total funds.

- The share of a partner institution can also be counted as a Twinning project² that is underway, whose coordinator is the applicant of the project proposal, whereby the share of the Twinning Project can be up to 30% of the partner institution, and the rest must be a direct payment of the other partner/s. In doing so, a partner may be an organization involved in the implementation of the Twinning Project. In such situations, HRZZ will in particular evaluate the transfer of knowledge and technology to the Republic of Croatia – in the science and higher education system, the economy or the public sector, and the project needs to demonstrate the development of research and the upgrade of the activities carried out as part of the Twinning project. The contribution of the Twinning project can be counted as a contribution of the partner institution in the years when there are payments for that program, and the overlap in the financing of that project with the partner project must be at least 50% of the total duration of the project.

HRZZ will transfer the money to the bank account of the institution that submitted the project.

Eligible costs:

- research costs (up to 60% of total amount)
- equipment (up to 30% of total amount)
- personnel costs: employment of PhD students and Postdocs is acceptable³
- dissemination and cooperation costs: the largest amount for this category is 70.000,00 HRK per year
- indirect costs. Indirect costs are eligible for a maximum of 5% of the total requested amount of funds and only if there is a good explanation and specifications for their use.

Application content and process⁴

Project proposals are submitted via Partnership in Research e-mail address partner@hrzz.hr. Forms and additional documentation must be filled according to the instructions stated in the Call for Proposals and the Guidelines for Applicants for the Partnership in Research programme and emailed.

Complete application documentation should be written in Croatian and English language. Principal Investigator is responsible for the equivalence of the project proposal in both languages and the Foundation will not be held responsible for any discrepancies.

² HRZZ can accept other types of international projects, but only in the case of programs that do not fund research costs. The acceptability of this type of partnership stake by the HRZZ will be assessed separately.

³ Funds allocated by HRZZ and partner institution(s) cannot be used for honoraria or fees.

⁴ Detailed instructions on application content and process for the Call can be found in the *Guidelines for Applicants for the "Partnership in Research" Call for proposals (deadline: 2018)*.

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

Key application elements:

- Application is submitted by the Principal Investigator on behalf of the home institution (the applicant is the legal entity).
- Application consists of the **Administrative Form, project proposal and supporting documentation.**
- All application documentation is submitted at the same time via Partnership in Research e-mail address partner@hrzz.hr.
- Application forms, number of pages and characters are defined.
- Project proposal application is regulated by rules that need to be studied before submitting the project proposal.

Application content:

1. Administrative form – must contain the original signatures of the Principal Investigator and the head of the institution and the institution's official stamp, as well as original signatures of the main team member from the partner institution and head of the partner institution, and also be verified by stamp.

2. Project proposal must contain:

- **Application form:**
 - Part A – contains Principal Investigator's CV, 5-year *track record* that includes most successful papers in last 5 years where the Principal Investigator is the author and other relevant achievements;
 - Part B – contains a detailed description of planned research in the context of achieved results and the latest developments in the area of research, objectives, methodology, importance and role of partner institution for the research, material and human resources, ethical issues;
 - Part C – contains a list of team members and description of their roles and tasks.
- **Mandatory documentation:**
 - Financial plan;
 - Work plan;
 - Institutional support form (1 document with a maximum of 2 pages – detailed description of institutional support, statements, original signatures of the Principal Investigator and head of the institution and the institution's official stamp);
 - Partner institution support form, hand signed by the head of the institution and verified by stamp, describing the reasons of the participation in the project and clearly stating that the project will be co-funded with at least 50% of the total amount of the project, describing the existing equipment and infrastructure necessary for conducting the research;
 - Proof that the partner has financial capacities for the project realization - data on creditworthiness and solvency (forms BON1/BONPLUS and BON2/SOL2 or equivalent for foreign partners);

- Team members' signed letters of intent, for all team members from institutions other than the home institution, team members from abroad and consultants.

3. Supporting documentation

- If one of the partners is a Twinning project, it is necessary to submit documentation showing the objectives of the call for proposals, the structure of project costs, partner institutions and associates and the duration of funding.
- Other documentation.

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

Before submitting the project proposal, it is necessary to study **Guidelines for Applicants for the "Partnership in Research" Call for proposals (deadline: 2018)**. The guidelines can be found on HRZZ website www.hrzz.hr.

Evaluation

Procedure of evaluation of project proposals 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. The evaluation panels assess the project proposals according to evaluation criteria for the "Partnership in Research" Call for Proposals. Highly rated projects shall be submitted to peer review.
3. Peer review will be conducted by international experts according to evaluation criteria for the "Partnership in Research" programme. Evaluation panel members will then assess project proposals according to additional criteria.
4. Based on the results of the evaluation, panels make a ranking list which is the basis of recommendations for project proposal funding.

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

Fund user obligations

1. Knowledge and acceptance of principles of financing and implementation of projects funded by the Croatian Science Foundation and the obtaining of all necessary permits before the use of Foundation's funds.
2. Compliance with the project's Work and Financial Plan and other contractual obligations.
3. Development and maintenance of project web pages at the institution's domain.
4. Accountability in project management and a transparent and efficient financial resources spending. Research results must be made publicly available, published in scientific journals and other publications available to general public.
5. Accepting the possibility of occasional check of the project progress carried out by an HRZZ expert committee and regular submission of periodic narrative and financial reports and final report (every 12 months).
6. If during its implementation, the project came to a discovery that could be protected by a patent or other form of intellectual property, it is essential to immediately notify HRZZ.
7. Compulsory notification of published papers, conference proceedings, poster, etc. and emphasis of Foundation's financial support.

NOTE:

In case of project earnings, the percentage of future income from scientific or technological invention shall be stipulated by a separate contract between the home institution of the project leader, the HRZZ and the partner organization, provided that this percentage can not be less than 10%.

Project proposal deadline

Deadline for submission of project proposals is: **2 July and 3 December 2018 until 13:00 (CET).**

Contact

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