



Call for Proposals „Partnership in Research“

(Call Identifier: PAR-02-2015)



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 and other non-governmental (not funded from the state budget) sources from Croatia and abroad (private companies, local authorities and self-government, foreign foundations and agencies that fund research, foreign scientific organizations), hereinafter: partner institution.
- The programme supports relevant scientific research that can accelerate the development of new and existing companies and attract those representatives of industry and entrepreneurship which will significantly contribute to the economic and technological development of the Republic of Croatia.
- Researchers choose their research theme independently. The evaluation considers 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 Call in brief:

Call release date: 1 December 2014

Application deadline: 27 February 2015 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 distinguished researcher with internationally recognized achievements in science and/or technology within the field of the proposed project

Total programme budget: 15.000.000,00 kn

Maximum funding amount per project: HRZZ funds the project with 300.000,00 to 500.000,00 kn per year, and the maximum funding amount is 1.500.000,00 kn.

Project funding duration: from 2 to 3 years

Estimated beginning of the project: June – July 2015



Who?

- Applications can be submitted by public universities and scientific institutes registered in the Republic of Croatia.

Principal Investigator:

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

Principal Investigator must be permanently employed at home institution or should be employed at the home institution for the duration of the project.

(Regular members 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:

- Partner institution that can provide technical and financial conditions for the project implementation.

*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: **February 2015**).*

Institutional Support

The competitiveness of the research group is not possible without the institutional support and HRZZ will, therefore, support projects of exceptional scientific value with a clearly described and real 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 on a Call for Proposals.
- A researcher can participate at no more than **two HRZZ projects**, considering projects funded through the Calls in 2013 and 2014:
 - A researcher, who has a status of the Principal Investigator on a Research Project funded by HRZZ until the deadline for this Call, can apply as Principal Investigator in Partnership in Research programme. In that case, the researcher being project leader on two HRZZ projects cannot be a team member on a project funded by HRZZ from 2013 until now.
 - An applicant for the programme Partnership in Research on this Call for Proposals can be, at the same time, a team member on one Installation Research Grant or one Research Project funded through the Calls in 2013 or 2014.
 - If a researcher is not a team member or a Principal Investigator on a HRZZ project submitted on Calls in 2013 or 2014, he can be a team member on two projects on this Call for Proposals.
- Researcher that has the status of a Principal Investigator on an Installation Research Grant funded by HRZZ until the deadline of this Call, cannot submit a project proposal for this Call for Proposals of the Partnership in Research programme, nor can he be a team member on a project proposal submitted on this Call.
- Principal Investigator of the projects funded by the Unity Through Knowledge Fund (UKF) cannot be Principal Investigators on projects funded by HRZZ, but can participate as team members on one project submitted to HRZZ.



What?

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- Projects lasting from 2 to 3 years that deal with internationally competitive and nationally relevant issues.
 - 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.
 - Projects based on real partnership between institutions (clearly stated mutual goal and research methodology, involvement of researchers/experts from interested parties in the project, documented cooperation in various previous projects, joint publications of experts from the scientific institution and industry, joint patents and past applications of joint research in industry).



Funding

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- Total budget for "Partnership in Research" programme for the year 2015 is 5.000.000,00 kn.
 - **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 home institution conducting the project** (with clearly stated purpose of the payment- for the needs of the project).
 - Total requested amount of funds should reflect a realistic estimation on research needs and must be completely justified.

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

Eligible costs:

- material costs: up to 60% of the amount allocated by HRZZ,
- equipment: up to 20% of the amount allocated by HRZZ,
- personnel costs: employment of a PhD student or a postdoc is acceptable²,
- dissemination and cooperation costs: up to 6% of the amount allocated by HRZZ
- 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.



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

² Funds allocated by HRZZ and partner institution(s) cannot be used for honoraria or fees.

Application content and process ³

Submission of a project proposal is made **only in electronic version** through Electronic Application and Assessment System (EPP) available at HRZZ website.

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.

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

Key application elements:

- Application is submitted by the Principal Investigator on behalf of the institution where the project will be implemented (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 through the Electronic Application and Assessment System (EPP), available at HRZZ website.
- Application forms, number of pages and characters are strictly 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 associate form the partner institution and head of the partner institution, and be also 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 leading author and other relevant achievements;
- Part B – contains a detailed description of the planned research in the context of achieved results and the latest developments in the area of research, objectives, methodology, importance and role of the partner institution for the research, material and human resources, ethical issues;
- Part C – contains the list of team members and the description of their roles and tasks.

▪ Mandatory documentation:

- Financial plan (costs in HRK)
- Work plan

³ 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: February 2015)*.

- Institutional support form (1 document with a maximum of 2 pages – detailed description of institutional support, statements, original signatures of the Principal Investigator and the head of the institution and the institution's official stamp).
- Support of the Partner Institution, 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 of the research.
- Proof that the partner has financial capacities for the project realization - data on credit worthiness and solvency (forms BON1/BONPLUS and BON2/SOL2 or equivalent for foreign partners).
- Team members' signed letters of intent

3. Supporting documentation

- 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: February 2015)**. The guidelines can be found on HRZZ website www.hrzz.hr.



Evaluation

NOTE: All applicants and their team members are invited to update their CROSBİ profiles because the information will be used in project proposal 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. A proportionate number of high-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 made 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 the 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 institution.



Project proposal deadline

Deadline for submission of project proposals is: **27 February 2015 until 13:00 (CET)**



Contact

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

Answers to the enquiries can be found on the HRZZ website in the category "Frequently Asked Questions" ("FAQ").