



INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH COOPERATION

Czech Science Foundation

Grants Week 2021

15 October 2021, Brno / online

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INTRODUCTION, OVERVIEW

GACR IN PROFILE

- Independent public organisation, funded from public funds
- Support of all kinds of basic research
- All scientific fields
- The only organisation of its kind in the Czech Republic
- Since 1993

MAIN GACR OBJECTIVES

- To provide financial support for research projects with a high potential for achieving world class results
- To promote and further expand international scientific cooperation
- To help create attractive conditions for the professional development of young and early-stage researchers
- To ensure that the entrusted state funds are used most effectively for the benefit of the Czech scientific community
- To create the best possible conditions for applicants and researchers during administration of applications and awarded projects

BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT PROJECTS

- The call for most types of projects is usually published in mid-end February
- The deadline is usually in April
- The results are usually published in December
- The length is 2-3 years for most types of projects
- Evaluation – peer review system, 39 Panels + external reviewers from abroad

TYPES OF GRANT PROJECTS (NON-INTERNATIONAL)

- Standard grant projects, since 1993
- Junior grants, between 2014 and 2019
- JUNIOR STAR, since 2020, for applicants who received their Ph.D. no more than 8 years ago, the length is 5 years
- EXPRO, since 2019, high risk – high gain projects, the length is 5 years

TYPES OF GRANT PROJECTS (NON-INTERNATIONAL)

- POSTDOC INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIP, since 2021, for applicants who received their Ph.D. no more than 4 years ago
 - OUTGOING – a long-term fellowship abroad for Czech scientists
 - INCOMING – a long-term fellowship at a Czech organisation for scientists with wide international experience

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Bilateral projects
- Lead Agency projects
- Close cooperation with important European and global organisations
 - Science Europe (SE)
 - Objectives: Open Access, cross border cooperation, research data management
 - Global Research Council (GRC)
 - European Research Council (ERC)

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL PARTNER AGENCIES

- NRF (National Research Foundation of Korea, South Korea), since 2005, previously KRF (Korea Research Foundation)
- DFG (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, Germany), since 2005
- MOST (Ministry of Science and Technology, Taiwan), since 2008, previously NSC (National Science Council of Taiwan)
- FWF (Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung, Austria), since 2013
- RFBR (Russian Foundation for Basic Research, Russia), between 2018 and 2020, currently suspended

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL PARTNER AGENCIES

- FAPESP (São Paulo Research Foundation, Brazil), since 2018
- CEUS (Central European Science Partnership), between 2019 and 2020, 4 members
 - GACR
 - FWF (Austria)
 - NCN (National Science Centre, Poland)
 - ARRS (Slovenian Research Agency, Slovenia)
- SNSF (Swiss National Science Foundation, Switzerland), since 2019
- NSF (National Science Foundation, USA), since 2021

WEAVE INITIATIVE

- 12 research-funding European organisations, since 2020
- Expansion of the CEUS initiative
- GACR already directly cooperates with
 - DFG (Germany)
 - FWF (Austria)
 - NCN (Poland)
 - ARRS (Slovenia)
 - SNSF (Switzerland)
- Cooperation with FNR (Luxembourg National Research Fund) since 2021
- Unique in scope

OBJECTIVES OF THE WEAVE INITIATIVE

- To make bilateral and trilateral scientific cooperation across Europe possible, to make it easier and more effective
- To simplify the submission of proposals and the selection procedure of joint projects
- Lead Agency principle
- To extend the opportunities for researchers to freely determine the composition, orientation and content of their projects across Europe

BILATERAL COOPERATION

- Applies to
 - NRF (South Korea)
 - MOST (Taiwan)
 - FAPESP (Brazil)
 - (RFBR, Russia)
 - Previously DFG (Germany), currently under the Weave initiative

PRINCIPLES OF BILATERAL COOPERATION

- Submitted to both agencies at the same time
- The evaluation process is conducted independently in both partner agencies. In case of GACR, the evaluation of project proposals is based on a peer review system – a Panel system and external reviewers (the same as Standard projects)
- Grants are awarded only after approval by both research agencies
- The length of the project has to be the same on both sides (GACR enables 2 or 3 years of duration)
- Trilateral projects are not possible
- Usually all fields of basic research

LEAD AGENCY COOPERATION

- Applies to NSF (USA) and all cooperations under the Weave initiative:
 - FWF (Austria)
 - DFG (Germany)
 - NCN (Poland)
 - ARRS (Slovenia)
 - SNSF (Switzerland)
 - FNR (Luxembourg)

PRINCIPLES OF LEAD AGENCY COOPERATION

- The increasingly preferred form of cooperation between foreign agencies supporting basic research due to a significant reduction of administrative burden
- One joint project proposal, submitted to the main agency (Lead Agency) and Partner Organisation(s)
- Trilateral cooperation is possible (1 Lead Agency, 2 Partner Organisations) – within the Weave initiative
- The length of the project has to be the same on both (all three) sides (GACR enables 2 or 3 years of duration)
- Evaluated only by the bodies of the chosen agency acting in the Lead Agency role (only one evaluation process)
- The Partner Organisation adopts the results of the Lead Agency

PRINCIPLES OF LEAD AGENCY COOPERATION

- Based on mutual trust between involved agencies
- Different deadlines, calls, evaluation procedure – always according to the chosen Lead Agency and its internal rules
- If GACR is in the Lead Agency role – the evaluation procedure is practically the same as in case of Standard projects
- The choice of the Lead Agency is up to the applicants, the only exception is the NSF (GACR is always the Partner Organisation)
- Usually all fields of basic research

LEAD AGENCY COOPERATION, GENERAL DEADLINES

- According to the chosen Lead Agency
 - GACR: the same as Standard projects (usually February – April)
 - FWF (Austria), DFG (Germany), FNR (Luxembourg) and NSF (USA): open call throughout the whole year
 - SNSF (Switzerland): open call, two deadlines (1 April and 1 October)
 - NCN (Poland) and ARRS (Slovenia): closed call (Autumn – Winter, usually September – December)

NSF (USA), BASIC FACTS

- Established in 1950
- An independent agency of the United States government
- A budget of U.S. \$ 8.5 billion in 2021
- Fundamental research and education in all the non-medical fields of science and engineering
- Its grants cover around 25% of basic research conducted at U.S. universities
- In some fields, such as mathematics, computer science, economics, and the social sciences, the NSF is the major source of federal backing
- Prestigious, highly-competitive, many revolutionary technologies, many future Nobel Prize winners

NSF (USA), SPECIFICATIONS OF COOPERATION

- Lead Agency principle, NSF is always in the role of the Lead Agency, open call throughout the year
- The largest-scale scientific cooperation between the Czech Republic and the United States ever agreed upon
- The fields of research supported within this cooperation are limited, three core areas (future expansion is possible):
 - Artificial intelligence
 - Nanotechnology
 - Plasma science
 - Detailed information can be found here:
<https://www.nsf.gov/od/oise/IntlCollaborations/CzechRepublic.jsp>

NSF (USA), TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

- The C1 part is different (one-page Cover Sheet, a significantly shorter document compared to other projects)
- It is not needed to attach the copy of the foreign part of the submitted proposal (unlike with all other foreign agencies)
- First step – Expression of Interest on the American side (EoI is not required by GACR)
- The whole project is elaborated and submitted (on both sides) only after the initial approval

FUTURE POSSIBILITIES

- GACR is committed to launch cooperation with the remaining Weave members by 2025, these are:
 - FNRS (Fund for Scientific Research, Belgium)
 - FWO (Research Foundation Flanders, Belgium)
 - HRZZ (Croatian Science Foundation, Croatia)
 - RCN (Research Council of Norway, Norway)
 - FORMAS (Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development, Sweden)
- Weave can possibly gain new members
- Negotiations about other possible partnerships

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Links and contacts:

GACR's website <https://gacr.cz/en/>

Overview of international activities <https://gacr.cz/en/overview/>

FAQ (useful information) <https://gacr.cz/faq/>

Submission of project proposals <https://www.gris.cz/>

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<https://www.nsf.gov/>

<https://weave-research.net/>