

**Minutes of the 17<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting of the  
CEA (the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission) and  
the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia**

**1 December 2021, Video-conference**

**Participants:**

**SLOVENIA:**

- **Mr Peter Volasko**, Head of Science Division, Science Directorate, MESS
- **Ms Mojca Boc**, Head of Department of Research Infrastructure and International Cooperation, Slovenian Research Agency
- **Ms Tatjana Jurkovič**, European Affairs and International Cooperation Office, MESS

**FRANCE - CEA:**

- **Mr Bertrand Bouchet**, Director for European Affairs, CEA
- **Mr Denis Robert-Mougin**, Senior European Affairs Officer, CEA

The 17<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia (MESS) and the CEA (the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission) took place on 1 December 2021. The meeting that should take place in Ljubljana, was organised via video-conference due to measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Selection of projects for the period 2022-2024 and review of projects in the period 2021-2023**

In the joint call for projects for the period **2022-2024**, both sides received 10 proposals for joint research projects. The Steering Committee approved 5 projects for funding. The projects were selected based on the priority lists of both sides. The projects are funded according to the table given in Annex. The projects will run for two years from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022 to 31 January 2024.

The total funding by the Slovenian Research Agency is 499.500 EUR for the period **2022-2024**. In CEA funding is provided by the own budget of the unit concerned for the total amount of 528.750 EUR.

The results of the joint call for projects for the period **2022-2024** will be published on both sides in the week by 20 December 2021.

The Steering Committee has positively evaluated the mid-term outputs of ongoing projects selected in 2020, based on survey made by CEA. There are numerous exchanges and scientific outputs, such as participation to conferences, publications.

The Steering Committee took note that two projects selected for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023 asked for extension because their implementation was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021. Therefore, the sides decided to extend the funding period for 5 months until 30 June 2023 for the project *"Tailoring the performances of advanced materials for industrial applications with the accurate management of light elements addition by state-of-the-art characterization techniques"*. and to extend the funding period for 6 months until 31 July 2023 for the project *"Photocatalytic heterostructured nanomaterials for solar energy harvesting"*.

The next call for the period 2023-2024 is planned to be published in June 2022.

Since both sides exchanged information on respective approaches for evaluation of project proposals, a set of joint criteria are now under consideration: i) scientific excellence of the cooperation, ii) impact, iii) implementation of the project.

Sides agreed to strive to support early-career stage project leaders (up to 5 years from their first PhD). Additionally, sides agreed to set young project leaders (up to 10 years from their first PhD) as a favorable element in the final project selection process done by the Steering Committee.

For the next call for proposals, sides also agreed to avoid overlapping of project funding for projects, submitted by same partners with similar topic and selected in the last call.

The next meeting should take place in Slovenia in November 2022. MESS will take the initiative to propose the dates to French partners. The status of current projects will be reviewed and the projects for the period 2023-2025 will be selected during that meeting.

Both sides informed each other about the R&D policy developments.



Mr Peter Volasko  
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Science Directorate  
Ministry of Education, Science and Sport

20.12.2021



Mr Bertrand Bouchet  
Director for European Affairs  
CEA

3.1.2022