

Methodology for the assessment of applications in the procedures for the (co-)financing of scientific research activities (unofficial consolidated text No. 8)

A. GENERAL

The Methodology for the assessment of applications in the procedures carried out by the ARIS for the (co-)financing of scientific research activities (hereinafter: the Methodology) is based on the provisions of the Scientific Research and Innovation Activities Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos. 186/21 and 40/23), hereinafter: ZZrID), General Act on Procedures for Financing, Co-financing and Evaluating and Monitoring the Implementation of Research Activities (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos. 166/22 and 92/94), and the provisions of the criteria for demonstrating internationally comparable research results and the period of eligible internationally comparable research results for the research project leader and programme No. 007-14/2024 of 22 May 2024 and No. 007-14/2024-5 of 24 May 2024 (hereinafter: criteria for the project leader).

The code list for research disciplines, fields and subfields of the ARIS (hereinafter: ARIS code list) is specified in Annex 1, which is an integral part of this Methodology.

In the procedures of evaluation, the ARIS can also use the Classification of ERC panel research domains and research fields (hereinafter: ERC classification), specified in Annex 2, which is an integral part of this Methodology.

B. RESEARCH PROJECTS

I. Entry requirements

As an entry requirement, the research project leader must meet the conditions of internationally comparable research results, as specified in the Criteria for the project leader.

II. Reviewers' assessment and application selection procedure

The reviewers assess entries based on the research field of the ERC classification, stated on the ARIS-RPROJ-JR-Prijava/20xx application form. The reviewers assess the individual assessment elements by completing an assessment sheet (form: ARIS-RPROJ-EvalForm-x/20xx). Numeric and descriptive grades for each criterion are entered into the evaluation sheet.

Reviewer assessments comprise the following:

- BT grade - for basic projects comprising three individual grades on the basis of criteria, indicators and means of grade evaluation, as is set out in Table B1 and Table B3.
- BA grade - for applied projects comprising four individual grades on the basis of criteria, indicators and means of grade evaluation, as set out in Table B2 and Table B3.

The BT or BA grade is the sum of individual scores, whereby the maximum total score is:

- 15 points for basic projects ($BT = BT1 + BT2 + BT3$), 20 points for applied projects ($BA = BA1 + BA2 + BA3 + BA4$). For the Scientific excellence of researchers criterion, the project leader and the entire project group are evaluated.

III. Assessment elements

a) Assessment elements for basic projects

The assessment elements for basic projects are specified in Table B1.

Table B1:

BT grade	Criterion	Indicators	Maximum number of points
BT 1	Scientific excellence of researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exceptional achievements - Proven ability to think independently and creatively - Ability to draw up a study proposal and manage studies 	5
BT 2	Scientific excellence of application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appropriate consideration of important research challenges - Ambitious and exceptional goals (e.g. new methods and approaches to the development of fields) - Clarity of concept, including the interdisciplinary aspect, and appropriateness of objectives - Originality of the idea - Suitability of proposed research methodology for achieving objectives 	5
BT 3	Quality and efficiency of implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suitability and efficiency of the work plan, including the appropriate assignment of tasks and allocation of funds - Feasibility of scientific approach 	5
Total			15

b) Assessment elements for applied projects

The assessment elements for applied projects are specified in Table B2.

Table B2:

BA grade	Criterion	Indicators	Maximum number of points
BA 1	Scientific excellence of researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exceptional achievements - Proven ability to think independently and creatively - Ability to draw up study proposals and manage studies 	5
BA 2	Scientific excellence of application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clarity of concept, including the interdisciplinary aspect, and appropriateness of objectives - Suitability of proposed research methodology for achieving objectives - Ambitiousness, innovation potential and exceptional nature of the project (e.g. exceeding current knowledge, new concepts and approaches) 	5
BA 3	Quality and efficiency of implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suitability and efficiency of the work plan, including the appropriate assignment of tasks and allocation of funds - Suitability of project partners and project group - Suitability of management considering the risks or exceeding current knowledge 	5
BA 4	Social and economic impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening competitiveness and company growth by developing innovations that meet the needs of European and global markets - All other environmentally and socially important impacts, including impacts on cultural development (not included in other indicators) - Efficiency of proposed measures for applying and disseminating project results (including management of intellectual property rights), public presentations (popularisation) of the project and managing research data - Anticipated project results - Strengthening of innovativeness and integration of new knowledge 	5

	Total		20
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IV. Evaluation of application criteria

The reviewers evaluate the criteria with scores from 0 to 0.5, precisely, whereby they consider the descriptions, values and grade scales specified in Table B3.

Table B3:

Grade	Grade description	Numerical grade (number of points)
	The application does not meet the criterion or a grade cannot be given due to a lack of information.	0.0
Unsatisfactory	The application does not adequately address the criterion or has major faults.	1.0 or 1.5
Inadequate	The application generally addresses the criterion, but has significant faults.	2.0 or 2.5
Good	The application addresses the criterion but contains many weaknesses.	3.0 or 3.5
Very good	The application addresses the criterion very well, but there are some weaknesses.	4.0
Excellent	The application successfully addresses all important aspects of the criterion. Any weaknesses are minor.	4.5
Outstanding	The application fully meets the criterion, there are no weaknesses.	5.0

The following projects cannot be selected for (co-)financing:

- a basic project with the BT grade = BT1+BT2+BT3 less than 10 points or an individual BT1, BT2 or BT3 grade less than 3 points.
- an applied project with the BA grade = BA1+BA2+BA3+BA4 less than 12 points or an individual BT1, BT2 or BT3 grade less than 3 points.

Reviewers shall be notified about the limit values upon receiving the application.

V. Distribution of funds

As part of the call, ARIS publishes data on the capacity of the ERC domains for basic projects in the basic value by career stages, applied projects in the basic value and postdoctoral projects, taking into account the indicative value of the call.

Clinical studies must demonstrate the participation of health/educational institutions in the amount of at least 30% of the research hours. The clinical study applicant must choose one of the listed ERC fields within the ERC domain Life Sciences (LS). In the case of an interdisciplinary research, this should be the primary field. For each project application where the applicant chooses to conduct research in the field of clinical medicine, the applicant must specifically justify that it is a clinically oriented project, and the justification will be verified and confirmed/rejected by the international panel as part of the assessment process.

VI. Basic research projects - Dr. Aleš Debeljak Programme

The Call also includes allocations for basic research projects - Dr. Aleš Debeljak Programme (hereinafter: basic research projects - AD Programme). The following is taken into account:

- The value of an individual basic research project - AD Programme is €150,000 per annum for 2 or 3 years.
- The international panel draws up a draft priority list of projects, starting with the highest evaluated projects per ERC domain, which must concern different ERC fields within the ERC

domain. In case all submitted projects within the ERC domain concern the same ERC field, the priority list includes the best ranked projects in the same field.

- If the draft priority project list contains fewer than 10 project submissions, the division of the remainder of the funds for the Call (the subject matter of the call "Basic research projects - Dr. Aleš Debeljak Programme") is specified in the Call.
- If a basic research project – AD Programme is not selected within this programme, it can be submitted for consideration for basic research projects in line with the rules applicable for the selection of these projects and in terms of career stages of the project leader.
- If the number of applications that meet the conditions of the Call and are not graded below the prescribed project selection threshold is equal to or less than the maximum number of possible selected applications in relation to the funds available, all applications will be included in the selection.

Requirements for submitting basic research projects - AD Programme

- On the closing date of the Call, the leader of the submitted project must be living abroad for at least one year and may not be employed in the Republic of Slovenia nor have a suspension of employment contract (legal suspension or suspension based on agreement with the employer) or the status of private researcher in the Republic of Slovenia. The requirement of living abroad for a period of one year is also considered fulfilled if the leader of the submitted project defended their doctoral dissertation abroad no more than one year prior to closure of the Call.
- On the closing date of the Call, the leader of the submitted project must fulfil the requirement that no more than 15 years have passed since the defence of their first doctorate.
- The leader of the submitted project must be a citizen of the Republic of Slovenia on the closing date of the Call.
- The leader of the submitted project must be listed as working on the research project they lead for at least 340 effective research hours annually (20% of 1700 effective research hours). Upon concluding the agreement for (co-)financing a project obtained on the Call, the project leader must be listed as employed for research activities in a share of no less than 20%. The leader of the submitted project must have a doctorate in accordance with the Criteria for the project leader.
- The leader of the submitted project has not yet been (co)financed within the same or related mechanism, i.e. a mechanism intended for (co)financing projects of researchers returning to the Republic of Slovenia from abroad.