

The present text is a translation from RESOLUCIÓN DE LA PRESIDENCIA DE LA AGENCIA ESTATAL CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTÍFICAS (CSIC) POR LA QUE SE CONVOCA EL PROGRAMA CSIC CONEXIÓN INTERNACIONAL i-LINK+ PARA LA PROMOCIÓN DE LA COLABORACIÓN CIENTÍFICA INTERNACIONAL DEL CSIC CON INSTITUCIONES EXTRANJERAS. CONVOCATORIA i-LINK +2020. The Spanish text prevails over the English version.

CALL OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE STATE AGENCY SPANISH NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (CSIC) BY WHICH THE CSIC OPENS THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME i-LINK+ 2020 FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE CSIC'S INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION WITH FOREIGN INSTITUTIONS.

PROGRAMME i-LINK+ 2020



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I. PURPOSE OF THE CALL

The general objective of the **i-LINK+ Programme** is to stimulate the collaboration between CSIC research groups and international research groups of the highest relevance by means of its own resources. No geographical or thematic restrictions are contemplated in the call, but there must be a common and complementary research theme between the partners for the development of which they have adequate funding independently in their respective centres. All these within the scope of the Sustainable Development Goals. The central objective of this programme is:

- to create and consolidate international consortia of excellence in order to compete in future calls for international R&D&I projects.

The activities promoted by this programme are the realization of work and specialization stays of the CSIC research groups, as well as the research groups of the participating entities in both directions. It also includes meetings, seminars and other internationalisation activities between the participating research groups within the framework of a common research project.

The expected impact of the Programme is to improve the internationalisation of the CSIC through the consolidation of stable links of scientific cooperation between CSIC teams and foreign scientific institutions of excellence.

2. TERMS OF THE CALL

A maximum of **25 grants** will be awarded for a maximum amount of **€24,000 each** (maximum €12,000/year), with a duration of two years from the notification to the end of 2022 (financial closure).

2.1. Eligible actions

2.1.1. The eligible actions will be all those aimed at creating stable links of international collaboration with research groups belonging to foreign scientific institutions and international companies.

2.1.2. The call is open to any thematic area developed in the CSIC.

2.1.3. Only collaborations that have not previously benefited from an i-LINK+2019 action with the same consortium will be considered eligible.

2.1.4. Applications that include relevant entities from the following countries will be positively evaluated: Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, South

Korea, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States. In the interest of promoting the European Research Area in the so-called EUI3, the participation of relevant entities from any of the following countries will also be positively valued: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

2.1.5. Proposals that include entities from countries receiving Official Development Assistance (ODA) will not be considered eligible as they are eligible to receive funds through the I-COOP¹ call.

2.1.6. There are two modalities:

MODALITY A: for the **creation** of international research networks in order to establish stable links with foreign research groups. The minimum number of grants that may be used to finance this modality is 10.

MODALITY B: for the **strengthening** of already consolidated international research networks with foreign research groups. The minimum number of grants that may be used to finance this modality is 10.

2.2. Participants

2.2.1. All proposals must have at least **one CSIC research group** (CSIC participating team), which will act as network coordinator, and **one or more groups from one or more foreign institutions** (foreign participating team(s)) without geographical restriction (ODA countries are excluded). Each foreign participating team must be led by a principal investigator (foreign PI).

2.2.2. All participants must be employed by their institution at the time of application. During the duration of the grant, each member of the foreign institutions will remain under the exclusive direction and dependence of his or her home institution.

2.2.3. Foreign institutions may be Universities, Research or Technological Centres and/or companies, both Spanish and foreign. In the case of the latter, provided that they contribute their own funds to finance the implementation of the activities in which they participate within the framework of the project.

¹<http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/DAC-List-of-ODA-Recipients-for-reporting-2020-flows.pdf>

2.2.4. The research groups that constitute the network must have their own funding, facilities and equipment suitable for carrying out the scientific research related to the proposed actions in their respective centres.

2.3. Eligibility criteria for CSIC research groups

2.3.1. CSIC Principal Investigator (PI) must be a CSIC researcher and his/her employment status shall comply with the instructions set out in the **CSIC Human Resources Management Guide**.

2.3.2. Members of the CSIC participating team may only be part of an i-LINK+ 2020 proposal regardless of whether they participate as a PI or as a team member.

2.3.3. The PI and the rest of the members must be part of the staff or have a contract compatible with participation in internationalization networks². Staff from Joint Research Centres and Associated Units may participate as team members.

2.3.4. The principal investigator and the other members of the CSIC research team must **maintain their working relationship with the CSIC** for the duration of the action. Exceptionally, the members of the team may participate as long as they maintain their working relationship with the CSIC until they have completed the tasks in which they are involved in the i-LINK+2020 action. Likewise, the exception will apply when the principal investigator is the beneficiary of a Ramón y Cajal or COMFUTURO contract.

2.3.5 The Vice Presidency for International Affairs (VRI) will be responsible for **authorizing any addition or removal of the team members** after the request of the PI. The authorization will be granted, whenever appropriate, and in any case the communication by the PI will be **at least one month in advance** regarding the planned activities.

2.4. Eligible Expenses

2.4.1. Transport, subsistence and accommodation costs for **CSIC team trips** between Spain and the participating countries, and exceptionally to Brussels when justified.

These grants will be governed by the regulations set out in this its call, and as to the amounts by the **Royal Decree 462/2002, of May 24, on compensation for the service**, and will be processed

² The members of the CSIC research group must be registered in the application: Gestión de Entidades y Personas (GEP)

through the application 233.00.201 according to the twenty-second provision of the *Resolution of February 16, 2018, or subsequent updates, by the President of the Spanish National Research Council MP, approving the Operating Budgets of the Institutes, Centres and Units, the granting of project loans, the management of the Operational Treasury (DTO) and Payroll System to be justified, and certain criteria for economic management and administrative contracting during 2018.*

With regard to the transportation costs these must be managed from the Institute, Center or Unit, hereinafter ICU, respecting the contract of provision of travel that is applicable to the CSIC. The amount of the expenses corresponding to the management of visas and / or vaccines not covered by the National Health System will be included within the amount of the transport aid, when they are obligatory for entry into the country of destination.

The **expenses derived from medical insurance or travel assistance** for CSIC researchers traveling to countries without a reciprocal agreement will be processed from application 162.05.201 by the ICU's management.

2.4.2. Living and accommodation expenses for the members of the foreign team to carry out activities related to the internationalization network in an ICU of the CSIC.

These costs will be processed through application 233.00.201 in accordance with the aforementioned Resolution of February 16, 2018 and its amount will be that established in the ***Resolution of March 26, 2014 of the President of the AE CSIC, which establishes the amount according to their duration for the calls of the VRI***, whose breakdown is as follows:

	Cost in Euros (€)
During the first 15 days	100,00
From day 16 to day 30	70,00
From the 31st day until the end of the stay.	50,00
EXAMPLE: 15 days	1.500,00
EXAMPLE: 30 days	2.550,00
EXAMPLE: 45 days	3.300,00
EXAMPLE: 90 days	5.550,00
EXAMPLE: 180 days	10.050,00

It will be understood as the first and the last day of stay the day of departure and return of the trip, from and to the municipality in which the participant has his/her official residence, taking into account the provisions for this concept in the RD 462/2002. Exceptionally and in the case of a reasoned request once the action has been initiated, **the transport costs of the Foreign PI** may be included, if previously authorized by the Vice-presidency of International Relations.

2.4.3. Costs related to the organization of meetings, workshops, seminars and other internationalization activities that take place in Spain or in the country of the foreign participant team may be charged as expenses. Exceptionally, and with the prior authorisation of the Vice-presidency of International Affairs, costs associated with the organisation of meetings in other locations than those mentioned above may also be charged. The expenses destined to the **rental of rooms and audio-visual means** will be financed, and they will be processed through the applications 226.06.201 / 226.15.201, depending if they take place in Spain or abroad.

2.4.4. Companies must participate in the project with their own funds and may under no circumstances receive funding from any of the sections included in point 2.4 of this call.

2.4.5. All **expenses must be adequately detailed** in the work plan and be consistent with the proposed activities. Those expenses included in the proposal that do not correspond to the section 2.4 of this call will not be eligible.

2.5. Duration and execution of the action

2.5.1. The selected proposals will have a maximum duration of **24 months**. For the execution of the expenses included in the action, the **financial closure** must be taken into account (established in the corresponding instruction of the **closing CSIC for the years 2021 and 2022**).

2.5.2. All expenditure must be executed in accordance with the terms of the call and following the work plan set out in the proposal. Deviations must be previously approved by VRI.

2.5.3. The VRI will authorize the full economic endowment for the first year after the publication of the Resolution during the first term of 2021 to the CSIC ICUs for its execution and control of the expenditure from the ICUS Management. **The allocation corresponding to the second annuity is subject to the approval of the interim report.**

2.5.4. Budget flow from one annuity to another will not be authorized.

3. PROCEDURES AND DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS

3.1. The proposal and the required documentation will be presented in a single application by the CSIC PI and project coordinator, through the telematic application of calls on the CSIC Intranet: <http://siw.csic.es/icv/> Menu☐: Convocatorias activas / PROGRAMA CSIC CONEXIÓN INTERNACIONAL PROMOCIÓN COLABORACIÓN INTERNACIONAL

3.2. Applications will be written in English or Spanish if all participating teams are from Spanish-speaking countries.

3.3. The following templates will be used exclusively for the call:

3.3.1. Internationalization network memory, including the following, as indicated in the templates and with a maximum size of 5MB:

A) Internationalization activities (maximum 3 pages with a minimum font size of 11):

- Summary of the proposal (objectives, scope of the study, international relevance, sources of funding for the project, etc.).
- List of key words (in Spanish and English).
- Composition of the consortium:
 - Background and current state of the collaboration
 - Description of the participating teams and their experience
- Implementation: work plan that includes the proposed internationalization actions as well as a schedule for their execution.
- Expected impact: for the research group, ICU and CSIC.

B) Detailed budget related to the proposed activity **schedule** (maximum 3 pages with a minimum font size of 11).

C) CV of the PI of the CSIC highlighting the main achievements from 2016 to the present (maximum 2 pages with a minimum font size of 11).

D) CV of foreign PI(s) highlighting major achievements from 2016 to present (maximum 2 pages with a minimum font size of 11)

E) Letters of acceptance/commitment from the foreign and/or companies on which the participating teams are linked. This letter must include the authorization for the participation of the principal investigator, commitment to carry out the activities foreseen in the in the proposal and its

corresponding financing. The format of presentation of the document will be through an official letter from the institution dated and signed by the scientific or institutional head of the body.

3.3.2. The application will be validated telematically by the Director of the ICU CSIC to which the applicant belongs before the deadline.

3.4. Applications must be submitted between **1 June 2020 and 30 June 2019**. The reception of applications will end at 23:59 on the closing day of the call. Incomplete applications or applications that do not meet the requirements established in this resolution on the closing date will be automatically rejected.

3.5. Once the period for submitting applications has ended, a definitive list of admitted and excluded proposals will be published on the CSIC intranet.

3.6. The personal data collected in the application will be subject to the protection established by the Organic Law Ley Orgánica 3/2018 and the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament. On the basis of Articles 6 and 7 of that Regulation, by sending the application, the corresponding processing of the personal data sent shall be deemed authorised.

4. EVALUATION

4.1. The evaluation of proposals will be carried out in two phases by a **technical evaluation committee** appointed for this purpose by the VRI. The final score of each proposal will be the sum of the score obtained in each of them.

4.2. In the **first phase**, proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

Consortium composition (up to 15 points)

- Number of participating entities (up to 2 points)
2 foreign institutions from the same country: 1 point
More than 2 foreign institutions from the same or different country: 2 points
- Entities included in the NATURE INDEX (up to 6 points)
Entities positioned up to number 25 in the global ranking: 6 points
Entities positioned up to number 50 in the global ranking: 5 points
Entities positioned up to number 75 in the global ranking: 4 points
Entities positioned up to number 100 in the global ranking: 3 points
Entities positioned up to number 125 in the global ranking: 2 points

- Relevance of the proposed activities and their relationship to the Sustainable Development Goals³, to be explicitly and justifiably identified (up to 3 points)
- Countries prioritised in this call and their value in the network duly justified (up to 4 points)
 - 1 country: 1 point*
 - 2 countries: 2 points*
 - 3 countries: 3 points*
 - 4 countries or more: 4 points*

4.3. Second phase: only the 38 proposals that were best evaluated in the first phase will be evaluated. In the event of a tie, the proposal summary shall also be taken into account. The evaluation criteria for this phase are:

- **Implementation** (up to 10 points)
 - feasibility of activities, schedule and proposed budget
- **Expected impact of the project in relation to the objectives of the call** (up to 10 points)

MODALITY A

- **creation and consolidation of international consortia** of excellence to compete in future calls for international R&D&I projects with explicit indication of programmes and calls. (up to 5 points)
- **The sustainability of the collaboration in the future will be valued.** (up to 5 points)

MODALITY B

- creation and consolidation of international consortia of excellence to compete in future calls for international R&D&I projects with explicit indication of programmes and calls. (up to 4 points)
- The expected impact on research will be specifically assessed: articles published and/or under review, training of young researchers (postgraduate and/or postdoc), projects carried out jointly, conferences organized, etc. (up to 6 points)

5. INFORMATION ON THE CALL RESULTS

5.1. The result will be published by means of a Resolution of the Presidency of the CSIC in BO-CSIC and the INTRANET at the end of year 2020 and will be communicated by e-mail to the principal investigators of the proposals.

³ <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/es/home/sustainable-development-goals.html>

6. REPORTING

6.1. The beneficiaries of this programme will submit technical and financial reports annually (mid-term and final). The template will be provided by VRI.

The **mid-term report** will be sent before 5 December 2020, and the **final report** before 31 January 2022.

The reports shall include the following items:

- **Scientific-technical report:** activities carried out, results obtained, and degree of fulfilment of the proposed objectives.

- **Financial report:** expenditure carried out taking into account the bases of the call and the approved schedule. A cost list will be included from *Módulo de justificación de proyectos*.

Se deberá incluir el listado de los gastos, que deberá ser seleccionado en el módulo de justificación de proyectos.

The reports will be sent only in electronic format to the address i-link@csic.es.

6.2. Any reference to the project in any media object of these grants must include that it has been funded by the CSIC through the call for internationalization i-LINK as well as the logo of the call.

6.3. Eventually, the principal investigators of the participating teams may be required to present these results in a public act before a committee of experts.

7. PENALTY REGIME

The lack of adequacy in the use of the aids granted, the non-compliance with the rules for the execution of the expense and payment, the lack of execution of the budget granted or the lack of compliance with the scientific-technical objectives of the project may be subject to sanctions from VRI. These sanctions could include the ineligibility of the PI for the request of any VRI call for a period of up to five years, as well as the reimbursement of the expenses unduly justified.

8. CONTACT

CSIC: i-link@csic.es

Madrid, 28 May 2020

The President of the CSIC

Rosa Menéndez