

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 DE COOPERACIÓN CIENTÍFICA i-COOP CONVOCATORIA 2021 PARA EL DESARROLLO. The Spanish text prevails over the English version.

CALL OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE STATE AGENCY SPANISH NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (CSIC) BY WHICH CSIC OPENS THE PROGRAMME i-COOP 2021 FOR SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

“i-COOP CALL 2021”



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I. PURPOSE OF THE CALL

The aim of the **CSIC Programme of Scientific Cooperation for Development i-COOP** is to foster the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and to contribute to the strengthening of the scientific-technical and training capacities of ODA (Official Development Assistance) countries through two modalities of actions:

- Training for pre-doctoral researchers from ODA recipient countries (modality A)
- Training and knowledge exchange of scientific and technical personnel to strengthen the capacities of bodies and research groups in ODA countries (modality B)

The call is open to any thematic area developed by the CSIC research groups. The international collaborating groups must belong to countries that receive Official Development Assistance (ODA) according to the list established by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the OECD: <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/DAC-List-ODA-Recipients-for-reporting-2021-flows.pdf>

As part of the CSIC's internationalization strategy promoted by the Vice Presidency of International Affairs (VRI), and in line with the V Plan for Spanish Cooperation (2018/2021), this call **will prioritize those applications that include African countries receiving ODA** (chapter evaluation).

2. TERMS OF THE CALL

This call provides funding for a maximum of **40 grants** for a maximum amount of **€24,000 each one**, up to **2 years (12.000€/per year)**, since the opening of the financial year 2022 to the end of the financial year 2023. Up to a total of **20 grants** may be awarded to **modality A**.

2.1. Eligible Actions

2.1.1. MODALITY A: the main actions in this modality will consist of stays in Institutes, Centres or Units (ICU) of the CSIC for research personnel in training who are developing their doctoral thesis in a foreign institution of ODA countries. Those proposals that propose the **co-direction of the doctoral thesis** by the researcher in charge of the participating CSIC team will be positively evaluated in the evaluation phase.

2.1.2. MODALITY B: the main actions in this modality are based on scientific cooperation through stays for:

- specialized scientific-technical training
- acquisition or improvement of training in the use of advanced instrumentation
- advice on the establishment of joint scientific laboratories
- planning of academic programmes, including postgraduate and doctoral programmes
- scientific collaboration

2.2. Participants

2.2.1. All proposals must have at least **one CSIC research group** (CSIC participating team), which will act as project coordinator, and **a group from an institution in a third country receiving ODA** (foreign participating team).

2.2.2. The institution from the ODA third country can be a University, Research or Technological Centre, or Public Administration. Each participating foreign team must be led by a principal investigator (foreign PI).

2.2.3. Universities, Research Centres or Public Administrations may participate in the action as long as they commit, with their own funds and infrastructure, to the financing of the activities described in point 2.1 within the framework of the implementation of the action.

2.2.4. Companies interested in the project can participate as long as they commit, with their own funds, to offer the members of the beneficiary foreign team and/or the participating CSIC team the execution of the activities described in point 2.1 within the framework of the project. **The companies will not be considered a member of the consortium, but their participation will be considered in the second phase of the evaluation.**

2.2.5. Exceptionally, in Modality B, research groups linked to entities located in countries that do not receive ODA can participate, as long as they commit their own funds and infrastructure for the promotion of scientific cooperation for development.

2.3. CSIC Participating Team Requirements

2.3.1. The CSIC Participating Team will be formed:

- In **MODALITY A**: the PI responsible for the supervision of the pre-doctoral stay of the research staff in training, who will in turn be a PI and also, if agreed, co-director of the doctoral thesis in progress.
- In **MODALIDAD B**: the PI of the proposal, as well as the scientific, technical and/or training personnel of the CSIC who meet the requirements of point 2.2.

2.3.2. CSIC Principal Investigator (PI) must be a CSIC researcher and his/her statutory or employment status shall comply with the Instructions set out in the **Personnel Management Manual** which provides its services in the ICUs of the CSIC.

2.3.3. Members of the CSIC participating team can only form part of an i-COOP 2021 proposal regardless of whether they participate as a PI or as a member of the team.

2.3.4. The PI and the rest of the members must be staff or have a contract compatible with participation in cooperation networks¹. Personnel from Joint Centres and Associated Units may participate as team members.

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

2.3.6. The Vice Presidency for International Affairs (VRI) will be responsible for **authorizing any addition or removal of the team members** after the reasoned request of the PI, which will be processed via e-mail to the institutional address of the call at least one month in advance if the researcher to whom the registration was made will take part in some action of the project and indicating the technical or scientific reason.

2.4. Foreign Country Participating Team Requirements ODA

2.4.1. In MODALITY A:

- The ODA country team will consist of a foreign Principal Investigator (foreign PI) and a researcher in training. The PI must necessarily be the supervisor of the thesis of the research staff in training.
- The researcher in training must be enrolled in a doctoral (or equivalent) programme at an institution in an ODA country.

2.4.2. In MODALITY B:

- The foreign team will be formed by a Principal Investigator (foreign IP), and other staff interested in participating in the grant, all of whom must be postdoctoral researchers or teaching staff from universities in AOD recipient countries.

2.5. Duration of stays

2.5.1. In MODALITY A:

¹ The members of the CSIC research group must be registered in the application: Gestión de Entidades y Personas (GEP) or in the equivalent registers of the recently assigned National Centers.

- The visits of the researcher in training of the foreign team in the CSIC will have a minimum duration of 15 days.
- The stays of the PIs, both CSIC PIs and foreign PIs, may not exceed 30% of the total stays of the researcher in training for the two annuities.

2.5.2. In **MODALITY B**:

- The stays of the **CSIC participating team** at the foreign institution may not exceed **30%** of the total stays of the foreign team for the two annuities.

2.5.3. Under no circumstances may the stays be carried out after the end of the accounting year of the corresponding year.

2.6. Eligible Expenses and Management

2.6.1. Transport, subsistence and accommodation costs:

a) Trips of the CSIC team exclusively between Spain and the corresponding country. These aids will be governed by the bases of this call, applying in its amount the **ROYAL DECREE 462/2002, of 24 May, on compensation for the service**, and will be processed through the application 233.00.202 according to the twenty-second provision of the Resolution of 16 February 2018 or in force at the time, of the President of the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas M.P., approving the Operating Budgets of the Institutes, Centres and Units, the provision of project credit, the management of the system of Operating Treasury Endowment (DTO) and Libraries to be Justified, and certain criteria for economic management and administrative contracting.

Regarding transport costs, these must be processed from the ICU, respecting the travel contract applicable to the CSIC. The amount of the transport aid will include the amount of the expenses corresponding to the processing of visas and/or vaccines not covered by the National Health System, when they are obligatory for entry into the country of destination.

The cost of **medical insurance or travel assistance** for CSIC researchers travelling to countries without reciprocity agreement will be processed from application 162.05.202 by the management of the ICU.

b) Trips of the foreign team, exclusively between the corresponding country and Spain.

These grants will be processed through application 233.00.202 in accordance with the aforementioned Resolution of 16 February 2018.

The amount of accommodation and subsistence will be established in the **Resolution of 26 March 2014 of the Presidency of the CSIC by which the amount is established according to its duration for VRI calls**, the breakdown of which 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	5.500,00
EXAMPLE: 180 days	10.050,00

The first and last day of stay shall be understood to be the day of departure and return from and to the municipality in which the participant has his official residence, considering what is established for this concept in the RD 462/2002.

As far as **journeys** is concerned, transport may be contracted through the management of the ICU, in which case it will be processed through the centralised contract (except for exceptions²), or by the interested party himself, in which case it will be reimbursed after justification to the management. The amount of the **transport aid** will include the amount of the expenses corresponding to the processing of visas and/or vaccines not covered by the National Health System, when they are obligatory for entry into the country of destination.

The **expenses derived from the medical insurance or travel assistance** for the members of the foreign team who travel to countries without reciprocity agreement will be processed from application 224.00.202. and the ICU will be responsible of its processing.

2.6.2. Eligible expenses (including non-deductible VAT) will also be those destined to:

- Scientific equipment and instruments (application 620.31.202), which must be indicated on the application
- Internal service costs (inter-center movement to be requested from the Budget Area) or external ones.

² It is recalled that, in the current centralised contract for the provision of travel agency services, transport originating abroad enjoys a direct exception.

- Consumable material whose use is scientific and excludes those that are considered as indirect cost. They are charged to the relevant subheading of Chapter 2 according to the nature of the expenditure and to Item 202.
- Organization of meetings (only for modality B) in the member entities of the consortium
 - Rental of rooms, audiovisual media (application 226.06.202/226.15.202)
- Enrolment in official training courses, related to the scientific objective of the action by the foreign participating team, preferably organized by CSIC (application 226.06.202)

Expenditure in this category **will not exceed 30% of the total aid in any form for each of the two annuities.**

2.7. Duration and execution of the action

2.7.1. The selected proposals will have a maximum duration of **two years**. For the execution of the expenses included in the action, **the processing deadlines established in the corresponding financial end-year instructions of the CSIC will be respected.**

2.7.2. The continuity of the grant in its second year must be authorised by the VRI, following the submission of a scientific technical report detailing the activity carried out to date, and another report detailing the distribution of the expenditure executed, accompanied by a statement of the internal account of the project. **The unjustified failure to carry out the planned activities or the incorrect use of funds, may lead to the cancellation of aid and repayment of credit.**

2.7.3. All expenditure must be carried out in accordance with the proposed work plan and the corresponding budget for a maximum annual allocation of **€24,000 per grant (€12,000/annuity)**, and will be in accordance with the terms of the call.

2.7.4. The VRI will authorise the annual budget allocation at the beginning of the 2022 and 2023 financial years to the CSIC's ICUs for their execution and control of the expenditure from the ICUs Management.

2.7.5. 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 for calls on the CSIC Intranet:

<http://siw.csic.es/icv/> PROGRAMA CSIC DE COOPERACIÓN CIENTÍFICA PARA EL DESARROLLO.

Exceptionally, the National Centers that have recently joined the CSIC, according to RD 202/2021 of 30th March, may submit the application and the rest of the required documentation by sending it by email to i-coop@csic.es, indicating at the title "I-COOP APPLICATION + IP Name + National Center Name" (maximum 15 MB per email).

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

3.3. Only the following standard call documents will be used:

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

A) Activities of the action (maximum 3 pages):

- Summary of the proposal (objectives, scope of the study, international relevance, etc.).
- List of key words (in Spanish and English).
- Alignment and relevance of the application with the Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Implementation:** work plan that includes the objectives and proposed actions chronogram. In modality B projects, the activities to be carried out in the ODA country and the degree of involvement of the foreign team will be detailed.
- **Scientific, social and economic impact** on foreign research groups and institutions, as well as on the participating ODA countries.
- **Composition of the consortium:** most relevant aspects of the research experience of the PI (and in Modality B also of the CSIC team) and complementarity with the groups of participating ODA countries.

B) Detailed budget related to the proposed **chronogram** of activities (maximum 3 pages).

C) CV of the PI of the CSIC highlighting the main achievements from 2017 to the present (maximum 2 pages).

D) CV of foreign PI(s) highlighting major achievements from 2017 to present (maximum 2 pages)

➤ In the case of proposals under **MODALITY A**, the following documentation will be submitted.

E) CV of the predoctoral researcher (maximum 2 pages).

F) Letters of acceptance/commitment from the thesis director (foreign) certifying their commitment to participate in the action, as well as in the thesis direction of the research staff in training of the foreign team and, where appropriate, the offer to include the PI CSIC as co-director of the

same. The presentation format of the document will be through an official letter from the institution dated and signed by the institutional or scientific responsible.

G) Certificate of inscription of the researcher in formation of the Foreign Team in the doctoral program (or equivalent certificate) in which the doctoral thesis has been inscribed and which specifies the title, institution, doctoral candidate, period of execution and any other data of interest.

➤ In the case of proposals of **MODALITY B**, the following documentation will be presented.

E) CV of each member of the foreign team highlighting the main achievements from 2017 to the present (maximum 2 pages).

F) Acceptance/commitment letters from the foreign institutions on which the participating teams depend. This letter must include the authorization to the principal investigator for participation in the project, committing to carry out the activities foreseen in the presented scientific-technical report and its corresponding financing. The format of presentation of the document will be by means of an official letter from the institution dated and signed by the Institutional or Scientific Head/Manager.

3.4. The application will require the telematic validation by the ICU Management for its later submission by the applicant.

3.5. The deadline for submission of applications will be from **27th May 2021 to 25th June 2021**. The reception of applications will end at 23:59 h 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.

3.6. Once the period for submitting applications has ended, a provisional list of those admitted and excluded will be published on the CSIC intranet. There will be no time period to rectify errors.

3.7. The personal data included in the application will be subject to the protection established by the Organic Law 3/2018, and the Regulations (UE) 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 the proposals will be carried out **in two phases**. The final score of each proposal will be the sum of the score obtained in each of them.

4.2. In the **first phase**, a **technical evaluation committee** will evaluate the adequacy of the applications to the CSIC's current internationalization strategy. In particular, the following aspects will be considered:

- I. Adaptation of the project to the strategy of the CSIC in scientific cooperation (up to 15 points).
 - i. **Geographical priority (maximum 5 points**, non-accumulative points in ii, iii and iv, the most favorable option for the consortium shall always be taken into account)
 - ii. 1 Priority country for this call: 2 points
 - iii. ODA countries considered “Least Developed Countries”: up to 3 points per proposal depending on the number and relevance of participating institutions.
 - iv. ODA countries considered “Lower Middle Income Countries”: up to 2 points per proposal depending on the number and relevance of participating institutions.
 - v. ODA countries considered “Upper Middle Income Countries”: point per proposal depending on the number and relevance of participating institutions.
- b. Adequacy and clear exposition in the proposal of its relation with the **Sustainable Development Objectives**, citing specifically the SDGs involved (**maximum 5 points**)
- c. **Action strategy (up to 5 points).**
 - i. MODALITY A: co-direction of the thesis by the CSIC PI.
 - ii. MODALITY B: involvement of more than two institutions from ODA countries.

4.3. Only the **55 best-rated** proposals will go on to the second phase of evaluation. In case of tie, those with the best score in section I.b will be prioritized.

4.4. In the **second phase**, the proposals will be evaluated by the **technical evaluation committee** designated for this purpose. The evaluation criteria will be the following:

▪ **Implementation (up to 10 points).**

The feasibility of the activities, the chronogram and the budget will be evaluated.

▪ **Impact for the foreign institution and its country (up to 10 points).**

The following aspects will be evaluated:

1. Impact of the project on the foreign team and institution, including possible future scientific cooperation collaborations and sustainable capacity building.
2. Social and economic impact of the project on participating ODA countries
3. Adequacy and complementarity of CSIC teams with teams from foreign countries for the execution of the project.

4.5. In case of tie in the second phase, those with the best score in **Implementation** will be prioritized.

5. INFORMATION ON THE CALL RESULTS

5.1. The result of the selection process will be informed by means of a Resolution of the Presidency of the CSIC, which will be published on the CSIC's INTRANET and will be communicated by e-mail to the principal investigators of the proposals.

6. SCIENTIFIC AND ECONOMIC JUSTIFICATION

6.1. The beneficiaries of this program will have to justify the activities and expenses in two reports (intermediate and final) whose standardized template will be sent from the VRI.

The **interim report** will be sent before 5 December 2022, and the **final report** before 31 January 2024.

Each justification report shall include the following concepts:

- **Scientific-technical report:** performed activities, results obtained, and degree of fulfilment of the proposed objectives.
- **Financial report:** implemented expenditure, taking into account the bases of the call and the approved chronogram.

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

6.2. 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 DETAILS:

i-coop@csic.es

Madrid, 26th May 2021

CSIC President

Rosa Menéndez