

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 2021. 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 2021 FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE CSIC'S INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION WITH FOREIGN INSTITUTIONS.**

**“i-LINK CALL 2021”**



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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&I projects.
- to promote CSIC PTI+ internationalization

The activities promoted by this program 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 internationalization activities between the participating research groups within the framework of a common research project.

The expected impact of the Program is to improve the internationalization 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

This call provides funding for a maximum of **30 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.

### 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+2020 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)<sup>1</sup> will not be considered eligible as they are eligible to receive funds through the i-COOP call.

**2.1.6.** There are four modalities:

- **MODALITY A:** for the **creation of international research networks** in order to establish stable links with foreign research groups. Up to 15 grants may be funded in this modality.
- **MODALITY B:** for the **strengthening** of already consolidated international research networks with foreign research groups. Up to 10 grants may be funded in this modality.
- **MODALITY C (i-LINK CAS):** for the creation of international research networks in order to establish stable links with research groups of the **Czech Academy of Sciences (CAS)**. In this modality, the Czech Academy of Sciences (CAS) research group will be financed by CAS with a budget of CZK 250.000 for transport, accommodation, subsistence, consumables and small equipment costs. Up to a total of 2 grants may be funded in this modality..
- **MODALITY D (i-LINK PTI):** for the INTERDISCIPLINARY PLATFORMS OF CSIC internationalization, as a mixed instrument for research and innovation that brings together research teams, administrations and companies. Up to a total of 3 grants may be funded in this modality.

## **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.** Proposals for modality C must have at least one CSIC research group (CSIC participating team), and one CAS group (foreign participating team) that must be led by a principal investigator (foreign IP).

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/DAC-List-ODA-Recipients-for-reporting-2021-flows.pdf>

**2.2.3.** Proposals for modality D must have one or more research groups from CSIC, which form part of the PTI and which will act as responsible for the action, with the approval of the PTI coordinator and their potential participation (CSIC participating team) and one or more groups from one or more institutions foreigners (foreign participant team / s) without geographic restriction (excluding ODA countries). Each participating foreign team must be led by a principal investigator (foreign PI).

**2.2.4.** All participants must be linked to their institution at the time of application. Throughout the aid validity, each member of the foreign institutions will remain under the exclusive direction and dependence of their home institution.

**2.2.5.** Foreign institutions may be **Universities, Research or Technology Centers 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. The companies will not be considered as a member of the consortium, but their participation will be considered in the second evaluation phase.

**2.2.6.** The research groups that are members of the network must have their own funding, their own facilities and adequate equipment to carry out scientific research related to the actions proposed in their respective centers.

### **2.3. CSIC Participating Team Requirements**

**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 2021 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 networks<sup>2</sup>. 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 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.

**2.3.5.** 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. Eligible Expenses and Management**

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

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 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. Subsistence 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.

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

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.

**2.4.6.** The expenses financed by the CAS in modality C to be executed and managed by its research team will include CZK 250,000 per project and year for costs of transport, maintenance, accommodation, consumables, services, small equipment and networks. The conditions for the execution of the action and the costs are defined in Annex II.

## **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 for **MODALITIES A and B** 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/> Menu option: Convocatorias activas → PROGRAMA CSIC CONEXIÓN INTERNACIONAL PROMOCIÓN COLABORACIÓN INTERNACIONAL.

**3.2.** Applications for **MODALITY C** will be submitted according to *Annex II*, simultaneously by the CAS team at their institution, and by CSIC team, through the telematic application for calls on the CSIC Intranet: <http://siw.csic.es/icv/>

**3.3.** The proposal and the documentation required in **MODALITY D** will be submitted in a single application by the PI/s, with the approval of the PTI coordinator, through the telematic application of calls on the CSIC Intranet: <http://siw.csic.es/icv/> Menu Option: Convocatorias activas → PROGRAMA CSIC CONEXIÓN INTERNACIONAL PROMOCIÓN COLABORACIÓN INTERNACIONAL.

**3.4. 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-link@csic.es](mailto:i-link@csic.es), indicating at the title "I-LINK APPLICATION + IP Name + National Center Name" (maximum 15 MB per email).

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

**3.6.** Only the following standard call documents will be used:

**3.6.1. Action memory for A, B and C modalities**, including, as indicated in the templates and with a maximum size of 5MB:

**A) Internationalization Activities** (*up to 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 **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*)

**E) Letters of acceptance/commitment** 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. In the event that these ones coincide with some of the IPs or team members, please indicate them in this section of the application.

**3.6.2. Action memory for D modality**, including, as indicated in the templates and with a maximum size of 5MB:



**A) Internationalization Activities** (up to 3 pages, with a minimum font size of 11):

- Summary of the proposal (objectives, scope of the study, international relevance, etc.).
- List of key words (in Spanish and English).
- Composition of the consortium:
  - Identification of potential groups.
  - Previous collaborations between the research groups participating in the network.
- Implementation: work plan that includes the proposed internationalization actions as well as a schedule for their execution.
- Expected impact: for both CSIC and PTI.

**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)

**E) Letters of acceptance/commitment** 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. In the event that these ones coincide with some of the IPs or team members, please indicate them in this section of the application.

**3.6.** The application will require the telematic validation by the ICU Head/Manager for its later submission by the applicant. Exceptionally for National Centers, the signature by the Director will be required.

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

**3.8.** 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.

**3.9.** 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 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:

### Modalities A, B and D:

#### **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 country: 2 points*
  - *2 or more foreign institutions from the same or different country: 2 points*
  
- Entities included in the NATURE INDEX<sup>2</sup> (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 Goals**<sup>3</sup>, 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)

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.natureindex.com/annual-tables/2020/institution/all/all>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/es/objetivos-de-desarrollo-sostenible/>

- 1 country: 1 point
- 2 countries: 2 points
- 3 countries: 3 points
- 4 countries or more: 4 points

### **Modality C**

- Participation of CAS research groups according to modality (15 points)

In case of tie, those with the best score in the section “*Relevance of the proposed activities and their relationship with the Sustainable Development Goals*” will be prioritized in section.

**4.3.** Only the **46 best-rated** proposals will go on to the second phase of evaluation.

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

### **MODALITIES A AND D**

- **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 sustainability of the collaboration in the future** will be valued (up to 4 points)
- The alignment with the **12 major scientific challenges of the CSIC** will be assessed (up to 2 points)

### **MODALITY B**

- **Creation and consolidation** of international consortium of excellence to compete in future calls for international R&I projects with explicit indication of programmes and calls (up to 3 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 5 points)
- The alignment with the **12 major scientific challenges of the CSIC** will be assessed (up to 2 points)

## MODALITY C

- **Creation and consolidation** of international consortium of excellence to compete in future calls for international R&I projects with explicit indication of programmes and calls (up to 10 points)

**4.5.** In **modality C** proposals there will be an additional evaluation phase of consensus between the CSIC and CAS for the selection of the actions to be jointly funded.

**4.6.** 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-link@csic.es](mailto: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 DETAILS:**

[i-link@csic.es](mailto:i-link@csic.es)

Madrid, 26<sup>st</sup> May 2021

CSIC President

Rosa Menéndez

## **ANNEX I**

The Grand Challenges include the following topics:

- 1- New foundations for a sustainable globalized society.
- 2- Origin and evolution of life and synthetic biology.
- 3- Genome and epigenetics.
- 4- Health challenges in biomedicine.
- 5- Aging and mind.
- 6- Responsible primary production.
- 7- Impact of global change.
- 8- Clean, safe and efficient energy.
- 9- Understanding the basic components of the universe, its structure and evolution.
- 10- Digitization.
- 11- Artificial intelligence, data science and robotics.
- 12- Our future? - Exploration and colonization of space
- 13- Ocean
- 14- Dynamic Earth

## ANNEX II

# Call for Mobility Plus Project Proposals

### Identification information

Partner country:	<b>Spain</b>
Partner organisation:	<b>La Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC)</b>
Programme:	<b>Mobility Plus Projects</b>
Implementation period:	<b>2022 - 2023</b>

### Legal framework

The call is based on Agreement on Scientific Cooperation of the year 2018 between the Czech Academy of Sciences (hereinafter referred to as CAS) and the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (hereinafter referred to as CNR), and in accordance with art. 2

par. 2 of the Act No. 283/1992 Coll., on the Czech Academy of Sciences, as amended, and art. 3 par. 2 of the Statutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences.

### Basic definitions

#### Objectives

- Improvement of scientific cooperation between both countries;
- Stimulation of involvement of young researchers and PhD students;
- Support of research teams aspiring to cooperate on large international projects in the future;
- Enabling the use of methodology, infrastructure and equipment for the mutual benefit of both institutions.

#### Eligibility criteria

Project proposals from **all research fields** are accepted.

Maximum project duration is **2 years, i.e. 24 months**; extension beyond this period is not permitted.

Project proposals can be submitted:

- On the Czech side by the CAS institutes (<http://www.avcr.cz/en/about-us/cas-structure/research-institutes/>);
- On the Spanish side CSIC institutes and centres according to “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 2021”. Hereinafter, the call of the Presidency of the State Agency Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) for proposals.

In case an applicant submits more than one project proposal within one call, only one of them can be funded.

Only two subsequent projects realized by the same research teams can be funded. Applicant submitting a project proposal following a running project with the same team must justify the need for a continuing project and describe outcomes of the running project. This shall be stated in the Project Proposal form in the part “Description of the project”.

### **Research team**

Each research team consists of:

- One principal investigator (senior or junior researcher);
- One or more co-investigators.

Research team members are divided into four categories:

- Senior researchers (5 or more years after receiving PhD);
- Junior researchers – postdocs (less than 5 years after receiving PhD);
- PhD students;
- Others (e.g. engineers, technicians).

### **On the Czech side:**

- All members must be employees of the CAS institutes.
- Out of the whole team, at least 1/3 must be junior researchers or PhD students.

### **On the Spanish side:**

- See the call of the Presidency of the State Agency Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) for proposals.

### **Financial conditions**

Financial contributions must be calculated and provided in compliance with the valid national legislation and internal regulations of the partner organisations.

**Up to 2 (two)** projects shall be selected for funding.



**On the Czech side:**

- Financial contribution shall be provided by the CAS towards the costs of the Czech research team.
- The maximum financial contribution shall be CZK 250.000 per mobility project per year.
- Min. 50% of the approved financial contribution shall be used to cover mobility costs: travel, living expenses.
- Min. 30% of the approved financial contribution shall be used to cover research costs: consumables, services, small equipment, and networking.
- Non-eligible costs are: personnel, large equipment (exceeding CZK 40,000), overheads.
- The ratio between mobility and research costs shall be maintained on the project level as well as yearly. Transferring financial contributions between these two categories is allowed if the minimal ratio for both categories is maintained.
- The course of project implementation will be monitored through annual and final reports including use of financial means, justification of costs and possible transfers between categories.

**On the Spanish side (for information only):**

- Financial contribution shall be provided by CSIC (i-LINK 2021) towards the costs of CSIC research team.
- Maximum financial contribution is EUR 24,000 for up two years per mobility project.
- The approved financial contribution shall be used to cover mobility costs: travel and living expenses.
- The approved financial contribution shall be used to cover other costs such as rental of rooms for meeting or workshops.
- The course of project implementation will be monitored through annual and final reports including use of financial means, and justification of costs.

**Project proposal submission**

Project proposals must be submitted in parallel to both partner organisations.

**On the Czech side:**

- Project proposals in Czech or English must be complete and submitted within the stated deadline exclusively via the “KIS” online application.
- The applicants are requested to register in the KIS application using the following link <https://kis.avcr.cz/kis2/oms/register>, and fill in a project proposal. After finishing the proposal, applicant shall forward it through his KIS account to the Director of his CAS Institute for its approval. The Director shall approve the proposal by submitting the project proposal to OMS KAV ČR (Division of International Cooperation, Head

Office of the CAS) via his KIS account. **Bear in mind that all project proposals must be submitted by the CAS Institute Directors by 30 July 2021.**

- Proposals submitted in any other way may be rejected on formal grounds.

By submitting project proposal, the applicant:

- Agrees to processing of personal data within the meaning of the Act No. 101/2000 Coll., On Personal Data Protection, as amended;
- Declares that the information he/she stated is accurate, true and complete and that he/she is aware that if otherwise they will face all the legal consequences;
- Declares that, if approved, he/she will during the realization of the project follow:
  - [The Code of Ethics of researchers at the Czech Academy of Sciences](#);
  - [The European Charter and Code for researchers](#);
  - [Recommendations of the International Commission "Self-Control in Science" \(Recommendations of the International Commission on Professional Self-Regulation in Science\)](#)

**On the Spanish side** (for information only):

## **Evaluation and Selection**

Consists of a two-step process:

- At the national level, each partner organisation evaluates submitted proposals based on its internal rules and prepares a ranking list.
- At the international level, both partner organizations exchange their ranking lists, merge them, negotiate the final ranking and approve the proposals selected for funding. Total number of projects approved for funding is dependent on the financial possibilities of both partner organizations.

## **Criteria for evaluation of project proposals**

- **Quality of the project:**
  - Scientific relevance (concept, innovative character in relation to the state-of-the-art, quality of objectives);
  - Methodology, work plan of activities and outputs;
  - Impact of project results, their dissemination and exploitation.
- **Quality of research teams:**
  - Composition and expertise of research teams;
  - Complementarity, methodology and equipment; previous cooperation and outputs;
  - Justification of collaboration needs.
- **Active involvement of junior researchers and PhD students** – on the Czech side.
- **Added value and broader impact of bilateral cooperation.**

### **Evaluation of the final report**

The project results and outputs will be evaluated. For definition of results see the Methodology for Evaluating Research Organisations and R&D&I Purpose-tied Aid Programmes (2017+) (<https://www.vyzkum.cz/FrontClanek.aspx?idsekce=799796> ).

### **Schedule**

<b>June 1, 2021</b>	<b>Announcement of the call for project proposals !!!</b>
<b>30.07.2021 24:00</b>	<b>Deadline for submission of project proposals</b>
September 2021	Completion of the assessment at national level
November 2021	Completion of the joint assessment at international level
Nov./Dec.2021	Approval of the final results by both partner organisations
<b>December 2021</b>	<b>Announcement of results</b>

### **Contact persons**

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