

**Joint Call Text
For Funding V4-Japan Joint Research Projects**

Established between the following partners:

The Visegrad Group (V4) countries

- **International Visegrad Fund, hereafter referred to as “IVF”**
- **Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic, hereafter referred to as “MEYS”**
- **National Research, Development and Innovation Office of Hungary, hereafter referred to as “NKFIH”**
- **National Centre for Research and Development of Poland, hereafter referred to as “NCBR”**
- **Slovak Academy of Sciences, hereafter referred to as “SAS”**

Japan

- **Japan Science and Technology Agency, hereafter referred to as “JST”**

The above entities (hereinafter singularly referred to as **“Participant”** and collectively as **“Participants”**) have launched joint calls for proposals to support collaborative research projects in priority areas in accordance with the “Memorandum of Cooperation on Scientific and Technological Cooperation”, which was signed by the Participants on September 23, 2014.

1. General Description of the Program

1-1. The V4-Japan Joint Research Program (JRP) is:

- A mechanism for formulating and supporting concrete research projects that would involve scientists from V4 countries (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia) and Japan.

1-2. V4-Japan Joint Call for Proposals

- The aim of the Joint Call is to develop high quality research networking, to exchange existing knowledge and to pursue state-of-the-art science and technology through collaboration, towards realization of innovative and robust economies and societies in participating countries.

2. Design of the V4-Japan Joint Call

2-1. Research Field

For the second Joint Call, the Participants, i.e. the participating funding organisations, shall invite researchers from their countries to submit joint proposals for cooperative research projects in the field of ‘Advanced Materials’ including but not limited to such areas as:

- Materials for extreme environments
Multiphase alloys for application in extreme conditions (high temperatures, radioactive environments, aggressive media, etc.), as thermal barriers and ultrahard coatings.
- Materials for electronics and energy harvesting
Microelectronics, photovoltaics, thermoelectrics.
- Materials for laser technologies
Transparent ceramic composite, photonic crystals, fiber materials for high-performance laser technologies.

COVID-19 material research project proposals (such as materials for high-performance mask, protective clothing, virus adsorption filters, gene extracting device, sensor and detector materials, primers or reagents for gene amplification, new materials for virus inactivation and materials for antiviral drug development) are also welcome in this call.

2-2. Prospective Applicants

The second Joint Call is open to international research consortia of partners from Japan and V4 countries (see 2-3. Composition of the Consortia). Although researchers from several countries submit the application jointly, individual partners will be funded by their respective national and regional funding organisations (JST, MEYS, NCBR, NKFIH or SAS). On top of the national funds the V4 side project leader and collaborators from V4 countries may also receive additional funding from IVF. All applicants must, therefore, fulfil their respective national/regional eligibility criteria set out by each of the Participants (see Annex 1) in order to apply for a research grant in this call.

Researchers from industry may participate in the joint collaboration in accordance with the national/regional rules.

All project partners are strongly advised to confirm their eligibility with their V4-Japan JRP National Contact Persons (see Annex 2) in advance.

2-3. Composition of the Consortia

For the second Joint Call, each project consortium should consist of **at least 3 partners: one from Japan and two from two different V4 countries** participating in the Joint Call. Proposals acceptable for the second call are those that follow the models of Japan+2 countries (1+2), Japan+3 countries (1+3), and Japan+4 countries (1+4), however the models of 1+3 and 1+4 are more recommendable. Note that the bilateral model of Japan+1 country (1+1) is not eligible.

The partners should be affiliated with a research institute or a company. The size of the consortium should be appropriate for the aims of the research project and reasonably balanced in terms of multilateral participation. Each project should clearly demonstrate the added value of working together.

Each project consortium should choose from among the partners one **principal project leader**, either from the Japanese side or from the groups on the V4 side. Researchers may be involved in several project proposals but may only be the project leader of one proposal. A **secondary project leader** should be nominated from the other side to the principal project leader (i.e. if the principal project leader is from Japan, the secondary project leader should be from a V4 country and vice versa). The Japanese side project leader, regardless of whether they are principal or secondary, will be responsible for submitting the proposal on behalf of the whole consortium.

A partner is defined as a principal investigator from one of the Participant countries – and, by extension, his/her research group as a whole – who is to be funded through the V4-Japan Joint Call. A partner must be in charge of a definite work package within the project’s work plan. A partner cannot be funded solely through the ‘on-top’ funding provided by IVF (see 2-4.)

Researchers ineligible for receiving funding from their respective national funding organisation and/or researchers from countries not participating in this call can join the project consortia as **collaborators**. However, they must secure their own funding or draw on their own resources to support their project activities. Collaborators can be neither project leaders nor work package leaders. Their contribution to the project must be clearly described in the application.

All individual members of a partner’s or a collaborator’s research group other than the principal investigator are considered **project members**.

2-4. Funding/the V4-Japan Joint Call budget

The Participants fund the researchers of their own countries/region respectively in accordance with their national and/or regional regulations. The overall budget of the V4-Japan Joint Call is the sum of individual budgets allocated to it by each of the Participants. Some funding organisations might decide to set an upper limit that can be requested per project partner coming from the respective country. The upper funding limits may thus differ from one country to the next. Applicants should therefore thoroughly check the national and regional regulations stipulated in Annex 1 and contact their National and Regional Contact Persons in Annex 2 for information.

Overall Call Budget:

JST (Japan): 18 million JPY at maximum per project for 3 years

MEYS (Czech Republic): 500, 000 EURO in total for 3 years

NKFIH (Hungary): 400,000 EURO in total for 3 years

NCBR (Poland): 750,000 EURO in total for 3 years

SAS (Slovakia): 360,000 EURO in total for 3 years

IVF (V4): 100,000 EURO for the V4 countries in total for 3 years

‘On-top’ funding:

Funding provided by IVF has the form of a grant awarded on top of the funding provided by other Participants (national funding organisations) in order to encourage wider

cooperation within the V4 region. The 'on-top' funding may be requested by the V4-side project leader (principal or secondary) or a collaborator from a V4 country who makes significant contribution to the project. The 'on-top' funding may be requested only if the project follows the 1+4 or 1+3 model.

Project models:

1) 1+4 model

This model will be funded by **JST, <MEYS, NKFIH, NCBR and SAS> and, as 'on-top' funding, IVF.**

- ✓ Priority will be given to the **1+4 model** projects in consideration of the concept of the V4-Japan collaboration.
- ✓ It is envisioned that at least 1 or 2 joint projects of this model will be funded.

2) 1+3 model

This model will be funded by **JST, 3 funding organisations out of <MEYS/NKFIH/NCBR /SAS> and, as 'on-top' funding, IVF.**

3) 1+2 model

This model will be funded by **JST and 2 funding organisations out of <MEYS/NKFIH/ NCBR/SAS>.**

- ✓ There is no 'on-top' funding from IVF to this model.

4) 1+1 model

NOT applicable for this Call.

For the maximum amount per project in each country, please refer to Annex 3.

The number of joint projects selected for funding and the total funding awarded will depend on the number and quality of project proposals submitted, available funds, and the Participants' decision.

The table below may help applicants to understand which funding organisation will fund each project model.

Funding organisations to fund each project model by country

Researchers' Country	Project Model		
	1+2	1+3	1+4
Czech Republic		(IVF &)	IVF &
	MEYS	MEYS	MEYS
Hungary		(IVF &)	IVF &
	NKFIH	NKFIH	NKFIH

Poland		(IVF &)	IVF &
	NCBR	NCBR	NCBR
Slovakia		(IVF &)	IVF &
	SAS*	SAS*	SAS*
Japan	JST	JST	JST

*SAS funds only SAS researchers.

Please, see Annex 1 for the eligibility rules of each agency.

2-5. Eligible costs and duration of funding

MEYS, NKFIH, NCBR, SAS, and JST fund the researchers of their own countries respectively; funding should not in principle cross national borders.

IVF funds the researchers of all V4 countries.

Within the framework of the V4-Japan Joint Call, costs eligible for funding are:

- 1) Research materials, small-scale research equipment and consumables
- 2) Personnel costs/Salary or Stipend
- 3) Travel expenses: In principle, only travel to the counterpart countries participating in the joint project is eligible (see the relevant national/regional regulations for exceptions); costs should be reimbursed based on the rules of the institution to which the researchers belong.
- 4) Living expenses: Only expenses incurred in the countries participating in the joint project.
- 5) Expenses for the organization of small scientific events: Room rent, catering, printing of conference brochures, travel and accommodation of invited experts (that do not form part of the project consortium but are considered necessary for the success of the event) are eligible.
- 6) Overhead expenses

The eligibility of all costs for each applicant depends on **the national/regional regulations** applied by each Joint Call Participant. Therefore, it is quite likely that not all funding organisations will be able to fund all of the aforementioned six cost categories.

All project partners are advised to contact their V4-Japan National and Regional Contact Persons (see Annex 2) for further information on eligible costs, and national and regional specifications.

Funding will be provided for the **duration of three years**. The funding of projects is expected to start in October 2021.

2-6. Intellectual Property Rights

The Participants will respect policies relative to the negotiation of Intellectual Property (IP) Rights established by researchers' respective institutions.

The participating research institutions may deem it necessary to enter into an agreement for co-operative research to ensure good collaboration and to specify the rights regarding intellectual property. Such an agreement must not restrict the utilization of research results in Japan or the other counterpart countries for the benefit of any country. Once an agreement is concluded, it should be reported to the Participants. The Participants may suggest that intellectual property agreement should be concluded between the partners and may withhold funds until such an agreement is in place.

2-7. Proposal Submission

Project proposals are to be submitted electronically as PDF documents to the e-Rad submission system (<https://www.e-rad.go.jp/>). The Secretariat will confirm receipt of documents by email.

The Japanese side project leader should submit the proposal on behalf of the whole consortium. Thus, only one proposal per project is needed. The principal project leader has to confirm that the information contained in the proposal is correct and that the proposal is endorsed by all project partners by checking the boxes on the front page of the application form. A submission of a printed version of the proposal is not necessary.

As a part of proposal submission, a word-template has to be downloaded, completed and submitted by the Japanese side project leader. The following information should be included in the form:

Project title:

Project acronym:

5 Keywords for the project:

Information and contact data of the principal project leader (from either Japan or a V4 country), secondary project leader (from the other side), other project partners and collaborators:

- The Project Description template is structured as follows (a maximum number of pages will be given for each item to avoid overly long proposals):

1. General information

1.1 Short abstract of the project

1.2 Main objectives of the project

1.3 The project description

1.4 Scientific excellence of the project and the project partners

1.5 Project coordination and management

2. Work plan

2.1 Research methodology

2.2 Work plan (timetable)

2.3 Envisaged types of activities (including main milestones, deliverables and event locations)

2.4 Involvement of each partner

3. Expected impact of project results

4. Added values of multilateral cooperation

5. Short CVs of main participating researchers including a list of the five most relevant publications of the last ten years

6. Budget Plan

7. Signature of both V4 and Japan sides

Proposals sent by e-mail, post, telex or facsimile will be rejected. All proposals must be written in English.

Some Participants may ask the applicant to submit a parallel proposal to them in line with their national/regional requirements. These additional proposals submitted to the national/regional funding organisations may or may not be evaluated, depending on the organisation's rules and regulations. For further details about such submission requirements, please, see Annex 1.

3. Proposal Evaluation and Funding Decision

A four-step evaluation process will be implemented for the proposals submitted within the V4-Japan Joint Call.

3-1. Eligibility Check

The Joint Call Secretariat (JCS) and the National and Regional Contact Persons will check the eligibility of all submitted proposals taking into consideration the general Joint Call criteria and the individual national/regional criteria respectively.

The **general eligibility criteria** that will be applied are:

- Appropriate length and layout of the proposal (maximum allowed number of pages and use of template for the Project Description)
- Inclusion of all necessary information in English
- Eligibility of all project partners
- Participation of at least three partners from a minimum of two different eligible V4 countries and Japan
- Eligible thematic focus
- Eligibility of requested funding

The **national/regional eligibility criteria** of the participating Joint Call funding organisations are given in the Annex 1.

3-2. Online Evaluation of Proposals

The selection of the proposals for funding is based on an **international, independent evaluation by scientific peers**. Each proposal is assessed by at least two evaluators, who may be from any country and are chosen by the Participants (funding organisations).

The following **four evaluation criteria** are used:

1. Scientific excellence of the project and the project partners (scoring from 0 to 5 points, this score will be doubled to emphasise this prioritised criterion)

- Sound concept and quality of objectives
- Originality, innovative character, uniqueness of the research idea
- Scientific track-record of the partners/publications in scientific journals

- Scientific standing of the organisation the applicants belong to

2. Methodology and work plan (scoring 0 to 5 points)

- Appropriateness and effectiveness of the methodology
- Feasibility of the work plan (in relation to governance, adequate budget, resources, time schedule, infrastructure)

3. Expected impact of project results (scoring 0 to 5 points, this score will be doubled to emphasise this prioritised criterion)

- Impact of the project on the scientific field/community
- Expected exploitation of the results

4. Added value of multilateral cooperation (scoring 0 to 5 points)

- Level of the collaborative interaction between project partners
- Added value of the international project consortium
- Sustainability of the expected collaboration
- Interdisciplinarity
- Involvement of early-stage researchers and gender balance

The **scoring system** is as follows:

- 5: EXCELLENT** – The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor.
- 4: VERY GOOD** – The proposal addresses the criterion very well, although certain improvements are possible.
- 3: GOOD** – The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but improvements are necessary.
- 2: FAIR** – There are serious inherent weaknesses in relation to the criterion in question.
- 1: POOR** – The criterion is addressed in an inadequate and unsatisfactory manner.
- 0: FAILS OR MISSING/INCOMPLETE INFORMATION** – The proposal fails to address the criterion in question or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information

3-3. Meeting of the Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee, chaired by an independent chairperson from the third country, will **group into A, B, or C the proposals based on the online evaluations and their own internal discussions, and will recommend to the Funding Organisations Meeting a list of proposals to be funded.**

3-4. Funding Organizations Meeting

The Funding Organisations Meeting consisting of the Participants' representatives will make **the final decision on the proposals to be funded on a consensus basis**, based on the recommendations of the Scientific Committee. It will discuss and approve the recommended projects according to the scientific groupings and the available budget.

The funding will be administered according to the terms and conditions of the Participants, taking into account the applicable regulations and available funding.

All applicants will be informed of the outcomes of the evaluation by the end of August 2021.

4. Conclusion of the funding contract

After the funding decision, all applicants will be informed by the funding organisations of their countries respectively about the results of the evaluation process and the next steps to be taken. From then, parallel contract negotiations will start between IVF, MEYS, NCBR, NKFIH, SAS and JST and their respective researchers. The project partners of each proposal to be funded will each conclude an individual funding contract with their respective national/regional funding organisation. This may mean that partners of a successful proposal will have to submit an additional application to their national/regional funding organisation to receive their funding.

5. Project Implementation and Reporting

Each consortium funded through the V4-Japan Joint Call is required to conclude a **Consortium Agreement** listing the rights and responsibilities of each project partner. Depending on the nature of the funded project, special regulations should be included in the Consortium Agreement regarding **Intellectual Property Rights**. Scientific and technological results and any other information derived from the co-operation activities under this call, can be announced, published or commercially exploited with the agreement of the partners of the funded projects and according to the national/regional regulations as well as international agreements concerning intellectual property rights.

The following regulations will apply for all research projects that are funded through the V4-Japan Joint Call:

- In any publication of results of the research for which V4-Japan Joint Call funding was awarded, mention must be made of the support received in the frame of the V4-Japan Joint Call (*"This work was supported by funding received from the V4-Japan 2021 Joint Call on Advanced Materials."*).

Additional individual reporting to the national/regional funding organisations might be necessary depending on national/regional regulations.

6. Indicative Timetable

Publication of the Call for Proposals	Friday, 15 January 2021
Deadline for proposal submission	Friday, 9 April 2021 (deadline of 10 am CET and 5 pm Japanese time)
Eligibility check	21 April 2021
Online evaluations	Early June 2021
Scientific Committee Meeting	End June 2021
Funding Organisations Meeting	End June 2021
Notification to applicants about the results of the evaluation	By the end of August 2021
Start of projects	October 2021
Preparation of national/ regional funding contracts/funding decisions	By the end of November 2021
Interim project reports	Depending on national regulations
Joint workshops	(to be decided by funding agencies)
Expected end of projects	September 2024
Final project reports (in English) (including publishable summaries)	End November 2024

To the extent possible, the Participants will synchronise the communication of the funding decisions to the applicants.

7. Miscellaneous

Specific information other than the items in this document will be discussed and decided among the Participants through relevant communications.

The Participants will maintain the highest ethical and legal standards as funding organisations through their Joint Calls.

Annex 1: National and Regional Funding Regulations

Japan – Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

→ Who can apply?

The applicant requirements are as follows:

- The applicant must be an independent researcher who is capable of carrying out the Research Project jointly with the European research groups in the consortia.
- The applicant must be personally affiliated with a research institution in Japan and must conduct research there.

Research institutions in Japan refer to universities, independent administrative institutions, national/public testing and Research Institutions, specially authorized corporations, public-service corporations and enterprises, etc. that must satisfy predetermined requirements designated by MEXT. Please refer to the MEXT homepage for more information:

https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/kansa/houkoku/1324571.htm

Any individual who satisfies the following conditions is also eligible to apply:

- Researchers holding citizenship other than Japanese who belong to a research institution in Japan.
- Researchers who are not currently affiliated with a particular research institution or are affiliated to a research institution abroad, but who will be affiliated with a research institution in Japan and will be able to conduct research there if selected as Project Leader. (Any nationality is acceptable.)

→ What types of funding are eligible for Japanese researchers?

The level of the funding to Japanese researchers may be up to around 6,000,000 Japanese Yen per year (i.e. overall 18,000,000 Japanese Yen at maximum for the three years of funding) including 30% indirect costs. (Funding will be made in Japanese Yen.) Due to the budgetary appropriations available, amounts provided in support may be adjusted each year.

1. Eligible direct costs

The basic rule is that the eligible direct costs shall be the typical costs directly needed for accomplishing the research, indicated below from 1.1 to 1.5, and that they are subject to the regulations of each research institution. Please refer to guidance documents in the following link for further details of eligible direct costs (available in Japanese only).

<https://www.jst.go.jp/contract/inter/2020/intera.html>

1.1 Research materials and small-scale research equipment

Research equipment, spare parts, prototypes, software (in-line product), and purchase of books, reagents, materials and consumables.

1.2 Personnel costs

Personnel costs of the researchers, temporarily staff, etc., who are hired for the research, and other costs such as honoraria for invited lecturers.

1.3 Travel costs

Costs of the Project Leader and research project members registered in the research project plan associated with travel to counterpart countries participating in

the joint project and other countries with appropriate justification (contact the national contact point for details), as well as travel costs of invited external experts.

1.4 Living expenses

Included in the Travel costs (1.3 above)

1.5 Expenses for the organisation of small scientific events in Japan

Rental costs of the event venue, food & beverage (excluding alcohol) costs and other costs which are deemed to be necessary for organizing the event.

2. Eligible indirect costs

Please refer to the following link for the provisions regarding indirect costs which are subject to the 30% of the direct costs described above.

<https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/compefund/shishin2.pdf>

→ Is an additional/parallel application requested to the funding organisation?

Yes, it is. You are supposed to fill required information on e-Rad in the following link:

<https://www.e-rad.go.jp/index.html>

Who can apply?

Research organisation – Public university, public research institute or other entity that can be classified as “research and knowledge-dissemination organisation” (hereinafter referred to as “research organisation”) in accordance with the [General Block Exemption Regulation \(GBER\)](#) – Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (Article 2, Paragraph 83).

Enterprise – Small, medium or large-sized enterprise as defined by the [General Block Exemption Regulation \(GBER\)](#) – Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (Article 2, Paragraphs 2 and 24), listed in the Business register of the Czech Republic and performing research, development and innovation in the Czech Republic.

What types of funding are eligible for the Czech researchers?

The MEYS’s total allocation for the current Call for V4 – Japan Joint Research Projects is **500.000 EUR**. The level of funding for Czech participants involved in a V4 – Japan Joint Research Project consortium should not exceed the amount of **125.000 EUR per project** for its whole duration (up to 3 years = 36 months).

The **eligible costs** for the Czech participants in V4 – Japan Joint Research Projects are defined by the respective documentation available on the official websites of the MEYS: <https://www.msmt.cz/vyzkum-a-vyvoj-2/2-vyzva-k-podavani-navrhu-projektu-ve-formatu-v4-japonsko>.

The **aid** for the Czech participants (research organisations / SMEs / large enterprises) provided by the MEYS will not exceed the **intensity** as defined by the [General Block Exemption Regulation \(GBER\)](#):

- **100 % of the eligible costs for fundamental research;**
- **50 % of the eligible costs for industrial research;**
- **25 % of the eligible costs for experimental development.**

The aid intensity for activities carried out by a research organisation may be increased **up to 100 %** for industrial research and experimental development only if the research organization complies with the requirements set by the Article 2.1.1 “Public funding of non-economic activities” of the [Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation \(2014/C 198/03\)](#) and proves it appropriately by a Statutory Declaration (see below).

Is an additional documentation requested by the MEYS?

The support from public funds for the Czech participants in V4 – Japan Joint Research Projects consortia will be provided by the MEYS pursuant to the [Act No. 130/2002 Coll. on the Support of Research, Experimental Development and Innovation from Public](#)

[Funds and on the Amendment to Some Related Acts](#) (hereinafter referred to as the “Act on the Support of Research, Experimental Development and Innovation”).

Given the circumstances, it is obligatory that a Czech participant proves compliance with the eligibility criteria (status of a research organisation / enterprise) and fulfilment of the conditions set by the § 18 of the Act on the Support of Research, Experimental Development and Innovation by the means of submitting a **Statutory Declaration**. The required procedures are described and the respective Statutory Declaration form is available on the official websites of the MEYS: <https://www.msmt.cz/vyzkum-a-vyvoj-2/2-vyzva-k-podavani-navrhu-projektu-ve-formatu-v4-japonsko>.

The official national call announcement for Hungarian participants is published on the NKFIH website:

<https://www.nkfi.gov.hu/>

→ Who can apply?

Eligible applicants from Hungary are entities falling under any of the following GFO codes:

- budgetary units and other entities falling under the budgetary rule (e.g. higher education institutions, municipalities; etc.) (GFO code: 311, 312, 322, 341 342, 381, 382)
- enterprise with legal entity (GFO code: 11X)
- non-profit organisation with legal entity (GFO code: 551, 552, 559, 562, 563, 569 599, 931)
- enterprise with a registered office in the European Economic Area and a branch in Hungary (GFO: 226).

→ What types of funding are eligible for researchers in Hungary?

The level of funding of Hungarian participants may be up to around **EUR 100 000 – 150 000** per project over 3 years.

→ Eligible activities and costs

All research-related costs in accordance with government decree 380/2014 (XII.31) are eligible.

In case a partner is subject to State Aid rules, funding intensity shall be set at a level that complies with the State Aid rules in force at the time of the funding decision.

The detailed eligible costs and funding rules of the national 2019-2.1.7-ERA-NET call shall apply.

2019-2.1.7-ERA-NET Call for proposal & Guide for applicants:

PÁLYÁZAT AZ ERA-NET COFUND és EJP COFUND PROGRAMOK KÖZÖS NEMZETKÖZI PÁLYÁZATI FELHÍVÁSAIBAN SIKERESEN SZEREPLŐ MAGYAR SZERVEZETEK TÁMOGATÁSÁRA, 2019

<https://nkfi.gov.hu/palyazoknak/nkfi-alap/era-net-ejp-cofund-2019-217-era-net>

→ Is additional/parallel application requested to the funding organisation?

No additional/parallel application for the proposal evaluation phase is needed. After the announcement of the V4-Japan Joint Call results, the Hungarian applicants recommended for funding in the JST-V4 peer review process will be requested to submit a grant application to NKFIH in order to prepare the contract in line with the national regulations, as described in the 2019-2.1.7-ERA-NET Call for proposal & Guide for applicants.

Information about call announcement will be published on the NCBR website:
<https://www.ncbr.gov.pl/>

Who can apply?

- **Research organisations**
- **Enterprises** (micro, small, medium or large)
- **Groups of entities** (scientific consortia)

The scope of support:

- **Basic research** (only research organisations)
- **Applied research**
- **Experimental development**

What types of funding are eligible for the Polish researchers?

The NCBR's total allocation for the current V4-Japan Call for Proposals is **750.000 EUR**. The level of funding for Polish participants is limited up to the maximum of **150.000 EUR per project** for up to 3 years (36 months).

What types of costs are eligible for funding?

1. Personnel costs (W) - researchers, technicians and other supporting staff to the extent employed on the research project;

2. Costs of subcontracting (E) - i.e. costs based on agreements with third parties to perform a portion of the project without a direct supervision of the project participant and without a relationship of subordination the subcontracting can be obtained from consortium partner only in justified case, this need will be verified by a national experts panel; Costs of subcontracting cannot exceed 70% of all eligible costs of the project.

3. Other costs (Op):

- Costs of instruments, equipment and intangible assets (such as patents, certificates etc.) to the extent and for the period used for the research project; if they are not used for their full life for the research project, only the depreciation costs corresponding to the life of the research project, as calculated on the basis of good accounting practice, shall be considered eligible;
- Purchase of land and real estate to the extent and for the period used for the research project; if such instruments and equipment are not used for their full life for the research project, only the depreciation costs corresponding to the life of the research project, as calculated on the basis of good accounting practice, shall be considered eligible;
- Other costs including costs of support services, materials, supplies and similar products incurred directly as a result of the research activity, travel costs (costs of delegations, costs of participation in conferences), costs of maintaining a

separate bank account, costs of promoting the project.

4. Overheads (O) - incurred indirectly as a result of the research project; Overheads must be calculated according to the formula: $O = (W+Op) \times 25\%^*$

*percentage 25% estimated by the Applicant himself (the same percentage for every task in the project)

For the funding granted by the NCBR, the following regulations apply:

1. The Act of 20 July 2018 on the Law of Higher Education and Science, published in Journal of Laws item 1668, 2018, as amended;
2. The Act of 30 April 2010 on the National Centre for Research and Development, published in Journal of Laws item 1770, 2019;
3. The Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 19 August 2020 on granting state aid by the National Centre for Research and Development, published in Journal of Laws item 1456, 2020.

Maximum level of funding:

- For research organisations – up to 100% of eligible costs
- For enterprises – up to the level submitted in the Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 19 August 2020 on granting state aid by the National Centre for Research and Development, published in Journal of Laws item 1456, 2020.

	Large Enterprises	Medium Enterprises	Micro/Small Enterprises	Research Organizations
Basic Research	0%	0%	0%	Up to 100 %
Applied Research	Up to 50+15 (max 65 %)	Up to 50+10+15 (max 75 %)	Up to 50+20+15 (max 80 %)	Up to 100 %
Experimental development	Up to 25+15 (max 40 %)	Up to 25+10+15 (max 50 %)	Up to 25+20+15 (max 60 %)	Up to 100 %

National phase of the applying procedure:

After international evaluation has been completed and the ranking list established, Polish participants from consortia recommended for funding will be invited to submit the National Application Form (NAF).

All eligible entities invited to submit NAF are obliged to use the rate of exchange of the European Central Bank dated on the day of opening of the call.

NAFs will be then examined by the interdisciplinary panel of experts for international projects for the appropriateness of funding requested. Based on recommendations of the panel, the Director of NCBR issues a funding decision/rejection decision.

→ Who can apply?

Only research institutes and/or centres of the Slovak Academy of Sciences are eligible organisations for funding by the SAS (up to 100%). The main applicant must have, at the time of submission, a contract(s) with one or several of the institutes/centres equivalent to at least 1 full-time employment valid for the whole duration of the project. Each member of the applicant's team must also have an employment contract or a fellowship with the same or another SAS institute/centre.

Applicants from other Slovak R&D centres (universities and/or other organisations) can join the project as collaborators who cover their project costs from their own resources.

→ What types of funding are eligible for Slovak researchers?

Funding available for eligible Slovak researchers is up to 120,000 EUR per project (i.e. 40,000 EUR per year) in accordance with the SAS Presidium's resolution no. 1120 (12. 11. 2020), of which 45,000 EUR is the in-kind contribution (spoluúčasť) of the respective SAS institute or centre. This must be declared in a Letter of Commitment sent to the national contact point by the application deadline. A template will be published alongside the Call announcement at www.sav.sk in the International Cooperation section (Medzinárodná spolupráca).

Due to the budgetary appropriations available, amounts provided in support will be adjusted each year.

1. Eligible direct costs

1.1 Personnel costs

- Must accurately reflect the work on the project;
- May be used only to cover the costs (including health and social insurance) related to work agreements performed outside of employment;
- Up to 20 % of all direct costs excluding the institute's/centre's in-kind contribution.

1.2 Material costs and expenditures

- a. *Consumables*: minor equipment and instruments, small-scale office and laboratory material (no basic equipment of the workplace; essential computer equipment is exception);
- b. *Costs and expenditures for services directly related to the project*: contracts, consultations, publication of project results, conference fees;
- c. *Travel costs and living expenses*: limits for travel costs and daily subsistence allowance vary depending on destination country;
- d. Capital expenditures: up to 40% of all direct costs excluding the institute's/centre's in-kind contribution.

2. Indirect Costs

- Administration, energy and infrastructure;
- Up to 20% of all direct costs excluding the institute's/centre's in-kind contribution.

Further information on eligible costs can be found in the [Financial rules for awarding SAS grants for international research projects](#) approved by the SAS Presidium on 1 July 2018. **Applicants are strongly encouraged to read this document carefully and to contact the national contact point before submission in order to ensure compliance.**

→ Is an additional/parallel application requested by SAS?

National phase:

Submission of the proposal at the national level will be required in parallel to the international evaluation. The submission will be carried out once the international evaluation and the ranking list have been performed and endorsed by the Funding Organisations Meeting. The Slovak project partner will be informed about recommendation for funding and invited by SAS to submit the proposal to it. The final decision on funding of selected projects is made by the Presidium of the SAS.

Further guidance

- Web site: <https://www.sav.sk/>
- 133 Act of February 19, 2002 on the Slovak Academy of Sciences,
- [Financial rules for awarding SAS grants for international research projects](#)

International Visegrad Fund (IVF)

Applicants can apply for `on-top` funding to V4 project leader (principal or secondary) or to a V4 collaborators. Funding by the IVF in a form of a grant can only be awarded to projects following 1+4 (preferred) or 1+3 model, i.e. in the project there are involved at least three V4 countries (including the applicant) and at least one entity (co-research partner) from Japan. For additional information please refer to the International Visegrad Fund's website: <https://visegradfund.org/>.

→ Who can apply?

Research organizations and small and medium-sized enterprises from the V4 countries: the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia are eligible for support.

- 'Research and knowledge dissemination organisation' or 'research organisation' means an entity (such as universities or research institutes, technology transfer agencies, innovation intermediaries, research-oriented physical or virtual collaborative entities), irrespective of its legal status (organised under public or private law) or way of financing, whose primary goal is to independently conduct fundamental research, industrial research or experimental development or to widely disseminate the results of such activities by way of teaching, publication or knowledge transfer. Where such entity also pursues economic activities, the financing, the costs and the revenues of those economic activities must be accounted for separately. Undertakings that can exert a decisive influence upon such an entity, for example in the quality of shareholders or members, may not enjoy a preferential access to the results generated by it.¹
- 'Small and medium-sized enterprises' or 'SMEs', 'small enterprises' and 'medium-sized enterprises' means undertakings fulfilling the criteria laid down in the Commission recommendation on the definition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (Commission Recommendation of 6 May 2003 concerning the definition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (OJ L 124, 20.5.2003, p. 36).²

→ Approval

In line with internal procedures of the IVF final approval is granted by the Council of Ambassadors.

→ Eligible costs

The Grantee can use the financial resources provided by the Fund for payment of the following project-related costs:

¹ Art. 1.3.ee) of the Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and innovation (2014/C 198/01).

² Art. 1.3.hh) of the Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and innovation (2014/C 198/01).

- 1) Research materials, small-scale research equipment and consumables (no capital investments)
- 2) Expert fees
- 3) Travel expenses
- 4) Living expenses (accommodation and board)
- 5) Expenses for the organization of small scientific events
- 6) Overhead costs up to 15% of the Grant

Annex 2: Contact Information of the V4-Japan Joint Call Secretariat and the National and Regional Contact Persons

The **V4-Japan Joint Call Secretariat (JCS)** is entrusted with the overall operational management of the V4-Japan Joint Call. It is the general contact point for first questions related to the Joint Call, the application process.

The **National and Regional Contact Persons (NRCPs)** are located in each country which participates in the V4-Japan Joint Call. One of their main tasks is to advise the potential applicants from their countries/regions on the applicable national/regional regulations during the proposal submission process.

<p>V4-Japan Joint Call Secretariat Mr. Masaki Sato, Mr. Shinichi Doi, Mr. Hiroki Kabumoto Japan Science and Technology Agency(JST) E-mail: jointv4@jst.go.jp Phone: + 81 (0)3 5214-7375</p>
<p>Contact Persons for Japan (JST) same as above</p>
<p>Contact Person for Czech Republic Ms. Aneta Kučerová Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MEYS) Department for Research and Development E-mail: aneta.kucerova@msmt.cz Phone: +420 234 811 524</p>
<p>Contact Person for Hungary Ms. Györgyi Juhász Department for Strategy and Institutional Excellence National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NKFIH) E-mail: gyorgyi.juhasz@nkfi.gov.hu Phone: +36 1 795 2115</p>
<p>Contact Person for Poland Ms. Krystyna Maciejko National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR) E-mail: krystyna.maciejko@ncbr.gov.pl Phone: +48 22 39 07 489</p>
<p>Contact Person for Slovakia Ms. Zuzana Cernakova Department of International Cooperation Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS) Stefanikova 49 814 38 Bratislava Slovak Republik E-mail: cernakova@up.upsav.sk Phone: +421 (0) 2 5751 0 118</p>
<p>Contact Persons for International Visegrad Fund (IVF) Mr. Jiří Sýkora E-mail: sykora@visegradfund.org Phone: +421 259 203 801 Fax: +421 259 203 805</p>

Annex 3: Reference

	Estimated Call Budget	Details (max.project duration, etc.)	Overhead (indirect expense)	Eligibility: A: Applied research B: Basic research	Eligibility: Only companies Only R&D Institutions Both eligible	Applicable Models
Japan (JST)	≐ 700,000 €	18 million JPY at maximum per project for 3 years × 5 projects	30% of the direct costs	A+B	Both eligible	1+2, 1+3, 1+4
Visegrad Group (IVF)	100,000 € (to be provided as 'on-top' fund)	1-2 projects for 3 years	max. 15% of the approved grant	A+B	Both eligible	<u>1+4</u> (preferred) 1+3
Czech Republic (MEYS)	500,000 €	125,000 € at maximum per project for 3 years × 4 projects	25%	A+B	Both eligible	1+2, 1+3, 1+4
Poland (NCBR)	750,000 €	150,000 € at maximum per project for 3 years × 5 projects	25%	A+B	Both eligible	1+2, 1+3, 1+4
Slovakia (SAS)	360,000 €	120,000 € at maximum per project for 3 years × max 3 projects	20%	A+B	* Institutes of SAS (100%)	1+2, 1+3, 1+4
Hungary (NKFIH)	400,000 €	150,000 € at maximum per project for 3 years	20%	A+B	Both eligible	1+2, 1+3, 1+4