



Joint Call for Proposals on Digital Transformations and Robotics in Sustainable Agriculture

CALL TEXT AND NATIONAL AND REGIONAL REGULATIONS

Proposal Submission Period:

(Deadline of 23/07/2024)

Website:

<http://www.concert-japan.eu/> (for call text and national/regional regulations)

https://ptoutline.eu/app/eigjapan_jc2024 (for online proposal submission portal)

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PART 1: Call Text

1. Background and Rationale

1.1. EIG CONCERT-Japan

European Interest Group (EIG) CONCERT-Japan (<http://www.concert-japan.eu/>) is an international joint initiative to support and enhance science, technology and innovation (STI) cooperation between European countries and Japan. EIG CONCERT-Japan is flexible and inclusive in nature, able to accommodate a range of forms of collaboration from broad concerted efforts to individual participation among its core members and other interested STI institutions.

CONCERT-Japan began as an ERA-NET project funded by the 7th EU Framework Program for Research and Technical Development (FP7) from 2011 to 2014. As an FP7 project, CONCERT-Japan had a high impact on the coherence and coordination of European collaboration and joint funding activities with Japan as a partner country.

At the end of the period, the success of the program until that point called for its continuation. As a result, the European Interest Group was founded as a flexible successor platform for communication and coordination among STI institutions in Europe and Japan. The collaboration, which began in the FP7 work programme, is now continuing independently of EU support as an activity of the European Interest Group, now under the name of EIG CONCERT-Japan.

The primary function of EIG CONCERT-Japan is to implement multilateral joint funding activities with the objective of enhancing cooperation and promoting transnational mobility between European countries and Japan in various STI fields.

As a collaborative funding initiative of EIG CONCERT-Japan (the eleventh of CONCERT-Japan, the ninth as an EIG activity), the core members representing Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Poland, Slovakia, Spain and Türkiye have decided to implement a joint call for proposals titled of Digital Transformations and Robotics in Digital Agriculture.

Incentives for partnering with EIG CONCERT-Japan

The EIG CONCERT-Japan research community, in addition to nurturing links between Europe and Japan, is a close-knit coordinated network supported by common academic interests as well as social and interdisciplinary concerns. The coordinating funding organizations are an independently governed, flexible body continually monitoring current support needs in research as well as science-society engagement. Successful applicants may be invited as speakers at interdisciplinary scoping events, institutional advisory roles and generally looked to as pillars of the EU-Japan cooperative network.

1.2. EIG CONCERT-Japan joint calls

EIG CONCERT-Japan joint calls aim to support sustainable and multilateral research cooperation while also promoting international mobility between European and Japanese researchers in order to:

- Enhance inter-regional communication and cooperation
- Increase and develop opportunities for high quality research networking between researchers
- Develop new partnerships and strengthen existing ones
- Exchange existing knowledge and create new knowledge

Previous EIG CONCERT-Japan joint calls have included Efficient Energy and Distribution and Resilience against Disasters (2012), Photonic Manufacturing (2014), Food Crops and Biomass Production Technologies (2016), Efficient Energy Storage and Distribution (2017), Functional Porous Materials (2018), Smart Water Management for Sustainable Society (2019), ICT for Resilient, Safe and Secure Society (2020), Sustainable Hydrogen Technology as Affordable and Clean Energy (2021), Design of Materials with Atomic Precision (2022) and Solutions for Carbon-Neutral Cities (2023) with more than two hundred joint applications received and more than €24,000,000 of funding offered in total.

2. Joint Call for Proposals on Digital Transformations and Robotics in Sustainable Agriculture

2.1 Thematic area

This EIG CONCERT-Japan joint call for proposals is titled Digital Transformations and Robotics in Sustainable Agriculture and focuses on research how digital technologies and robotics can transform and improve agriculture while promoting its sustainability.

Background

Agriculture is at the center of global challenges to achieve environmental sustainability, food security and to meet socioeconomic needs. In the face of demographic changes and a changing climate, the need for innovative solutions to enhance agricultural productivity while minimizing environmental impact has never been more pressing. Improvements in digital technologies and robotics, such as the rapid advent of artificial intelligence, offer promising avenues to revolutionize agricultural practices, enabling precision farming, resource optimization, and automation of tasks in novel ways. In order to further these efforts, this call for proposals seeks to foster research that harnesses the power of digital transformations and robotics to address the complexities of modern agriculture and pave the way towards a more sustainable and resilient agricultural sector.

This call for proposals invites researchers to explore novel approaches, technologies, and methodologies that build on the strengths of the Japanese and European research communities to advance agricultural sustainability, enhance productivity, and ensure food security in an era of rapid technological change.

Call aims

This call for proposals invites Japan and Europe-based researchers to submit proposals on digital technologies and robotics which will play a part in the sustainable agriculture sector of tomorrow. We welcome not only traditional research approaches, but also research taking inter- and transdisciplinary approaches incorporating both natural and social sciences, as well as the active involvement of stakeholders such as practitioners, industry and other groups relevant to the research.

Research scope

All research proposals should focus on digital technology or robotics with a clear demonstrated relevance to agricultural applications. Research should also demonstrate sufficient attention paid to sustainability considerations, including environmental impact and efficient resource use.

Research proposals are welcome on technologies including, but not limited to, agricultural robotics, precision farming, remote sensors, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), artificial intelligence, big data, machine learning and other areas which incorporate digital technology or robotics.

Any agricultural applications of these technologies are welcome in this call, including but not limited to animal and crop management, soil health, irrigation, fertilization, aquaculture, pest control and other areas. The relevance of the research topic to agriculture needs to be clearly demonstrated in the proposal.

Proposals focusing on research with agricultural applications which have a clear relevance and potential benefits to both the Japanese and European agricultural sectors are especially welcomed and may have a higher likelihood of being funded.

Proposals which fail to clearly demonstrate relevance to the research scope of this call, or which are shown to only have a limited relevance to the research scope of this call, are less likely to be funded.

As a part of this theme, researchers are envisioned to explore areas of research including, but not limited to:

- Robotics for precision phenotyping in crop management
- IoT solutions for smart monitoring in livestock management with reduced waste
- UAV-supported systems for data-based sustainable land use
- Smart greenhouses with energy efficiency environmental control
- Sensor probe networks for real-time soil-plant water status monitoring

The topics listed above should be considered as examples. This list is non-exhaustive and researchers are encouraged to also explore other topics beyond those listed.

2.2. Participating countries and regions

The following national and regional funding organizations have agreed to participate in this joint call, leveraging their national and regional R&D programs and applying their respective funding regulations:

- **Bulgaria:** Bulgarian National Science Fund (BNSF)
- **Cyprus:** Research and Innovation Foundation (RIF)
- **Czech Republic:** Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MEYS)
- **Czech Republic:** Czech Academy of Sciences (CAS)
- **Estonia:** Estonian Research Council (ETAG)
- **France:** French National Research Agency (ANR)
- **Germany:** Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)
- **Hungary:** National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NRDIO)
- **Italy:** National Research Council (CNR)
- **Japan:** Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)
- **Poland:** National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR)
- **Slovakia:** Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS)
- **Spain:** Agencia Estatal de Investigación (AEI)
- **Türkiye:** The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK)

Only researchers based in these countries/regions are eligible for funding in this EIG CONCERT-Japan joint call. See the annexes for each of the above funding organizations for details.

2.3. Eligible beneficiaries and composition of the consortia

This EIG CONCERT-Japan Joint Call is open to applications from public and private legal RTD entities, higher education institutions and non-university research establishments, as well as enterprises and other kinds of organizations (the “beneficiaries”) depending on the individual national/regional regulations and restrictions of the participating funding organizations (see Part 2).

Each project consortium submitting an application should consist of *at least three (3) eligible beneficiaries (project partners), one (1) from Japan and two (2) from two different European countries participating in the Joint Call*. The number of beneficiaries in a project consortium should be appropriate for the aims of the research project and reasonably balanced in terms of multilateral participation. Applications should clearly demonstrate the added value of international collaboration.

Each project consortium should choose two (2) project leaders, one (1) from the Japanese side and one (1) from the European side. One of the two project leaders will hold the title of “Principal Project Leader”. The Principal Project Leader will be responsible for submitting the proposal on behalf of the whole consortium. Project leaders may be included in only one project proposal. Each beneficiary will be represented by one (and only one) Principal Investigator (PI) who will be the contact person for the relevant national/regional funding organization.

Some funding organizations participating in the call may have additional national requirements which need to be fulfilled when making an application. Please refer to the national annexes at the end of this document for more information.

Researchers/research teams from countries/regions not participating in this EIG CONCERT-Japan Joint Call may participate as additional partners in a project consortium (after satisfying the minimum consortium criteria) if they can prove that they have secured funding from other sources that allows them to fulfil their obligations within the consortium. A confirmation letter from the external funding institution has to be submitted at the time of proposal submission.

2.4. Eligible costs and duration of funding

Within the framework of this EIG CONCERT-Japan Joint Call, costs eligible for funding may be:

- **Research materials and small-scale research equipment:** Consumables, small equipment and subcontracting (for example for the fabrication of samples at a specialised facility) are eligible if their need is listed in detail and duly justified
- **Travel costs:** Only travel costs and associated living expenses incurred in travel to the countries participating in the same project consortium (including additional partners from countries/regions other than those participating in the Joint Call who secure their own funding) are eligible
- **Expenses for the organization of small scientific events:** Room rent, catering, printing of conference brochures, travel and accommodation of invited external experts (that do not form part of the project consortium but are considered necessary for the success of the event) are eligible
- **Personnel costs:** According to the rules of each funding organization

The eligibility of all costs for each applicant depends on the relevant national and regional regulations applied by each Joint Call funding organization and should be calculated accordingly (see Part 2).

All project partners are advised to contact their National Contact Point (see Part 3) for further information on eligible costs and national and regional specifications.

Funding will be provided for the maximum duration of 3 years. The funding of projects should start in April 2025 and should be concluded by the end of March 2028.

2.5. Call budget and funding principle

This EIG CONCERT-Japan Joint Call follows the principle that the national and regional financial contributions to a virtual common pot will be assigned to project partners of that respective country or region only, in accordance with national and regional regulations. Cross-border funding is not envisaged.

The overall budget of this EIG CONCERT-Japan Joint Call is the sum of the individual budgets allocated by each participating funding organization. If more than one funding organization from a given country

participates in the Joint Call, the combined amount from these organizations is considered as the country's overall Joint Call contribution.

Below is an overview of the individual national and regional funding contributions envisaged to this EIG CONCERT-Japan Joint Call budget by each participating funding organization:

Country/funding organization	Amount*
Bulgaria: Bulgarian National Science Fund (BNSF)	€460,163
Cyprus: Research and Innovation Foundation (RIF)	€400,000
Czech Republic: Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MEYS)	€600,000
Czech Republic: Czech Academy of Sciences (CAS)	€240,000
Estonia: Estonian Research Council (ETAG)	€300,000
France: French National Research Agency (ANR)	€175,000
Germany: Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)	€750,000
Hungary: National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NRDIO)	€300,000
Italy: National Research Council (CNR)	€600,000
Japan: Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)	€780,000
Poland: National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR)	€800,000
Slovakia: Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS)	€120,000
Spain: Agencia Estatal de Investigación (AEI)	€300,000
Türkiye: The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK)	€300,000
Overall call budget	€ 6 125 163

* Indicative only. The funding amount should be confirmed with the National Contact Point before research commences. Check Part 2: National and Regional Regulations for details on funding in local currencies

It is expected that six (6) projects will be funded in this EIG CONCERT-Japan Joint Call.

Some funding organizations may choose to set an upper limit on the amount that can be requested per project partner coming from their country/region. *Applicants should therefore thoroughly confirm the national and regional regulations (Part 2) and contact their National Contact Point (Part 3) for related inquiries.*

3. Proposal Submission

3.1. Project consortium submission

Project proposals must be submitted between 14 May 2024 and 23 July 2024 10:00 CEST electronically using the PT-Outline webtool:

https://ptoutline.eu/app/eigi/japan_jc2024

(The platform will not accept proposals outside of this application period)

The Principal Project Leader should submit the proposal via the webtool on behalf of the whole consortium. Only one online proposal per project is needed. Proposals sent by post, e-mail, or fax will be rejected. Proposals must be written in English.

3.2. National funding organization submission

Some participating funding organizations may require the project partner applicant from their country or region to submit a *parallel proposal* or *registration* in line with the national and regional requirements (see Part 2).

The Japanese project leader is required to register their project's information on the e-Rad website portal according to the national regulations listed in Part 2.

Before the submission of a proposal the national or regional regulations (Part 2) applicable for each consortium partner should be thoroughly checked.

4. Proposal Evaluation and Funding Decisions

A four-step evaluation process will be implemented for proposals submitted within this EIG CONCERT-Japan Joint Call.

4.1. Eligibility check

The Program Secretariat and the National Contact Point (see Part 3) will check the eligibility of all submitted proposals taking into consideration the general Joint Call criteria and the individual national and regional criteria respectively. If a partner is found to be ineligible by one of the funding organizations, the entire proposal may be rejected without further review.

The general eligibility criteria are:

- Appropriate length and layout of the proposal (maximum number of pages adhered to 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 eligible project partners (beneficiaries), from a minimum of two different European countries participating in this Joint Call and Japan
- Eligible thematic focus
- Eligibility of requested funding
- Inclusion of a confirmation letter from the external sponsoring institution in case of additional partners that need to secure their own funding

The national and regional eligibility criteria of the participating funding organizations are given in the National and Regional Funding Regulations (Part 2).

Proposals meeting all eligibility criteria will be forwarded to the online evaluation stage.

4.2. Online evaluation of proposals

The selection of project proposals to be funded is based on an international, independent evaluation by scientific peers. Each proposal is assessed and given a written evaluation by at least two evaluators, nominated by the participating funding organizations.

The following three evaluation criteria are used:

1. Scientific excellence (scoring from 0 to 5 points)

- Sound research concept and quality of objectives
- Ambition, innovative potential and uniqueness of the research idea
- Relevance to the call for proposals research scope
- Scientific track–record and potential of the partners (including publications in scientific journals)
- Scientific standing of the organizations the applicants belong to

2. Impact of project results (scoring from 0 to 5 points)

- Impact of the project on the scientific field and community
- Contribution to enhancing innovation capacity and integration of new knowledge
- Expected exploitation and dissemination of the results

3. Implementation (scoring from 0 to 5 points)

- Quality and effectiveness of the methodology
- Feasibility of the work plan (in relation to governance, adequate budget, resources, time schedule)
- Collaborative interaction and complementarity of project partners
- Added value of each of the partners
- Expected sustainability of the collaboration

- Interdisciplinarity
- Involvement of early-stage researchers and gender balance

The scoring system is as follows:

- 5: EXCELLENT** – The proposal fully satisfies 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 / INCOMPLETE INFORMATION** – The proposal fails to address the criterion in question or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information.

4.3. Meeting of the scientific committee

A Scientific Committee, comprising one expert nominated by each participating funding organization and chaired by an independent chairperson, will rank the proposals based on the online evaluations and internal discussion and recommend to the Funding Organizations' Forum a list of proposals to be funded.

4.4. Meeting of the funding organizations' forum

The Funding Organizations Forum, comprising representatives of each participating funding organization, will take the final decision on the project proposals to be funded on a consensus basis, based on the recommendations of the Scientific Committee and in consideration of available budget. Funding will be administered in accordance with the rules and regulations of the participating national and regional funding organizations.

All applicants will be informed by the Program Secretariat of the outcomes of the evaluation.

5. Project Implementation and Reporting

Following announcement of the funding decision to successful applicants, the project partners of each proposal to be funded will conclude an individual funding contract with their respective national/regional funding organization. Support to funded projects will be provided on the basis of these funding contracts and in accordance with all applicable national/regional rules and regulations.

Each project consortium funded in this EIG CONCERT-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 outcomes and any other information

derived from the collaborative activities funded in this call can be announced, published or commercially exploited with the agreement of all partners in a funded project and according to the national and regional regulations as well as international agreements concerning intellectual property rights. *The Consortium Agreement must be signed by all project partners.*

The Principal Project Leader will be the main interlocutor of the Program Secretary for all communication regarding the project. The Principal Project Leaders of the funded projects will be requested to send an *interim report (after 18 months of funding)* as well as a *final report (after three years of funding)* to the Program Secretariat. The reports should highlight the main results and outputs of the projects and any problems that have arisen and how they have been solved. Report templates will be prepared to ensure the comparability of information.

Additional reporting to the individual national/regional funding organizations may also be necessary depending on national/regional regulations (see Part 2).

Project teams will be expected to attend and *reserve budget for one in-person workshop to be held within the research period.*

In case of any significant changes in the work program or the consortium composition, the Principal Project Leader must inform the Program Secretariat, who will inform the relevant funding organizations, who will decide upon the proper action to be taken.

6. Indicative Timetable*

Publication of the Call for Proposals	14 May 2024
Deadline for Proposal Submission	23 July 2024 (11 weeks)
Online Evaluation	23 July – 12 September 2024
Scientific Committee Meeting & Funding Organizations' Forum Meeting	Late October 2024
Publication of Results Online and Notification Letters to Applicants (Principal Project Leader only)	December 2024
Preparation of National and Regional Funding Agreements	December 2024
Start of Projects	April 2025
Joint Kick-off Workshop	First year of research
Joint Midterm Workshop	Second year of research
Interim Project Reporting	Second year of research

Final Joint Workshop	Last year of research
Final Project Reporting	Last year of research

* This is an approximate implementation schedule and is subject to change

PART 2: National and Regional Funding Regulations

Japan – Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

The official national call announcement for Japan is published on the JST website:

https://www.jst.go.jp/inter/program/announce/announce_cj2024.html (Japanese)

https://www.jst.go.jp/inter/english/program_e/announce_e/announce_cj2024.html

→ Who can apply?

Any independent researcher personally affiliated with (and actively conducting research at) a domestic Japanese research institution (or who would fulfil this requirement by the start of the research project if not currently affiliated with a research institution in Japan), regardless of nationality, is eligible to apply.

“Domestic Japanese research institution” in Japan refers 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 (available in Japanese only)

In addition to the joint application process, Japanese applicants will have to register their applications on the Cross-Ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad):

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

Applicants must complete a research ethics training program conducted by the research institute with which they are affiliated and then declare the completion of the program to JST within 30 days after the deadline of the call for proposals. If it would be difficult for them to undertake a program provided by their own institute, they should contact JST to register for a research ethics program via JST. Unless applicants complete a research ethics program, their application will be deemed ineligible for funding.

Funded researchers will also have to complete a consortium agreement and should consult within their own institutions regarding their regulations. Further guidance can be found on the JST website:

<https://www.jst.go.jp/inter/research/contract/contract.html> (available in Japanese only)

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

The level of the funding available to Japanese researchers may be up to 6,067,000 Japanese Yen including 30% of indirect costs per year (i.e. overall 18,200,000 Japanese Yen for the three years of funding). Funding will be made in Japanese Yen.

1. Eligible direct costs

In principle, eligible direct costs are those costs directly necessary for accomplishing the research, indicated below from 1.1 to 1.4. Please refer to the guidance documents available at the following link for further details of eligible direct costs (available in Japanese only).

<https://www.jst.go.jp/inter/research/contract/contract.html> (available in Japanese only)

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, temporally staff, etc., who are hired for the research, and other costs such as honoraria for invited lecturers

1.3 Travel costs

Travel costs and associated living expenses of the Project Leader as well as research project members registered in the research project plan, and costs of inviting external experts

1.4 Others

Costs for organizing meetings in Japan including rental costs for the venue, food & beverage (excluding alcohol) costs and other costs which are deemed to be necessary for organizing the event. Expenses for creating software, renting or leasing equipment, transporting equipment, etc.

2. Eligible indirect costs

Please refer to the following link for the provisions regarding indirect costs:

https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/compefund/kansetsu_sikkou.pdf (available in Japanese only)

→ Who can apply?

Funding will be awarded as project grants usually amounting to 150,000 Euros per collaborative project and year usually for a maximum period of 36 months.

The basis for calculating the grants for universities, non-university research institutions and similar institutions is the eligible project-related expenditure (in the case of the Helmholtz Centres and the Fraunhofer Gesellschaft [FhG] the eligible project-related costs) which can be individually funded up to a maximum of 100 percent.

In the case of research projects at higher education institutions (public and private) and teaching hospitals (irrespective of the legal form), a flat-rate grant amounting to 20% of total expenditure will be awarded in addition to the eligible expenditure. It should be noted that the project flat rate grant is already included in the above-mentioned maximum grant amount of 150,000 Euros.

Research establishments that are financed jointly by Bund and Länder can (in addition to their basic funding) only obtain funding for their additional expenses under certain circumstances.

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

The level of the funding of German researchers may be up to 50,000.00 Euro per year (i.e. overall 150.000 Euro for maximum three years of funding). In case two or more partners of a project are located in Germany, they may together request the aforementioned maximum sum.

1. Eligible direct costs

The national rules will be applied.

1.1 Travel costs: As a general rule, travel costs (from the point of departure to the location of the project partner) will be paid by the sending country.

The arrival and departure costs / expenses including necessary visas (for air tickets: Economy class) to and from the destination in the participating partner countries mentioned under point 2.2, as well as the residence expenses / costs as well as domestic German trips are calculated in accordance with the respective applicable regulations of the research institutions or the company.

Travel to international conferences can only be subsidized in exceptional cases. Conference attendance fees are generally not covered.

1.2 Expenses for the organisation of small scientific events in Germany (including the invitation of external experts): Grants can be provided towards expenses such as room rent and catering, accommodation of guests, transfer costs in Germany). Please see national regulations.

1.3 Research materials and small-scale research equipment: only on a limited scale and if its need is demonstrated. An upper limit of 20% of the project budget per partner / year should not be exceeded.

1.4 In justified cases, funds can also be requested for orders to third parties (Aufträge an Dritte).

1.5 Personnel costs: personnel to carry out scientific activities or research

As a rule, no funding will be provided to cover any of the cost of the participating institutions' normal basic equipment.

2. Eligible indirect costs

There are no eligible indirect costs.

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

Yes. General BMBF funding regulations apply. German researchers whose proposal is recommended for funding by the scientific committee will have to submit a formal proposal in order to prepare the contracts.

Who can apply?

Higher education institutions, training and research hospitals, public research centers and institutes, companies established in Türkiye (private organizations) can apply for funding under TÜBİTAK 1071-The Support Programme for Increasing the Capacity to use International Research Funds and to Join International R&D Cooperations.

Funding Rates

The maximum funding per project is 2.500.000 TL (total for three years) to be shared between participating Turkish partners. This amount includes the scholarship payments, However, it excludes overhead and payments to the Project Incentive Premium (PTİ) and institution shares.

Higher education institutions, training and research hospitals and public research centers and institutes will be supported by 100% support rate. In private organizations, the support rate is applied to 60% of the budget of large-scale organizations and 75% of the budget of SMEs.

Eligible Costs

The personnel costs, travel costs, consultancy and service purchase costs, equipment, machinery, software and publication expenses and material/consumable purchase costs. . Please see the detailed information at <https://uidb-pbs.tubitak.gov.tr>.

The online national application is compulsory and will be received online **until 1st August 2024** (in parallel to the one on PT-Outline) Please see the detailed information at <https://uidb-pbs.tubitak.gov.tr>

Important Note: National applications to TÜBİTAK can only be made by using electronic signature. The persons who are included in the project team and all executive / participant institutions should have qualified electronic certificate (e-signature).

Further information relevant to national applicants/regulations please visit <https://uidb-pbs.tubitak.gov.tr>

For more information please contact:

EIG CONCERT-Japan Call National Contact Point

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→ **Who can apply?**

ANR may fund research organisations and undertakings, as defined by the EC regulation on State aid for research, development and innovation (see the ANR Funding regulations for further reference). Only research organisations that have their primary establishment in France may be funded. As for undertakings, ANR may fund those that have their real head office in an EU member State and an establishment (primary or secondary) in France.

In this call, to be eligible, the consortium must include at least one French public research organization (EPA, EPSCP, EPST, EPIC).

Partners from countries subject to sanctions applicable to the research field by the European Union authorities are excluded from this call for ANR. ANR will declare Partners requesting its support ineligible if they apply with Partners established in these countries. At the date of publication, these exclusions concern Partners from the following countries: Russia, Belarus. This list may evolve in case of new sanctions decided by the European Union.

→ **Funding rates:**

Please check the ANR Funding Regulations at: <https://anr.fr/fr/rf/>.

→ **Maximum funding per project**

The maximum amount that can be requested from ANR by each proposal with French applicant(s) is limited to a maximum of 175 000 Euros per project for the whole duration of the project.

The minimum amount per beneficiary is 15 000€.

If there are several French partners requesting funds from ANR, the total requested funding from ANR must be split among them.

ANR rules for funding will apply: they are described in details in the ANR's "*Règlement financier*" (<https://anr.fr/fr/rf/>), available in French only. We strongly invite French partners to read them carefully before applying.

1. Eligible direct costs

Please check the ANR Funding Regulations at: <https://anr.fr/fr/rf/>.

2. Eligible indirect costs

Please check the ANR Funding Regulations at: <https://anr.fr/fr/rf/>.

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

No.

→ **Additional eligibility criteria:**

To be eligible, a proposal must not be deemed similar to another proposal still undergoing evaluation in another ANR call, or already funded.

Depending on the consortium composition, a Consortium Agreement may be mandatory for ANR at the funding stage for successful applications. Please refer to the ANR funding regulations for more details: <https://anr.fr/fr/rf/>

→ **Regarding project partners' commitment:**

- Access to genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources
- Ethics and scientific Integrity
- Publications and Open Science Policy
- Scientific, Technical and Industrial Culture
- GDPR
- “PPST”

→ **For more information please contact**

Florence JACQUET (florence.jacquet@agencerecherche.fr)

Virginie ARON (virginie.aron@agencerecherche.fr)

Please note that the guidelines given above are translations of the terms and regulations enclosed in the ANR *Règlement financier* and the appendix to the call *Modalités de participation pour les Partenaires sollicitant une aide de l'ANR*, available on the ANR website. In case of a contradiction between the present document, the *RF* and the *Modalités de participation*, the terms of the two latter shall prevail.

The official national call announcement for Japan is published on the RIF website and IRIS Portal:

RIF Website: www.research.org.cy

IRIS Portal: <https://iris.research.org.cy>

→ **Who can apply?**

Research Organisations, Enterprises (small, medium, large), Other Private Sector Organisations, Other Public and Broader Public Sector Organisations.

Legal entities established and based in the areas, which are under the effective control of the Republic of Cyprus.

Maximum number of organisations in the Cypriot Consortium should be between one to three (1-3).

→ **What types of funding are eligible in Cyprus?**

Funding commitment for RIF: €400.000 (for Cypriot participants)

Maximum Funding per project: € 100.000 (for the Cypriot Consortium)

The Maximum Aid Intensity, pursuant to the State Aid framework, for each beneficiary category, is described in the [RESTART 2016-2020 WorkProgramme](#).

Eligible costs

Research & Development Cost Categories

- Personnel Cost
- Costs for Instruments and Equipment
- Costs for External Services
- Consumables
- Other Specific Costs
- Overheads

Please check National Regulations at:

www.research.org.cy

<https://iris.research.org.cy/>

→ **Is additional/parallel application requested to the funding organization?**

The Coordinator of the Cypriot Consortium should also submit a Proposal on the RIF's IRIS Portal (<https://iris.research.org.cy>), not later than the deadline specified in the National Call for Proposals. It is noted that, the Project Coordinator and all local participating organizations of the Cypriot Consortium, should register in advance on the IRIS Portal.

Further information relevant to national applicants/regulations please visit
<https://iris.research.org.cy/> and <https://www.research.org.cy/>.

→ For more information, please contact EIG CONCERT-Japan Call National Contact Point:

Anna Maria Christoforou
Cyprus Research and Innovation Foundation
RIF Support Service
Email: support@research.org.cy
Telephone: +35722205000

→ **Who can apply?**

Universities, research organizations and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are eligible for funding by MEYS.

The Czech research team must not have another Czech research participant in the project.

The aid intensity is determined according to Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014. For universities and research institutes, up to 100% of the eligible cost can be funded. For SMEs, up to 50% of the eligible cost can be funded (if the conditions are met, the aid intensity for industrial research and experimental development can be increased by 10 % for medium enterprises and 20 % for small enterprises).

→ **What types of funding are eligible for researchers in the Czech Republic?**

The level of funding available to Czech researchers may be up to € 600 000 for the three years of funding.

The **maximum funding per project is € 200 000** for the entire duration of the project. Proposals not respecting this limit could be declared ineligible.

Funding will be made in Czech Koruna.

1. Eligible direct costs

National rules will be applied in accordance with Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 (in line with articles No. 107 and 108 Agreement) and Act. No. 130/2002 Coll. Costs eligible for funding need to be listed in detail and duly justified.

1.1 Research materials and small-scale research equipment

Research equipment, spare parts, software, reagents, materials and consumables.

1.2 Personnel costs

Personnel costs of the researchers, temporarily staff, etc., who are hired for the research, in accordance with the internal regulations of the applicant.

1.3 Travel costs

Travel costs (economy class flight/train ride 2nd class) are eligible and associated living expenses of research project members on a daily allowance basis (in accordance with the national legislation) and accommodation costs of the members of the participating Czech team are eligible.

2. Eligible indirect costs

Eligible indirect costs are up to a **maximum of 25 % of the sum of eligible direct costs**.

→ **Projects funded from other national or EU sources will not be supported.**

→ **Is additional/parallel application requested to the funding organization?**

There is no need for an additional/parallel application to MEYS for the proposal evaluation phase. After the announcement of the EIG CONCERT Japan call results, MEYS will announce the call for the Czech member of the supported international consortium, who will have to submit a grant application to MEYS in order to prepare the contracts in line with the national regulations Act. No. 130/2002 Coll., §7, article 8 b).

→ **For more information please contact EIG CONCERT-Japan Call MEYS Contact Point:**

Ms Veronika Konečná

Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

Email: veronika.konecna2@msmt.cz

Phone: +420 234 811 164

→ **Who can apply?**

Only teams from the CAS institutes are eligible to apply. SMEs, industries, universities and other research organizations are eligible to apply to MEYS (see MEYS's guidelines and conditions).

→ **What types of funding are eligible for CAS teams participating in consortia?**

The level of funding for the CAS teams may be up to 120,000.00 Euro per project for the entire duration of the project (3 years), in case two or more project partners in a proposal are from the CAS institutes, they may together request up to 120,000.00 Euro per project proposal.

1. Eligible direct costs

Researchers may apply for funding of costs directly connected to the proposed research project, all items must be specified and justified.

1.1 Research materials and small-scale research equipment

Research equipment, reagents, materials and consumables.

1.2 Personnel costs

PhD students and postdocs participating in the project are eligible. The upper limit of 20% of the project budget should not be exceeded.

1.3 Travel costs

Travel costs (economy class flight/train ride 2nd class) are eligible and associated living expenses of research project members on a daily allowance basis (in accordance with the national legislation) and accommodation costs of the members of the participating Czech team are eligible.

2. Eligible indirect costs

There are no eligible indirect costs.

→ **Projects funded from other national or EU sources will not be supported.**

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

Yes. Basic information about project and project team must be submitted on a special form available for download at <https://era.avcr.cz/cs/multilateralni-spoluprace/EIG-CONCERT-Japan/> to the Contact point at the CAS. Following information will be required:

1. Identification of the project: Project title, Name of the principal project coordinator and List of all project partners and their affiliations;
2. Abstract of the project (1 100 characters incl. spaces);
3. Summary of Research Plans of the Czech Project Partner(s), their Implementation and Justification of Proposed Collaboration (1/2 page);
4. Description of the Czech Project Team – Involvement of Young Researchers is Mandatory (1/2 page);
5. CV of the Czech Principal Investigator (1 page).

→ **For more information please contact EIG CONCERT-Japan Call CAS Contact Point:**

Dr. Filip Zrno

Division of International Cooperation, CAS

E-mail: zrno@kav.cas.cz

Phone: +420 221 403 566

Indicative Budget: 300.000€

Maximum funding per project: 150 000 € as partner, 300 000 € as coordinator

National Eligibility Criteria for grant applications in partnership calls for transnational research Projects

The following eligibility criteria address Estonian applicants in EIG CONCERT-JAPAN programme call for transnational research projects. Each project is carried out by a consortium that consists of research institutions (partners) from different countries. Each partner in a funded project will be funded by their national Funding Organisation. It is mandatory for all Estonian applicants to follow the national eligibility criteria. Please note that if one of the partners is not eligible, the entire proposal might be considered ineligible.

In case of a positive funding decision the Host Institution, the Principal Investigator and the Funding Organisation will enter into a trilateral agreement.

→ Who can apply?

1. Project Participants

1.1. The Host Institution must be a positively evaluated R&D institution that is a legal entity registered in Estonia. List of evaluated institutions is provided in the Estonian Research Information System (ETIS): [ETIS - R&D institutions](#) .

The Host Institution is the institution to which the grant will be allocated.

If the Host Institution is a for-profit institution, the State aid and de minimis aid regulations must be taken into account.

1.2 The Principal Investigator is a researcher who acts as the Estonian team leader in the project proposal. He/she will be responsible for how the grant is used and how the Estonian part in the project is executed.

The Principal Investigator:

1.2.1 must have an updated public profile in the Estonian Research Information System (ETIS) by the submission deadline (in case of two-stage application, by the preproposal deadline);

1.2.2 must hold a doctoral degree or an equivalent qualification. The degree must be awarded by the submission deadline (in case of two-stage application, by the preproposal deadline) at the latest;

1.2.3 must have published at least three articles that comply with the requirements of Clause 1.1 of the ETIS classification of publications, or at least five articles that comply with the requirements of Clauses 1.1, 1.2, 2.1 or 3.1, within the last five calendar years prior to the proposal submission deadline (in case of two-stage application, prior to the preproposal deadline). Patents are equalled with publications specified under Clause 1.1. A monograph (ETIS Clause 2.1) is equalled with three publications specified in Clause 1.1 if the number of authors is three or fewer. If the applicant has been on maternity, paternity, or parental leave, in compulsory military service, or there have been other exceptional circumstances (e.g., serious illness), they can request the publication period requirement to be extended by the relevant period of time.

If the Principal Investigator has received the PhD degree outside Estonia, its correspondence to an Estonian doctoral degree must be recognised by either the Estonian ENIC-NARIC Centre

or the Host Institution in accordance with the Regulation of the Government of the Republic of April 6, 2006, No. 89 "Evaluation and academic recognition of documents proving foreign education and the name of the qualification awarded in the foreign education system terms and conditions of use". The Funding Organisation may ask for a relevant Evaluation Report.

If several Estonian institutions participate in a proposal, all institutions must have a Principal Investigator who meets the national eligibility requirements.

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

2. Budget

2.1. The budget contains costs directly related to the implementation of the project (**direct costs**) and **indirect (overhead) costs**. The direct costs must be used to carry out the project and be separately identifiable.

2.2. Direct costs:

2.2.1. Personnel costs are monthly salaries (along with all state taxes, contributions, and compensations arising from law) of the project participants, calculated according to their commitment and in proportion to their total workload at their Host Institution.

2.2.2. Other direct costs are:

- travel costs that may cover expenses for transport, accommodation, daily allowances and travel insurance;
- consumables and minor equipment directly and fully related to the project;
- publication and dissemination of project results;
- organising meetings, seminars or conferences (e.g. room rent, catering, equipment rental and related costs);
- fees for participating in scientific forums, conferences and other events directly and fully related to the project;
- patent costs;
- all other costs that are identifiable as clearly required for carrying out the project (e.g. translation, copy editing, webpage hosting, etc.) and are directly and fully related to the project.

2.3. Indirect costs (overhead) are costs that cannot be identified as specific costs directly linked to the performance of the action and/or should cover the general expenses of the Host Institution related to the management of the grant. Office consumables and costs for equipment and services intended for general use (e.g., phone bills, copy service, printer) should be covered from the indirect costs. **Indirect costs may not exceed 15% of the personnel costs.**

2.4. Subcontracting costs are direct costs. Subcontracting costs should cover only additional or complementary research related tasks (e.g. analyses, conducting surveys, building a prototype, etc.) performed by third parties. Subcontracting costs should not be included in the overhead calculation. The activities and budget should be described in the proposal. Core project tasks should not be subcontracted. **Subcontracting costs may not exceed 15% of the total costs.**

2.5. Double funding of activities is not acceptable.

2.6. If several Estonian institutions participate in one proposal, the sum of their requested budgets may not exceed the maximum contribution (150 000 € per project) of the respective national Funding Organisation indicated in the call documents.

4. State Aid

If the Host Institution is an undertaking, EU Regulations on State aid and de minimis aid must be taken into account when requesting funding. An undertaking is any entity, be it a natural or a legal person, engaged in an economic activity, regardless of its legal status and the way in which it is financed.

If the State aid or de minimis aid regulations apply, the funding will not be granted to a Host Institution who has been subject to a funding withdrawal decision pursuant to a previous European Commission decision that deemed the aid illegal and incompatible with the common market, if that decision has not been complied with.

The funding is not considered State aid for research and development if the Host Institution is a research and development institution that has been positively evaluated. Additionally, the funding of research and development project is not considered State aid, if the Host Institution is a research and knowledge dissemination organisation and its research and development activities and their costs, funding and revenues can be clearly separated so that cross-subsidisation of the economic activity is effectively avoided.

The criteria defined in Clauses 18–24 of Communication from the European Commission – Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation (2022/C 414/014) forms the basis for determining whether the activities carried out are economic activities and whether the Host Institution is an undertaking that is considered to be a State aid recipient when it receives funding.

If the institution applies for State aid or de minimis aid, it must fill in the State aid form. No tax arrears are allowed on the proposal submission date.

If State aid or de minimis aid is given, the documents related to the funding must be kept for 10 years as of the date when the agreement was entered into.

4.1. State aid pursuant to the Block Exemption Regulation

If the funding is considered to be State aid, then it is given on the basis of Article 25 or 25c of the Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014⁵ that declares certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (OJ L 187, 26.6.2014, pp. 1–78) (hereinafter the Block Exemption Regulation), and the provisions of the Commission Regulation and Section 34² of the Estonian Competition Act apply.

State aid is not given in cases specified under Articles 1(2) to (5) of the Block Exemption Regulation.

In case of State aid, the eligible costs of the project activities must comply with the requirements specified under Article 25(3) of the Block Exemption Regulation (except clause (c)), and the maximum aid intensity must comply with Articles 25(5) and (6).

If applicable the State aid is given according to the rules specified in Article 25c – aid involved in co-funded research and development projects.

If the funding can be considered to be State aid, the application must include the information specified in Article 6(2) of the Block Exemption Regulation, and the application has to be submitted before the start of the activities.

If State aid is given, then the costs of the activities carried out before application submission will not be eligible for aid.

4.2. De minimis aid

If the funding is considered de minimis aid, then it is subject to Commission Regulation (EU) No.2023/2831 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid (OJ L 352, 2023/2831, 15.12.2023) (hereinafter the De Minimis Aid Regulation), and the provisions of the Regulation and Section 33 of the Estonian Competition Act apply.

De minimis aid is not given in cases specified under Article 1(1) of the De Minimis Aid Regulation. In case of de minimis aid, the maximum aid intensity must comply with Article 3 of the De Minimis Aid Regulation.

De minimis aid given to the Host Institution as a single undertaking together with de minimis aid applied for shall not exceed EUR 300 000 over any period of 3 years. Article 5 of the De Minimis Aid Regulation applies to cumulating de minimis aid.

A single undertaking is an undertaking specified in Article 2(2) of the De Minimis Aid Regulation.

5. Grant Agreement

If a positive funding decision is made, the Funding Organisation enters into a grant agreement with the Host Institution and Principal Investigator. Information on the transnational project must be entered into ETIS once the agreement has been signed.

The Consortium Agreement should be signed six months after the grant agreement has been signed at the latest. If one year has elapsed and the CA has not been signed, the next instalment of funding will not be paid out.

1. Research Involving Human Subjects or Animal Testing

If human research or animal testing are intended in the project, a positive resolution by the Human research Ethics Committee or the Authorisation Committee for Animal Experiments must be submitted to the Funding Organisation by the start of the relevant activities.

2. Nagoya Protocol

By applying for funding by the Funding Organisation, the applicants commit to consider the relevance of the Nagoya protocol for their research, and to submit the Due Diligence Declaration, if applicable.

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

Estonian applicants do not need to submit any additional documents or parallel application for the proposal evaluation phase.

After the submission deadline and upon the notice from the Funding Organisation, the Host Institution must confirm to the Funding Organisation in writing that the project can be carried out on their premises in Estonia and that they will employ the Principal Investigator during the proposed project, should the project receive funding.

→ For more information please contact EIG CONCERT-Japan Call National Contact Point:

Ms. Katrin Saar
Estonian Research Council (ETAG)
Email: Katrin.saar@etag.ee
Phone: (+372)53335625

Bulgaria – Bulgarian National Science Fund (BNSF)

The official national call announcement for Bulgaria is published on the BNSF website:

<https://bnsf.bg/>

→ Who can apply?

Eligible applicants under the present call are Bulgarian entities, which are:

- 1) Accredited universities under Art. 85 Para. 1 item 7 of the Law on Higher Education
- 2) Science organizations under Art . 47 Para. 1 of the Law on Higher Education.

Applicants under items 1 and 2 must comply with the definition for “research and knowledge distribution organization” under item 15 “b” of the Framework for State Aid for research and development and innovation.

Applicants under the present procedure must be directly responsible for the implementation of the activities of the project proposal, and not act as intermediaries; they must perform the proposed project activities on their own behalf and at their own expense.

Call applicants must be persons:

- performing research;
- and
- whose activities are fully not-for-profit or
- whose activities are both for-profit and not-for-profit, but they are clearly separated and are organized in a way to allow tracking of expenses and revenues related to their performance, including through analytical accounting. When the applicant performs both for-profit and not-for-profit activities, the financing, expenses and revenues about each type of activity are considered separately on the basis of consistently applied accounting principles for costs that can be objectively justified.

Applicants have to submit an application form for national eligibility when submitting the proposals.

The form should be filled and electronically submitted in both Bulgarian and in English at:

<https://nims.egov.bg/login#/>

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

The level of the funding available to Bulgarian researchers may be up to 127 822€ per project over 3 years.

Funding will be made in Bulgarian Leva.

National rules and BNSF internal processes will apply.

1. Eligible direct costs

In principle, eligible direct costs are those costs directly necessary for accomplishing the research, indicated below from 1.1 to 1.4.

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, temporally staff, etc., who are hired for the research, and other costs such as honoraria for invited lecturers

1.3 Travel costs

Travel costs and associated living expenses of the Bulgarian Project Team Members registered in the research project plan.

1.4 Expenses for the organization of small scientific events in Bulgaria

In general, all costs directly related to the preparation and the implementation of events like international workshops, conferences, etc. in relation with the project are eligible.

→ Room rent, catering, printing of conference brochures, travel and accommodation of invited external experts (that do not form part of the project consortium but are considered necessary for the success of the event), translation.

1.5. Expenses for dissemination of the project results

All costs related to participation in seminars, conferences and congresses related to the topic of the Project and presenting its results (travel, accommodation, daily subsistence) of Bulgarian Project Team Members. These costs have to be based on the National Regulation, respectively Ordinance for business trips abroad.

2. Eligible indirect costs

Indirect costs make up a proportion of the project's overheads and may eligible for a flat rate funding fixed at not more than 8% of the total eligible direct costs for the project (Up to 7% for overheads, up to 1% for audit).

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

In addition to the joint application process, Bulgarian applicants will have to submit in Bulgarian and English following documents: Administrative description of the project and Declarations

The official national call announcement for Hungarian participants is published on the NRDIO 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 and other non-profit enterprise (GFO code: 113, 114, 141, 572, 573)
- non-profit organization with legal entity (GFO code: 551, 552, 559, 562, 563, 569 599, 931)

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

The NRDIO's total allocation for the current EIG CONCERT-Japan Joint Call for Proposals is **300.000 EUR**.

The level of funding of Hungarian participants may be up to around **EUR 100 000 – 150 000** per project for up to 3 years (36 months).

→ **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 regulation in force at the time of the funding decision.

The detailed eligible costs and funding rules of the national 2023-1.2.1-ERA-NET call shall apply.

2023-1.2.1-ERA-NET Call for proposal & Guide for applicants:

[Pályázat az ERA-NET COFUND, EJP COFUND és egyéb multilaterális programok közös nemzetközi pályázati felhívásaiban sikeresen szereplő magyar szervezetek támogatására](#)

→ **Is additional/parallel application requested to the funding organization?**

There is no additional/parallel national application during the international proposal submission phase. Following the announcement of the EIG CONCERT-Japan call results, the Hungarian partner(s) of the supported international consortia will have to submit a grant application to NRDIO in order to prepare the contracts in line with the national regulations, as described in the 2023-1.2.1-ERA-NET Call for proposal & Guide for applicants.

→ **For more information please contact the National Contact Point of the EIG CONCERT-Japan Call:**

Dr Györgyi Juhász

gyorgyi.juhasz@nkfi.gov.hu

→ Who can apply?

Research proposals may be submitted by any researcher within the CNR network.

What types of funding are eligible for Italian researchers?

1. Eligible direct costs

The level of the funding of Italian researchers may be up to **EUR 250,000** per project per year, over 3 years. Only one project will be eligible for funding.

CNR funding rules and internal processes will apply.

3. Travel costs

Travel costs are eligible for funding and will be paid by the sending country. Travel costs for CNR project partners who travel to foreign countries will be covered. Please refer to “Manuale di Tarsferta” (Circolare n. 12/2024, Protocollo 87547 del 14-03-2024 <https://www.urp.cnr.it/documenti/circolari/2024>)

4. Living expenses

Living expenses are eligible for funding and will be paid by the sending country. The amounts of the allowances (lump-sum) vary according to the destination country. Please refer to “Manuale di Tarsferta” (Circolare n. 12/2024, Protocollo 87547 del 14-03-2024 <https://www.urp.cnr.it/documenti/circolari/2024>)

5. Expenses for the organization of small scientific events in Italy

In general, all costs directly related to the preparation and the implementation of events like international workshops, conferences, etc. in relation with the project are eligible.

→ Room rent, catering, printing of conference brochures, travel and accommodation of invited external experts (that do not form part of the project consortium but are considered necessary for the success of the event), translation...

The upper limit of 20% of the project budget per partner/year should not be exceeded.

Please refer to “Regolamento per le Spese di Rappresentanza e per l’Organizzazione di Convegni, Seminari e Scambi Culturali del CNR” (Circolare n.13/2024, Protocollo 87572 del 14-03-2024).

6. Research materials and small-scale research equipment

Costs for consumables and small equipment (research equipment, prototypes, computer hard or software, office supplies, purchase of books, etc) are eligible only on a limited scale and if its need is demonstrated and directly related to the project.

Consumables are only eligible costs under the project if bought (“service fait”) after the start date of the project.

The upper limit of 20% of the project budget per partner/year should not be exceeded.

7. Personnel costs

Personnel included in the project may be from CNR Institutes, laboratories and its infrastructures, whether they are hired by CNR or affiliated to it with a legal affiliation process. Please refer to the following document "*Criteri generali per l'associazione ai sensi dell'articolo 17 del Regolamento del personale – Manuale operativo sulle Associazioni*" (Circolare n. 4/2024, Protocollo 30905 del 31-01-2024).

Personnel costs of researchers, temporally staff, phd, etc., who are hired for the research of the project is up to 60.000 Euro per partner/year.

The applicant's organization may include an in-kind personnel contribution in their application, with a maximum value of 40,000 Euros.

2. Eligible indirect costs

There are no eligible indirect costs.

Before submitting the proposal, CNR applicants are strongly encouraged to contact their EIG CONCERT-Japan National Contact Point:

Ms. Francesca Argenio
National Council of Italy (CNR)
International Relations Unit
E-Mail: francesca.argeni@cnr.it
Phone: +39 06 4993 3130

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

No

Information about call announcement will be published on the NCBR website:

<https://www.gov.pl/web/ncbr/platforma-konkursowa>

Who can apply?

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

The scope of support:

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

What types of funding are eligible for the Polish researchers?

The NCBR’s total allocation for the current EIG CONCERT-Japan Joint Call for Proposals is **800.000 EUR**. The level of funding for Polish participants is limited up to the maximum of **300.000 EUR per project** for up to 3 years (36 months).

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 742, 2023, as amended;
2. The Act of 30 April 2010 on the National Centre for Research and Development, published in Journal of Laws item 2279, 2022;
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, as amended.

Maximum level of funding:

- For research organizations – 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, as amended.

	Large Enterprises	Medium Enterprises	Micro/Small Enterprises	Research Organizations
Basic Research	0%	0%	0%	Up to 100 %
Applied Research	Up to 50+5/15/25 (max 75%)	Up to 50+10+5/15/25 (max 80%)	Up to 50+20+5/15/25 (max 80%)	Up to 100 %

Experimental development	Up to 25+5/15/25 (max 50%)	Up to 25+10+5/15/25 (max 60%)	Up to 25+20+5/15/25 (max 70%)	Up to 100 %

The conditions for increasing the intensity of state aid (listed in the table above) to the maximum thresholds are specified in the provisions of Chapter 2 of the Regulation on state aid. The applicant who is an entrepreneur justifies the possibility of increasing the aid intensity in the application for project co-financing at the stage of preparing and submitting the National Application Form.

What types of costs and activities are eligible for funding?

The costs eligible for funding or state aid in the case of basic research, applied research and experimental development are the costs included in the **Cost Eligibility Guide**, which is an annex to the NCBR call announcement.

Activities related to project promotion and project management cannot be a separate package work (WP/task). Costs related to these activities may be included in the WP/tasks research.

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.

Partner Search Tool

We encourage you to learn about and use our "PartFinder" (Partner Search Tool), which allows you to match science and industry entities from around the World with each other. The search tool is available at: <https://partfinder.ncbr.gov.pl/>.

Contact Person:

Mrs. Krystyna Maciejko
National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR)
Department of International Cooperation
E-mail: krystyna.maciejko@ncbr.gov.pl
Phone: +48 22 39 07 489

→ **Who can apply?**

Only research Institutes of Slovak Academy of Sciences are eligible organizations for funding (up to 100%). Participation of early career researchers is strongly recommended. Applicants from other organizations or industrial partners can be self-funded consortium members and cannot coordinate the project consortium. The Slovak project partner or coordinator must have a job contract for more than 50% working hours in the SAS organization for which the project proposal or participation in the project proposal is submitted. Other researchers participating in the project, must have a working relationship with the SAS organization. Doctoral students must be affiliated at SAS research institute. For further details on criteria and SAS procedures see:

[Pravidla-pre-schvalovanie-vyskumnych-projektov-MVTS-financovanych-zo-zdrojov-SAV_11-Nov-2021-1.pdf](#)

→ **What types of funding are eligible for Slovak researchers?**

Funding available for Slovak researchers is up to 120 000 € per project (i.e. 40 000 € per year) in accordance with the SAS Presidium's resolution no. 888 (of 14 March 2024), of which 45 000 € is an in-kind personnel contribution (spoluúčasť) of the applicant's organization. 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 <https://oms.sav.sk/en/news/open-calls/>

Total eligible costs = Permanent salaries + Other costs ; Permanent salaries 45 000 € (36 months), Other costs (i. e. additional personnel costs, consumables, travel, services, publication costs, overheads): 75 000 € (36 months)

Project funding (excluding the in-kind personnel contribution) is regulated by the [Financial Rules for awarding SAS grants for international research projects](#), which include detailed information on eligible costs and specific limits. Applicants are strongly encouraged to read this document carefully and to contact their national contact point before submission in order to ensure compliance.

→ **Is additional/parallel application requested to the funding organization?**

Yes. Submission of an application at the national level (MVTS A form) will be required once the international evaluation and the ranking list have been performed and endorsed by the Funding Organizations Forum. Only the Slovak partners of the projects recommended for funding will be invited to submit the national-level application. The final decision on funding of the Slovak partners must be approved by the SAS Presidium.

Further guidance

- <https://oms.sav.sk/dokumenty/dokumenty-referatu-medzinarodnych-projektov/>
- <https://oms.sav.sk/wp-content/uploads/Financne-pravidla-na-udelovanie-grantov-SAV-na-medzinarodne-vyskumne-projekty-platne-na-vyzvy-zverejnene-od-1.12.2023.pdf>

Before submitting the proposal, Slovak applicants are strongly encouraged to contact their EIG CONCERT-Japan National Contact Point:

Ms. Silvia Kecerová

kecerova@up.upsav.sk

+421 2 5751 0 118

Participating organisation: Agencia Estatal de Investigación (AEI)**Indicative Budget: 300.000€**

Juan Climent (technical and administrative issues)

Tel.: +34 916037242

E-Mail: CONCERT-Japan@aei.gob.es**Funding Programme:**

The framework for this funding action is the [Plan Estatal de Investigación Científica, Técnica e Innovación](#) at national level, the call will be managed by the [Subdivisión de Programas Científico-Técnicos Transversales, Fortalecimiento y Excelencia \(STRAN\)](#) of the AEI.

Instrument for funding the Spanish groups:

The AEI funding instrument is the *Proyectos de Colaboración Internacional (PCI)* call.

Applicants are encouraged to consult the [PCI 2024-1](#) call text and the [PCI requirements document](#) on the national call website, as well as check their eligibility with the National Contact Point prior to the submission.

Project duration: from 24 to 36 months (preferable 36 months)

Maximum funding per project:

The following **funding limits** (including direct + 25% indirect costs) **are** considered eligibility criteria. Proposals not respecting these limits could be declared ineligible. The maximum **funding is for a 36 months project**.

Maximum funding per project	DC (€)	IC (25%) (€)	TOTAL (€)
One AEI applicant in the proposal	120.000	30.000	150.000
One AEI applicant in the proposal acting as Coordinator	140.000	35.000	175.000

- Up to additional € 30.000 (direct costs) can be granted for the entire proposal if the work plan includes substantial experimental tasks to be carried out by the Spanish Partners, that must be clearly justified in the budget.

IMPORTANT:

- only ONE applicant asking funding for AEI is allowed per proposal,
- the **direct costs** in the application **must be rounded to the thousands**.
- these amounts refer to 3 years projects. In case of shorter projects, the amount will be adjusted accordingly.

Only R&I activities will be funded by the AEI. Entire communication work packages, without research associated, are not eligible costs for AEI.

To establish the final funding amount, the AEI will consider the transnational evaluation of the collaborative proposal, the scientific quality of the Spanish group, the added value of the international collaboration and the financial resources available.

Eligibility

The eligible beneficiaries are non-profit research organizations (such as universities, public research institutions, technological centres and other private non-profit institutions performing RDI activities in Spain), as the general requirements established for [PCI 2024-1](#) call. They must have been previously beneficiaries of any of the AEI calls. They have to ensure contractual relationship with the Principal Investigator (PI) during the whole duration of the project.

AEI's applicants are strongly encouraged to include the Spanish industrial sector in the transnational consortia. Spanish Industrial partners can apply to CDTI or other regional funding agencies participating in this call, according to their eligibility rules.

- Spanish Principal Investigators (PIs) must:
 - Be eligible according to the general requirements of [PCI2024-1](#) and must have experience as investigator (no necessarily as PIs) in projects funded by the Plan Nacional 2008-2011, the Plan Estatal I+D+i 2013-2016, Plan Estatal I+D+i 2017-2020, 2021-2023, ERC Grants, European Framework Programmes or other relevant national and international programmes.
 - Spanish PIs must have a contractual relation with the beneficiary covering the expected total length of the project (2024 – end 2028).

Incompatibilities: (these must be taken into account when participating in different ERA-Nets or international initiatives:

- PIs must remain unchanged between pre-proposal and full-proposal of this transnational joint call, and the national PCI call.
- If the same PI applies to more than one proposal in this transnational joint call, or to other transnational call funded by the same PCI call and/or PCI calls of consecutive years, the PI will be declared eligible only in one of the proposals and will be declared ineligible in all the rest, with no possibility of changing the PI.
- A PI holding a PCI granted in the same or consecutive year, will be declared ineligible, with no possibility of changing the PI.

The AEI will avoid double funding and will not grant projects or parts of projects already funded through other national or EU calls.

Important:

- The applicants shall include the PI's full name and identification number as they appear in their DNI in the application form, as well as the full name of their institution in the original language and the CIF.
- Check the eligibility before sending the preproposal to avoid unwanted situations and damages to third parties.
- Submission of proposals at the national level will be required at a later stage.

Eligible costs:

- Only personnel costs for exclusive dedication to the project are eligible. The costs of permanent staff linked to the beneficiary entity or members of the research team will not be considered eligible costs.
- Direct costs such as current costs, small scientific equipment, disposable materials, travelling expenses, coordination costs, and other costs that can be justified as necessary to carry out the proposed activities.
- Indirect costs (overheads) are eligible costs (25% of total direct costs, including subcontracting).
- Subcontracting should not exceed 25% of total requested budget.

Please consult “*Artículo 8. Conceptos financiados*” in [PCI 2024-1](#) resolution since eligible cost will be similar.

Further requirements:

In addition to the national regulations, specific rules for the consortia may be applicable within the transnational call; please read carefully the Joint Call text and all the related instructions.

Acknowledgement:

Any publication or dissemination activity resulting from the granted projects must acknowledge funding by the Agencia Estatal de Investigación according to AEI's web [guidelines](#)

Data Protection:

By submitting a grant application, the applicants consent to communication of the data contained in the application to other public administrations, with the aim of further processing of the data for historical, statistical or scientific purposes, within the framework of the Organic Law 3/2018, of December 5, on Personal Data Protection and Guarantee of Digital Rights.

Open Access and Open Data policy

Applicants should comply with Open Access/Open Data specified in the respective PCI call or equivalent. The results of the funded research actions, including both the results disseminated through scientific publications and the data generated in the research, must be available in open access, with the exceptions indicated in the PCI call or equivalent.

PART 3: Contact information of the EIG CONCERT-Japan Program Secretariat and National Contact Points

The EIG CONCERT-Japan Program Secretariat (PS) is entrusted with the overall operational management of this EIG CONCERT-Japan Joint Call. It is the general contact point for questions related to the Joint Call, the application process and the use of the PT-Outline webtool.

The *National* Contact Points are located in each country/region participating in this EIG CONCERT-Japan Joint Call. One of their main tasks is to advise potential applicants from their countries/regions on the applicable national/regional regulations during the proposal submission process.

<p>CONCERT-Japan Program Secretariat Ms. Léa Debraux National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) E-mail: concert-japan-jcs@cnrs.fr Phone: +33 (0) 1 44 96 40 11</p>
<p>Contact Person for Japan - JST Dr. Junko Katayama, Mr. Oscar Rudenstam Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) E-mail: concert@jst.go.jp Phone: + 81 3 5214 7375</p>
<p>Contact Person for Bulgaria - BNSF Ms. Milena Aleksandrova Bulgarian National Science Fund (BNSF) E-mail: aleksandrova@mon.bg Phone: +359 884 171 363</p>
<p>Contact Person for Cyprus – RIF Dr. Anna Maria Christoforou Cyprus Research and Innovation Foundation (RIF) E-mail: support@research.org.cy Phone : +357 222 05 000</p>
<p>Contact Person for Czech Republic - MEYS Ms. Veronika Konečná Ministry of Education Youth and Sports (MEYS) E-mail: veronika.konecna2@msmt.cz Phone: +420 234 811 164</p>
<p>Contact Person for Czech Republic - CAS Dr. Filip Zrno Czech Academy of Science (CAS) E-mail: zrno@kav.cas.cz Phone: +420 221 403 566</p>
<p>Contact Person for Estonia – ETAG Ms. Katrin Saar Estonian Research Council (ETAG) E-mail: Katrin.saar@etag.ee</p>

Phone: (+372)53335625
<p>Contact Person for France – ANR French National Research Agency (ANR) Dr. Florence Jacquet E-Mail: florence.jacquet@agencerecherche.fr Ms. Virginie Aron E-Mail: virginie.aron@agencerecherche.fr</p>
<p>Contact Person for Germany – BMBF Dr. Nicola Hartlieb Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) E-Mail: nicola.hartlieb@dlr.de</p>
<p>Contact Person for Hungary – NRDIO Dr. Györgyi Juhász National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NRDIO) E-Mail: gyorgyi.juhasz@nkfih.gov.hu Phone: +36 1 795 2115</p>
<p>Contact Person for Italy – CNR Ms. Francesca Argenio National Council of Italy (CNR) International Relations Unit E-Mail: francesca.argeni@cnr.it Phone: +39 06 4993 3130</p>
<p>Contact Person for Poland – NCBR 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 - SAS Dr. Silvia Kecerová Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS) E-mail: kecerova@up.upsav.sk Phone: +421 2 5751 0 118</p>
<p>Contact Person for Spain – AEI Mr. Juan Climent E-mail: CONCERT-Japan@aei.gob.es Phone: +34 916037242</p>
<p>Contact Person for Türkiye – TÜBİTAK Dr. Alper Mert The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK) E-mail: alper.mert@tubitak.gov.tr Phone: +90 312 298 17 34</p>