

Part C1 – justification of project proposal

Filled out in English; a file created outside the application; converted to PDF format – max. size of 6 MB; no hyperlinks.

The max. size of this part is 15 pages of A4 format using a standard font 11, single spacing.

The justification must clearly present the aims and intentions and provide sufficient information necessary for the evaluation of the Project Proposal pursuant to the basic criteria for evaluating Project Proposals.

Part C1 has prescribed structure and has to include the following:

- a) **a summary of the current state of knowledge** of the subject matter in the given scientific field, and a description of the Applicant's contribution to date to the research in the given matter and/or related issues;
- b) a statement of the substance and timeliness of the Grant Project, its **aims, methods** including conceptual and **methodical procedures, a detailed schedule, and Project phases**. The Project stages and the accomplishment of each aim must be associated with the expected results; wherever relevant, a description of the implications for addressing possible biological differences (gender); **the possible impact on women and men should be taken into account**.
- c) identification of the **risks** to the achievement of the project results, including the intensity of such risks, their probability, and ways to minimise the risks;
- d) a precise **justification of both parts of the budget** (the Czech one and the one for abroad).
- e) **description of, and reasoning for, the necessity of cooperation** with the Organization from the Partner Country, the exact division of the research assignments between the partners;
- f) a **history of collaboration** between the Applicant and the scientific institutions abroad, and **international collaboration planned within the Project**;
- g) if a **Co-organization** is involved, its **involvement in the project must be explained and justified**, as well as its contribution and detailed description of its participation in the project;
- h) **information on the readiness of the Applicant, Co-applicants, and their facilities** (including those of the Organization abroad), and on the equipment of the facilities to be used for the Project, and about the opportunities for collaboration; additionally, information about the enforcement of the **principles of responsible research and innovations (RRI)**, including the strategic tools of human potential development and the improvements of the Organization's working conditions (e.g. emphasis on the assurance of high ethical standards of research, compliance with gender equity, including the development **of gender equity plans and/or measures to improve gender equity within HR Awards**, etc.);
- i) **description of the team**; justification of / reasoning behind the participation of Co-applicants, Professional Co-workers, and other collaborators, professional and other, the definition of their roles in dealing with the subject matter, including the expected aggregate workload of the individual staff;
- j) a brief description of the **research data** to be generated, used, and stored in the course of the Project, and how these data will be handled; in particular, information on the availability and **dissemination of the research results and research data**, in accordance with the principle that research results and research data are not made public only where justified (an update shall be provided with each Interim Report and Final Report)

- k) a brief description of the potential benefits of the project and possible **future application potential**;
- l) a brief plan of how the **project results will be communicated** to their potential users and the public; in the communication of the project results, the Beneficiary shall mention the Czech Science Foundation as the Provider of grant funding for the Project;
- m) citations of the **literature** and publications used.

The information for Part C1 listed above may be supplemented by information based on the specific focus of the given project.

4.3. Evaluation of the professional standard of the Project Proposal

The Project Proposals shall be evaluated and ranked against the other Project Proposals submitted in the tender for Standard Projects. This approach shall ensure a true competitive environment of Proposals in the LA Grants group vis-à-vis competing Proposals submitted domestically and evaluated by the Czech Science Foundation.

During the evaluation of the proposals, the following are simultaneously assessed:

- a) **originality, quality, and overall quality** of the Grant Project Proposal;
- b) **competence and qualifications of the Applicant and/or Co-applicant, and those of any Professional Co-workers**, to carry out the Grant Project, wherein the professional skills of those individuals shall be assessed as well as their creative contributions in their scientific field vis-à-vis the focus of the Project Proposal, taking into account their research and experimental development results to date;
- c) **readiness of the Organization and Co-organization(s) to carry out the Czech part** of the Grant Project with regard to their technical and institutional resources; the following shall also be taken into account: the adoption and enforcement of the **principles of responsible research and innovation (RRI)**, including the strategic tools of human potential development, and the improvements of the Organization's working conditions, the existence of a **plan for the development of gender equity** and/or measures to improve gender equity within **HR Awards**, etc.

During the **evaluation of quality and level of the Grant Project Proposal**, the following criteria shall be assessed from the viewpoint of the professional focus of the panel to which the proposal has been submitted:

- a) **scientific aim (aims of the Project Proposal)** – an assessment of whether clear and specific aims have been defined for the Project, and their level of difficulty, significance, and feasibility; the proportionality of the scale of the problem proposed for exploration shall be assessed in relation to the resources required and the time necessary for such exploration; an evaluation shall be made of how interesting the aim of the Project Proposal is from the perspective of an international comparison, and whether the Project may represent a breakthrough in the given scientific field.
- b) proposed Project **methodology**:
 1. concept, preparation, and adequacy of the proposed methodology, including the time schedule of the solution;
 2. adequacy (especially in terms of the amount of workload and the share of individual team members in the expected outputs of the Grant Project), and the composition of qualifications in the work team, the involvement of students and, postdocs and the role of individual team members in problem solving; the **balanced representation of women and men in the team** shall also be taken into account.

c) the **quality of the national Applicant** for a Grant Project (this evaluation shall take into account the length of the Applicant's career, and the specific nature of the given field):

1. Applicant's **publication activity** through his or her career to date (the number of publications), his or her citation counts (h-index, number of citations including self-citations as per the Web of Science), the quality of the journals in which he or she has published, and the biggest added value of his or her most significant publications;
2. Applicant's **international cooperation** to date;
3. Applicant's **experience as an Investigator** within Grant Projects funded by national or international providers;

d) the **quality of the Applicant from the Partner Country** (this evaluation shall take into account the length of the Applicant's career, and the specific nature of the given field):

1. Applicant's **publication activity** through his or her career to date (the number of publications), his or her citation counts (h-index, number of citations including self-citations as per the Web of Science), the quality of the journals in which he or she has published, and the biggest added value of his or her most significant publications;
2. **Applicant's international cooperation** to date;
3. Applicant's **experience as an Investigator** within Grant Projects funded by national or international providers.

e) **type and quality of expected project outputs**;

f) the **ability of the national Organization to procure the successful completion of the Grant Project** with regard to the Organization's technical and institutional resources;

g) the **ability of the Organization from the Partner Country to procure the successful completion of the Grant Project** with regard to the Organization's technical and institutional resources;

h) the **added value of international cooperation** proposed;

1. the **potential of this international cooperation to expand and deepen future opportunities** for international cooperation;
2. evaluation of the **expected involvement of institutions abroad in carrying out the Grant Project**, e.g. from the perspective of mutual use of each other's equipment or by the cooperating institutions, and the deployment of complementary approaches and methodologies;

A positive evaluation of the part of the Project originating in the Partner Country shall not constitute a claim for an award of Grant Funds to an international project.

4.4. Evaluation of the Proposed Costs

The following elements shall be assessed within the evaluation of proposed costs:

- a) **appropriateness of the proposed costs, and the amount of workload**, in relation to the Project Proposal and its **anticipated results**;
- b) **legitimacy of individual items** of the proposed costs;
- c) **proportion of funds requested from the Provider** in the total amount of proposed costs (i.e. the Proportion of Funding from the Provider);
- d) **satisfaction of the requirements for the volume and definition of eligible costs** pursuant to article 3.2. (7) to (10) and Article 3.3. of these Rules.