

**Part C1 – justification of project proposal**

Completed in English; a file created outside the application; converted to the PDF format – max. size of 6 MB.

The max. size of this part is 10 pages of A4 format using a standard font 11, single spacing.

**Part C1 has a 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 (project phases and the accomplishment of each aim must be associated with the expected results); where relevant to the Project and the course thereof, **a description of the implications for addressing possible biological differences (sex) or differences in the experience and needs of women and men (gender)**, and/or their interaction; information shall also be included as to **whether the results of the research will be as beneficial, functional and safe as possible for both men and women**;
- 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) **description of, and reasoning for, the necessity of cooperation with the Organization from the partner country** (including an explanation of any areas of difference);
- e) **a history of collaboration** between the Czech Applicant and the Partner-Country Applicant, and between the Czech Applicant and the scientific institutions abroad, and the **plans for international collaboration within the Project**;
- f) **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**;
- g) information on the **readiness of the Applicant, Co-applicants, and the Partner-Country Applicant, their facilities, the equipment of the facilities to be used for the Project**, and the opportunities for collaboration; additionally, information about the enforcement of **the principles of responsible research and innovations (RRI)**, if any, including the strategic tools of human potential development and the improvements of the Organization's working conditions (e.g. the assurance of high ethical standards of research, development of gender equity plans and/or measures to improve gender equity within HR Awards, etc.);
- h) **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 workers;
- i) 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); the Beneficiary agrees to submit a Data Management Plan (DMP) no later than the date of delivery of the first Interim Report, and to update the DMP periodically as needed;
- j) a brief description of the **potential benefits** of the project and **possible future application potential**;
- k) 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;

l) **references to the literature used**, we recommend that references to the literature used include the Digital Object Identifier (DOI).

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

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#### C2 – expected project results

Contains a description in words of the result types, with emphasis on quality (not quantity), defined in Annex 7 of this Tender Document which are expected to be published as part of the Grant Project (articles in leading international journals, monographs, articles in international proceedings etc.).

Articles which may be recognized as results of the project shall only be those which have been published in journals with IF (Jimp type result), in specialised periodical (Jsc, Jost type results), which are monographs (B type result), chapters in monographs (C type result) and articles in proceedings registered in the Scopus database or in the Web of Science Conference Proceedings Citation database (D type result); see Annex 7 to this Tender Document. Joint publications authored by the cooperating teams are required as part of the Project.

#### C3 – international collaboration

Verbal description of the added value of the international collaboration in undertaking the project.

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#### **4.3. Evaluation of the professional standard of the Project Proposal**

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-a-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 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 intent** (aims of the Project Proposal) – an assessment of whether clear and specific aims have been defined, 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;
- 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 expected quality of the project outputs;**

d) **international cooperation** – expected involvement of institutions abroad in carrying out the Grant Project, mutual use of each other's equipment by the cooperating institutions, and the deployment of complementary approaches and methodologies;

e) **process, outputs and ways of carrying out any previous grant projects carried out by the Organization, Co-organizations, Applicant and/or Co-applicants** if they have ever carried out any such grant project using funds granted by the Provider; any previous violation of the rules by the Organization, Co-organization, Applicant and/or Co-applicant in the management of the targeted funds granted in the past, satisfaction of all obligations defined in the Agreement or the Decision on Grant Funding, the interim and final evaluations of such Grant Projects, if any, shall be taken into account.

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. The Presidium of GACR shall assess the Proposals for International Projects and, contingent upon the availability of funds, shall decide whether to fund a Project. The Agreement on Grant Funding may be executed, or the Decision on Grant Funding may be issued, and funds may be remitted, **only if both providers/agencies decide to grant the funding.**

If the **Project Proposal contains profoundly serious shortcomings**, i.e. the quality and standard of the Project Proposal as set out by the criteria specified above are not met, the Project Proposal shall be categorized as poor-quality project. A Project Proposal may be categorized as “poor-quality” a proposal which:

a) does **not define** what is called a “**knowledge gap**” or defines it insufficiently, where this knowledge gap should be filled by the Project outputs, i.e. the Project is not based on an original idea (the Applicant is either not familiar enough with the state of knowledge in the respective field, or only deliberately replicates research conducted already);

b) **does not formulate a hypothesis clearly**, nor the method of its verification;

c) **proposes methodology which is inappropriate** for the verification of the hypothesis formulated;

d) **proposes outputs or aims which cannot be achieved** by the proposed research, or the collection and processing of the anticipated data;

The categorization of a Project Proposal as “poor-quality” shall constitute grounds to disqualify all Project Proposals submitted by the same Applicant in all of GACR's tenders published in the following calendar year.

#### **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 this Tender Document.