

## Call for Mobility Plus Project Proposals

### Identification

Partner country:	<b>Belgium</b>
Partner organisation:	<b>Fund for Scientific Research-FNRS (F.R.S.-FNRS)</b>
Programme:	<b>Mobility Plus Projects</b>
Implementation period:	<b>1.1.2026 – 31.12.2028</b>
Maximum project duration:	<b>3 years, i.e. 36 months</b> Extension beyond this period is not permitted.

**The call is open from 25 June to 15 September 2025 (23:59).**

### Legal framework

The call is based on the Agreement on Scientific Cooperation of the year 2017 between the Czech Academy of Sciences (hereinafter referred to as “CAS”) and the Fund for Scientific Research-FNRS (hereinafter referred to as F.R.S.-FNRS), and in accordance with art. 2 par. 2 of the Act No. 283/1992 Coll., on the Czech Academy of Sciences, as amended, and art. 3 par. 2 of the Statutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences.

### Basic definitions

#### Objectives

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

#### Eligibility criteria

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

Project proposals can be submitted:

- **On the CAS side** by the [CAS Institutes](#)
  - **On the FNRS**, principal investigators shall be permanent researchers of F.R.S. - FNRS or hold a tenure track position (or an assimilated position including pending tenure track) within one of the five universities of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, other team members should at least have the postdoctoral level and belong to a research organization of the Wallonia-Brussels. For the Wallonia-Brussels Federation (WBF), scientific stays within the proposed project are open to researchers at doctoral level.

If the applicant submits more than one project proposal within one call (i.e. with the same partner organisation), only one of them can be funded.

Only two consecutive mobility projects carried out by the same research team can be funded. Repeated participation in a call with the same partner organisation will be assessed by the evaluator.

Applicant submitting a project proposal following an ongoing project with the same research team must justify the need for a continued project and describe the outcomes of the ongoing project. This must be included in the "Description of the project" section of the project proposal form.

### **Research team**

Each research team consists of:

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

Research team members are divided into four categories:

- Senior researchers (8 or more years after receiving PhD at the time of submission of the project proposal)
- Junior researchers – postdocs (less than 8 years after receiving PhD at the time of submission of the project proposal)
- PhD students
- Others (e.g. undergraduate students, engineers, technicians)

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

Research experience does not include maternity and parental leave, incapacity to work for more than 90 days, compulsory military service, time spent caring for a person considered to be dependent on the assistance of another natural person under the Social Services Act.

### **Financial provisions**

The financial contribution must be calculated and provided in accordance with the applicable national legislation and the internal rules of the partner organisations. Each partner organisation must cover all the costs of its research team and provide travel insurance for its research team members.

**Up to 2 (two)** three-year mobility projects can be selected for funding within this call.

### **Funding regulations**

- The CAS will only contribute to the costs of the Czech research team. The maximum financial contribution is **CZK 200 000** per mobility project per year (12 months). The financial contribution must not be carried over to the next year of the project implementation.
- Eligible costs are non-investment costs of the CAS research team:
  - **Mobility costs (all costs related to international mobility and stay abroad):**
    - **Travel expenses**
    - **Living expenses**

Mobility costs also include **conference fees** in the partner country. Mobility costs (travel, living, conference fees) in another (third) country are eligible if justified (active participation directly related to the project).

- **Research costs (all other costs within the following categories):**
  - Consumables
  - Services (incl. travel expenses in the Czech Republic, if related to the project and duly justified; accommodation in the Czech Republic is excluded)
  - Small equipment (up to CZK 80,000)
  - Networking (e.g. costs related to the organisation of a conference or workshop in the Czech Republic or the conference fees for a conference held in the Czech Republic)
- **Min. 50 % of the requested financial contribution must be used to cover mobility costs for each year of the project implementation.**
- **Non-eligible costs** are personnel, large equipment (exceeding CZK 80,000), overheads, or any investment costs.
- **The eligibility of all costs will be assessed based on the specific justification in the project proposal.**
- The progress of project implementation will be monitored through annual and final reports including the use of funds, justification of costs and possible transfers between cost categories.
- The grant is awarded to a CAS Institute based on a **Grant Application** submitted by a CAS Institute within a respective **Call for Grant Applications** in accordance with the Guideline of the Academy Council of the CAS on Grants Provided by the CAS. The respective Call for Grant Applications is announced on the CAS website ([www.avcr.cz/cs/veda-a-vyzkum/podpora-vyzkumu/aktualni-vyzvy-av-cr](http://www.avcr.cz/cs/veda-a-vyzkum/podpora-vyzkumu/aktualni-vyzvy-av-cr)) in early spring at the latest.

## **Project proposal submission**

**Project proposals must be submitted in parallel to both partner organisations** in accordance with their instructions. Only project proposals considered eligible by both partner organisations will be evaluated.

**Complete project proposals in Czech or English must be submitted in the KIS application and simultaneously via the CAS data mailbox** within the specified deadline. **Only project proposals submitted simultaneously in the KIS application and via the CAS data mailbox by the deadline of the call will be considered as submitted and will be evaluated.**

Project proposals submitted in any other way will be rejected for formal reasons.

The procedure for submitting a project proposal is as follows:

- 1) The applicant (PI) is requested to register with an "applicant" account in the KIS application at <https://kis.avcr.cz/kis2/oms/register> and to complete a project proposal.
- 2) After completing the project proposal, the applicant (PI) must submit the complete project proposal via her/his KIS account to the Director of the respective CAS Institute for approval (the Director will receive a notification e-mail).
- 3) The Director of the CAS Institute must approve the project proposal and submit it to the OMS KAV ČR (Division of International Cooperation, Head Office of the CAS) via her/his KIS account and simultaneously send the proposal as a PDF file to the CAS data mailbox (CAS ID fr6adt5) by the specified deadline.

By submitting a project proposal, the Director of the CAS Institute and the applicant (PI):

- Confirms that she/he has read and understood the CAS Privacy Policy (<https://www.avcr.cz/en/academic-public/international-affairs/bilateral-cooperation/practical-information-and-links/>). Confirms that the partner Principal Investigator and the members of both research teams are also familiar with the CAS Privacy Policy.
- Confirms that the CAS Institute will support the project in accordance with Guideline No. 15/2019 of the Academy Council of the CAS from 26 November 2019 on the Support for International Cooperation at the Research Institutes of the CAS as subsequently amended in Guideline No. 17/2021.
- Declares that the information she/he has provided is accurate, true and complete and that she/he is aware that failure to do so may have legal consequences.
- Declares that, if accepted, she/he will comply with the following during the implementation:
  - [The Code of Ethics for Researchers of the Czech Academy of Sciences](#)
  - [The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity \(Revised Edition 2023\)](#)

## Evaluation and Selection

The evaluation of the project proposals is a two-stage process:

- At the national level, each partner organisation evaluates the submitted project proposals according to its internal rules and establishes a ranking list.
- At the international level, both partner organisations agree on a list of submitted project proposals, exchange their ranking lists, merge them, negotiate the final ranking and approve the project proposals selected for funding. The total number of mobility projects approved for funding depends on the financial possibilities of both partner organisations.

After the evaluation process and the approval of the results by the Academic Council of the CAS, the official letter announcing the results will be sent to the Director of the CAS Institute via mailbox at the end of 2025 (in January 2026 at the latest). The results will also be published on the CAS website (<https://www.avcr.cz/en/academic-public/international-affairs/bilateral-cooperation/running-projects/>).

## Criteria for the evaluation of project proposals

- **Scientific and formal quality:**
  - Quality of the project implementation (concept, approach, methodology, time schedule, outcomes)
  - State-of-the-art
  - Innovation potential and prospects for advancing knowledge
  - Expected mutual benefits for both research teams
  - Potential of the project results and their possible impact
- **Quality of the research teams:**
  - Justification of the need for collaboration
  - Competence and qualification of the research team members
  - Level of involvement of junior researchers and PhD students
  - Complementarity of the research teams
  - Previous cooperation
- **Appropriate project budget**

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

The results and outputs of the project will be evaluated. For the definition of results see the [Methodology for Evaluating Research Organisations and R&D&I Purpose-tied Aid Programmes \(2017+\)](#).

### **Schedule**

<b>25 June 2025</b>	<b>Announcement of call for project proposals</b>
<b>15 September 2025 23:59</b>	<b>Deadline for submission of project proposals (both KIS and data mailbox)</b>
Sept./Oct. 2025	Completion of the assessment at national level
November 2025	Completion of the joint assessment at international level
Nov./Dec.2025	Approval of results by both partner organisations
<b>Dec. 2025/Jan. 2026</b>	<b>Announcement of results</b>

**Please note that the date on the FNRS side the call is open from 24 June to 30 September 2025. Principal Investigators should therefore ensure that their counterpart submits a corresponding application by the relevant deadline.**

### **Contact persons**

#### **On the CAS side**

**Ms. Jana Whalen**

Division of International Cooperation  
**Czech Academy of Sciences**

Address: Národní 1009/3  
110 00 Prague  
Czech Republic  
Tel: +420 221 403 354  
E-mail: [whalen@kav.cas.cz](mailto:whalen@kav.cas.cz)  
URL: <http://www.avcr.cz/en/>

#### **On the FNRS side**

**Ms. Déborah Matteredne**

Department of International Cooperation  
**Fund for Scientific Research-FNRS (F.R.S.-FNRS)**

Address: Rue d'Egmont 5  
BE-1000 Brussels  
Belgium  
Tel: +32-25 049 305  
E-mail: [deborah.matteredne@frs-fnrs.be](mailto:deborah.matteredne@frs-fnrs.be)  
URL: <http://www.fnrs.be>