

Invitation: Registration of Potential Host Institutions for the First Call for Dioscuri Centres of Scientific Excellence in the Czech Republic

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MEYS) in the Czech Republic invites Czech research organizations¹ to register as potential host institutions for the first call for Dioscuri Centres of Scientific Excellence in the Czech Republic. Any unit of a public research organization that is willing to establish, host and accommodate a Dioscuri Centre (DC) under the conditions listed below, may register as a potential host institution **until March 10th, 2022**.

Registrations meeting all formal requirements will be published in a 'List of Potential Host Institutions' within the first call for Dioscuri Centres in the Czech Republic, which is scheduled to be published on March 31st, 2022. Potential applicants (leader of the DC) may then search for suitable host institutions via the list. Please note that applicants will also be able to choose any research institution beyond the published list, provided that the institution meets the formal requirements listed below. This invitation is not a competitive call for proposals and not part of the formal selection process. If your institution does not register as a potential host institution under this invitation, it will still be eligible to participate in the first call for Dioscuri Centres.

In order to host a Dioscuri Centre of Scientific Excellence (DC), the research institution must declare to:

- a. sign a contract of full-time employment with the leader of the DC for the entire funding period;
- b. sign contracts with DC personnel: the form of employment is to be agreed upon by all parties (contract of employment, contract of specific task, contract of mandate; scholarship);
- c. provide from its own budget additional funding for the DC in the amount of at least € 25,000 on average per year for the entire funding period (the amount of additional annual funding may be raised for the entire funding period or a higher amount of additional funding may be offered for specific years and/or purposes);
- d. provide the DC with optimal conditions for carrying out its research, including office/ laboratory space and research equipment necessary for the completion of the research;
- e. provide administrative and financial services and support to the DC;
- f. provide at its own expense a full-time English-speaking administrative coordinator exclusively for the DC for the entire funding period;
- g. provide support related to the DC leader's relocation and stay in the Czech Republic. This may include childcare and/or help for the partner of the DC leader in finding a suitable position (if applicable);
- h. assign a group leader at the HI as institutional guide to support the DC leader in questions concerning local regulations and practices during the first year of the DC;

¹ Only Czech research organizations which are legally defined as research organizations are eligible as host institutions. A list of eligible host institution may be found here: <https://www.msmt.cz/modules/marwel/index.php?rewrite=vyzkum-a-vyvoj-2%2Fvyzkumne-organizace&str=1>
Definition of research organisation: Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014, Article 2, point 83; List of research organizations: Act No. 130/2002 Coll. §33a (Czech Republic law); The method of reporting income from knowledge transfer: Government Regulation No. 160/2017 Coll. (Czech Republic law).

- i. offer a long-term perspective to the leader of the DC beyond the Dioscuri funding period. This includes a commitment to create a permanent position at the end of the funding period for which the leader of the DC will be eligible to apply.

To register your institution as a potential host institution, please download and fill in the registration form. All information (points 1.-11.) must be provided in English and must not exceed the given page limits. The more detailed and precise the information provided by you in the registration form, the better the potential applicant might get to know your institution. Please note the instructions included in the document.

Completed and signed registration forms need to be submitted by **March 10th, 2022** via e-mail programdioscuri@msmt.cz and sent via data box (**vidaawt**) with the necessary data. In the data message the field "**Subject**" ("**Věc**") must be filled in "**DIOSCURI – Registration Form for HI**" and the field "**K rukám**" must be filled in "**Oddělení 33**".

Each submission will undergo an eligibility check by MEYS. All submissions meeting the formal requirements will then be listed among the research institutions capable of acting as host institution for a Dioscuri Centre. The completed registration forms will be published in full. The registration form might be completed on the level of a subunit of a research organization (e.g. department of a university) or the research institution as a whole (e.g. institute of AV ČR). Research institutions may submit more than one form, even within the same discipline, provided that they are willing and able to host more than one Dioscuri Centre within this discipline. If different units of one institution are interested in hosting a DC, separate registration forms will need to be submitted for each of them. It is not necessary to have a specific project, research topic or future leader in mind. This is a general invitation to declare your interest and willingness to host a DC in a certain research area.

Registering your institution as a potential host for a Dioscuri Centre through this invitation will greatly increase your visibility and give foreign applicants the opportunity to get to know your institution. Thanks to the completed registration form, potential applicants will find your institution more easily, be able to access more detailed information about you as a potential host and to contact the right person directly.

To support you in preparing your registration as a potential host institution and to give you a comprehensive overview of the Dioscuri Programme's funding and application procedures, we will offer webinars during that period. We kindly invite you to take part in one of our three webinars (all webinars will contain the same presentation, you only need to attend one of them) scheduled for:

- A - Monday, 24.01.2022, 14:00-15:30 CET
- B - Tuesday, 08.02.2022, 14:00-15:30 CET
- C - Thursday, 17.02.2022, 14:00-15:30 CET

To register for one of our webinars, please send an e-mail to programdioscuri@msmt.cz indicating your name, institution and preferred date. After successful registration via e-mail, you will receive a link to the event.