



**Ministry of Education,
Youth and Sports (MEYS)
of the Czech Republic**



Ministry of Science and ICT

**Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT)
of the Republic of Korea**

CZECH-KOREA

CALL FOR JOINT PROJECT PROPOSALS

For the Years 2025-2028

Deadline for Submission: 07.04.2025

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In accordance with the The Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Republic of Korea on the Scientific and Technological Cooperation and the Work Plan for Support of Czech-Korea Joint Projects, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic (MEYS), and the Ministry of Science and ICT of the Republic of Korea (MSIT) have decided to provide financial support and announce a Joint Call for research projects carried out by researchers from both countries.

The joint research shall focus on one of the main areas of cooperation as detailed in Section 1 and concentrate on fundamental and/or applied research.

Qualifying scientific applicants in this framework may receive research grants from MEYS and MSIT, respectively, according to the applicable national funding procedures, regulations, and the requirements as detailed in this Call.

1. MAIN AREAS OF COOPERATION

Czech-Korean research teams are hereby invited to submit joint proposals for fundamental and/or applied research projects in any of the following areas:

- 1. BioScience**
- 2. Chemical Materials**
- 3. Digital**

2. MODE OF COOPERATION

Cooperation will involve planning and performing joint research activities as well as conducting mutual visits between laboratories, research centers and/or scientific institutes for the purpose of facilitating the research. Each joint research team may submit only one project within this program.

3. DURATION OF PROJECTS

The projects will have a duration of **3 years (36 months), starting on 01.10.2025 and ending on 30.09.2028.**

4. LEVEL OF FUNDING AND NUMBER OF SELECTED PROJECTS FOR FUNDING

The Joint Call follows the principle of **national funding**: MEYS funds Czech research teams and MSIT funds Korean research teams. Cross-border funding is not planned, and funding will adhere to national laws.

The total budget approved for this Joint Call is **2 000 000 euros** for a three-year period as follows:

- **Czech Republic (MEYS):** 1 000 000 euros (25 000 000 CZK)
- **Republic of Korea (MSIT):** 1 000 000 euros (1 500 million KRW)

It is expected that **five (5) projects will be funded** under this Joint Call.

Each project can receive up to 200 000 euros (5 000 000 CZK) for Czech teams and up to 200 000 euros (300 million won) for Korean teams for the three-year period. Funding for approved projects is subject to the availability of funds and the approval of each country's state budget.

5. ELIGIBLE COSTS

In the Czech Republic:

Direct Costs:

- Personnel Costs
- Depreciation of Long-term Assets
- Other Goods and Services
- Subcontracting
- Travel Expenses

Indirect Costs:

- Overhead Costs

Funding will be provided in accordance with the provisions of the Act No. 130/2002 Sb. and according to the public tender documentation LUAKR25 (Chapt. No. 6). Details of funding for the beneficiaries will be given in the standard support-granting contract (template available as the supplement of the public tender documentation LUAKR25).

In the Republic of Korea:

Direct Costs:

- Personnel Costs
- Student Researcher Costs
- Research Facility and Equipment Costs
- Research Material Costs
- Research Activity Costs
- Research Incentives
- Subcontracted R&D project costs

Indirect Costs

The R&D expenses should be spent properly in accordance with the intended use and usage standards outlined in "National Research And Development Innovation Act" and its subsidiary regulations.

6. ELIGIBILITY

MEYS and MSIT will verify the eligibility of all submitted proposals taking into consideration the general Joint Call criteria and the individual national criteria respectively. If any project partner is deemed ineligible by either side, the entire project proposal may be rejected.

The General Eligibility criteria are:

- The projects must be conducted by **collaborating Czech and Korean scientific research teams**

- The research in the projects proposals must be conducted in one of the main areas of cooperation under this Joint Call as detailed in Section 1.
- Each joint research team must be led by a Principal Investigator (PI) from each country.
- The PI on each side must be affiliated with an academic institution or a research institute ("Affiliated Institution"). An Affiliated Institution is determined in each country as follows:
 - **In the Czech Republic:**
 - A Research Organization in terms of the Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014, Official Journal of the EU L 187, 26 June 2014, declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (L187/24, Article 2 (83)).
 - A small, medium, or large enterprise in terms of the Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014, Official Journal of the EU L 187, 26 June 2014, declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (L187/24, Article 2 (83)).
 - In the Czech Republic "Affiliated Institution" represents the Applicant according to § 2 Act No. 130/2002 Sb.
 - **In the Republic of Korea:**
 - For Korean applicants, the applicant must qualify as an institution or organization conducting national research and development projects as defined in the "National Research and Development Innovation Act" or be included in the category of enterprises as defined in the "Enforcement Decree of the National Research and Development Innovation Act". In addition, the Principal Investigator on the Korean side must be affiliated with a university or research institute.

Special Eligibility Provisions for Czech Teams:

- Applicant on the Czech side must comply with all eligibility provisions according to § 18 Act No. 130/2002 Sb., INTER-EXCELLENCE II Programme and Public tender LUAKR25. MEYS will publish all eligibility provisions for Czech applicants in the **public tender documentation** (INTER-EXCELLENCE II Programme, INTER-ACTION sub-programme; public tender **LUAKR25**).
- An applicant having submitted the application to this Joint Call can participate in other international calls of MEYS, however the FTE of each member of the research team in all projects in INTER-EXCELLENCE (I) and INTER-EXCELLENCE II Programme together must not exceed **1,0**.

Special Eligibility Provisions for Korean Teams:

- As of the application deadline, only one person can apply and participate in this project for one project.
- Those who are restricted from participating under the provisions of the "Enforcement Decree of the National Research and Development Innovation Act" before the application deadline cannot apply.

7. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Project proposals must be prepared and conducted jointly by the Czech and Korean project partners and submitted simultaneously to MEYS in the Czech Republic and to National Research Foundation of Korea in the Republic of Korea.

Each project proposal must include the **joint research part** (as specified in Section 8), which must be **identical** for both project partners and written **in English**.

Announcement of the Joint Call: Monday 10.02.2025

Deadline for applications: Monday 07.04.2025

- **in the Czech Republic until 23:59**
- **in the Republic of Korea until 18:00**
(Local time in each country)

Proposals will not be accepted under any circumstances after the said date.

Further Submission Instructions for Czech Teams:

- The Czech applicants shall elaborate the project proposals in the information system of the INTER-EXCELLENCE II Programme – ISIX System, at <https://isix.msmt.cz/> and using the forms published by MEYS for this Call. The applicants applying for the first time need to register to ISIX System before the creation of the project proposal. **The Czech applicants shall submit the project proposals only in electronic form (e.g., MEYS data box: vidaawt).**
- Joint research part of the project proposal (see Section 8) is the mandatory part of project proposal of the Czech Affiliated Institution in the **ISIX-System – Chapt. No. 3**. Other parts of the application in ISIX-System will be created **in Czech** (in compliance with the data in the joint project proposal).
- The Affiliated Institution must submit the proposal **not later than by the final submission date (07.04.2025)**.

Further Submission Instructions for Korean Teams:

- Korean applicants must submit their proposal through the Integrated R&D Information System (IRIS) by 07.04.2025 at 18:00 and must comply with the relevant regulations. After submission, the proposal must be electronically approved by their institution before it can be finalized. It may not be possible to consider proposals received after the above time.

For both countries:

A valid project application includes a **completed and signed application form**, together with all required documents from each side of a joint research team as specified above.

The application must be submitted respectively to MEYS in the Czech Republic and to NRF in the Republic of Korea.

If the applications are not duly received both in the Czech Republic and in the Republic of Korea by the date indicated above and in accordance with the submission instructions, the proposal will be deemed ineligible in both countries.

8. INSTRUCTIONS FOR WRITING PROJECT PROPOSALS

Joint research part of each project proposal must be written **in English** be **identical** for both project partners. This part should be submitted using a unified form, available at each side's websites.

Joint research part of the project proposal should be **up to 15 pages (font: Times New Roman 11, line spacing: 1,5)** including figures and should include the following sections:

Project Introduction:

- Brief introduction of the project
- Justification for international cooperation

Project Framework:

- Overall objectives and scientific necessity and relevance of the project
- Potential applications of the results and possible target user groups
- Expected short-term benefits of the project – commentary
- Expected long-term benefits of the project – description and commentary
- Any possible conflict of IP issue that might be relevant for the project

Project Strategy and Methodology:

- Strategy and methodology
- Timetable of the project
- Distribution of tasks among the partners
- Risk analysis for factors that may hinder achievement of project results

Annex 1. Financial table

Annex 2. Brief CVs of the most relevant Czech and Korean project partners

In the Czech Republic only (Additional data for the ISIX-System):

- Identification data (in Czech and English)
- Foreign partner identification (in Czech)
- Project team CZ (in Czech)
- Budget request – requested budget in CZK
- Project phases and results (in Czech)
- Achievement of Program Objectives (in Czech)
- Mandatory annexes
- Non-mandatory annexes

In the Republic of Korea only (Additional data for IRIS system):

- Research and Development Plan (in Korean)
- Confirmation of eligibility (in Korean)
- Agreement to provide and use personal information and project information (in Korean)
- Pledge of compliance with research ethics (in Korean)

9. PROPOSALS REVIEW

The project proposals will undergo two rounds of evaluation:

1. **National evaluation** carried out according to the national regulations by the national experts
2. **International selection based on overall results of the CZ and KR national evaluations**, performed by the **Czech-Korea Joint Committee**; the final selection of the joint projects recommended for funding

The proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. **Scientific quality:** the degree of innovation; strategy and methodology; involvement of the foreign partner
2. **Benefits of the project proposal:** scientific, technological or socio-economic long-term benefits; scientific, technological or socio-economic short-term benefits,
3. **Project implementation conditions:** readiness, efficiency, and feasibility of the project schedule; competence and expertise of the research team; financial security in terms of amount, structure and distribution over time and in terms of the effective use of the funding; risk analysis

10. CONTRACTS, PAYMENTS AND REPORTS

1. Contracts:

Upon approval of a project proposal, separate contracts will be signed in each country: between MEYS Czech PI's Affiliated Institution in the Czech Republic, and between MSIT and the NRF in the Republic of Korea.

2. Payments:

Payments will be issued by MEYS and MSIT in accordance with the contract provisions and the regulations of each respective country.

3. Reports:

- a) Czech Affiliated Institution (beneficiary) must submit an interim report (in January 2027 until 30.01.2027) and a final report (no more than 30 days after the end of the project) via data box of MEYS respecting the rules published by MEYS.
- b) Korea Affiliated Institution (beneficiary) are required to submit an annual report and a final report (no more than 60 days after the end of the project) at the end of each year through IRIS in compliance with the relevant regulations.

11. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

For both sides:

Czech and Korean research teams and their institutions are strongly encouraged to establish an agreement on Intellectual Property rights for the project outcomes before starting collaborative activities.

For Czech Applicants:

All procedures and activities under this Call or the projects approved hereunder, including the eligibility of applicants, are subject to Act No. 130/2002 Sb., INTER-EXCELLENCE II Programme; public tender documentation of the public tender in RDI **LUAKR25** (INTER-ACTION sub-programme) and to MEYS Granting Contract. Applicants are required to familiarize themselves with these documents before an application under this Call.

For Korean Applicants:

All procedures and activities of the approved projects, including the eligibility of applicants, are governed by the "National Research And Development Innovation Act" and the "Enforcement Decree of the National Research And Development Innovation Act". Applicants are required to familiarize themselves with these documents before an application under this Call.

12. CONTACT INFORMATION

Additional information can be obtained as follows:

CZECH REPUBLIC

MEYS website: www.msmt.cz

On administrative matters:

Mr. Luděk Kos

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REPUBLIC OF KOREA

NRF website: www.nrf.re.kr

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