



S A S **P R O** 2

# Programme SASPRO 2

## Guide for applicants

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Revised version for second and third call



project partner



100  
project partner



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**Programme SASPRO 2 – Mobility Programme of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS),  
Comenius University in Bratislava (CU),  
Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava (STU)**

**GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS**

This guide provides practical information to potential applicants to assist in preparing and submitting an application for Programme SASPRO 2 based in Slovak Republic. In addition, it provides a general overview of the scheme and the assessment process.

**Why choose Slovakia?**

Slovakia is a central European country bordered by Poland to the North, Ukraine to the East, Hungary in the south, and Austria in the South West, and the Czechia in the North West. The population is around five and half million people.

The capital is Bratislava, the largest city in the country. Slovakia has been a member of the European Union since 2003 and Eurozone since 2009. The country as it exists today was founded in 1993, when Czechoslovakia split up into Slovakia and the Czech Republic. Since then, the country has been growing in importance in Europe.

Slovakia also remains a country with deep heritage, where tradition, culture, music, conversation, time to relax, listen and make friends are all important.

For more information about Slovakia as a place to live and work including travel, food, shopping, accommodation, climate and practicalities see <https://slovakia.travel/en>

**EU Member States, Associated Countries and Third Countries**

**The 27 EU Member States** are Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

**The Associated Countries** are Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine.



**Third countries** are neither EU Member States nor Countries associated with Horizon 2020.

## **Economy**

Export revenues in Slovakia are increasing, mainly because of export to other EU countries. There is a sustained tendency toward growth in foreign direct investments and Slovakia offers many opportunities for domestic and foreign investors. The strongest position is currently held by the automobile industry and its subcontractors (Volkswagen, Peugeot-Citroën, Kia Motors, and Jaguar Land Rover). Export of motor vehicle, electronic equipment or petroleum oils is dominant.

## **1. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAMME SASPRO 2**

The Slovak Academy of Sciences has been awarded funding by the European Commission under the Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions to co-fund a research fellowship scheme with international, intersectoral and interdisciplinary mobility. The aim is to increase cooperation among different sectors and strengthen multidisciplinary approaches.

SASPRO 2 builds up on finished project SASPRO, which was realised solely by the Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS) and which has been considered as highly successful by all relevant actors.

SASPRO 2 offers more opportunities for researchers since it brings together three leading organisations in science and research in the Slovak Republic: SAS, Comenius University in Bratislava (CU) and Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava (STU).

All three participating organisations are top research performing organisations in the Slovak Republic, which comprise 70 potential host organisations covering various research areas and topics.

**Slovak Academy of Sciences** – the main scientific and research institution in Slovakia fostering basic and strategic basic research. SAS is the founder of 45 scientific organisations whose focus covers a wide range of scientific fields on nature, technology and society. The organisations are located in several regions of Slovakia, where most of these are located in the capital Bratislava and in the second largest city in Slovakia – Košice. The total number of staff amounts to more than 3 000 employees including about 1900 researchers and scholars.

**Comenius University in Bratislava** – oldest and largest university in Slovakia. With thirteen faculties, it offers the widest selection of study programmes (over 800) at three levels, and several of these study programmes are the only ones of their kind offered in Slovakia. There is a wide range of areas of human knowledge to choose from when studying, be it in



medicine, the humanities and social sciences, the natural sciences, mathematics, theology, and much more. Comenius University is a research institution that runs hundreds of domestic and international research projects. As a result, many of the students engage in important research during their studies and can actively participate in projects, grants, and professional internships. Currently this institution has more than 22 000 students.

**Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava** is a modern research and higher education institution. STU offers education in technical fields and involves students in research in natural sciences, computer sciences, construction, architecture, materials technologies, chemistry and food technologies. At international level, STU has closed hundreds of collaboration agreements with foreign universities, faculties and research institutes. Every year almost 500 students are sent abroad on study stays and/or participate in student exchange programmes. STU graduates are among the most desirable and the highest paid employees on the Slovakian labour market. Almost 12 000 students attend its 7 faculties and the Institute of Management every year.

The Programme is co-funded by the Marie Curie Co-funding of Regional, National and International Programmes 2019 (**COFUND**) under project Horizon 2020 of the European Commission.



### **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)**

Internationally respected in industry and academia, a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship is a recognised mark of research excellence. The European Commission Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), are named after the double Nobel Prize winning Polish French scientist famed for her work on radioactivity. They aim to support researchers at all stages of their careers irrespective of nationality. Researchers working across all disciplines, from life-saving healthcare to 'blue-sky' science, are eligible for funding, typically through fixed-term fellowships.

Mobility, training and personal development are key factors in any MSCA scheme.

What are the long-term benefits of an MSCA Fellowship?

- MSCA Fellows' publications are more-often cited than equivalent peers, and are more frequently published on influential scientific journals.
- MSCA fellows are more successful in applying for the European Research Council (ERC)'s competitive grants for high quality research.



- MSCA Fellows achieve professorship titles more frequently than others, and are more likely to hold principal investigator position.

This **Guide for applicants** provides practical information to potential applicants in preparing and submitting an application for Programme SASPRO 2.



The programme is characterized by transparency and openness, granting the fellow freedom to choose research projects, host organisation and host supervisor/mentor.



SAS was granted the HR Excellence in research award (HRS4R). SAS follows the principles of the European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers (Charter & Code).

SAS is a proud member of the Euraxess Slovakia Network, we will provide support and practical information on visa, entry condition, taxation, social security and daily life in Slovakia.

## 2. FELLOWSHIP

**Programme SASPRO 2** is intended for experienced scientists with up to 15 years research experience after obtaining PhD prior to proposal submission. The target audience differs depending on selected mobility type:

**Incoming grants** – researchers (including Slovak nationals) who have not resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the Slovak Republic for more than 12 months in the last 3 years prior to proposal submission.

**Reintegration grants** – Slovak nationals who have carried out their main activity in the Third countries at least 3 years in the 5 years immediately prior to proposal submission and who have resided or carried out their main activity in the Slovak Republic for maximum 3 months prior to proposal submission.

## Organisation and people involved

**Applicant** refers to the experienced researcher that applies for the incoming or reintegration mobility scheme. Applicant may be also referred as “researcher” or “fellow” (in case of implementation of the project).

**Host Organisation** refers to the organisation where the applicant plans to carry out his/her research project. Host organisation must be chosen from SAS scientific organisations or CU and STU faculties. List of these organisations and faculties is published on the [Programme website](#).

**Authorized Representative** refers to the statutory authority of the Host Organisations – director of the Host Organisation.

**Scientist in Charge** refers to the person responsible for supervising and mentoring the applicant at the Host Organisation.

## 2. 1. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Within the application, applicant needs to show his/her outstanding research track record and a competence to fully investigate the proposed research project. Research project has to contain adequate cross- /intersectoral aspects, and a description of inter-sectoral secondment(s) preferably with already identified partner(s). Described inter-/multidisciplinary approaches will be also required.

Eligibility criteria are set for a) applicant, b) application, c) project, d) host organisation.

### Eligibility criteria for applicants

Eligibility criteria for applicants differ in Incoming grants and Reintegration grants. Both are dedicated to **experienced researchers** that have to meet the main criterion at the date of deadline for proposal submission:

- Possession of **PhD.** or equivalent degree (considered according to ERC policy about PhD. and equivalent doctoral degrees)<sup>1</sup>; PhD. diploma English translation is necessary.
- Research experiences **up to 15 years** after obtaining PhD. or equivalent degree.

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[https://erc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/document/file/ERC\\_policy\\_on\\_PhD\\_and\\_equivalent\\_doctoral\\_degrees\\_2016.pdf](https://erc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/document/file/ERC_policy_on_PhD_and_equivalent_doctoral_degrees_2016.pdf)



Extension of the eligibility window after PhD. can be requested for the reasons as maternity leave, paternity leave, long-term illness, civil service, etc. Request for extension must be reasoned and supported by adequate documentation or solemn declaration.

**Researchers that are already permanently employed by the entity where the research training activities take place and that is recruiting them will be not supported.**

*Eligibility criteria – calculation examples*

Example No. 1:

A Researcher - Slovak national who worked 4 years in France and who has been resided in Slovak republic 2 months before the application submission is applying for Reintegration grant.

NON-ELIGIBLE – because Reintegration grants are dedicated for Slovak nationals who have worked in the third countries.

ELIGIBLE for Incoming grant where is no limitation for nationality and for foreign country where the main activity has been carried out (except Slovakia) prior the application submission.

Example No. 2:

An American researcher working at UCLA (California) who has been for three stays at Slovak university (1. – 4 months in 2018, 2. – 3 months in 2018, 3. – 6 months in 2019) is applying for Incoming grant in November 2020.

NON-ELIGIBLE – because he spent in Slovakia more than 12 months in last 3 years before the application submission.

Example No. 3:

A Researcher obtained her first PhD in November 2004 and applies for Incoming grant in November 2020. Researcher spent 12 months on maternity leave (January 2006 – December 2006) with her child born on January 2006. Researcher provided to SASPRO2 team relevant supporting documents on maternity leave.

ELIGIBLE – Eligible are researchers up to 15 years after obtaining their first PhD or equivalent degree, but on basis of provided supporting documents, the effective elapsed time for eligibility will be considered by SASPRO2 team reduced by relevant number of months spent on maternity/paternity leave for each child born after the PhD award.

Example No. 4:

A Researcher having a permanent contract at SAS institute for 8 months prior to application submission for Incoming grant in November 2020.



NON-ELIGIBLE - Researchers that are already permanently employed by entity where the research training activities takes place and that is recruiting them may not be supported.

### **Eligibility criteria for application**

A complete application consists of:

Part A – Proposal and Applicant Information; Scan version of the PhD. or equivalent diploma; Documentation for requested extension of the eligibility window; Recommendation letters (not mandatory, recommended are 2 uploads - one current employer and one from the last employer); CV (to be uploaded into online system, template available on website under downloads)

Part B – Host Organisation;

Part C – Research Project (to be uploaded into online system, template available on website under downloads);

Part D – Budget (automatically filled by the online system);

Part E – Ethical Issues (to be uploaded into online system, template available on website under downloads);

Part F – Confirmation of data correctness/truthfulness (form available in the online system).

### **Eligibility criteria for project**

Whole application must be written **in English**, submitted via **online system** before **deadline**. **Completeness** of application is another eligible criterion; it must contain all required parts, annexes and information, as they are described.

In the best effort to present only the research and your capacity to perform it to the review panel, proposal should be presented in a neutral manner. Therefore, you should avoid giving personal details such as gender, age or nationality. First names in publications can be listed as a single letter, e.g. A. Fox, to de-gender them.

**No restrictions** in scientific fields are set. Scientific orientation of host organisation can be the only limitation. Research topic shall be chosen freely by researcher.

**Ethical issues** may restrict some research areas and exclude them from funding. Please refer to How to apply.



**Secondment** - all applicants are highly recommended to plan in their research proposal a possible secondment placement. If a company is not defined, at least the type of company needs to be defined at this stage. Specific secondment organisation will be chosen and contracted during the negotiating period with selected candidates. Maximum length of 3 year project is 3 months, 2 year project is 2 months and 1 year project is one month secondment placement. During the application phase is a secondment selection voluntary, concrete company or organisation will be chosen during negotiating process with applicants recommended for funding.

### **Eligibility criteria for host organisation**

All **SAS scientific organisations and CU and STU Faculties** are eligible host organisations. They are divided into three scientific divisions according to their research orientation:

- I. Scientific Section: Physical, Space, Earth and Engineering Sciences
- II. Scientific Section: Life, Chemical, Medical and Environmental Sciences
- III. Scientific Section: Social Sciences, Humanities, Arts and Culture

The Programme SASPRO 2 partners are mostly located in the capital city Bratislava. Some host organisations are also located in different regions and cities of Slovak Republic that allows free decision of fellows where to realize their research. List of the Host Organisations is in the Annex I. and on [SASPRO 2 website](#).

In order to choose the right host organisation out of 70 potential host organisations, we advise applicants to check first websites of all host organisations by scientific section. Another possibility is also to contact your chosen host organisation or scientist in charge. This will allow you to find out more information on whether your project can be carried out within the selected organisation (necessary infrastructure, topic of research project is within the research focus of chosen host organisation etc.).

### **3. HOW TO APPLY**

- Application is prepared and submitted by the applicant, application is written in English (text must be comprehensible. In case of doubts consider proof-reading by a native speaker before submitting)

- Each applicant may submit one application per call. Resubmissions for later calls are encouraged.
- Application must be submitted via the online system available on the Programme SASPRO 2 [website](#). Applications submitted in other ways (by post, personally, etc.) will not be taken in consideration and will not be evaluated.
- All documents must be uploaded as a PDF file using the template available on the website. **Templates must be strictly followed.** Instructions are included in each of the templates to assist you when writing your proposal to make sure you include all the necessary information required.

Part of the Application	How to prepare the application
<b>Part A – proposal and applicant Information; scan version of the PhD. or equivalent diploma; documentation for requested extension of the eligibility window; recommendation letters (not mandatory, recommended are 2 uploads - one current employer and one from the last employer); CV</b>	Online - <b>CV Download template</b> → complete it → convert to PDF → upload it
<b>Part B – Host Organisation</b>	Online - applicant chooses freely its host organisation and scientist in charge from list provided in the online system, if you are not decided, please contact SASPRO 2 admin team for advice.
<b>Part C – Research Project</b>	<b>Download template</b> → complete it → convert to PDF → upload it
<b>Part D – Budget</b>	<b>Pre-filled by the system</b>
<b>Part E – Ethical Issues</b>	If you answer any of the questions YES – download template and upload it into our online system.
<b>Part F – Confirmation of data correctness/truthfulness</b>	Online form

**Call deadline** which is specified on the SASPRO 2 Programme [website](#) is absolutely firm and is strictly kept. Applications must be submitted on or before this deadline. Online system will be closed at the deadline and after this moment access to the system will not be possible.

### **Step by step**

1. Check if you comply with eligibility criteria given for applicant.
2. Choose one of the Host organisations. In case the host organisation doesn't match your criteria, please contact SASPRO 2 team.
3. Read CAREFULLY all documents necessary to prepare and submit your application.
4. Download all necessary templates. **Templates must be strictly followed.**
5. Register yourself to the online system for application submission.
6. Double check your application to comply all requirements.
7. You can gradually fill and upload documents, please make sure you press button SAVE.
8. Once completed and double checked, make sure you submit your application by pressing submit  button.

## **4. FINANCIAL REGIME**

Successful fellows will be offered fixed-term employment contract from the host organisation for the duration of the fellowship. The employment contract will remain valid during any secondment conducted during the fellowship.

**Living allowance** – the researcher's salary is set in accordance with applicable laws and regulations of the Slovak Republic which involves the usual wage deductions (social security, health insurance contribution) of both, the employer and the employee including statutory tax deductions.

<b>Monthly living allowance – fixed amount depending on the professional experience</b>	
<b>0 - 5 year of experience after obtaining PhD.</b>	€ 3336 per month (full-time)
<b>6 - 10 years of experience after obtaining PhD.</b>	€ 3792 per month (full-time)
<b>11 - 15 years of experience after obtaining PhD.</b>	€ 4242 per month (full-time)

**Note:** that monthly living allowance is fixed and it corresponds to the length of your professional experience on the application submission day. It remains the same during whole fellowship. The salary is a subject to social, health and tax deductions

**Note:**

1. applicants with PhD. title received within period shorter than 11 years prior to the deadline of proposal submission fall into 2nd category.
2. applicants with PhD. title received within period longer than 15 years prior to the deadline of proposal submission are not eligible.

<b>Mobility allowance – a contribution to cover partially or totally increased costs associated with mobility of a researcher</b>	<b>Fixed amount of €500 per month will be paid together with the salary and therefore it will be subject to all necessary deductions and taxation</b>
<b>Family allowance – contribution to additional costs for fellows with child/children</b>	<b>Fixed amount of €500 per month paid together with the salary. It will be determined during the negotiation phase and a possibility to revise this amount during the project's execution</b>

In justified cases of researchers with additional special needs, an additional allowance will be provided: amount of up to €500 per month (according to the documents of the European Commission. 0,2% of researchers are those with special needs and half of these need additional financial support).

**Contribution to research cost associated with scientific activities of the researcher to cover “non – investment” expenditures. These include: consumables, supplies, equipment, travel and lodging costs connected to conference attendance, etc.**

<b>Laboratory based research projects*</b>	<b>€800 per person – month (fixed amount)</b>
<b>Non – laboratory based research projects</b>	<b>€400 per person – month (fixed amount)</b>

*\*laboratory based research project – research done in a laboratory. A laboratory study may use special equipment and cells or animals to find out if a drug, procedure, or treatment is likely to be useful in human. It may also be a part of a clinical trial, such as when blood or other samples are collected.*

**Overheads** - €600 per person-month for the direct eligible costs. Indirect costs are all those eligible costs which cannot be identified by the host organisation as being directly attributed to the project but which can be identified and justified by its accounting system as being incurred in direct relationship with the eligible direct costs attributed to the project, e. g. costs related to general administration and management; costs of office or laboratory space, including rent or depreciation of buildings and equipment, and related expenditure such as water, heating, electricity, etc.

Expenses related to activities that occur outside the funding term are not eligible under the fellowship. Detailed information will be provided during negotiation process.

### Examples of Budget

Example No. 1: Single applicant, 4 years after gaining PhD. diploma, research project is an experimental in the lab – laboratory project.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Person/month</b>
<b>1a.</b> Living allowance	€ 3 336
<b>1b.</b> Mobility allowance	€ 500
<i>Super gross salary</i>	<i>€ 3 836*</i>
<i>Approximate net salary</i>	<i>€ 1 990</i>
<b>2a.</b> Research costs - laboratory project	€ 800
<b>2b.</b> Indirect costs	€ 600
<b>Total cost per fellowship</b>	<b>€ 5 236</b>

*\*super gross salary, subject to social welfare and tax deduction*

Example No. 2: Married applicant with children under 26 years old, PhD. Diploma received 12 years ago. The research project of the applicant is theoretical – no experimental work in the lab.

Category	Person/month
<b>1a.</b> Living allowance	€ 3 792
<b>1b.</b> Mobility allowance	€ 500
<b>1c.</b> Family allowance	€ 500
<b>Super gross salary</b>	<b>€ 4 792*</b>
<i>Approximate net salary</i>	€ 2 301
<b>2a.</b> Research costs - non laboratory project	€ 400
<b>2b.</b> Indirect costs	€ 600
<b>Total cost per fellowship</b>	<b>€ 5 792</b>

*\*super gross salary, subject to social welfare and tax deduction*

Example No. 3: Applicant with children under 26 years old, PhD. Diploma received 14 years ago. The research project consists of laboratory and experimental work in the lab.

Category	Person/month
<b>1a.</b> Living allowance	€ 4 242
<b>1b.</b> Mobility allowance	€ 500
<b>1c.</b> Family allowance	€ 500
<b>Super gross salary</b>	<b>€ 5 242*</b>
<i>Approximate net salary</i>	€ 2 797
<b>2a.</b> Research costs - laboratory project	€ 800
<b>2b.</b> Indirect costs	€ 600
<b>Total cost per fellowship</b>	<b>€ 6 642</b>

*\*super gross salary, subject to social welfare and tax deduction*

**Note:** Super gross salary is subject of tax and other deductions. Items No. 1a., 1b. create the salary base (living allowance, mobility allowance), family allowance shall be received only by the applicants with family obligations (children under 26 years old). Please note that items 2a, 2b. will be transferred directly to the host organisation. For further details on gross and net salary, check: <http://www.slovataxcalculator.com/en/Home.alej>

## Part E – Ethical Issues

In particular, you should explain the benefit and burden of the experiments and the effects these may have on the research subject. Applicants should take time to consider the benefit/burden balance of each part of the project; consider the impact of the research, not only in terms of scientific advancement, but also in terms of human dignity and social and

cultural impact; consider elements such as the ethics and social impact of the research and whether there is a balance between the objectives and the means.

The following special issues should be taken into account:

- Human embryo/foetus, human cells/tissues
- Human biological samples and data
- Personal data (privacy and data protection)
- Research on animals
- Research in developing countries
- Environmental, health and safety
- Dual and misuse

If relevant, identify the countries where research will be undertaken and which ethical committees and regulatory organisations will need to be approached during the life of the project. If your project does include any of the above mentioned issues we strongly recommend you read more information on this issue on Participant Portal H2020 Ethics section:

[https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/ethics\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/ethics_en.htm)

#### *E.1 Ethics Issues Table*

<b>1. Human Embryo/Foetus</b>		
Does the proposed research involve Human Embryonic Stems Cells (hESCs)?	Yes	No
Does the proposed research involve human Embryo?	Yes	No
Does the proposed research involve human Foetal Tissues/Cells?	Yes	No
<b>2. Humans</b>		
Does the proposed research involve human participants?	Yes	No
Does the proposed research involve physical interventions on the study participants?	Yes	No
<b>3. Human cells/tissues</b>		
Does your research involve human cells or tissues (other from Human Embryos/Foetus, i.e. section 1)?	Yes	No
<b>4. Personal Data</b>		
Does your research involve personal data collection and/or processing?	Yes	No
Does your research involve further processing of previously collected personal data (secondary use)?	Yes	No
<b>5. Animals</b>		
Does your research involve animals?	Yes	No
<b>6. Third countries</b>		
In case non-EU countries are involved, do the research related activities	Yes	No

undertaken in these countries raise potential ethics issues?		
Do you plan to use local resources (e.g. animal and/or human tissues samples, genetic material, live animals, human remains, materials of historical value, endangered fauna or flora samples, etc.)?	Yes	No
Do you plan to import any material – including personal data – from non-EU countries into the EU?	Yes	No
Do you plan to export any materials – including personal data – from the EU to non-EU countries?	Yes	No
In case your research involves low and/or lower middle income countries are any benefits-sharing actions planned?	Yes	No
Could the situation in the country put the individuals taking part in the research at risk?	Yes	No
<b>7. Environment &amp; Health and Safety</b>		
Does your research involve the use of elements that may cause harm to the environment, to animals or plants?	Yes	No
Does your research deal with endangered fauna and/or flora and/or protected areas?	Yes	No
Does your research involve the use of elements that may cause harm to humans, including research staff?	Yes	No
<b>8. Dual Use</b>		
Does your research involve dual-use items in the sense of Regulation 428/2009, or other items for which and authorization is required?	Yes	No
<b>9. Exclusive focus on civil applications</b>		
Could your research raise concerns regarding the exclusive focus on civil applications?	Yes	No
<b>10. Misuse</b>		
Does your research have the potential for misuse of research results?	Yes	No
<b>11. Other ethics issues</b>		
Are there any other ethics issues that should be taken into consideration? Please specify	Yes	No

I confirm that I have taken into account all ethics issues described above and that, if any ethics issues apply, I will complete the ethics self-assessment and attach the required documents.



If you answered “YES” to any of the questions above, you must provide additional information about how these issues will be addressed in your research. Ethical issues template is downloadable from the webpage – section Downloads – Documents needed for application.

[https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants\\_manual/hi/ethics/h2020\\_hi\\_ethics-self-assess\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/ethics/h2020_hi_ethics-self-assess_en.pdf)

#### Part F – Confirmation of data correctness/truthfulness

1. You confirm that the information and details provided, and other information relating to your formal application for fellowship, are correct.
2. You understand that any false information or misrepresentation would result in your application being disqualified or, if appointed, could lead to your dismissal without notice.

#### 5. EVALUATION AND SELECTION

Applications are evaluated in two rounds of evaluation.

In the first round are considered the eligibility criteria of the applicant and application. Meeting the eligibility criteria is assessed by authorized personnel of SAS, STU, CU Universities depending on which host organisation the application has been submitted. The elaborated proposals shall be evaluated by respective committees which shall decide on them.

The first round evaluation results are sent via email to e-mail addresses given by applicants and are also available for each candidate after logging into the system. The part of the first round evaluation results is also the information about correction option (*redress*) where the applicant may remove small formal mistakes that were listed in the announcement. However, in the process of *redress* is not possible to change the contents of a research project or making significant changes in the application.

Applications that were evaluated as successful in the first round pass forward to the second round of evaluation. In the second round at least three independent external evaluators assess each application in accordance with the criteria stipulated in Article IX of the Statute which represents 80% of total evaluation. The remaining 20% constitutes an interview.

Table No. 1: Evaluation criteria and its weighting

<b>Project Excellence (50%)</b>	<b>Impact (30%)</b>	<b>Quality and efficiency of Implementation (20%)</b>
Quality and credibility of the research/innovation project; level of novelty, appropriate consideration of inter/multidisciplinary, inter/multi -sectoral and gender aspects	Enhancing the future career prospects of the researcher after the fellowships	Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan
Quality and appropriateness of the training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host organisation	Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results	Appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources
Capacity of the researcher to reach or re-enforce a position of professional maturity/independence during the fellowships*	Quality of the proposed measures to communicate the project activities to different target audiences including prospects for responsible research and innovations	Appropriateness of the management structure and procedures, including risk management
	Potential for cooperation with the application sector	Appropriateness of the institutional environment (research topics, projects, infrastructure, resources) for the given project**
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b><i>Priority in case of ex aequo</i></b>		
<b>An overall threshold of 70% will be applied to the total weighted score.</b>		

\* To consider the capacity of the researcher to reach or re-enforce a position of professional maturity/independence, the following items will be taken into the consideration: (1) previous achievements of the researcher, in terms of publication activity, leadership, and independent thinking; (2) the match between the researcher background and the scope of the proposed research and training program.

\*\* Since the Participating Organisations are comprised from 70 potential host organisations which are freely chosen by the applicants it is necessary to assess the match between the proposed project and host organisation and the adequacy of institutional environment in order to assess feasibility of the project at given host organisation.

Each of the criteria evaluators assign a score of 0 to 5. Scores are awarded with a resolution of one decimal place. The verbal description of assigned points is given in the following table:

Table No 2 numerical score definition

<b>0</b>	The proposal fails to address the criterion under examination or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information.
<b>1</b>	Poor. The criterion is addressed in inadequate manner or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
<b>2</b>	Fair. While the proposal broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses.
<b>3</b>	Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well, although a number of shortcomings is present.
<b>4</b>	Very well. The proposal addresses the criterion very well, although a small number of shortcomings is present.
<b>5</b>	Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor.

Score is assigned only to main criteria, not to sub-criteria. They serve to evaluators for a better estimation of the main criteria; they also can help applicants in preparing the application, if necessary.

For this part of evaluation a threshold of 70% was determined, which determines the minimum of the score that the application must achieve so that it may pass forward into further part of evaluation, which is an interview.

Besides the score assigning the evaluators also comment in writing on each criterion. The score and evaluations are background for consensual opinion elaborated by the application Rapporteur.

On basis of evaluators' opinions are rejected applicants whose applications in the evaluation have not reached the specified threshold. Other applicants whose applications reached the specified threshold for all criteria will be invited for personal interview during the Evaluation Committee session. The interview makes 20% of total application evaluation. The consensual opinion (80%) altogether with interview evaluation (20%) will consequently serve as feedback for applicants so that they are familiar with weaknesses and strengths of their project.

The final evaluation of each applicant is calculated in ratio: 80% of evaluator's consensus, and 20% evaluation of interview by respective evaluation committee. In case applicants are

not invited for interview the final evaluation will be that following from evaluators consensus (0 – 56%).

On basis of final evaluation the committees split application into individual categories:

Table No. 3 Categories classification

<b>A</b>	<b>Applications recommended for funding.</b> Applications are placed within the allowed budget. Applicants whose applications were placed in this category will be invited to the negotiation.
<b>B</b>	<b>Applications on the reserve list.</b> Funding is available in such case if the applications of A category are withdrawn by applicants or the agreement shall not be reached during negotiation. Applicants will be kept informed.
<b>C</b>	<b>Applications of sufficient quality.</b> Applications reached a specified threshold for all criteria, but their funding is impossible due to limited budget. These applications will be rejected.
<b>D</b>	<b>Applications of poor quality.</b> Applications have not reached the given limit in one or more of the criteria. These applications will be rejected.
<b>E</b>	<b>Not rated/evaluated applications.</b> These applications were not assessed during the second round of evaluation.

Proposal to class the applications into individual categories approves Presidium of SAS according to individual Committees proposals. When deciding, Presidium of SAS takes into account proportional representation of the applications of individual Committees in A category.

It is possible to appeal against decision of SAS Presidium about classifying applications into individual categories. The SASPRO 2 Programme Appeal Committee shall deal with appeal in compliance with the Statute of the Appeal Committee.

In case you would like to use the appeal procedure, please follow the instructions in Appeal Request Form, which is downloadable from the webpage (<https://saspro2.sav.sk/indexEn.html>) section Downloads – General documents – SASPRO 2 Programme – Appeal Request Form.

Success ratio, i.e. the ratio of funded applications to submitted applications total number cannot be higher than 50%. Applicants will be informed about the evaluation results via e-mail, publishing the results in the system, as well as on the SASPRO 2 Programme website.

Applications which have been classified into categories A and B will be discussed by the Ethics Committee for SASPRO 2 Programme concerning ethical issues that may arise from the project proposal. SAS, STU and CU Universities may, on a proposal from the SASPRO 2



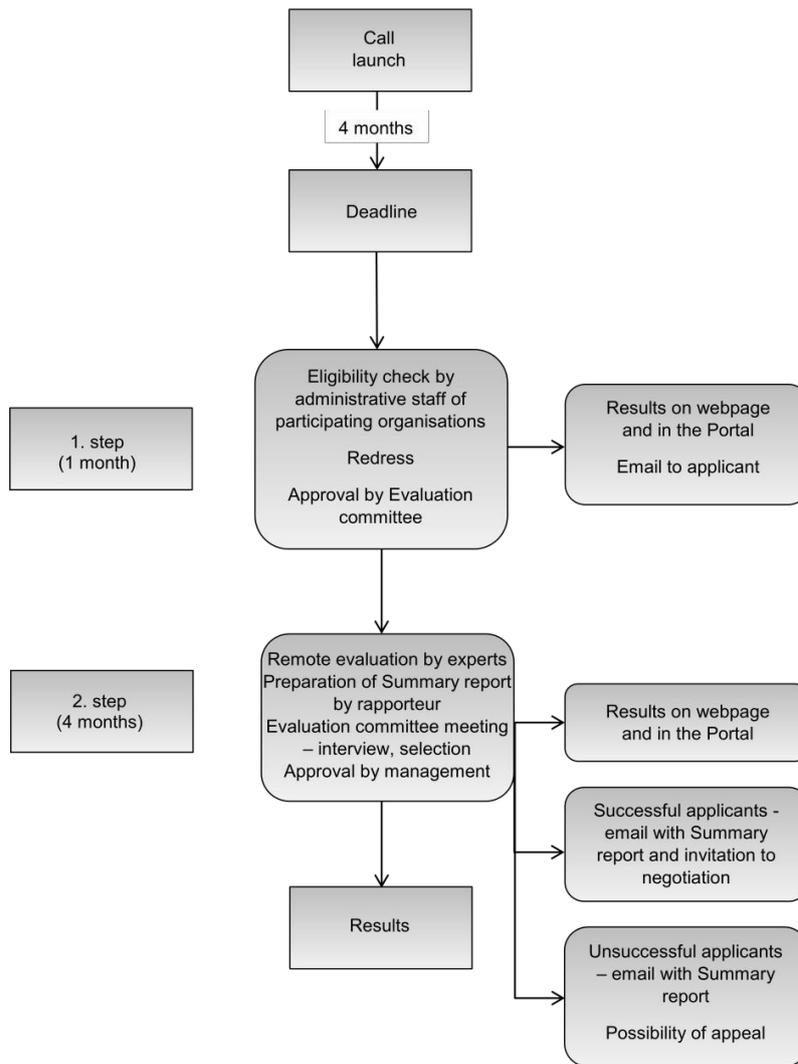
Programme Ethics Committee, require that applicant shall submit the necessary permits and other needed documents issued by the Slovak authorities regarding project ethical issues.

Table No. 4: Number of calls

Call	Open from to
First call	2. 11. 2020 – 1. 3. 2021
Second call	3. 5. 2021 – 31. 8. 2021
Third call	1. 10. 2021 – 31. 1. 2022

**DEADLINE FOR ALL CALLS IS 5 pm/17:00 CET (Central European Time).**

Table No. 5: Evaluation timeline



Attachment:

## ANNEX I. - LIST OF HOST ORGANISATIONS DIVIDED BY SCIENTIFIC SECTIONS

Scientific Section 1 (Physical, Space, Earth and Engineering Sciences)

Partner Organisations	Name of the Host Organisations
SAS	Astronomical Institute SAS
SAS	Earth Science Institute SAS
SAS	Institute of Geography SAS
SAS	Institute of Hydrology SAS
SAS	Centre for advanced material application SAS
SAS	Institute of Physics SAS
SAS	Mathematical Institute SAS
SAS	Institute of Experimental Physics SAS
SAS	Institute of Electrical Engineering SAS
SAS	Institute of Geotechnics SAS
SAS	Institute of Informatics SAS
SAS	Institute of Materials and Machine Mechanics SAS
SAS	Institute of Materials Research SAS
SAS	Institute of Measurement Science SAS
SAS	Institute of Construction and Architecture SAS
CU	Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics
STU	Faculty of Architecture and Design
STU	Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology
STU	Faculty of Informatics and Information Technologies
STU	Faculty of Materials Science and Technology in Trnava
STU	STU Centre for Nanodiagnostic
STU	Faculty of Mechanical Engineering
STU	Faculty of Civil Engineering

Scientific Section 2 (Life, Medical and Environmental Sciences)

<b>Partner Organisations</b>	<b>Name of the Host Organisations</b>
SAS	Biomedical Research Centre SAS
SAS	Centre of Experimental Medicine SAS
SAS	Institute of Neuroimmunology SAS
SAS	Centre of Biosciences SAS
SAS	Institute of Chemistry SAS
SAS	Institute of Inorganic Chemistry SAS
SAS	Institute of Molecular Biology SAS
SAS	Polymer Institute SAS
SAS	Institute of Zoology SAS
SAS	Plant Science and Biodiversity Center SAS
SAS	Institute of Parasitology SAS
SAS	Institute of Forest Ecology SAS
SAS	Institute of Landscape Ecology SAS
CU	Faculty of Pharmacy CU
CU	Jessenius Faculty of Medicine CU
CU	Science Park CU
CU	Faculty of Natural Sciences
CU	Faculty of Medicine CU
STU	Faculty of Chemical and Food Technology STU

Scientific Section 3 (Social Sciences, Humanities, Arts and Culture)

<b>Partner Organisations</b>	<b>Name of the Host Organisations</b>
SAS	Institute of Archaeology SAS
SAS	Institute of History SAS
SAS	Institute of Ethnology and Social Anthropology SAS
SAS	Centre of Social and Psychological Sciences SAS
SAS	Institute of Economic Research SAS
SAS	Institute of Philosophy SAS
SAS	Institute for Sociology SAS
SAS	Institute of Political Sciences SAS
SAS	Institute of State and Law SAS
SAS	Institute for Research in Social Communication SAS
SAS	Art Research Centre of SAS
SAS	Ludovit Stur Institute of Linguistics SAS
SAS	Jan Stanislav Institute of Slavistics SAS
SAS	Institute of Musicology SAS
SAS	Institute of Oriental Studies SAS
SAS	Institute of Slovak Literature SAS
SAS	Institute of World Literature SAS
CU	Evangelical Lutheran Theological Faculty CU
CU	Faculty of Arts CU
CU	Faculty of Education CU
CU	Faculty of Law CU
CU	Faculty of Management CU
CU	Faculty of Physical Education and Sport CU
CU	Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences CU
CU	Roman Catholic Faculty of Theology CU
STU	Institute of Management STU