

# **Terms and Conditions for International Grant Projects Evaluated by Lead Agency – 2027**

**These terms and conditions (hereinafter “Rules”) shall  
apply to projects in which GACR is the Lead Agency**

## Preamble

Established and operating pursuant to Act No. 130/2002, on Funding for Research, Experimental Development and Innovation from Public Funds and on the Amendment to Certain Related Acts (the Research and Development Act or “R&D Act”), as amended, in keeping with the National Policy for Research, Development and Innovation of the Czech Republic, pursuant to other legislation of the Czech Republic and the European Union rules and regulations governing State Aid for research, development and innovation, with the objective to provide funding to top basic research projects in the Czech Republic, and on the basis of agreements with partner agencies, **Grantová agentura České republiky** (“GACR” or the “Czech Science Foundation”) hereby makes this Call for Proposals for Grant Projects in basic research, and subsequently grants the funding for such projects.

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## 1. PURPOSE OF THESE RULES

(1) These Rules of International Grant Projects (hereinafter “Rules”) evaluated by Lead Agency (hereinafter “LA Grants”) have been drawn up pursuant to the provisions of Section 7 (4) of Act No. 130/2002, and comprise the set of documents and information required for drawing up and submitting a Grant Project Proposal under the group of **International Grant Projects Evaluated by Lead Agency** (code GF under the Information System for Research, Experimental Development and Innovation), and shall apply where the Czech Science Foundation is the Lead Agency.

(2) On the basis of individual agreements made by and between the Czech Science Foundation and the individual partner agencies abroad, and following the consensus between and among the partner agencies and foundations abroad (hereinafter “Partner Agency”), and pursuant to Section 2 of its Charter<sup>1</sup>, the Czech Science Foundation provides Targeted Aid pursuant to Act No. 130/2002 for international projects.

(3) Within the LA Grants, the agencies and foundations (“Providers”) from the participating countries pool their efforts and funds to finance joint projects enabling the involvement of scientific teams from their respective countries in international cooperation on promising and interdisciplinary topics, and present-day scientific trends. Each of the Providers only funds those parts of joint international projects which are carried out by organizations (individuals as well as scientific teams) domiciled in their respective countries (the Czech part of the Project vs. the part carried out in the Partner Country). In order to stipulate the rules of funding the parts of a joint, international project of a participating country, the legislation, internal guidelines, and policies applicable to such Provider, shall apply.

(4) These Rules use the terminology laid down by Act No. 130/2002; if any terminology in these Rules is being clarified, such clarification shall be considered an informative and explanatory interpretation only.

Any use of the masculine gender refers to individuals regardless of their gender identity.

(5) The rights and obligations of the Provider and the Organization, i.e. Beneficiary, shall be governed by the provisions of Act No. 130/2002, Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market pursuant to Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty, Official Journal of the EU L 187 of 26 June 2014, as amended (hereinafter the “Regulation”), and the Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation 2022/C 414/01 of 28 October 2022 (hereinafter the “Framework”), and the National Research, Development and Innovation Policy of the Czech Republic for 2021+, approved by the Government of the Czech Republic on 20 July 2020 through Resolution No. 759 (hereinafter the “National Policy”), and the pertinent cooperation agreement.

(6) These Rules are published on the website of the Czech Science Foundation at <https://www.gacr.cz> for the duration of the Call for Proposals and the evaluation period.

(7) This document is a translation of the Rules as published in the Czech language. In the event of any omission, inconsistency, or discrepancy between the translation and the original Czech text, including Annexes, exhibits, headings and footnotes, the original Czech text shall always prevail.

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<sup>1</sup> The Charter of the Czech Science Foundation is available at <https://www.gacr.cz/>.

## 2. INFORMATION ON THE GROUP OF GRANT PROJECTS

The group of **International Grant Projects Evaluated by Lead Agency (“LA Grants”)** identified by the code “GF”, approved by Government Resolution No. 572 of 31 July 2013, as amended by Government Resolution No. 736 of 14 October 2019, is aimed at basic research projects. The evaluations of Grant Project Proposals shall be conducted on the basis of the individual cooperation agreements made by and between the individual partner grant agencies, i.e. they shall be international evaluations pursuant to Section 7 (4) of the Act on Funding for Research, Experimental Development, and Innovation, i.e. the selection of Projects shall be conducted internationally. As part of the “Weave” initiative, bilateral and trilateral Projects may be submitted. An international project must include the elements of well-founded cooperation between teams, the added value of joint research, and the scientific work of both teams must be interlinked closely.

“Weave” does not define the criteria to determine which agency will be “Lead” – such decision is at the discretion of the applying Organization and the international scientific team.

In calls published in cooperation with the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF), NSF is always the Lead Agency and GACR is the Partner Agency.

### 2.1. Basic Information and Definition of Terms

(1) **Grant Project** within the LA Projects group shall be understood as a basic research project in which the Organization sets its own aims and methods in the scientific fields defined by the Charter of the Czech Science Foundation (the breakdown of those fields into Evaluation Panels is listed in Annex 1 to these Rules):

- a) technical sciences;
- b) physical sciences;
- c) medical and biological sciences;
- d) social sciences and humanities;
- e) agricultural and biological-environmental sciences.

(2) **Basic research** shall mean theoretical or experimental work conducted primarily with the aim to acquire new knowledge on the basic principles of phenomena or observable facts, without a particular focus on application or use in practice.

(3) **Grant Project Proposal** (hereinafter “Project Proposal”) is a comprehensive set of documents containing a proposal of the material, time, and financial conditions for the activities necessary to achieve the Grant Project aims as defined by the Organization, which are necessary for the evaluation of the Proposal’s scholarly benefit, quality, and feasibility. The Project Proposal also contains further information, as necessary for the provision of aid (Grant Funding), required as per these Rules and the related legislation.

(4) **Research Organization** (hereinafter “Organization”) shall mean a legal entity, an “organizational unit of the State” (governmental agency), or self-governing territorial unit, or an agency of the Ministry of Defence or Ministry of the Interior, which is engaged in research and experimental development, and which is applying for the provision of Targeted Aid (Grant Funds or

Grant Funding) by submitting a Project Proposal. The participation of Organizations based outside of the Czech Republic is governed by the provisions of Section (18) (11) of Act No. 130/2002.

(5) **Research Co-organization** (hereinafter “Co-organization”) shall mean a legal entity, an “organizational unit of the State” (governmental agency), or self-governing territorial unit, or an agency of the Ministry of Defence or Ministry of the Interior, which is engaged in research and experimental development, and which is responsible to the Organization for part of the Project Proposal, and is applying for provision of Targeted Aid. The participation of the Co-organization in the Grant Project must be defined in the Project Proposal. Such participation of Co-organizations based outside the Czech Republic is governed by the provisions of Section (18) (11) of Act No. 130/2002. A Co-organization must be an entity separate from the Organization (if it is a legal entity, it must have a different registration number).

(6) **Applicant** (or **Co-applicant**) shall mean the natural person responsible to the Organization (or Co-organization) for the professional quality of the Project Proposal; they must be employed, or in a similar relationship (but not in a labour-law relationship based on an agreement on work performed outside of employment, i.e. “employment-like agreements”) with the Organization (Co-organization) from the date the project is launched or, exceptionally, such relationship must be established within 4 months of the launch of the Grant Project, or within 4 months of the date the Agreement on Grant Funding takes force and effect, or within 4 months of the date the Decision on Grant Funding is issued. Each Project Proposal must include an individual identified as the Applicant (Co-applicant). Once the Agreement is executed or a Decision on Grant Funding is issued, the Applicant (Co-applicant) shall become the **Principal Investigator** (hereinafter “Investigator”) or (**Co-investigator**) of the Grant Project. The Applicant shall also act as the **Coordinating Applicant** of the entire international Project team within the meaning of the pertinent cooperation agreement.

The **Partner-Country Applicant** (and subsequently Partner-Country Investigator) shall mean a natural person in the Partner Country responsible for the scientific quality of his or her part of the Project Proposal which is submitted as a Request for Funding in the Call for Proposals published by the Partner Agency on the basis of the international agreement signed by and between such Partner Agency and the Czech Science Foundation. The Partner-Country Applicant (and subsequently Partner-Country Investigator) must not be employed, within the meaning of Part II of the Labour Code, at any Czech institution. The Partner-Country Investigator shall also act as the **Corresponding Applicant** within the meaning of the pertinent cooperation agreement.

(7) **Beneficiary** shall mean an Organization in whose favour a decision has been made to provide Targeted Aid (Grant Funds or Grant Funding) to carry out a Grant Project, and with whom the Provider has executed the Agreement on Grant Funding, or in whose favour a Decision on Grant Funding has been made. Pursuant to article 1 (5) a) of the Regulation, a Beneficiary based outside the Czech Republic is required to have a branch or an establishment registered in the Czech Republic on or before the date of the first remittance of the funding.

(8) **Co-beneficiary** shall mean a Co-organization whose participation in the Grant Project is defined in the Project Proposal, and with whom the Organization executes an Agreement on Participation in the Grant Project following the award of funding to the Project. Pursuant to article 1 (5) (a) of the Regulation, a Beneficiary based outside the Czech Republic is required to have a branch or an establishment in the Czech Republic on or before the date of the first remittance of the funding.

(9) **Professional Collaborators** (members of a research team) are additional natural persons (individuals) who are to take part in a Grant Project as scientists. They shall be identified by name in the Project Proposal.

Should any other Professional Collaborators (students or postdocs) participate in carrying out a Grant Project as scientists, this fact is to be included in the Project Proposal and in both the Interim and Final Reports. In the Project Proposal, it is possible to fill these individuals in under shortcuts as S1, ..., Sn, or PD1, ..., PDn, respectively (**student** shall mean a person enrolled in the specific academic year of study pursuant to Section 61 of Act No. 111/1998<sup>2</sup>; a **postdoc** shall mean a person who completed a Ph.D. degree or its equivalent no more than 8 years before the date of the project launch; any Career break as defined in Article 2. 1. (17) of these Rules and any long-term sick leave of at least 6 months shall not count towards this 8-year period. Equal opportunity trends must be implemented in the formation of Project teams.

(10) **Other collaborators** (e.g. technical staff) are other natural persons who are not identified by name in the Project Proposal, and who will participate in supporting activities required to carry out the Grant Project.

(11) **Targeted Aid (subsidy, Grant Funds, Grant Funding)** for carrying out a Grant Project is provided in the form of a subsidy to legal entities, or may cover an increase in the expenditures of governmental agencies or self-governing territorial units, or agencies of the Ministry of Defence, or the Ministry of the Interior, which are engaged in research and experimental development, following the evaluation of Project Proposals and the satisfaction of the terms and conditions laid down by Act No. 130/2002. Targeted Aid (Grant Funding) is designated solely to cover approved costs.

(12) **Approved costs** shall mean the eligible costs or expenditures<sup>3</sup> as approved by the Provider, and as defined in the Agreement or Decision on Grant Funding to carry out the Grant Project.

(13) **Items of Basic Structure** shall mean the basic categories of approved costs, i.e. personnel costs, investment costs, and material costs.

(14) **Proportion of Funding from Provider** expresses the amount of public aid (Grant Funding) provided by the Provider as a percentage of the total approved costs. Pursuant to Act No. 130/2002 and the Regulation, the maximum permitted proportion of funding is 100% of the approved costs.

(15) **Provider** of aid (Funding) for carrying out Grant Projects shall mean the Czech Republic – Grantová agentura České republiky (“GACR” or “Czech Science Foundation”) (hereinafter “GACR”), a governmental agency, Reg. No. 48549037, with its seat at Evropská 2589/33b, 160 00 Prague 6, Czech Republic.

(16) **Research data** shall mean information, other than scientific publications, in electronic form that is collected or generated in the course of research or development, and used as evidence in the research or development process or data that is generally accepted by the research community as necessary to validate the findings and results of research or development.

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<sup>2</sup> Act No. 111/1998, on Higher Education Institutions and on Amendments and Supplements to Certain Other Acts (The Higher Education Act), as amended.

<sup>3</sup> Section 2 (2) (l) of Act No. 130/2002, on the Support of Research and Development from Public Funds and on the Amendment to Certain Related Acts (hereinafter “the R&D Act”), as amended.



(17) For the purposes of these Rules, a **Career break** is defined as a continuous interruption in the scientific career of the Applicant for a period of at least 1 year due to maternity, paternity or parental leave or for the care of a child under 10 years of age or for the care of another dependent. It is permissible to combine the reasons. A female Applicant may demonstrate the period of maternity or parental leave by applying a generalized period of 18 months for each child<sup>4</sup> cared for for at least that period.

## **2.2. Eligibility Requirements for Organizations and how to Demonstrate Eligibility**

(1) **Eligibility** to carry out the proposed Grant Project shall be demonstrated, pursuant to Section (18) (2) of Act No. 130/2002, by the Organization submitting a Project Proposal, as follows:

- a) professional qualifications to carry out the Grant Project pursuant to the provisions Section (18) (2) (a) of Act No. 130/2002, shall be demonstrated by the Organization in the Project Proposal in the section explaining the justification (reasoning) of the Project Proposal. The Provider shall evaluate these qualifications using the criteria given in these Rules, with regard to the nature of the Project Proposal, and the financial volume thereof;
- b) a licence to carry out the activities pursuant to the provisions of Section (18) (2) (b) of Act No. 130/2002, in the form of a business licence or another required licence, is to be submitted by the Organizations which are not a public institution of higher education, as defined in Annex 1 to Act No. 111/1998, nor a public research institution<sup>5</sup>, nor a person/entity established under separate, generally binding legislation or under a published decision; if any other authorisation or licence is required to carry out the Grant Project pursuant to a separate law or regulation<sup>6</sup>, each Organization shall submit such licence or authorisation, notwithstanding its legal form<sup>7</sup>;
- c) eligibility pursuant to the provisions of Section (18) (2) (c) to (f), (h) and (i) and for natural persons also under Section (2) (g) of Act No. 130/2002, shall be demonstrated by the Organization by way of an Affidavit (pursuant to Annex 2 to these Rules). The eligibility pursuant to the provisions of Section (18) (2) (e) and (f) of Act No. 130/2002 in case of legal entities, shall be demonstrated for individuals executing the office of the governing body of the Organization or a member thereof (or all members of the governing body thereof), except for individuals for whom the terms and conditions for executing the office of a governing body, or a member thereof, are stipulated by a separate law or regulation (e.g. Act No. 341/2005, on Public Research Institutions), and are similar to the conditions for eligibility stipulated in the provisions of Section (18) (e) and (f) of Act No. 130/2002.

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<sup>4</sup> The generalized period is only 18 months even in the case of a multiple birth.

<sup>5</sup> Public research institutions established under Act No. 341/2005, On Public Research Institutions, as amended.

<sup>6</sup> E.g. Act No. 246/1992, on the Protection of Animals against Cruelty, as amended; Decree No 419/2012 on the Protection of Laboratory Animals, Act No. 18/1997, on Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy and Ionising Radiation ("Nuclear Act"), as amended, Act No. 263/2016, Nuclear Act, as amended, Act No. 78/2004, on the Use of Genetically Modified Organisms and Genetic Products.

<sup>7</sup> E.g. if a "licence to use laboratory animals" is required to carry out the Grant Project, the Organization must produce such "Licence to Use Laboratory Animals" by the Proposal Submission Deadline (formerly the "accreditation of user equipment") which is in effect at least until the start of the project.



(2) The Organization with which the Agreement on Grant Funding is to be executed, or in favour of which a Decision on Grant Funding is to be issued, must submit a certified copy, not older than 90 calendar days, at the Provider's request, of the constitutive documents, the deed of establishment, deed of incorporation, memorandum of association, or other documents and/or other evidence of establishment or foundation, provided that this information about the Organization cannot be found in any public administration information system.

(3) The Organization with which the Agreement on Grant Funding is to be executed, or in favour of which a Decision on Grant Funding is to be issued, which is not a public institution of higher education, a public research institution, or a person/entity established pursuant to a separate, generally binding law or regulation, or a published decision, shall prove eligibility **before executing the Agreement or before the Decision is issued** pursuant to the provisions of Section (18) (2) (b) of Act No. 130/2002, with a certified copy of the authorisation or licence to carry out the activity<sup>8,9</sup>, not older than 90 calendar days if the Organization intends to perform such activity during the Project.

(4) In addition, the Provider shall request the necessary cooperation from the Organization, consisting of the provision of any data necessary for submitting a request for a copy of a record from the Criminal Register.

(5) Pursuant to provisions under Section (14) (3) of Act No. 218/2000, on Budgetary Rules and on Amendments to Certain Related Acts (hereinafter "Budgetary Rules"), as amended, an Organization which is a legal entity shall submit an affidavit showing the identification of:

- a) individuals acting on its behalf, stating whether they act as the governing body of the Organization, or on the basis of a power of attorney;
- b) individuals who are shareholders in this legal entity; entities in which the Organization is a shareholder, and the percentage of such shareholdings;
- c) the Organisation shall also submit information about the beneficial owner of the legal entity pursuant to the law regulating the registration of beneficial owners<sup>10</sup>, in the form of a complete list of valid information and also information that has been deleted without replacement or replaced with new information if it is a registrant; where the Organisation applying for a grant is a legal entity from outside the Czech Republic, it shall provide evidence of its beneficial owner either by means of a copy of a record from a register of the respective country similar to the Czech register of beneficial owners or, where no such register exists, the Organisation shall provide the identification data of all individuals who are the beneficial owners of the legal entity outside the Czech Republic, and shall submit documents showing the relationship of all persons to the legal entity in question, in particular a copy of a record in that country's register equivalent to a commercial (companies) register, a shareholder list, a decision of a governing body on the payment of

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<sup>8</sup>E.g. Act No. 455/1991, on Trade Licensing (Trade Licensing Act), as amended; Act No. 246/1992, on the protection of animals against cruelty, as amended; Decree No. 419/2012, on the protection of laboratory animals.

<sup>9</sup> E.g. in case the Grant Project requires „authorization to use laboratory animals“, the Applicant must supply „authorization to use laboratory animals“ during the Project Submission Deadline (former accreditation of user equipment), with effect at least until the beginning of carrying out the project.

<sup>10</sup> Act No. 37/2021 on the Register of Beneficial Owners, as amended.

a dividend, a memorandum of association, a memorandum/deed of incorporation, or articles of association.

(6) Should an Organization submit more than one Project Proposal in multiple Calls for Proposals, the eligibility shall be demonstrated for all Project Proposals simultaneously:

- a) pursuant to Article 2.2. (1) and (5) and Article 6 (3) to (7) of these Rules before Project Proposals are submitted; and
- b) pursuant to Article 2.2. (2) to (4) of these Rules before the Agreement on Grant Funding is signed, or before the Decision on Grant Funding is issued.

(7) An Organization based outside the Czech Republic which meets the terms and conditions stipulated in Section (18) (11) of Act No. 130/2002, shall demonstrate its eligibility pursuant to the provisions of Section (18) (2 (b) to (f) by way of an affidavit. In addition, before the Agreement on Grant Funding is executed, such Organization, as a legal entity with its registered seat in a member state of the European Union, must demonstrate that the establishment or the branch of the legal entity located in the Czech Republic meets all eligibility requirements pursuant to the provisions in Section (18) of Act No. 130/2002, in the same way as an Organization based in the Czech Republic would.

(8) Eligibility must be demonstrated to the full extent, i.e. to meet all the requirements for all individuals whose eligibility is to be demonstrated (particularly in case of the governing bodies of legal entities). Failure to demonstrate the eligibility to the full extent or to meet the eligibility terms and conditions shall result in the disqualification of the Project Proposal from the evaluation of Projects.

(9) The standard affidavit forms (documents) as stipulated by Act No. 130/2002 and Act No. 218/2000, are available from the Czech Science Foundation at <https://www.gacr.cz>. The affidavit must be completed in compliance with the instructions and duly signed.

(10) The affidavit, a complete copy of a record in the Register of Beneficial Owners, and other documents as stipulated in Article 2.2 (1) and (5) of these Rules shall be delivered by the Proposal Submission Deadline physically by post or in person to the GACR registry (mail room) located at the address Evropská 2589/33b, 160 00 Prague 6, Czech Republic, in an envelope marked “Eligibility”; or in digital format, signed with a recognized digital signature pursuant to a separate law or regulation<sup>11</sup>, and delivered into the Provider’s data mailbox the address of which is “a8uadk4”.

(11) Organizations which are not public institutions of higher education, public research institutions, or persons/entities established pursuant to a separate, generally binding law or regulation, or a published decision, shall submit a trade licence or another required licence along with the affidavit.

(12) Any other required licence pursuant to a separate law or regulation shall be submitted if so required by the Grant Project. In this case, all Organizations, notwithstanding their legal form, shall submit photocopies of these licences as annexes to the Project Proposal. These annexes shall be enclosed into the Web Application with the Project Proposal; they are not part of the Web App-generated PDF file containing the Project Proposal, and shall not be transferred through the data mailbox.

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<sup>11</sup> Act No. 297/2016, on services creating trust for electronic transactions, as amended.

### **2.3. Project Submission Deadline and Evaluation Period, Announcement of Results, and Expected Date of Project Launch**

(1) The countdown to the Project Submission Deadline (the “submission period”) starts on the day following the day of the publication of the Call for Proposals, and the length of the submission period before the Project Submission Deadline is specified in the terms and conditions for the Call for Proposals.

(2) The Evaluation Period is the period during which the Provider evaluates the Project Proposals, decides on the results, and announces such results. The Evaluation period begins the day following the Project Submission Deadline, and its length is specified in the terms and conditions of the Call for Proposals.

(3) The evaluation of Project Proposals shall end upon the announcement of the results. The Provider shall announce the results on the last day of the Evaluation Period by publishing these results at <https://www.gacr.cz>. The award of the funding to the Project is subject to a confirmation of project funding by the partner organisation.

(4) The duration of the Czech part of the Project is 2 to 3 years. The expected launch date of the LA Grants is 1st January 2027 earliest, or a different date as agreed with the partner agency. The Project duration must be the same in the Czech and international parts of the Project being submitted.

(5) Projects from another group of Grant Projects which are tendered in separate tenders may not be submitted as Proposals for LA Grants.

## **3. TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR PROJECT SUBMISSIONS**

(1) Proposals may only be submitted pursuant to the terms and conditions defined by Act No. 130/2002 and these Rules. As a condition, a joint Proposal must be submitted, which has been drawn up jointly by the Czech Applicant, and the Applicant from the country of the Partner Agency. In order to meet the terms and conditions of the LA Grant, the Partner-Country Applicant must submit the part of the Proposal originating abroad to the Partner Agency abroad which has an agreement with GACR. Proposals for LA Grants submitted to Partner Agencies shall be evaluated using the internal evaluation guidelines of each individual Partner Agency, and using the methods defined by the Partner Agency. Proposals for LA Grants submitted to Partner Agencies shall be evaluated as international projects pursuant to Section 7 (4) of the Act. The Calls for Proposals for LA Grants shall be made, and the rules and/or guidelines for the submission of Proposals for LA Grants shall be laid down, by the Partner Agency.

(2) The Project Proposal is an application by the Organization for the provision of Targeted Aid (Grant Funding) in the form of a subsidy, or may cover an increase in the expenditures of governmental agencies or self-governing territorial units, or agencies of the Ministry of Defence and/or Ministry of the Interior which are engaged in research and experimental development pursuant to Act No. 218/2000

(3) The Project Proposal may not be modified. The Organization must inform the Provider in writing of any changes occurring between the submission of the Project Proposal and the potential Execution of the Agreement on Grant Funding or issuance of a Decision on Grant Funding for the project, if such change(s) have impact on the Organization’s legal standing or the information required to demonstrate eligibility, or the information which could influence the evaluation of the Project

Proposal, within 7 calendar days of the day that the Organization becomes aware of such facts or developments. In the event that the changes could influence the course of the evaluation (i.e. they are changes to those parts of the Project Proposal which are the subject of Evaluation under Articles 4.2. to 4.4. of these Rules), the Discipline Committees shall issue their opinions on whether such fact constitutes grounds for a disqualification of the Project Proposal from the evaluation, and the Provider's Presidium shall decide whether to keep the Proposal in question in the evaluation process, or to disqualify it. Substantial modifications to the Project Proposal, in particular, modifications such as the change of the Applicant, the Organization, or the subject-matter and aims of the Project, are not permitted, and shall always constitute grounds for the disqualification of the Project Proposal from the evaluation process.

(4) The Organization may withdraw from the evaluation at any time by notifying the Provider of its withdrawal through a message to the data mailbox of the Czech Science Foundation the address of which is "a8uadk4".

(5) Organizations are not entitled to compensation for costs associated with their participation in this Call for Proposals.

### **3.1 General Terms and Conditions for Submitting Proposals**

(1) The use of the texts of other authors in the Project Proposal must be accompanied by a bibliographic citation in the format of Czech Standard "ČSN ISO 690", or in compliance with the citation practises of the given field. The use of another author's text without a citation shall be deemed a gross violation of the respected standards of academic work and the Terms and Conditions for these Rules, and shall constitute grounds for disqualification of the Project Proposal from the evaluation.

(2) The LA Grant is a scientific project in the field of basic research, the scientific aim(s), and methods of which the Organization (Applicant) defines in the Project Proposal.

(3) Only one Organization may apply within one Project Proposal.

(4) The Project Proposal forms are available exclusively on the Provider's website at <https://www.gris.cz> in the web application created for this purpose (hereinafter the "Web App"). The Provider shall only consider a proposal to be a valid Project Proposal if it is created in the Web App and sent through the data mailbox information system (ISDS) to the data mailbox the name of which is Grant Projects (Czech Science Foundation) (in Czech: Grantové projekty (Grantová agentura České republiky)), the address of which is "ntq92qs". After being finalised in the Web App, the Project Proposal shall be affixed with a digital seal, and thus may no longer be altered in any way. The digital seal ensures for the Project Proposal the proof of origin of each document received (the document was created in the Web App and a record of it is recorded therein), the data become impossible to alter (the Applicant or Organization has not altered the figures nor other text in the PDF, and the document thus matches the relevant data in the Web App); the digital seal also stores information that identifies the version of the Project Proposal accurately. The version of the Project Proposal deemed submitted shall be the one that was the last to arrive through the data mailbox specified in this paragraph before the expiration of the Project Submission Deadline – it may not necessarily be the latest version of the Project Proposal in the Web App.

Project Proposals from which the Web App's digital seal has been removed or replaced with another one shall be disqualified. Only annexes specified in Article 3.2 (18) of these Rules and those annexes which are required for the given project shall be attached to the Project Proposal in the Web

App. Annexes are to be submitted in the Web App in PDF format. Only the Project Proposal generated by the Web App without annexes shall be delivered by data mailbox, as a PDF file, containing the Project Proposal with the watermark FINAL, and a file name containing the characters “\_CZ\_.pdf”.

(5) Only a complete Project Proposal marked FINAL may be submitted in the Call for Proposals. Incompleteness of the Project Proposal or a submission of anything other than the version marked in this manner shall constitute grounds for the disqualification thereof from the evaluation.

(6) By submitting a Project Proposal, the Organization warrants that it is familiar with these Rules, and agrees to abide by the provisions thereof, including but not limited to the following:

- a) the Applicant is employed with the Organization or, exceptionally, such employment shall be established within 4 months of the Grant Project launch, or the date the Agreement on Grant Funding takes force and effect, or the date the Decision on Grant Funding is issued;
- b) the Organization agrees to carry out all the obligations of a Beneficiary, once it has executed the Agreement on Grant Funding, as stipulated in Act No. 130/2002, in these Rules, and in the executed Agreement or an effective Decision on Grant Funding;
- c) the Organization agrees to provide the Investigator with the appropriate administrative support;
- d) the Organization agrees to provide the Investigator with the appropriate technical and institutional resources, including but not limited to suitable space and/or access to existing equipment during the Project and, where appropriate, after its completion;
- e) the Organization agrees to provide the investigator with an ethical and non-discriminatory working environment, to set out an explicit Code of Ethics compatible with the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity<sup>12</sup>, and to guarantee a transparent process for dealing with possible breaches of this code; the Organization also confirms that it is not aware of any breach of the Code of Ethics by the Applicant or the Co-applicant over the last 5 years prior to the year of the publication of the call at hand;
- f) The Organization agrees to abide by, and to require Applicants and Co-applicants, and Investigators and Co-investigators including team members of a Grant Project, to abide by all provisions of the Code of Ethics. If the Applicant or Co-applicant, Investigator or Co-investigator, or any other member of the project team, is found to have violated the principles of the Code of Ethics in the course of the Grant Project, or if they are found to have violated the principles of the Code of Ethics during 5 years immediately prior to the year in which the call was published, the Provider may disqualify the Project Proposal from the evaluation, terminate the Agreement on Grant Funding without notice, revoke the Decision on Grant Funding, or withdraw from the Agreement on Grant Funding);
- g) the Organization shall procure that following the execution of the Agreement on Grant Funding, the Investigator shall carry out all his or her obligations, including but not limited to being accountable for the professional quality of the project;
- h) all the information given in the Project Proposal is true, complete and undistorted, and it is identical with the information entered into the Project Proposal through the Web App,

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<sup>12</sup> <https://allea.org/code-of-conduct/>

that the Project Proposal has been drawn up in compliance with these Rules, that the individuals listed in the Project Proposal meet and shall continue to meet, throughout the entire period during which they are working on the Project, the terms and conditions stipulated in these Rules, and if applicable, that they shall act in compliance with the provisions of Article 7.5. of these Rules;

- i) all Co-organizations, the Applicant, Co-applicants and professional and/or other collaborators nominated in the Project Proposal have been made aware of the material content of the Project Proposal as well as the financial requirements specified therein, and with these Rules;
- j) before submitting the Project Proposal, the Organization acquired the consent of the aforementioned individuals and/or entities to participating in the Grant Project specified in the Project Proposal;
- k) the Organization has not accepted, is not accepting and shall not accept funding from another source for a different project with the same or similar subject matter;
- l) the contents of this Project Proposal are different from any other grant project or programme project in which the same Applicant or Co-applicant is participating, and the proposed scope of work allows the Applicant or Co-applicant to work on all their projects;
- m) the Organization consents that the data given in the Project Proposal may be used for the Provider's internal needs, and published to the extent laid down by Act No. 130/2002, and these Rules;
- n) in the event that an Agreement is executed or the Decision on Grant Funding is issued in respect of the Grant Project, the Organization shall abide by the terms and conditions for carrying out Grant Projects as stipulated in Article 7 of these Rules;
- o) following the execution of the Agreement on Grant Funding or the issuance of the Decision to Provide Funding, the Organization shall secure co-funding of the given Grant Project in accordance with the submitted Project Proposal.

(7) The Organization acknowledges the fact that in the event of failure to meet the terms and conditions stipulated in paragraph (6) of this Article, the Project Proposal shall be disqualified from the evaluation, and that failure to meet these terms and conditions may constitute grounds for an immediate termination of the Agreement on Grant Funding without prior notice or a revocation of the Decision to Provide Funding.

### **3.1.1. Concurrent project proposals**

(1) Within all of the public tenders administered by GACR in a given calendar year for Projects launched in 2027, and all calls in which GACR is involved in a given calendar year for Projects launched in 2027, **the same individual may submit (as Applicant or Co-applicant) no more than one Project Proposal** to each of the following categories of public tenders and calls defined in points a) to c):

- a) Standard Projects, International Projects and LA Grants;
- b) JUNIOR STAR and EXPRO;
- c) POSTDOC INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIP (both INCOMING and OUTGOING) and Restart Grants.

(2) Within all of the public tenders administered by GACR in a given calendar year for Projects launched in 2027, and all calls in which GACR is involved in a given calendar year for Projects launched in 2027, **the same individual may be either the Investigator or Co-investigator of no more than one project launched in 2027.**

This means that if the same individual is successful as Applicant or Co-applicant in more public tenders/calls which allow for concurrent project proposals, they may be awarded only one of these projects.

(3) Project Proposals are not counted towards the limit of submitted or awarded proposals in the given calendar year if:

- a) they are Project Proposals submitted to the public tender for the funding of oriented basic research grant projects or Proof of Concept;
- b) the Applicant withdraws from a public tender pursuant to Article 3 (4) of the given Tender Document, or withdraws from the evaluation process pursuant to the relevant provision of the Rules for International Grant Projects evaluated on a Lead Agency basis (LA Grants) before submitting another Project Proposal which would otherwise cause an overlap of projects contrary to the above provisions of this article. A Project Proposal withdrawn by the Applicant shall be treated as if it had never been submitted;
- c) they were disqualified from the evaluation process for formal reasons pursuant to Article 4.1. (1) and (2) of these Rules or were disqualified from a public tender pursuant to Article 4.1 (1) and (2) of the given Tender Document;
- d) they were disqualified from evaluation by the partner agency abroad.

(4) In individual calls, the definition of concurrent Project Proposals and awarded Projects may be specified, including the determination of the calendar year in which these Project Proposals are counted.

(5) A breach of the above terms and conditions for concurrent Projects shall constitute grounds to disqualify all Project Proposals from the public tenders or calls in which this individual is nominated as Applicant or Co-applicant contrary to the terms and conditions stipulated above.

### **3.2. Project Proposal**

(1) The Grant Project Proposal is a comprehensive set of documents containing, above all, a proposal of material, time, and financial conditions for the activities necessary to achieve the aims of the Grant Project formulated by the Organization, which aims are necessary for the assessment of the scholarly benefit, quality, and feasibility.

(2) The Project Proposal consists of the following forms: Part A – basic identification data, abstract, and scientific aim (aims of the Project); Part B – overall financial items, breakdown of financial items, including the justification of individual items and a detailed definition of personnel costs; Part B – Financial Plan; Part C (C1 and C2) – justification (reasoning) of the Project Proposal; Part D (D1 and D2) – information about the Applicant and Co-applicant; and Part E – information on other projects of the Applicant and Co-applicant.

(3) In response to the Call for Proposals published by GACR and the Partner Agency, all Organizations interested in the Grant shall draw up and submit one Project Proposal only, pursuant to



the rules and guidelines agreed between both Agencies. The joint international project must contain elements of well-founded cooperation between teams, the added value of joint research, and the scientific work of both teams must be interlinked closely. The Project duration must be the same in the Czech and international parts of the Project being submitted. Failure to meet this condition shall constitute grounds to disqualify the Project Proposal from the evaluation.

The Project Proposal shall be completed in English. Failure to comply with this condition shall be grounds to disqualify the Project Proposal from the evaluation.

**(4) Part A – Basic Identification Data** shall contain:

- a) the Project Proposal submission date (Project Proposal submission date shall mean the date the Project Proposal was delivered through the data mailbox to GACR);
- b) designation of the relevant Evaluation Panel pursuant to Annex 1 to these Rules corresponding to the general content specification of the individual panels published at <https://www.gacr.cz>; the Project Proposal may only be submitted to one Evaluation Panel by which it shall be evaluated in terms of its expertise (a subsequent transfer to a different panel is not permitted); in the event that the Project Proposal has an interdisciplinary nature, the option “interdisciplinary project” shall be chosen (it is necessary to submit Projects on the borderline of scientific disciplines as interdisciplinary, and to identify the main panel as the one that best matches the primary professional background of the Applicant, the primary focus of the Project, the methods applied, and the outputs planned), and only in this case shall another Evaluation Panel be designated along with the justification (reasoning) thereof;
- c) the basic information about the Applicant (Co-applicant), Organization (Co-organisation), and potentially Co-applicant and Co-organization; mandatory information includes the personal number (“birth number” assigned to a Czech citizen) – or the date of birth in case of non-nationals of the Czech Republic – of the Applicant, and all Co-applicants, and registration number (“Reg. No.”) of the Organization and all Co-organizations; an incorrect personal (“birth”) number or Reg. No. provided in the Project Proposal shall constitute grounds to disqualify the Project Proposal from the evaluation;
- d) the identification of the Organization, Applicant, and Agency/Agencies (Provider/Providers) from the other country;
- e) scientist’s identifier;
- f) the title of the Grant Project in English in the wording intended for publication; the title must be specific, clear and concise, without abbreviations or special symbols, and may not exceed 150 characters including spaces; the Grant Project may not have the same title as another Project Proposal submitted to GACR by the same Organization, nor the same title as another project being carried out or completed with funding support under Act No. 130/2002, on the basis of a comparison with the Information System For Research, Experimental Development and Innovation, in the section Central Register of Research and Development Projects (“IS R&D – CRP”) carried out by the Organization;
- g) the project duration in years and the date of launch of the Grant Project;

- h) the codes characterising the Grant Project classification according to IS VaVal — CEP and the OECD fields, and in compliance with Annex 3 to these Rules;
- i) field of research;
- j) keywords in English;
- k) if the Grant Project includes activities requiring special authorization/licence under separate legislation (see Section (18) 2 (b) of Act No. 130/2002), a photocopy of the relevant authorizations must be included (e.g. a statement from the ethics committee must be included for clinical trials; a valid “authorization for the use of test animals<sup>13</sup>” must be included for handling breeding or laboratory animals);
- l) the calendar year in which the Ph.D. (or equivalent) degree was awarded to the Applicant, or the fact that the Ph.D. or equivalent degree has not been awarded by the time of the submission of the Project Proposal;
- m) primary institution in the last 3 years prior to the submission of the Project Proposal (country, institution), or, if applicable, for a longer period, extended by a period of a Career break as defined in Article 2. 1. (17) of these Rules or a long-term sick leave of at least 6 months;
- n) a reference to an existing gender equality plan of the Organization and Co-organization, or a similar document demonstrating the active approach of the Organization and Co-organization to promote non-discrimination. If the gender plan or any other similar document has not yet been adopted, it must be submitted no later than before the execution of the Agreement on Grant Funding, or else this Agreement shall not be executed by the Provider with the Organization.

**(5) Part A – Abstract and Scientific Aim (Aims of the Project)** shall include:

- a) abstract in English expressing the substance of the proposed Grant Project, and the expected specific results; the abstract may not exceed 1,100 characters including spaces, and it is intended for publication;
- b) scientific aim (aims of the Project) in English (no more than 300 characters including spaces);
- c) if the scientific aim (aims of the Project) fits within any priority areas (or sub-areas) of the National Priorities of Oriented Research, Experimental Development, and Innovations<sup>14</sup>, the Applicant shall identify the pertinent area and/or sub-area (using a number from the list).

**(6) Part B – total funding** shall contain a proposal of the total eligible costs to carry out the Grant Project broken down as follows:

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<sup>13</sup> E.g. should the Grant Project require “authorisation for the use of laboratory animals”, the organization must provide an “authorisation for the use of laboratory animals” by the Project Submission Deadline (formerly “accreditation of user facilities”) in effect at least until the start of the project.

<sup>14</sup> National Priorities of Oriented Research, Experimental Development, and Innovations, as approved by Government Resolution of Czech Republic No. 552 of 19 July 2012.

- a) the total costs for each year of the project (i.e. costs funded by all sources, public and non-public; in the structure of Government Regulation No. 397/2009, on the Information System for Research, Experimental Development, and Innovation);
- b) the total costs for the entire project period broken down by various sources following the structure of Government Regulation No. 397/2009, and the ensuing Description of Data for IS R&D – CRP;
- c) the total costs requested from the Provider (proposed amount of funding), broken down into Items of Basic Structure and broken down by project year;
- d) proposed proportion of public funding expressed as a percentage; the proportion of public funding equals to the amount of funding requested from the Provider's budget of Targeted Aid, divided by the total amount of Grant Project costs.

(7) **Part B – breakdown of financial items** shall be completed in Czech or English, separately for the Organization and for each Co-organization. All funding shall be rounded up to the nearest thousand (CZK). The use of a different format of the financial requirements shall constitute grounds for disqualification of the Project Proposal from the evaluation. The total expected costs to carry out the Project for the entire duration of the project, and in the individual years, shall be sorted by the various sources broken down into the funds requested from the Provider's budget of Targeted Aid, the funds from other public sources (e.g. including institutional funds from the state budget for research, development and innovation, from other state budget sources of the Czech Republic, from public sources outside the Czech Republic, incl. EU sources), as well as funds from non-public sources (including own resources). The total expected costs for project implementation in the individual years shall be broken down by Items of Basic Structure (as per Article 2.1 (13) of these Rules), and Material Costs (as per Article 3.3.3. of these Rules).

(8) In **Part B – breakdown of financial items**, the **personnel costs** shall be filled out separately for the Organization and for each Co-organization. The personnel costs shall be listed in the individual years as follows:

- a) employee wage or salary as per Article 3.3.1 (5) (a) of these Rules for the Applicant or Co-applicant, and wages or salaries of the professional and other Professional Collaborators (see Article 2.1 (9) (a) or (b) of these Rules); the name and surname shall be included for each of these employees, with a possible exception of other Professional Collaborators, Professional Collaborators who shall be identified as a "student" or a "postdoc";
- b) the workload (average annual full-time equivalent) for the individual employees working on this Project, and listed under item (a) above;
- c) the aggregate wage or salary as per Article 3.3.1 (5) (a) of these Rules overall for the other collaborators;
- d) the aggregate workload (average annual full-time equivalent) of other collaborators;
- e) a breakdown of personnel costs to pay for agreements on work performed outside of employment pursuant to Article 3.3.1 (5) (b) of these Rules; agreements on work performed outside of employment (other personnel costs); Professional Collaborators, the name and surname shall be listed for Professional Collaborators (see Article 2.1 (9) of these Rules); other Professional Collaborators shall be designated as "student" or "postdoc".

(9) The form **Part B – justification (reasoning) for financial items** shall be completed in Czech or English, separately for the Organization and each Co-organization. Information shall be provided for the entire duration of the project. Each cost item must be specified and justified, including cases where funding from other sources pursuant to Article 6 (b) and (7) of these Rules is being proposed. In the event that not all cost items are specified and justified, the Project Proposal shall be deemed incomplete; the following amounts shall be included, without limitation, and explained:

- a) a breakdown of material costs;
- b) the amount of travel costs, including the expected purposes of travel for each individual person (e.g. active participation in conferences);
- c) a breakdown of other services and non-material costs;
- d) the cost of the acquisition or depreciation of fixed assets and a detailed justification thereof; furthermore, for each item, the total acquisition cost of the asset (if the asset consists of several components, it must be clear how the total cost was calculated), the designated depreciation category in accordance with Act No. 563/1991, on Accounting, as amended, and Act No. 586/1992, on Income Taxes, as amended, including the CZ-CPA group (classification of production), and the depreciation period derived therefrom (in the event that these regulations provide for various depreciation periods, the longest depreciation period shall be used for the purpose of determining the amount of the subsidy), the proportion of the use of the investment for the grant project, expressed as a percentage; the amount of the targeted aid requested for the acquisition of the asset or its depreciation;
- e) the justification of the necessity of the requested fixed assets in terms of why they are necessary for the project to be carried out, and in terms of the requirements of Section 8 (4) of Act No. 130/2002, and in accordance with Article 3.3.2. of these Rules; if the asset(s) as requested carry a purchase price exceeding CZK 750,000 and the equipment of the type and quality in question is already available at the applicant's institution, the applicant or the Organization must justify why the existing asset(s) cannot be used for the grant project;
- e) the justification of personnel costs must include the following items for each individual person:
  - 1. format of involvement and workloads (FTE or number of hours) corresponding to their levels of participation in the expected Grant Project;
  - 2. the amount of personnel costs pursuant to Article 3.3.1 (5) of these Rules.

(10) **Part B — Financial Plan** shall include the funds in EUR requested from the Partner Agency abroad for the international Grant Project. Please state the total amount requested for the part of the Project originating abroad in this structure: operating costs, investment costs, travel costs, personnel costs, and overhead (indirect) costs, as a summary for the Applicant and all Co-applicants from the other country.

(11) **Part C1 – justification of Project Proposal** contains a file created outside the Web App in PDF format and with a maximum size of 6 MB shall be uploaded into the Web App in a manner similar to the Project Proposal annexes. The maximum size of this part is 15 pages of A4 format using a standard

font<sup>15</sup>. The enclosure of any annexes other than those listed in Article 3.2. (15) of these Rules shall be deemed to have exceeded the maximum page count allowed. Failure to meet these terms and conditions shall constitute grounds for the disqualification of the Project Proposal from the evaluation. The justification must clearly present the aims and intentions and provide sufficient information necessary for the evaluation of the Project Proposal pursuant to the basic criteria for evaluating Project Proposals. Part C1 has a prescribed structure and must include the following:

- 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 (gender) 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 process of research, data collection and 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) precise justification of both parts of the budget (the Czech one and the one for abroad);
- e) description of, and reasoning for, the necessity of cooperation with the Organization from the Partner Country, the exact division of the research assignments between the partners;
- f) history of collaboration between the Applicant and the scientific institutions abroad, and international collaboration planned within the Project;
- g) 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;
- h) information on the readiness of the Applicant, Co-applicants, and their facilities (including those of the Organization abroad), and on the equipment of the facilities to be used for the Project, and about the opportunities for collaboration; additionally, information about the enforcement of the principles of responsible research and innovations (RRI), including the strategic tools of human potential development and the improvements of the Organization's working conditions (e.g. emphasis on the assurance of high ethical standards of research, compliance with gender equity, including the development of gender equity plans and/or measures to improve gender equity within HR Awards, etc.);
- i) description of the team; justification of / reasoning behind the participation of Co-applicants, Professional Collaborators, and other collaborators, professional and other, the

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<sup>15</sup> I.e. 11 point font and single spacing.

definition of their roles in dealing with the subject matter, including the expected aggregate workload of the individual staff;

- j) 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; 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 with each Interim Report and Final Report as needed;
- k) a brief description of the potential benefits of the project and possible future application potential;
- l) 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;
- m) references to the literature used, we recommend that references to the literature used include the Digital Object Identifier (DOI).

(12) The information for Part C1 listed in Article 3.2 (11) of these Rules may be supplemented with information based on the specific focus of the given project.

(13) **Part C2 – expected project results** contains a description of the result types defined in Annex 4<sup>16</sup> of these Rules, with emphasis on quality (not quantity), which are expected to be published as part of the Grant Project (articles in leading journals, monographs, articles in international proceeding etc.).

Articles which may be recognized as results of the project shall only be those which have been published in leading international or in other journals published in the reference period, and have been selected among ISI Highly Cited, and other publications with IF, articles in proceedings from leading international conferences, monographs and articles in monographs published by prestigious international publishing houses. In the event that the definition of the types of results changes in the course of the project compared to this These Rules, the results shall be assessed in accordance with Annex 4 of the Rules applicable to the call published in the year in which the results are evaluated.

(14) **Part C3 – international cooperation** shall contain a description of the added value of the international cooperation in the course of the Project.

(15) **Part D1 – CV of the Applicant and Co-applicants**, and that of the **Applicant from abroad**. A file created outside the Web App in PDF format and with a maximum size of 1 MB which shall be uploaded into the Web App in a manner similar to the annexes to the Project Proposal. The Applicant and Co-applicant shall provide: a brief structured professional CV, and a list of activities over the last 5 years in the field which is to be the subject matter of the Grant Project (if necessary, this information can be included for the Professional Collaborators as well). The Applicant and/or Co-applicant may describe and explain any career gaps and/or drops in research productivity. The maximum size of this

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<sup>16</sup> If the output falls under the Jost category, please state the title of the journal in which the investigating team expects to publish the outputs of the Project.

part is two pages of A4 size, using a standard font<sup>17</sup> (potentially a maximum of two more pages for each Co-applicant). The enclosure of any annexes other than those listed in Article 3.2. (18) of these Rules shall be deemed to have exceeded the maximum page count allowed. Failure to meet these terms and conditions shall constitute grounds to disqualify the Project Proposal from the evaluation.

(16) In **Part D2 – bibliography of Applicant and Co-applicant(s) shall be completed**. The Applicant and Co-applicant(s) shall provide the following information:

- a) summary of scientific activity over the last 10 years (or a longer period, extended by a period of a Career break as defined in Article 2. 1. (17) of these Rules or a long-term sick leave of at least 6 months), with an emphasis on his or her contribution to the current state of knowledge in the field (track record); specific scientific findings or answers to important questions in the field shall be provided; the Applicant shall indicate how his or her scientific work has contributed to the development of scientific knowledge in the broader field of study and, if relevant, its relation to the proposed project;
- b) complete bibliographic information in the format of Czech Standard “ČSN ISO 690” (or compliant with other citation practises in the given field) describing five significant results of the Applicant’s/Co-applicant’s scientific and research activities (e.g. journal publications, monographs they have authored, etc.) over the last ten (10) calendar years preceding the calendar year in which the Project Proposal is submitted (that period is defined as the period starting 1 January of the year in which this call is published), or – where applicable – over a longer period, extended by a period of a Career break as defined in Article 2. 1. (17) of these Rules or a long-term sick leave of at least 6 months, which they consider essential; each result shall be accompanied by its contribution and a brief summary of the author’s share in obtaining this result, and the number of citations excluding self-citations (i.e. the Applicant is identical to the citing author), as measured by Web of Science<sup>18</sup> or Scopus<sup>19</sup>; for each article in an impact journal monitored in these databases, the journal’s impact factor<sup>20</sup> effective at the time of publication shall be given; the number of citations measured by other databases or by other methodologies accepted in the field may also be given (a brief description is required);
- c) the total number of citations, including self-citation (i.e. the Applicant is identical to the citing author), for all their works according to the Web of Science or, alternatively, SCOPUS; the number of citations found in other databases can also be included, or that of another methodology acknowledged in the given field (must be briefly described);
- d) H-index according to the Web of Science;
- e) the number of past and present supervised postdocs (researchers who have completed their Ph.D. no more than 8 years ago), students of doctoral, master and bachelor programmes (one person is counted a maximum of one time); information about lecturing activities at universities;

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<sup>17</sup> I.e. 11 point font and single spacing.

<sup>18</sup> ISI Web of Science (<https://wokinfo.com>).

<sup>19</sup> Scopus (<https://www.scopus.com/>).

<sup>20</sup> Impact factor for the Web of Science, and SJR for the Scopus database.



- f) a list of invitations to present at established international conferences over the last five years (that period is defined as the period starting 1 January of the year in which this call is published), or – where applicable – over a longer period, extended by a period of a Career break as defined in Article 2. 1. (17) of these Rules or a long-term sick leave of at least 6 months;
- g) significant awards received by the Applicant, memberships in scientific Organizations outside the Czech Republic, memberships in editorial boards of leading international journals, membership in scientific committees of well-established international conferences;
- h) examples of no more than five projects for which the Applicant has obtained funding in the past (the provider, the start and end years, and the amount of the financial subsidy for the institution in CZK thousands shall be disclosed), and a short summary of the topic of the project, unless implied by the project title;
- i) information on any membership in Evaluation Panels or Discipline Committees of the Czech Science Foundation, or in Evaluation Panels of grant providers in other countries (assessments of individual project proposals shall not be included).

The provision of incomplete or untrue information may be grounds for the disqualification of the Project Proposal from the evaluation.

(17) In **Part E – information on other projects of the Applicant and Co-applicants**, the following information is to be provided:

1. all GACR projects which the Applicant or Co-applicants are taking part in at the time the Project Proposal is submitted, and in what role (Investigator, Co-investigator, Professional Collaborator); furthermore, similar information shall be provided on applications for Targeted Aid (Grant Funding) for projects in which the Applicant or Co-applicant are going to take part, and in what role (Investigator, Co-investigator, Professional Collaborator);
2. all GACR projects in which the Applicant or Co-applicants have taken part over the past five years, and in what role (Investigator, Co-investigator, or Professional Collaborator);
3. all projects of similar subject matter funded by providers of Targeted Aid other than the Czech Science Foundation, including foreign providers, in which the Applicant or Co-applicants are involved at the time of submission of the Project Proposal, or have been involved in the past five years, and in what role (Principal Investigator, Co-investigator, Expert Collaborator); in addition, similar information shall be provided on applications for targeted aid for projects in which the Applicant or Co-applicants are involved.

Each item must contain the following data about the project to which the information being provided is related:

- a) name of the entity providing the targeted funding (provider);
- b) name of programme or other research and development activity (e.g. major infrastructure projects etc.), project number, code identifying the project classification based on the OECD fields, unabbreviated project title and duration (from – to) for projects under item 1, or the registration number, panel number, unabbreviated project title and duration (from – to) for projects under items 2 and 3;

- c) name of Organization/Beneficiary;
- d) role of Applicant or Co-applicant in the Project;
- e) the amount of funds requested/received for the entire duration of the project being used/to be used by the Organization and/or Co-organization to support their activity in the project;
- f) workload (FTE) of the Applicant (Co-applicant) to carry out the individual projects, even if the funds provided did not cover wages/salaries;
- g) description of the relationship between the project for which information is being provided and the Project Proposal submitted (especially a description of the topic, aims, results, research team, etc.).

Failure to meet these obligations or a provision of incomplete information shall constitute grounds to disqualify the Project Proposal from the evaluation.

(18) Only the following documents may be enclosed as **annexes to the Project Proposal**:

- a) copies of the special authorizations/licences as per separate legislation pursuant to Article 3.2. (4) (k) of these Rules;
- b) a list of the potential foreign reviewers to whom it would be inappropriate to send the Project Proposal for evaluation, including a detailed explanation;
- c) identification of a proposed supplier, nature of the supplier's performance, and the preliminary price pursuant to Article 3.3. (4) of these Rules if the Project Proposal requires the acquisition of long-term assets the value of which exceeds CZK 250,000 and/or the supply/supplies from a single supplier, and the total value of purchases from the single supplier exceeds CZK 750,000 throughout the duration of the Grant Project; or a framework agreement for the type of supplies required;
- d) power of attorney granted to a third party for the submission of the Project Proposal if the Organization does not have access its own data mailbox; this power of attorney must also be delivered in another demonstrable manner (e.g. by post or in person) showing confirmation of receipt;
- e) a Letter of Intent verifying the international cooperation or a commitment to perform the necessary work at the institution abroad which is not the employer of the team members (the submission of a Letter of Intent between the Investigators in the Czech Republic and the other country is not required).

The enclosure of annexes other than those listed above shall constitute grounds to disqualify the Project Proposal from the evaluation.

### **3.3 Definition of Eligible Cost Items**

(1) Targeted Aid (Grant Funding) may only be provided for activities defined in the Project Proposal.

(2) Eligible costs or expenditures (hereinafter "costs") are only those which are defined under the provisions of Section (2) (2) (m) of Act No. 130/2002, which are specified in these Rules under

Articles 3.3.1 through 3.3.3, and which are directly – both materially and in time – related to carrying out the Grant Project.

(3) All of the eligible cost items listed in the Project Proposal must be justified/explained and it must be clear from the Project Proposal that they are absolutely necessary to carry out the Grant Project.

(4) If the Project Proposal requires the acquisition of long-term assets the value of which exceeds CZK 250,000 and/or the supply or supplies from an individual supplier for a total value exceeding CZK 750,000 throughout the Grant Project, a preliminary offer (quote) from the supplier must be submitted, showing the identification of the supplier, the items to be supplied, and the preliminary price, including an explanation of the calculation of the price quote, both in total and for individual supplies. The actual price paid for the supplies may not exceed the price quoted originally by more than 10%. In addition, at least two other competing quotes shall be submitted, along with an explanation of which of the offers was selected and why. Competitive quotes need not be submitted in cases where the selected supplier is the only supplier whose offer meets the required parameters necessary to carry out the Grant Project. This fact is to be mentioned in the commentary attached to the offer. In the event that the Organization has entered into a framework agreement for the required type of delivery, this framework agreement shall be attached instead of a price quote.

(5) The assets or services being procured (including the publication of the Project's outputs) may not be supplied by the Investigator, Co-investigator nor any other employee of the Beneficiary, nor Co-beneficiary, nor an affiliate (as per Section (23) (7) of Act No. 586/1992, on Income Tax, as amended), of the Beneficiary, nor that of a Co-beneficiary, nor that of the Investigator, nor that of the Co-investigator, nor that of a Professional Collaborator taking part in the Grant Project. Supplies procured by way of an internal supply are eligible as long as their prices do not exceed the usual and customary prices prevalent at the place and time of the delivery, and are charged in compliance with generally binding legislation.

(6) The Project Proposal must state the proposed Proportion of Funding. However, the decision on the final amount of costs accepted and Proportion of Funding for the costs accepted lies with the Provider, based on the evaluation of the Project Proposal.

(7) The following items may not be included in the eligible costs:

- a) profit;
- b) value-added tax (VAT) (applies for beneficiaries who are registered to pay this tax, and who request VAT refunds, whether full or partial);
- c) costs for marketing, sales, and distribution of products;
- d) interest on debt;
- e) inventory discrepancies and damage;
- f) costs of financial leasing, and rent-to-own agreements;
- g) costs for securing the rights to the project results;
- h) any costs not directly related to the subject matter of the Grant Project;
- i) any costs associated with the subject of the project which exceed the usual and customary price prevalent at the place and time.

(8) The following items may not be included in the eligible costs paid out of the Grant Funds under items other than overhead (indirect) costs listed under Article 3.3.3. (6) of these Rules:

- a) costs of meals, gifts, and entertainment;
- b) costs for renting space, devices, equipment, etc. with the exception of the rental of packaging materials, highly specialised laboratories, and venues for holding short-term events generating academic output as stipulated in Article 3.3.3. (4) of these Rules;
- c) costs of furniture and other non-specialized equipment used at the institution;
- d) costs of telecommunication services; costs of the acquisition, repair and maintenance of devices and equipment from the area of communication technology (telephones, dictation machines, readers etc.);
- e) costs for issuing periodical publications and textbooks;
- f) costs associated with attending conferences and workshops with the exception of an active presentation of the outputs of the project;
- g) costs for expanding the qualifications of persons taking part in the project (purchase of textbooks, training, courses etc.);
- h) costs for acquiring, renting, and using digital information databases;
- i) costs of the repair or maintenance of premises; costs of the construction, or renovation of rooms;
- j) costs of consultancy services, both local and from abroad.

### **3.3.1 Personnel Costs**

(1) Personnel costs are the costs incurred to remunerate the work performed within employment as per Act No. 262/2006, the Labour Code, as amended.

(2) The amount of eligible personnel costs for individuals (Applicants, Co-applicants, Professional Collaborators, other collaborators) taking direct part in the Project must be in line with the Beneficiary's (or Co-beneficiary's) internal policies or set through other demonstrable means, and in addition, must correspond to the workload (FTE) dedicated to the Grant Project. In order to establish the amount of eligible personnel costs in the Project Proposal, items such as milestone bonuses as per Section (134) (a) of the Labour Code or similar bonuses shall not be considered part of the standard wage/salary pursuant to Section 134 of the Labour Code, including variable components, convalescence leave, and temporary incapacity compensation (hereinafter "Salary"). Failure to meet this condition shall constitute grounds to disqualify the Project Proposal from the evaluation.

(3) Zero workload (FTE) is not permitted. Failure to meet this condition shall constitute grounds to disqualify the Project Proposal from the evaluation. The sum of all workloads (FTEs) allocated for all projects supported by GACR may not exceed 1.00 per employee. The minimum workload (FTE) on the project is recommended at 0.20 for the Applicant, and at 0.10 for the Co-applicant. The Applicant (subsequently the Investigator) agrees to procure that the time worked at his or her Organization (subsequently the Beneficiary) will correspond to the amount of the Investigator's workload.

(4) The subsidy requested and provided for the personnel costs may not exceed the amount of approved costs. The amount of the subsidy may be zero.

(5) The following costs are eligible personnel costs (only one option may be used for each employee):

- a) to cover the relevant part of the Salaries as per paragraph (2) of this Article paid to those employees carrying out the Grant Project based on an employment contract, in the amount corresponding to the workload in the Project. In that case, the subsidy requested in the Project Proposal may reach the amount of the gross salary or wage of the employee (prorated based on the employee's FTE workload), and up to a maximum of CZK 65,000 per calendar month (prorated based on the employee's FTE workload);
- b) to cover the payment of amounts due from agreements on work performed outside of employment executed solely for the Grant Project, in which case the subsidy provided to cover the amounts due from the agreement on work performed outside of employment may reach the amount of total remuneration under an employee's agreement but may not exceed CZK 400/hour.

(6) Under personnel costs, it is possible to include the costs for the compulsory legal deductions and contribution to the account of cultural and social needs (or another similar account), or the proportionate amount thereof (unless such account is made up of allocations from profit) in the amount corresponding to the relevant personnel costs. The maximum possible amount of subsidy provided for such costs is hereby defined as equal to the subsidy for the relevant personnel costs.

(7) For the Applicant, Co-applicant and Professional Collaborators remunerated pursuant to paragraph (1) of this Article, the Project Proposal shall include the name and surname of the project member (see Article 2.1 (9) of these Rules); other Professional Collaborators shall be designated as "student" or "postdoc"; the Project Proposal shall also include the FTE workload, and the corresponding amount of the funds requested. For other collaborators, only the FTE workload and the corresponding amount of the funds requested shall be stated in aggregate.

### **3.3.2 Costs to Acquire Tangible Assets (hereinafter "Investment Cost")**

(1) The eligible costs may include the costs to acquire tangible fixed assets (devices, machinery, equipment, separate movable assets or complementary movable assets for an independent, technical and economic purpose, and other tangible fixed assets acquired for a consideration, through a conversion, or generated through own activities where the purchase price exceeds CZK **80,000**, and the operational and technical functionality (useful life) is longer than one year), or the depreciation of such tangible fixed assets, if such assets are necessary to carry out the Grant Project, and are purchased and used in direct connection with the Grant Project.

(2) If tangible fixed assets are acquired (the purchase price exceeds CZK 80,000, and their "operational and technical functionality" (useful life) is longer than one year, and in the event that the useful life is longer than the period of use during the Grant Project, the maximum amount of eligible cost shall be based on the depreciation of such assets using the following formula:  $U(N) = (A/B) \times C \times D$ , where  $U(N)$  is the eligible cost,  $A$  the period for which the assets are to be used during the project,  $B$  is the useful life (pursuant to Accounting Act No. 563/1991, as amended, and Income Tax Act No. 586/1992, as amended);  $C$  is the purchase price of the asset, and  $D$  is the percentage of its utilisation for the Grant Project out of the total utilisation of the asset; if the useful life stipulated by the Accounting Act and/or the Income Tax Act is variable, the longest useful life as defined thereunder shall be used in order to determine the amount of the eligible costs).

(3) In the event of an acquisition of tangible fixed assets whose useful life is equal to the duration of the Grant Project or shorter, the eligible costs shall be based on the formula:  $U(N) = C \times D$ , wherein the symbols  $U(N)$ ,  $C$  and  $D$  have the same meaning as in the formula in the foregoing paragraph (2) above of this Article.

(4) Low-value tangible assets whose useful life is longer than one year, and the acquisition price **lower** than or equal to CZK 80,000, may be acquired under the category of material costs.

(5) The total cost for acquiring tangible fixed assets necessary to carry out the project must not exceed 10% of the total amount of approved costs as per Articles 3.3.1 and 3.3.3 (2) to (5) of these Rules for the entire duration of the Project, as stated in the Agreement, or in the Decision, respectively, on Grant Funding.

### **3.3.3. Material Costs**

(1) The material costs that may be included among eligible costs are costs of materials, travel costs, costs of various products and services, and overhead (indirect) costs.

(2) Costs of materials are expenses used exclusively in direct connection with the Grant Project which may be proved by a separate confirmation of delivery or in another objective manner (e.g. independent measurement), including the consumption of material (e.g. consumption of office and laboratory material, acquisition of lower-value tangible assets, as per Article 3.3.2 (4) of these Rules, purchased and/or procured through own activity as part of the project, scholarly literature), and may, in exceptional and well-documented cases, also include the consumption of energy and/or other non-storable supplies.

(3) Travel costs are expenses comprising all costs of work-related trips up to the amount pursuant to the provisions of Section 173 to 181 of Act No. 262/2006, the Labour Code, as amended, up to the amount defined or permitted by this Act, incurred by the Investigator, Co-investigator, and/or professional and other Collaborators. These are the costs incurred exclusively in direct connection with the Grant Project including working visits, and trips made in connection with active participation at conferences. These also include the travel expenses and costs incurred in the destination associated with the participation of those employees from abroad taking part in the Grant Project who are not members of the project team in the other country. As for work-related trips abroad, these shall only include the costs for the duration of the stay that matches the duration of the event that the individual was attending.

(4) Costs of other services and non-material costs are defined as expenses incurred exclusively in order to carry out the Grant Project which can be documented by a separate confirmation of delivery or in another objective manner, including the costs of: the operation, repair and maintenance of assets used during the Project; costs of miscellaneous goods and/or services; the costs to acquire intangible assets as well as the costs of publishing the Project's outputs (publishing and editorial costs, costs of publishing the results in the form of Open Access) may also be included among other services; also included may be conference fees, rental of venues for holding short-term events producing a scholarly output (e.g. conferences, seminars etc.), fees for memberships in institutions if the membership is demonstrably necessary or cost-effective in order to carry out the Grant Project; telecommunications with the exceptions listed under Article 3.3. (8) d) of these Rules; cost of managing the research data, and costs of the creation of the Data Management Plan (DMP); and other types of costs, such as exchange rate losses, bank fees, taxes and fees linked with the Grant Project exclusively.

(5) The following costs are considered eligible: patent and licence payments for the exercise of industrial property rights that apply to the objects of industrial property (e.g. patents, inventions, industrial designs, royalties for the use of copyrighted works) used in direct connection with the Grant Project and essential to carry it out, solely for the period during which the industrial property rights are being exercised within the Grant Project (and no longer than the duration of the Grant Project). If the period of exercising the industrial property rights is longer than the period for which the rights are to be used within the Grant Project, the amount of eligible costs shall be based on the formula:  $U(N) = (A/B) \times C \times D$ , wherein  $U(N)$  is the eligible cost,  $A$  is the period for which the rights are to be exercised within the Project,  $B$  is the useful life of the rights (pursuant to the Income Tax Act No. 586/1992, as amended),  $C$  is the purchase price of the rights, and  $D$  is the percentage of the utilisation of such rights within the Grant Project. If the industrial property rights are being exercised for a period equal to the duration of the Grant Project or shorter, the eligible costs shall be based on the formula:  $U(N) = C \times D$ , where the symbols  $U(N)$ ,  $C$  and  $D$  have the same meaning as in the previous formula in this paragraph.

(6) Eligible costs may include overhead (indirect) costs incurred at the time and in a direct, substantive connection to the Grant Project, assuming such expenditure contributes to the progress and/or completion of the Project (e.g. administrative costs, costs of infrastructure, costs of childcare for the children of individuals involved in the Project, and the costs of care for other dependents, or other costs incurred during the project). The maximum amount of such costs is 20% of the total approved costs listed under Article 3.3.1. and 3.3.3. (2) to (5) of these Rules, or in the Agreement or Decision on Grand Funding. If no overhead (indirect) costs are requested in the Project Proposal, no such costs shall be accepted at a later time.

## **4. ADMISSION AND SELECTION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS**

(1) The evaluation of Project Proposals shall be carried out on international basis pursuant to Section (7) (4) to (9) of the Act.

(2) A Project Proposal may not be altered or amended in any way after the Project Submission Deadline expires.

(3) The evaluation of Project Proposals shall commence on or after the day following the last day of the Project Submission Deadline.

(4) Once the individual partner agencies complete the evaluations, the agencies shall inform each other / one another about the results of the evaluations of each Project Proposal, and they shall reach consensus on which Project(s) to recommend for funding. Each participating partner agency shall have the right of veto, i.e. to decide that the Project selected by the Lead Agency shall not receive funding (e.g. due to the lack of funding available).

(5) The final ranking will be approved by the Presidium of the Czech Science Foundation and the funds will be distributed on the basis of this ranking (and according to the amount allocated to the given group of grant projects).

The evaluation of the Project Proposals shall end upon the announcement of the results.



## **4.1. Admission of Project Proposals**

(1) Admission of Project Proposals shall be carried out by the Project Proposals' Admission Committee, which shall evaluate the satisfaction of the following Terms and Conditions for the Call:

- a) compliance with the Project Submission Deadline – the Project Proposal's timely submission by the Project Submission Deadline shall be assessed;
- b) method and place of submission of the Project Proposal – an assessment shall be made of compliance with the required submission method as stipulated in Article 6 of these Rules; the title and originality of the file, and the data mailbox identifier ISDS<sup>21</sup>, shall also be checked;
- c) completeness of the Project Proposal – an assessment shall be made of whether the Project Proposal contains all the required parts as stipulated in Article 3.2. of these Rules;
- d) requirements to prove eligibility – an assessment shall be made of whether all the documents demonstrating eligibility have been submitted in the manner as required, and whether those documents confirm the eligibility of the Organization;
- e) satisfaction of the condition defined in Article 3.1.1. of these Rules.

(2) Failure to meet the terms and conditions defined in paragraph (1) of this Article shall constitute grounds to disqualify the Project Proposal from the evaluation.

(3) The fact that the Beneficiary has, in previous Grant Projects, demonstrably failed to meet the obligations laid down by the Act on Budgetary Rules and/or has violated contractual obligations, or the terms and conditions for the Provider's decision, shall constitute grounds to disqualify the Grant Project Proposal from the evaluation. In this case, GACR may disqualify this Beneficiary's Project Proposals from public tenders for up to three years from the day this violation by the Beneficiary is proved, or from the day the Beneficiary admits such violation in writing.

(4) The fact that a Project Proposal of the same Applicant was rated as a poor-quality project in a public tender or call published by the Czech Science Foundation in the previous calendar year constitutes grounds for disqualifying the Project Proposal from the public tender.

(5) One of the grounds for disqualifying a project proposal from the public tender is the fact that the project of the same Organization and/or Applicant has been rated as "not met with penalty" in the last 3 years.

(6) If it comes to light that the Organization or Co-organization no longer satisfies the eligibility conditions and is no longer able to prove the satisfaction thereof, at any point during the course of the evaluation process, this fact shall constitute grounds to disqualify the Project Proposal from the evaluation as per Article 4.6. of these Rules.

## **4.2. Evaluation of Veracity and Accuracy of Information in Project Proposal**

(1) The evaluation of the veracity and accuracy of information in the Project Proposal shall also examine any discrepancies in the information provided in the Project Proposal. This evaluation shall be

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<sup>21</sup> Data Mailbox Information System.

carried out by separate Discipline Committees, expert bodies of the Discipline Committees (Evaluation Panels), and the Provider's expert bodies during the entire evaluation period. In the process of their evaluation of the Project Proposals, members of Discipline Committees and members of Evaluation Panels shall follow the Charter, By-laws, and Rules of Procedure of the GACR's Discipline Committees and Evaluation Panels, and the Code of Ethics for GACR evaluators.

(2) The following information shall be deemed incorrect and/or false, included but not limited to:

- a) in Part A of the Project Proposal under Article 3.2. (3) of these Rules:
  - 1. incorrect personal (birth) number of the Applicant or Co-applicant(s), incorrect registration number of the Organization or Co-organization(s); any deviation of the information provided from the actual correct data or the prescribed form, including any typing or numerical error, shall be deemed incorrect data;
  - 2. information provided in any language other than the required language;
- b) in Part B of the Project Proposal under Article 3.2. (6) to (10) of these Rules:
  - 1. numerical data which are not stated in the required currency or form (i.e. in CZK thousands);
  - 2. sums of individual items of eligible costs and items by individual years not corresponding to the total sums, or the proposed Proportion of Funding not corresponding to the actual proportion of funds requested from GACR in the total project costs; a discrepancy between the Czech and international part of the Project may be grounds to disqualify the Project Proposal on both sides;
  - 3. the conflicted of the proposed funding with existing legislation;
  - 4. proposed personnel costs not corresponding to the respective FTE workloads or noncompliant with the provisions of Article 3.3.1. (2) to (5) of these Rules;
  - 5. any information given in a language other than the required one;
- c) in Parts C1 and D1 of the Project Proposal under Article 3.2. (11) to (15) of these Rules:
  - 1. information provided in any language other than the required language;
  - 2. failure to comply with the required form (maximum number of pages, font size, line spacing etc.) for the documents to be transmitted;
- d) In Part E of the Project Proposal under Article 3.2. (17) of these Rules:
  - 1. failure to provide complete information on the other projects of the Applicant and those of the Co-applicants;
  - 2. any information given in a language other than the required one;
- e) in all parts of the Project Proposal:
  - 1. failure to provide data/information required in the annexes referred to in Article 3.2. (18) of these Rules;
  - 2. texts adopted from other sources but missing bibliographic citations pursuant to Article 3.1. (1) of these Rules;

3. untrue information.

(3) Especially the difference in the Project's timeline in Part A of the Project Proposal, and the timelines suggested by Parts B and C of the Project Proposal shall be deemed contradictory.

(4) Any finding that a Project Proposal contains incorrect or false information, inconsistent data, or that the terms and conditions for participating in this Call for Proposals have not been met, shall constitute grounds to disqualify the Project Proposal from the evaluation.

(5) The Partner Agency's rejection to fund the Project shall constitute grounds to disqualify the Project Proposal from the evaluation.

#### **4.3. Evaluation of the Professional Standard of the Project Proposal**

(1) Evaluation of the professional standard of the Project Proposal shall be carried out by Discipline Committees, which shall apply the principle of a panel assessment in their activity. The Project Proposals shall be evaluated and ranked against the Project Proposals submitted in the tender for Standard Projects. This approach shall ensure a true competitive environment of Proposals in the LA Grants group vis-à-vis competing Proposals submitted domestically and evaluated by the Czech Science Foundation.

(2) During the evaluation of the proposals, the following elements shall be assessed simultaneously:

- 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 Collaborators, 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-à-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(s) 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 working conditions, the existence of a plan for the development of gender equity and/or measures to improve gender equity within HR Awards, etc.

(3) During the evaluation of quality and standard of the Grant Project Proposal, the following criteria shall be assessed from the viewpoint of the scientific field of the panel to which the proposal has been submitted:

- a) scientific aim (aims of the Project Proposal) – an assessment of whether clear and specific aims have been defined for the Project, 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; an evaluation shall be made of how interesting the aim of the Project Proposal is from the perspective of an international comparison, and whether the Project may represent a breakthrough in the given scientific field;

- 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; the gender dimension within the research - an assessment of whether it is relevant to consider possible biological differences (sex) or differences in the experience and needs of women and men (gender) in the research topic, or their interaction, and whether the process of research, data collection and the research results will be as useful, functional and safe as possible for both men and women;
- c) the quality of the national Applicant for a Grant Project (this evaluation shall take into account the length of the Applicant's career, and the specific nature of the given field):
  - 1. Applicant's publication activity through his or her career to date (the number of publications), his or her citation counts (H-index, number of citations including self-citations as per the Web of Science), the quality of the journals in which he or she has published, and the biggest added value of his or her most significant publications;
  - 2. Applicant's international cooperation to date;
  - 3. Applicant's experience as an Investigator within Grant Projects funded by national or international providers;
- d) the quality of the Applicant from the Partner Country (this evaluation shall take into account the length of the Applicant's career, and the specific nature of the given field):
  - 1. Applicant's publication activity through his or her career to date (the number of publications), his or her citation counts (h-index, number of citations including self-citations as per the Web of Science), the quality of the journals in which he or she has published, and the biggest added value of his or her most significant publications;
  - 2. Applicant's international cooperation to date;
  - 3. Applicant's experience as an Investigator within Grant Projects funded by national or international providers;
- e) the expected quality of project outputs;
- f) the ability of the national Organization to procure the successful completion of the Grant Project with regard to the Organization's technical and institutional resources;
- g) the ability of the national Organization to procure the successful completion of the Grant Project with regard to Organization's technical and institutional resources;
- h) the added value of international cooperation proposed:
  - 1. the potential of this international cooperation to expand and deepen future opportunities for international cooperation;

2. evaluation of the expected involvement of institutions abroad in carrying out the Grant Project, e.g. from the perspective of mutual use of each other's equipment of by the cooperating institutions, and the deployment of complementary approaches and methodologies.

(4) 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 in paragraphs (1) to (3) of this Article are not met, the Project Proposal shall be categorised as a poor-quality project. A Project Proposal may be categorised as a “poor-quality” proposal particularly if it:

- 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 grading 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 and calls published in the following calendar year.

(5) A positive evaluation of the part of the Project originating in the Partner Country shall not constitute an entitlement for an award of Grant Funds to an international project.

#### **4.4. Evaluation of the Proposed Costs**

(1) The evaluation of the proposed costs shall be carried out separately by Discipline Committees, Evaluation Panels, and the Provider's expert bodies.

(2) 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. (6) to (10) and Article 3.3. of these Rules.

#### **4.5. Selection of Winning Projects**

(1) The process of evaluation of the Grant Project Proposals is based on the comparison of the quality of Grant Projects vis-à-vis one another. The evaluation process shall be broken down into two stages. The Project Proposals shall be evaluated and ranked against the Project Proposals submitted in the tender for Standard Projects. This approach shall ensure a true competitive environment of

Proposals in the LA Grants group vis-à-vis competing Proposals submitted domestically and evaluated by the Czech Science Foundation.

Once the individual partner agencies complete the evaluations, the agencies shall inform each other / one another about the results of the evaluations of each Project Proposal, and they shall reach consensus on which Project(s) to recommend for funding. Each participating partner agency shall have the right of veto, i.e. to decide that the Project selected by the Lead Agency shall not receive funding (e.g. due to the lack of funding available).

(2) The first stage of evaluation shall take place in the following manner:

- a) the Evaluation Panel members shall elaborate a minimum of two independent expert reviews, and three in case of interdisciplinary projects;
- b) at its meeting, the Evaluation Panel shall make a comparison of the quality of all Project Proposals of the respective panel, based on the reviews elaborated, and shall recommend which Project Proposals should proceed to the second stage of evaluation;
- c) the Discipline Committee shall assess the results of projects evaluations from each Evaluation Panel, and shall compare the quality of all Project Proposals in the respective scientific field at a meeting, and shall choose which Project Proposals proceed to the second stage of evaluation; the Discipline Committee shall present its recommendations to the GACR Presidium;
- d) the GACR Presidium shall choose on the basis of the recommendations from the Discipline Committees which Project Proposals proceed to the second stage of the evaluation.

(3) The second stage of the evaluation shall take place in the following manner:

- a) Project Proposals proceeding to the second stage of evaluation shall be forwarded to reviewers abroad for an evaluation;
- b) at its meeting, the Evaluation Panel shall make a comparison of the quality of all Project Proposals of the respective panel, based on the reviews elaborated, and shall propose a preliminary order of projects;
- c) the Discipline Committee shall assess the outputs of the project evaluation from each Evaluation Panel, and shall recommend the final order of Project Proposals within each scientific field, which the Committee shall then present to the GACR Presidium for a final decision;
- d) the GACR Presidium shall decide on the basis of the recommendations of the Discipline Committees on the final selection of Projects to receive a grant.<sup>22</sup>

#### **4.6. Additional Grounds to Disqualify a Project Proposal from the Evaluation**

(1) Any breach of or failure to comply with the terms and conditions defined in these Rules explicitly stipulated in Article 3 (3), in Article 3.1. (1), (6), and (7), in Article 3.2. (3), (4) (d), (7), (11), (15), (16), (17) and (18), in Article 3.3.1. (2) and (3), in Article 4.1. (4) and (5), in Article 4.2. (4) and (5), and in

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<sup>22</sup> The funding decision may be contingent upon the Partner Agency's approval of the Project's funding in the future if the Partner Agency has not yet completed the evaluation process.

Article 4.6. (2) of these Rules shall constitute grounds to disqualify the Grant Project Proposal from the evaluation. The decision to disqualify such Project Proposal from the evaluation shall be made by the GACR Presidium. Failure to meet the above terms and conditions may also constitute grounds to terminate the Agreement on Grant Funding, or to revoke the Decision on Grant Funding without prior notice.

(2) Any submission of a Project Proposal which has already received Targeted Aid (Grant Funding) under Act No. 130/2002, or which is submitted two or more times in a given calendar year into the Provider's Public Tenders, shall constitute grounds to disqualify the Grant Project Proposal from the evaluation. The decision to disqualify such Project Proposal from the evaluation shall be made by the GACR Presidium.

#### **4.7. Complaints about the Provider's Actions in the Evaluation of the Project Proposal**

(1) Anyone who feels affected by GACR's actions or procedures during the evaluation of a Project Proposal pursuant to Article 4 of these Rules may, pursuant to Section (36) (7) of Act No. 130/2002, file a complaint in respect of the Provider's actions or procedures during the evaluation of the Grant Project Proposal.

(2) Any complaint about GACR's actions in the evaluation of the Grant Project Proposal pursuant to Article 4 of these Rules must be submitted within 15 calendar days of the receipt of the notification letter, including the provision of access to the individual evaluations of the Project, or within 15 calendar days of the receipt of the notification of the Project Proposal's disqualification from the evaluation. The procedure pursuant to Section 175 of Act No. 500/2004, Code of Administrative Procedure, as amended, shall apply to any complaints submitted at a later time.

(3) The complaint must make clear who is filing it and about which project, and contain a detailed description of the subject of the complaint, i.e. what the complainant believes are the exact errors in GACR's procedures and/or actions in the evaluation of the particular Project Proposal.

(4) Complaints about GACR's actions and/or procedures must be sent through the data mailbox information system (ISDS) into GACR's mailbox, identifier "a8uadk4". The complaint may only be submitted by the complaining Organization's authorised representative/agent, or by the Applicant through such representative/agent.

(5) A complaint filed by the appropriate deadline about the actions and/or procedures of GACR in the evaluation of the Grant Project Proposal pursuant to Article 4 of these Rules shall be dealt with by the GACR Supervisory Board, provided that such a complaint follows the procedure defined in paragraph 4 of this Article.

(6) Article 4.7. of these Rules shall be without prejudice to the right to file a complaint about GACR pursuant to Section 175 of Act No. 500/2004, Administrative Code, as amended.



## **5. DEFINITION OF INFORMATION INTENDED FOR PUBLICATION**

(1) In order to meet the obligations under Section 31 of Act No. 130/2002, the Provider may collect the necessary data about Project Proposals and Organizations, including personal data pursuant to Section 17 (6) of Act No. 130/2002. Both physical and digital forms of data collection shall be permitted. Such data are not part of the public domain.

(2) Provider shall abide by separate legislation<sup>23</sup> in the process of collection, processing, and publication of data. The extent of processing data about Project Proposals and Organizations is apparent from the data contained in the Project Proposal.

(3) Only data related to the Projects that the Provider has decided to fund may be disclosed in the publication of the results, and only to the following extent:

- a) name of the Organization;
- b) name and surname of the Applicant;
- c) registration number and the title of the Grant Project;
- d) scientific field and investigation period (duration) of the Grant Project.

(4) After the Agreement on Grant Funding is executed, or the Decision on Grant Funding is issued in favour of the Grant Project, data pursuant to provisions of Sections 30 to 32 of Act No. 130/2002 shall be published.

(5) GACR shall process personal data received in the submission of the Grant Project and/or in the next stage of this evaluation as the Controller pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Protection of Natural Persons with Regard to the Processing of Personal Data and on the Free Movement of Such Data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation), as amended (“GDPR”), namely due to satisfaction of a legal obligation, which is the proper evaluation of Project Proposals pursuant to Act No. 130/2002, the R&D Act, the purpose of which includes but is not limited to collecting proposals, assessment of the satisfaction of the terms and conditions for participation in this Call for Proposals, evaluation of the Project Proposals submitted, keeping the relevant records and documentation of the Project, and for publication in the VaVal information system. Additional information on processing and protecting personal data in the Czech Science Foundation is available at <https://gacr.cz/uredni-deska/ochrana-osobnich-udaju-a-gdpr-v-grantove-agenture-ceske-republiky/>.

## **6. HOW TO SUBMIT PROJECT PROPOSALS**

(1) Project proposals shall be submitted in digital form pursuant to Article 3.1. (4) of these Rules. The data mailbox identifier of the Provider is “ntq92qs”. The transmission through the data mailbox must be identified with the text “Project Proposal” in the “Subject” (Re:) field. The Project Proposal,

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<sup>23</sup> Act No. 110/2019, on the Protection of Personal Data and on Amendment of Certain Acts, as amended.

including all attachments, may not be submitted in compressed ZIP format or any similar compressed files or file archive formats.

(2) It is prohibited to modify the file in PDF format containing the Project Proposal, and the file may only be submitted in the form in which it was created by the Web App and following the procedure described in Article 3.1. (4) of these Rules.

(3) Standardised affidavit forms pursuant to Acts No. 130/2002 and No. 218/2000 are available on the Provider's website at <https://www.gacr.cz>. The affidavit must be filled in following the instructions given, and subsequently signed.

(4) The affidavit, the complete copy of a record in the Register of Beneficial Owners, and any other documents pursuant to Article 2.2. (1) and (5) of these Rules shall be delivered physically by the Project Submission Deadline in written form by post or in person to the GACR registry (mail room) located at Evropská 2589/33b, 160 00, Praha 6, in an envelope marked with "Eligibility", or digitally – signed by a recognized digital signature pursuant to a separate law or regulation<sup>24</sup> to the Provider's data mailbox, using the identifier "a8uadk4".

(5) Organizations which are not public institutions of higher education, public research institutions, or persons/entities established under separate generally binding legislation or through a published decision, shall attach a trade licence or another type of licence/authorisation as required, to their affidavit.

(6) Other types of licences/authorisations, as per separate legislation, shall be submitted if required for carrying out the Grant Project. In that case, photocopies of such licences shall be submitted by all Organizations notwithstanding their legal form as annexes to the Project Proposal. These annexes shall be added as attachments in the Web App to the Project Proposal; they are not part of the PDF file generated by the Web App containing the Project Proposal, and shall not be delivered through the data mailbox.

(7) The Project Proposal and affidavit as per Article 2.2. (1) and (3) of these Rules may be submitted by the prescribed procedure as early as the first day following the publication of the Call for Proposals, but no later than the Project Submission Deadline (the last day of the period for submitting Project Proposals), as defined under Article 2.3. (1) of these Rules. The deciding factor in assessing whether the deadline has been met for a Project Proposal is the date of delivery into the Provider's data mailbox; the deciding factor in assessing whether the deadline has been met for affidavits is the date of handover to Czech Post, or the date of delivery to the Provider (the latter only in case of a personal delivery or delivery by courier). Any temporary unavailability of the Web App for the submission of Project Proposals shall not be grounds for an extension of the Call for Proposals.

(8) The Project Proposal must be submitted within the deadlines set out in the Call for Proposals / Tender Notice both to the Partner Agency under its relevant rules, and to the Czech Science Foundation. If the two grant applications are not matched, the Project Proposal shall be disqualified from the evaluation. In case of trilateral projects, the project proposal must also be submitted to the third agency involved.

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<sup>24</sup> Act No. 297/2016, on trust services for electronic transactions, as amended.

## **7. CONDITIONS FOR, TIME PERIOD OF, AND MANNER OF PROVIDING GRANT FUNDS**

### **7.1. Deadline and Provision of Grant Funds**

(1) Unless remittances from the state budget are revised as a result of a provisional budget pursuant to the Act on Budgetary Rules, the Provider shall provide Grant Funding for newly launched Grant Projects after the Agreement takes effect, or after the day the Decision is issued. If any Co-beneficiaries are involved in the Grant Project, the provision of the Grant Funding in the first year of the project may not start until an agreement between the Beneficiary and any Co-beneficiary is entered into, and presented to the Provider, and until such agreement has been published duly and timely, in the Register of Contracts, pursuant to Act No. 340/2015, on Special Conditions for the Effectiveness of Certain Contracts, Publication of Such Contracts, and the Register of Contracts (“Act on the Register of Contracts”), as amended.

(2) Unless remittances from the state budget are revised as a result of a provisional budget pursuant to the Act on Budgetary Rules, the Grant Funding in the second year and any subsequent year of the Grant Project shall start as long as the terms and conditions stipulated in the Agreement or the Decision are being met. For ongoing Grant Projects, additional conditions must be met, as follows:

- a) pursuant to Section 10 of Act No. 130/2002, as a condition for continued funding, data must be entered into the Information System Research, Experimental Development, and Innovation;
- b) if it is necessary to execute an amendment to the Agreement or issue an amended Decision on Grant Funding for a given year, such amendment must take effect or such Decision must become enforceable by the given deadline.

(3) Pursuant to Section 10 of Act No. 130/2002, the Provider shall only provide Grant Funding to the Beneficiary by a direct transfer to the latter’s bank account established pursuant to the Act on Budgetary Rules, and specified in the Agreement. If a Co-beneficiary, which is not a governmental agency nor a territorial self-governing unit, joins the project, the Provider shall transfer the Targeted Aid (Grant Funding) to the Beneficiary including whichever portion is intended for the Co-beneficiary based on the agreement between Beneficiary and such Co-beneficiary.

(4) If a Co-beneficiary is involved in the Grant Project, and such Co-beneficiary’s share in the Grant Project is clearly specified in the Project Proposal, the provision of the portion of Grant Funding to such Co-beneficiary is not subject to the Public Procurement Act<sup>25</sup>.

(5) If the Beneficiary or Co-beneficiary is a governmental agency, the Provider shall request the Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic to implement a budgetary measure; the funds intended for this Beneficiary or Co-beneficiary shall be transferred through the budget chapter of the respective founder of such Co-beneficiary.

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<sup>25</sup> Act No. 134/2016 on Public Procurement, as amended.

## **7.2. Conditions for the Use and Management of Grant Funds**

(1) The Targeted Aid (Grant Funding) shall be managed by the Beneficiary pursuant to the Agreement or the Decision and any amendments thereto. Targeted Aid (Grant Funding) is provided for the entire duration of the Project, and any Targeted Aid (Grant Funds) already remitted shall be regarded as an entirety, not as a separate portion of Targeted Aid provided and exhaustible in the given year of the Project only. The use of the Grant Funding provided pursuant to the Agreement or the Decision for the respective calendar year must be reported and the accounts settled in the given calendar year. Any adjustments to the drawdowns and/or use of the Grant Funding in a given year may only be made pursuant to Article 7 of these Rules. Any action in violation of Article 7 of these Rules constitutes a breach of Budgetary Discipline, and shall constitute grounds to terminate this Agreement without prior notice, or to issue a Decision to Terminate the Grant Funding, and to impose other penalties under the Act on Budgetary Rules.

(2) As Grant Funds are being drawn down and used, it is necessary to abide by the basic structure of Grant Funds as specified in the Agreement or the Decision. If the approved budget of the Grant Project differs in its composition or total amount from the amounts requested in the Project Proposal (or those specified in the relevant Interim Report), the Provider shall send an approved revised financial schedule along with the Agreement (or amendment to the Agreement, or a new Decision), which shall then be binding upon the Beneficiary. Subject as provided otherwise in these Rules, the drawdowns and use of Funding, and the composition thereof, are subject to Regulation No. 433/2024, on Principles and Deadlines for Financial Settlement of Relations with the State Budget, State Financial Assets and the National Fund (Financial Settlement Decree), which stipulates the principles and deadlines for financial settlement of relations with the state budget, state financial assets and the National Fund, which is binding to two decimal places (CZK 0.01) notwithstanding the accuracy of the data provided in the Interim or Final Report.

(3) The Beneficiary is responsible for carrying out the entire Project, including those parts of it which are carried out by Co-beneficiary. The Beneficiary is obliged to continuously monitor both the drawdowns and the use of the Grant Funds, and the progress of the Grant Project. The Beneficiary is responsible for the use of the Grant Funds pursuant to the Investigator's instructions; however, if the Beneficiary discovers that such instructions are in violation of generally binding regulations or that the Funds are being used ineffectively, inefficiently and/or uneconomically, it shall suspend the execution of the instructions, and inform the Provider.

(4) Pursuant to the provisions of Section (8) (1) of Act No. 130/2002, the Beneficiary and the Co-beneficiary shall keep separate accounting records of the project costs incurred in line with the structure of the approved costs in order to be able to provide the Investigator or the Provider with reliable information on the balances of the amounts drawn down and used upon request without delay at any time of the year. Pursuant to Section (8) (1) of Accounting Act No. 563/1991, as amended, the Beneficiary and the Co-beneficiary are obliged to keep their accounting records correct, complete, traceable, comprehensible, clear and in a manner guaranteeing the durability of such accounting records.

(5) All accounting documents which the Beneficiary and Co-beneficiary use as records of the drawdowns and use of the Grant Funds must comply with the required particulars as stipulated by the Accounting Act and must be labelled with the account number of the Targeted Aid (Grant Funds) assigned to the particular Project. Separate accounting records must always indicate the Grant Project

registration number, all revenues and expenses for this analytical account in the given year, the date and purpose of each item (it must clearly show the connection with the Grant Project, the amount in CZK, and a classification of the item pursuant to the Beneficiary's chart of accounts).

(6) In its Interim and/or Final Reports in each year, the Beneficiary shall submit to the Provider a detailed overview of the use of approved costs and the Grant Funds received, and the amount of unused Grant Funds carried over to the following years of the Project, including the amount of Funds transferred by the Beneficiary to a dedicated Grant Fund Account established pursuant to the Higher Education Act or the Public Research Institutions Act, the balance of which Account may amount up to 5% of the total Targeted Aid (Grant Funds) received for the given Grant Project, except for the final year of the Project, during which it shall be necessary to report and settle all Funds allocated to the given Grant Project. Information shall be provided on the drawdowns and use of Funds by the Beneficiary and any Co-beneficiary. Potential changes during the year must be explained/justified in the regular Interim Reports.

(7) The Beneficiary is obliged to submit to the Provider any background documentation as the basis for the financial settlement of the Funds received by the Beneficiary each year in compliance with the Provider's instructions, and upon termination of the Project Funding, pursuant to separate laws and regulations (the Beneficiary shall show the amount allocated for the individual Grant Projects funded by the Provider, the amounts drawn down for non-investment costs of the entire accounting period of the previous year, the amount of unused funds carried over to the following years of the Projects, and any information on the transfer to a separate Grant Funds Account for the Grant Funds if the Beneficiary is allowed to establish such account) in compliance with the instructions given on the Provider's website. The Provider shall process and submit this information to the Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic in order to settle the Targeted Aid (Grant Funding) amounts against the state budget.

(8) The Beneficiary shall manage all the Grant Funds received, and shall be responsible to the Provider for the management thereof. If the Beneficiary assigns a portion of the Grant Funds to Co-beneficiary, pursuant to the Terms and Conditions of the Agreement, or the Decision on Grant Funding, and based on a separate agreement covering the portion of the Grant Project entered into by and between them, the Co-beneficiary shall further manage this portion of the Grant Funds, and shall be obliged to comply with all the obligations stipulated in such separate agreement. The Beneficiary is also obliged to control the management of the Grant Funds assigned to Co-beneficiary.

(9) If at any time during a given year of the Grant Project, the Beneficiary or any Co-beneficiary discover circumstances requiring changes or reassignments, as compared to the structure of the costs approved and/or the Grant Funding received and specified in the Agreement or Decision and its Annexes, the Beneficiary and/or any Co-beneficiary shall be obliged to follow the procedure specified in Article 7.5. of these Rules.

(10) If the Beneficiary is entitled under separate legislation to establish a Grant Funds Account, or if the Beneficiary exercises the option to carry over unused Funds to the following year(s), the Beneficiary shall be obliged to draw down and use these funds, and to settle them on or before the last day of the Project. Unused funds from overhead (indirect) costs may not be carried over to subsequent years (neither within the Grant Funds Account nor within the carry-over of unused targeted funds), and must be either spent in the given year or returned to the Provider in conformity with these Rules.

(11) If the accounting result in the separate analytical records for the given Grant Project shows a surplus on the last day of the year in which the project finished, i.e. if the funds provided to the

Beneficiary or Co-beneficiary of the Project have not been exhausted in full, the Beneficiary is obliged to notify the Provider to that effect, and return the unused funds for the Grant Project as a whole (including all Co-beneficiaries) to the state budget in a manner as explained below; furthermore, it is necessary to notify GACR about the payment in writing in compliance with the instructions given on the Provider's website, at <https://www.gacr.cz> and as follows:

- a) any Beneficiary which is a governmental agency or an agency of a territorial self-governing unit shall return unused Grant Funding to the bank account designated for incoming payments of such Beneficiary's founder;
- b) all other beneficiaries shall return Unused Grant Funds to the bank account specified on the GACR website, at <https://www.gacr.cz>.

(12) Pursuant to the provisions of Section 13 of Act No. 130/2002, the Provider is obliged to verify the achievement of the objectives of the Grant Project, including financial reviews, and monitoring of the drawdowns and the use of the Funds, and the effectiveness of the approved costs under the Agreement on Grant Funding or the Decision on Grant Funding, both on part of the Beneficiary and any Co-beneficiaries, including the audit and financial reviews pursuant to Act 320/2001, on Financial Control in Public Administration and on Amendments to Certain Acts (the "Financial Control Act"), as amended. The Beneficiary and any Co-beneficiary are obliged to enable the Provider to perform reviews and to cooperate with the Provider upon request.

(13) If any deficiencies are discovered during the review, the Provider shall proceed in accordance with existing legislation, these Rules, the Agreement on Grant Funding, or the Decision on Grant Funding awarded to the Project. If the Grant Funds from the state budget have been drawn down and/or used unlawfully, the Provider shall proceed pursuant to separate applicable legislation (including but not limited to Act No. 218/2000, Act No. 320/2001, and Act No. 280/2009, the Tax Code, as amended).

(14) The Beneficiary is obliged to notify the Provider in writing of any revenues arising out of the results of the Grant Project in its course no later than 60 calendar days within the date that the claim for such revenues arises, and shall disclose the amount and origin of such revenue. In the Interim or Final Reports, the Beneficiary is obliged to disclose the total amount of any revenues from the results of the Grant Project received in the given year of the Grant Project, and to propose the use of such revenues for the benefit of the Grant Project. Any revenues from the Grant Project results received after the completion of the Project shall be regarded as:

- a) state budget revenues if the Beneficiary is a governmental agency;
- b) budget revenues of a territorial self-governing unit if the Beneficiary is an agency of this territorial self-governing unit;
- c) the Beneficiary's revenue in case of all other beneficiaries.

### **7.3. Principles of Carrying out the Grant Project**

(1) The Beneficiary is obliged to launch and carry out the Grant Project in the manner and within the time limits and deadlines as defined by the Agreement or Decision. The Investigator is obliged to follow the Code of Ethics for the Investigators of GACR projects at all times in the course of the Grant Project.

(2) The Beneficiary is obliged to demonstrate or present the results of the Grant Project in a manner that corresponds to the nature of the relevant scientific field and the nature of the Grant Project. The Project results must be structured by types, as defined in Annex 4 to these Rules; in the event that the definition of the types of results changes in the course of the project compared to these Rules, the results shall be assessed in accordance with Annex 4 of the Rules applicable to the call published in the year in which the results are evaluated. A publication may only be recognized as an output of a Grant Project if it explicitly states that the work was carried out through the Grant Funding of the Provider, and also if the registration number of the Grant Project concerned is given, as well as the author's affiliation with the Beneficiary. In the event that the publication outputs of the Czech Science Foundation projects include multiple acknowledgements to other projects receiving targeted aid, it is necessary to justify these multiple acknowledgements to such other projects. Multiple acknowledgements to other projects must be explained — which author thanks which project, what was the contribution of each project of Targeted Aid to the publication output in question, and which specific steps in generating publication outputs were supported by the given project. If the above condition has not been met, the publication cannot be accepted. In the event that the rules for output acceptance change in the course of the project, the procedure shall be implemented in accordance with the Rules applicable to the call published in the year in which the results are evaluated, as well as in accordance with the instructions listed within the application. Upon submitting the results of the Grant Project, the Beneficiary shall proceed pursuant to the information contained in the Project Proposal. It is advisable to publish the results in the Open Access form if the practice in the given field, the character of the results, and the terms and conditions for the Project so permit; alternatively, the publication results can be transferred to open digital archives pursuant to the terms and conditions of the publisher's licence.

(3) Pursuant to the provisions of Section 16 of Act No. 130/2002, all rights to the results of the Grant Project shall be the property of the Beneficiary. The rights of authors and originators of the results, and holders of the intellectual property rights to such results, are subject to separate laws and regulations. The provisions of Section (16) (4) of Act No. 130/2002 shall apply to the use of the results.

(4) The Beneficiary is obliged to deliver the information about the results of the Grant Projects being carried out to the Provider within the deadline published annually; such results shall be entered into the Information System for Research, Experimental Development, and Innovation (part of the Register of Information on Results — RIV) pursuant to Act No. 130/2002 and Government Regulation No. 397/2009.

(5) The Beneficiary is obliged to notify the Provider in writing of any changes that have occurred as the Grant Project was being carried out which could have any impact on the completion of the Project or which, in any way, affect the Beneficiary's legal personality, or the information required to prove its eligibility, no later than 7 calendar days within the date that the Beneficiary becomes aware of such fact(s).

(6) If, during or after the completion of a Grant Project, it is discovered that the Terms and Conditions of the Agreement or the Decision on Grant Funding have not been met, or that the terms and conditions have been breached pursuant to Act No. 130/2002, the provisions of Section 14 of Act No. 130/2002 shall apply.



(7) The Beneficiary and any Co-beneficiary are obliged to keep for a period of at least 10 years following the completion of the Grant Project all documentation related directly or indirectly to the Grant Project and its progress, including but not limited to:

- a) expert documentation for the Grant Project;
- b) documentation relating to the management of the Grant Funding received;
- c) accounting documents related to the separate accounts for the management of the Grant Funding received;
- d) contractual documents related to the Grant Project and its progress, including any modifications or amendments thereto;
- e) results of the Grant Project.

(8) The Provider shall store the documents related to the evaluation of Project Proposals, including the Project Proposal themselves, for a period of 10 years.

#### **7.4. Interim and Final Reports on Grant Projects**

(1) The Beneficiary is obliged to draw up Interim and/or Final Reports on the Grant Project. Forms for those reports are available exclusively on the website of the Provider at <https://www.gris.cz> in the on-line Web App created for this purpose. Interim and/or Final Reports on the Grant Project must be filled in using the Web App following the instructions therein, and converted to PDF format as per the same instructions. The structure of the Interim and Final Report forms and the exact instructions for completing them are provided in the Web App. The Provider reserves the right to require the Beneficiary/Co-beneficiary to fill in other data relating to the project for statistical purposes, and for the purpose of evaluations of groups of grant projects, even after the project has ended.

(2) Only a version of the Interim and/or Final Report that contains all its parts with all relevant data required as specified in the Web App shall be deemed a complete and proper Interim or Final Report.

(3) The Interim and/or Final Reports must be created in the Web App and transmitted through ISDS to a data mailbox named “Grantové projekty (Grantová agentura České republiky)” (in English: Grant Projects (Czech Science Foundation)) with the identifier “ntq92qs”. After being finalised in the Web App, the Interim and/or Final Reports shall be affixed with a digital seal, and thus may no longer be altered in any way. The digital seal ensures for the report the proof of origin of each document received (the document was created in the Web App and a record of it is stored therein), the data become impossible to alter (the Applicant or Organization has not altered the figures or other text in the PDF, and the document thus matches the relevant data in the Web App); the digital seal also stores information that identifies the version of the report accurately. The version of the Project Proposal which is the last to arrive before the submission deadline through the data mailbox specified in this paragraph shall be deemed to have been submitted – it may not necessarily be the latest version of the Project Proposal in the Web App. The Interim and/or Final Reports the digital seal of which has been removed or replaced by another one shall not be accepted. The delivery in ISDS must be marked as “DZ” (*translator’s note: Interim Report*) or “ZZ” (*translator’s note: Final Report*) in the “Subject” field.

(4) The file referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article containing the Interim and/or Final Reports shall at all times retain the title assigned during the conversion process pursuant to paragraph (1) of this Article.

(5) The Interim and/or Final Reports shall be submitted for the Grant Project as a whole, and shall also contain information relating to the part of the Grant Project carried out by any Co-beneficiary.

(6) The contents of the Interim and/or Final Reports shall include information on the use of the approved project costs, i.e. the Grant Funding received, as well as any costs reimbursed from other sources, and information about unused funds carried over to the following years of the Project. The Beneficiary shall also provide information on the financial performance of any Co-beneficiary. If the Beneficiary is a public research institution or a public institution of higher education, it must notify the Provider in the Interim Report of how much of the Grant Funding and from which items of it the Beneficiary has transferred to the Grant Funds Account.

#### **7.4.1. Interim Report on the Grant Project**

(1) The Interim Report shall contain information on the progress made to date during the Grant Project, on the results achieved and on the management of the Grant Funds for the period covered by the Interim Report, in the level of detail as specified in the Web App. The instructions in the Web App shall be followed for the Interim Report to be filled in.

(2) The Interim Report must be drawn up for each year of the Project or a fraction thereof, and the Beneficiary is obliged to deliver it to the Provider on or before the day published at <https://www.gacr.cz>. In extremely exceptional cases, if the Beneficiary is unable to draw up and submit the Interim Report by the deadline specified due to compelling and objective reasons, the Beneficiary shall notify the Provider to that effect in writing before the deadline, stating the reason why the Interim Report cannot be submitted by the deadline. The Provider may decide to extend the deadline for the submission of the Interim Report. In that case, the provision of the Grant Funding is subject to the execution of an amendment to the Agreement on Grant Funding, or the amended Decision on Grant Funding. A detailed report on the progress of the three-year Project shall not be drawn up and submitted until after the second year of the Project. The management of the Grant Funds and an overview of publication outputs shall be reported each year.

(3) Additional annexes must be attached to the Interim Report incorporated by reference therein. The list of annexes is provided in the Web App.

(4) The Provider may request copies of any documents in respect of the respective Grant Project at any time.

#### **7.4.2. Final Report on the Grant Project**

(1) The Final Report shall contain information on the results of the Grant Project throughout the entire period, and any future application potential of the grant project, and on the results of the management of the Grant Funds for the final year of the duration of the Grant Project. The Subject-Matter Final Report is typically completed one year following the year in which the funding of the Project ended. The submission of this Report may be postponed by six months upon the request of the Beneficiary. Information on the drawdowns and use of financial funds shall be submitted according to the instructions and by the deadlines specified on the Provider's website at <https://www.gacr.cz>.

(2) The Beneficiary is obliged to deliver the Final Report to the Provider on or before the date specified on the website <https://www.gacr.cz>.

(3) The Beneficiary may request the postponement of the submission of the Final Report by filling in the appropriate form in the Web App, which is to be submitted in the period as defined in paragraph (2) of this Article along with those parts of the Final Report the final version of which can already be drawn up and delivered. If the above request is granted, the Beneficiary is obliged to deliver on or before 31 July of the second year following the end of the Project funding (i.e. if the project funding ends in 2029, the deadline for the submission of the Final Report will be 31 July 2031) the remaining parts of the Final Report, which will contain – as per the instructions in the Web App, and including without limitation, all the information in the forms concerning the analysis of the progress of the Grant Project, an overall summary of the results achieved, and a summary of the basic information about the Grant Project, including all of the annexes to the Interim Report. A repeated request as per the first sentence is inadmissible.

(4) If a Party to the Agreement on Grant Funding has withdrawn therefrom, or if the Agreement has been terminated by notice, or if it has ceased to have effect for any other reason, or if the Decision on Grant Funding has been revoked, the Beneficiary shall draw up the Final Report, and deliver it by a deadline specified by the Provider. This is without prejudice to any other obligations on part of the Beneficiary.

(5) All the outputs referred to in Article 7.3. (2) of these Rules which are the result of the entire Grant Project through all of its duration must be submitted digitally at the same time as the Final Report, unless they have been delivered as the results reported in the Interim Reports.

#### **7.4.3. Evaluation of the Progress of the Grant Project**

(1) The Czech part of the Grant Project shall be evaluated annually, on the basis of the Interim Reports submitted, where the evaluation bodies of the Provider shall evaluate it from the financial perspective; after two years of the Project, it shall be evaluated by the Discipline Committee, under whose scope of authority the Grant Project falls, and the Discipline Committee shall do so on the basis of an assessment performed by its evaluation panel.

(2) The Provider shall evaluate the progress of the Grant Project using the main criteria as follows:

- a) the progress of the work and the achievement of the aims compared to the plan set out in the Project Proposal, and the estimated schedule for the material completion of assignments;
- b) engagement of the appropriate professionals and personnel in the Project;
- c) utilisation of the material and technical resources, the equipment and instruments acquired with the use of the Grant Funds;
- d) personnel, organization, and technological process, cooperation between the Beneficiary and the Investigator;
- e) achievement of the aims and outputs of the Project compared to the plan set out in the Project Proposal, and the estimated schedule for the material completion of assignments;
- f) coordination of cooperation with the Investigator in the Partner Country;

- g) added value of cooperation with the Investigator in the Partner Country;
- h) mutual use of each other's equipment of the cooperating institutions;
- i) deployment of complementary approaches and methodologies;
- j) evaluation of the financial management of the Grant Funds received, and/or the proposed budget for the following period (the Provider shall review the drawdowns of the allocated Grant Funds, the effectiveness of spending the Funds, the compliance with the structure of the Funds, and a proper justification (explanation) of any possible transfers or changes);
- k) an assessment of the results in the structure defined by the types specified in Annex 4 to these Rules; in the event that the definition of the types of results changes in the course of the project compared to these Rules, the results shall be assessed in accordance with Annex 4 of the Rules applicable to the call published in the year in which the results are evaluated.

(3) If the prerequisites for the continuation of the Grant Project are satisfied, and the Provider decides to continue funding the Grant Project, and if the terms and conditions pursuant to Article 7.1. of these Rules have been met, the Beneficiary shall receive Targeted Aid (Grant Funds) for the following year of the Project.

4) If the prerequisites for the continuation of the Grant Project are not satisfied, the Provider may terminate the Agreement on Grant Funding without prior notice or revoke the Decision on Grant Funding pursuant to the provisions under the Agreement or the Decision, and discontinue the project. If the Project is discontinued (i.e. it is terminated prematurely by the Provider based on the evaluation of the Interim Report, and the Agreement is terminated by the Provider), the Project shall be graded as "Incomplete", and it shall not be possible to request its re-evaluation.

(5) The Provider may reduce the targeted funding in view of the progress of the Grant Project so far or in view of the results of the reviews pursuant to the provisions of Section 13 of Act No. 130/2002 Coll., whereby the procedure for amending the Agreement to Provide Grant Funding or for issuing a decision amending the original Decision on Grant Funding shall be analogical to the procedure set out in Article 1 of this Annex, with modifications as necessary.

#### **7.4.4. Evaluation of a Completed Grant Project**

(1) The Discipline Committee of GACR under whose scope of activities the Grant Project falls shall carry out the evaluation of the Czech part of the completed Grant Project pursuant to the provisions of Article 7.4.3. (2) of these Rules, with necessary modifications, on the basis of an assessment by the pertinent Evaluation Panel, on the basis of the Final Report, and on the basis of the results of the reviews of the management of the Grant Funds provided. In the overall evaluation of the completed Grant Project, the Discipline Committee and the Evaluation Panel shall also take into account the compliance with the terms and conditions for the management of the Grant Funds provided. In the final evaluation of the Czech part of the Project, the Czech Science Foundation shall take into account the information from the Partner Agency about the result of the evaluation of the part of the Project originating in the other country if such evaluation is available.

In addition to the criteria pursuant to the provisions of Article 7.4.3. (2) of these Rules, the Discipline Committee shall also assess the following:

- a) achievement of the declared purpose of the LA Grant;

- b) progress of the work and its conformity with the achievement of the aims as defined;
- c) engagement of the appropriate professionals and personnel in the Project;
- d) utilisation of the equipment acquired with the use of the Grant Funds;
- e) assessment of the overall management of the Grant Funds received (a review shall be made of the drawdowns of the Grant Funds assigned, the effectiveness of the use thereof, and the compliance with the prescribed composition thereof;
- f) added value of international cooperation;
- g) evaluation of the outputs structured by type as defined in Annex 4 to these Rules.

Each Grant Project shall be evaluated separately. The Project shall always be graded as “Incomplete” independently of the expert evaluation in any of the following cases:

- a) not all parts of the Final Report have been delivered;
- b) the Provider has withdrawn from the Agreement on Grant Funding, has terminated the Agreement on Grant Funding, or revoked the Decision on Grant Funding pursuant to Article 7.4.3. (4) of these Rules; in that case, the Beneficiary shall not be entitled to submit a request for reconsideration of the evaluation pursuant to paragraph (4) of this article;
- c) the terms and conditions for submitting the results into the Information System for Research, Development, and Innovation (IS R&D), Register of Information on Results (RIV) section, have not been met.

(2) If, on the basis of the evaluation of the Discipline Committee, the aims of the Project have not been met through the Beneficiary's and/or Investigator's substantial fault, such fault shall be deemed a breach of budgetary discipline. In this case, the financial penalty for the breach of budgetary discipline shall be 5 % of the total amount of the Grant Funds.

(3) Pursuant to the provisions of Section (13) (4) of Act No. 130/2002, and after Grant Projects have been completed, the Provider shall evaluate the achievement of the aims set out in the Agreement or Decision on Grant Funding, the results achieved by the Project and their relation to the Project's aims, and include the aforesaid in the final evaluation of each Grant Project; the Provider shall then enter information pursuant to Government Regulation No. 397/2009 into the Information System for Research, Experimental Development and Innovation.

(4) The Beneficiary may submit a request for reconsideration of the evaluation no later than 30 October of the second year following the end of the Project funding; any requests submitted at a later time shall not be considered.

## **7.5. Changes in the Course of the Grant Project**

(1) The Beneficiary may not derogate from the existing legal situation resulting out of the Agreement as executed or Decision as issued, on Grant Funding, including the approved Project Proposal which is incorporated therein by reference. Any changes to the Agreement or Decision must be based on an amendment to the Agreement or a new Decision that has taken force and effect.

(2) In the course of the Grant Project, changes of the Project Proposal approved originally may only occur in the following cases:

- a) change in the approved costs or change in the amount of the Grant Funds awarded;
- b) change of Co-beneficiary, Investigator or Co-investigator of the Grant Project;
- c) change of Beneficiary.

(3) A change of the aim or the subject matter of the Grant Project is not possible.

(4) The following changes are possible without a request, and do not require an amendment to the Agreement or a new Decision on Grant Funding:

- a) an increase in the approved costs by up to 10% of the amount of such costs specified in the Agreement or Decision for the year in question, while maintaining the amount of the Grant Funding provided, and causing the ensuing reduction in the Proportion of Funding by the Provider;
- b) redistributions between and among the Items of Basic Structure of the Grant Funds awarded to the Beneficiary or to a Co-beneficiary pursuant to Article 3 of this Annex, and
- c) changes in the team of Professional Collaborators, including a change in the total team work capacity (workload) of up to 20 % of the total team work capacity (workload) approved in the Agreement, while maintaining the professional quality of the team; changes in the workload of the Investigator not exceeding 20% shall be treated separately.

Eligible personnel costs pursuant to Article 3.3.1. (2) of these Rules are the costs of the relevant part of the Salaries of those employees who, under their employment contracts, participate in the Project to the extent of the work capacity dedicated to the Project. The amount drawn down in the course of the Project may reach up to the amount of the gross Salary of such employee (proportionately to the employee's workload in the Project), but may not exceed CZK 70,000 on average per calendar month (proportionately to the employee's workload in the Project). However, in the next Report (Interim or Final), the Beneficiary must justify any changes made in the appropriate section. The changes or redistributions must be proven to be effective, economical, efficient, and supported by activities approved, and must be proved to satisfy the Terms and Conditions for the Grant Funding, as specified in Act No. 130/2002 and in these Rules. If the Beneficiary fails to properly substantiate the changes or redistributions referred to in the previous sentence, the Provider has the right not to approve such changes, and to impose penalties pursuant to the Agreement or Decision on Grant Funding. An adjustment to the funds for the following year within the Interim Report is possible according to the needs of the Grant Project, and such adjustment is deemed to be a change request. Changes in the person of the Principal Investigator or Co-investigator, or a Co-beneficiary, are covered in Section 7.5.2. of these Rules.

(5) The procedure referred to in paragraph (4) of this Article may not be used to request, nor to carry out, any redistribution of an item to the category of overhead (indirect) costs referred to in Article 3.3.3. (6) of these Rules.

(6) Redistributions between and among the basic structure items of the Grant Funds awarded to the Beneficiary, and/or to Co-beneficiary pursuant to Article 7.2. of these Rules, up to CZK 100,000 per project year, are possible without a request, and do not require an amendment to the Agreement or a new Decision on Grant Funding.

(7) In the event that unused funds are carried over to the following years of the Project, or in the event that the Beneficiary, or Co-beneficiary, is entitled to establish the Grant Funds Account, the

provisions of paragraphs (4) and (6) of this Article shall apply, with necessary modifications, whenever funds are drawn down from such Grant Funds Account.

#### **7.5.1. Procedure to Implement Changes to the Grant Project**

(1) In the event of a material change in circumstances concerning the Grant Project which the Provider could not have foreseen or that the Provider has not caused, the Provider shall propose to the Beneficiary a change in the total amount of approved costs, and/or in the amount of the Grant Funding awarded, and/or an amendment to the Agreement on Grant Funding or the Decision on Grant Funding in writing no later than 7 calendar days within the day that the Provider becomes aware of such change in circumstances. The Beneficiary shall respond to the Provider's proposal in writing within 60 calendar days of the receipt of the proposal.

(2) In the event of a material change in circumstances concerning the Grant Project which the Beneficiary could not have foreseen or that the Beneficiary has not caused, the Beneficiary shall request the Provider to modify the structure and/or the amount of approved costs, and/or the amount of Grant Funds, and/or an amendment to the Agreement on Grant Funding or the Decision on Grant Funding in writing, no later than 7 calendar days within the day that the Beneficiary becomes aware of such change in circumstances, but no later than 60 calendar days before the end of a calendar year, or 60 days before the completion of the Project. The Provider is not, however, obliged to accept or agree to the Terms and Conditions for the change in the structure nor the amount of the approved costs nor the amount of the Grant Funds.

(3) If the Provider grants the Beneficiary's request submitted pursuant to paragraph (2) of this Article, the Provider and the Beneficiary shall enter into an amendment to the Agreement on Grant Funding with the Beneficiary, or decide to amend the Decision on Grant Funding within 60 calendar days of the receipt of the request. If the Provider rejects the Beneficiary's request submitted under paragraph (2) of this Article, the former shall notify the latter in writing within 30 calendar days of the date that such request was considered; no decision on such request shall be issued.

(4) The request for changes in the Grant Project must contain the following:

- a) identification information of the Beneficiary, the Investigator (and, if applicable, any Co-beneficiaries and/or Co-investigator in case of a change relating to Co-beneficiaries) and the relevant Grant Project, including the registration number;
- b) specification of the requested change;
- c) detailed description of the cause of the requested change, and a justification thereof;
- d) indication of when the cause of the requested change occurred;
- e) signatures of the Beneficiary, or persons authorised to act on behalf of the Beneficiary (or any Co-beneficiary, if applicable).

#### **7.5.2. Procedures to Implement Changes Requiring Special Attention in the Course of the Project, and Procedures to Change the Investigator, Co-investigator, or Co-beneficiary**

(1) If the Investigator cannot, for serious reasons, continue carrying out the Grant Project at the Beneficiary's institution specified in the Agreement on Grant Funding or in the Decision on Grant Funding, the Beneficiary shall request the Provider in a manner similar to that defined in Article 7.5.1. of these Rules for a change of the Grant Project consisting of the appointment of a new individual as



the Investigator; the professional qualifications of the new Investigator must be documented by his or her CV in the same manner as in the Project Proposal. As a rule, the Beneficiary shall enclose a written statement of position from the original Project Investigator along with the request. A change in the person of the Principal Investigator is only possible in cases worthy of special consideration (e.g. serious illness, maternity and parental leave).

(2) If the Provider grants the Beneficiary's request pursuant to paragraph (1) of this Article, the procedure in Article 5.1. (3) of these Rules shall apply; however, if the Beneficiary rejects the amendment to the Agreement on Grant Funding, the Provider may terminate the Agreement on Grant Funding without prior notice. A similar procedure shall apply in case of a new Decision on Grant Funding. If the Provider does not approve the request for a change in the person of the Investigator in the first year of the project and the grant funds still have not been paid out, the grant funds shall not be paid out. If the grant funds have already been paid out, the Beneficiary shall pay those funds back.

(3) If the change of Investigator is being requested due to an upcoming maternity (parental) leave, the request referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article shall also specify whether the original Investigator expects to continue to carry out the project after returning from maternity (parental) leave, and shall also specify the expected duration of the maternity (parental) leave. In that case, the amendment to the Agreement pursuant to Article 5.1. (3) of this Annex shall state that the new Investigator will only perform the activities of the original one for the duration of the original Investigator's maternity (parental) leave. The Beneficiary shall notify the Provider of this fact no later than 30 calendar days prior to the return of the original Investigator from maternity (parental) leave; by this notification, the responsibility for the Grant Project shall revert to the original Investigator pursuant to the amendment to the Agreement as per the previous sentence.

(4) If the Investigator takes a maternity or parental leave, suffers a long-term disease, or faces any other serious occupational obstacles, such as long-term care for a family member/relative or a close person, the Beneficiary may request a suspension of the Project starting on the first day of a month for a full calendar month, for a total of 6 to 18 calendar months, provided that all the professional and other professional collaborators explicitly agree thereto. The request for suspension shall be submitted by the Beneficiary in a manner analogical to that defined in Article 5.1. of this Annex, and no later than the last day of a calendar month. The Beneficiary shall attach to this application the written consent of all professional collaborators involved in the Project. If the Provider agrees to temporarily suspend the Grant Project, the procedure shall be similar to Article 7.5.1 of these Rules, with necessary modifications. This is without prejudice to the obligation to submit the annual Interim Report.

(5) If the Investigator takes a maternity/parental leave, or in other situations deserving special consideration, the Beneficiary may request a reduction in the Investigator's workload in the Project in accordance with Article 7.5.1 of these Rules. In addition, the Beneficiary shall indicate in the request the reason for, and the expected duration of, such reduction.

(6) If the investigator takes a maternity or parental leave, suffers a long-term illness or faces other serious occupational obstacles, e.g., long-term care for a family member/relative or a close person, the Beneficiary may apply for an extension of the Project duration, up to a maximum of 18 months, in accordance with the procedure set out in Article 5.1 of this Annex. In order to finance the costs incurred during the extension period, the Beneficiary shall use the unused funds carried over to a future period in accordance with these Rules, or may request an increase in the total project costs to be covered by its own sources.

(7) If the project is interrupted or postponed on the part of the Investigator in the other country due to a maternity or parental leave, long-term illness or any other serious work obstacles, e.g. long-term care for a family member / relative, and it is not possible to continue the project on part of the Czech Beneficiary, the Beneficiary may request the interruption or postponement of the project under the procedure set out in Article 7.5.1 of these Rules.

(8) If, for any serious reason, the Co-investigator is unable to continue carrying out the Grant Project at the institution of Co-beneficiary specified in the Agreement on Grant Funding, or in the Decision on Grant Funding, the following procedure shall apply:

- a) the Beneficiary shall request the Provider in a manner similar to that defined in Article 7.5.1. of these Rules for a change within the Grant Project consisting of the appointment of a new Co-investigator; the professional qualifications of the new Co-investigator must be documented in the same manner as in the Project Proposal. As a rule, the Beneficiary shall submit a written statement of position from the original project Investigator along with the request;
- b) the Beneficiary shall request the Provider in writing to transfer the rights and obligations attached to the Grant Project to another Co-beneficiary, i.e. the new Co-investigator's institution; the original Co-beneficiary's written consent to such transfer, and that of the new Co-beneficiary proposed, must be incorporated in this request by reference, bearing their signatures, or the signatures of persons authorised to act on their behalf in this matter; furthermore, it is necessary to demonstrate the professional qualifications of the proposed new Co-beneficiary in a manner similar to Article 2.2. of these Rules.

(9) If the Provider grants the Beneficiary's request as per paragraph (8) (a) of this Article, the former shall proceed pursuant to Article 7.5.1. (3) of these Rules; however, if the Beneficiary rejects the amendment to the Agreement on Grant Funding, the Provider may terminate the Agreement on Grant Funding without prior notice. A similar procedure shall apply in case of a new Decision on Grant Funding.

(10) If the Provider grants the Beneficiary's request under paragraph (8) (b) of this Article, the rights and obligations attached to the Grant Project shall be transferred from the existing Co-beneficiary to the new Co-beneficiary by way of a separate trilateral agreement between the Beneficiary, the existing Co-beneficiary, and the new Co-beneficiary. Simultaneously, an amendment to the Agreement on Grant Funding shall be executed by and between the Provider and the Beneficiary. If the Beneficiary rejects such amendment to the Agreement on Grant Funding, and/or the original or new Co-beneficiary rejects the trilateral agreement on the transfer of rights and obligations attached to the Grant Project, the Provider may terminate the Agreement on Grant Funding without prior notice. The same procedure shall apply in case of a new Decision on Grant Funding. An agreement shall be executed by and between the existing Co-beneficiary and the new Co-beneficiary on the settlement of the assets acquired with the use of the Grant Funds through the history of the Project; such settlement agreement shall be incorporated by reference in the trilateral agreement between the Beneficiary, the existing Co-beneficiary, and the new Co-beneficiary. If the existing and the new Co-beneficiary do not reach an agreement, the Provider may terminate the Agreement on Grant Funding without prior notice.

(11) If the Provider does not grant the Beneficiary's request pursuant to paragraph (1) of this Article, the Provider may terminate the Agreement on Grant Funding without prior notice, or revoke the Decision on Grant Funding. The Beneficiary is then obliged to return all unused Grant Funds after drawing up a proper financial report and settlement.

### 7.5.3. Procedure to Change the Beneficiary

(1) If such circumstances arise on part of the Beneficiary's institution, which is specified in the Agreement on Grant Funding or in the Decision on Grant Funding, and which circumstances should render the expected results and the desired efficiency impossible to achieve within the Grant Project, the existing Beneficiary, the new Applicant, and the Project Investigator all together may request a Change of the Beneficiary. In addition to all the essentials defined in the standard-form Request for Change of Beneficiary, which is incorporated in these Rules by reference as Annex 5, the Request for Change of Beneficiary must contain, including but not limited to, the following:

- a) a detailed explanation of all relevant facts, justifying the conclusion that it is not efficient to continue the Project at the institution of the existing Beneficiary;
- b) a breakdown of the approved costs, both drawn down and remaining, within the Project pursuant to Articles II, III and IV of Annex 5 to these Rules;
- (c) the interim financial statements of the Project as of the date of the Request for Change;
- (d) the reallocation of approved costs, both drawn down and remaining, within the Project, and the mutual settlement thereof pursuant to Articles V, VI and VII of Annex 8 to these Rules;
- (e) a description of the personnel, organizational and technical arrangements for the performance and progress of work at the institution of the new Beneficiary after the change of Beneficiary;
- (f) the outputs of the project used to the benefit of the existing Beneficiary, and the results remaining to be used by the new Applicant, and the mutual settlement thereof;
- (g) a proposal for the mutual settlement between the existing Beneficiary and the new Applicant, including the settlement of the assets acquired with the use of the approved costs of the Project. This proposal must also include the settlement of all property rights which came into existence in the course of the Project, including the rights to the research results;
- (h) full demonstration of the qualifications of the new Applicant;
- (i) an agreement for the assignment of the Agreement on Grant Funding; the Provider's approval of the Request to Change the Beneficiary shall be condition precedent to the entry into effect of such agreement to assign the Agreement.

(2) The change of the Beneficiary must not change the contents of the contractual relationship established on the basis of the Agreement, or the Decision on Grant Funding for the Project.

(3) The purpose of the approval process for the change of Beneficiary shall be primarily to verify that the new Organization meets the legal requirements for the eligibility of the Applicant in the same way as the satisfaction of such requirements was verified originally within this Call for Proposals, i.e. the new Organization must prove qualifications to the full extent.

(4) The purpose of the subsequent approval process of the change of Beneficiary shall be to verify that the new Applicant is able to provide the Investigator and his team members with the same or better institutional and technical resources for the Project. The new Applicant must prove that if he or she had been the Applicant in the original Call for Proposals, the Project would have achieved exactly

the same or better evaluation among the projects selected. To this end, the GACR Presidium shall seek the opinion of the project rapporteur and other members of the advisory bodies.

(5) The GACR Presidium shall review the Request and decide without undue delay – i.e. at the next meeting of the GACR Presidium, as a rule. The GACR Presidium may stipulate additional conditions and require the satisfaction thereof, and/or it may request additional documentation for the assessment of the Request.

(6) If the Provider grants the Request submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) of this Article, the new Applicant shall assume the legal status of the existing Beneficiary on the basis of the assignment of the Agreement on Grant Funding pursuant to Section (18) (95) et seq. of Act No. 89/2012, the Civil Code, as amended. The same procedure, with necessary modifications, shall apply in case of a new Decision on Grant Funding.

(7) If the Provider does not grant the Request submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) of this Article, the Provider shall be entitled to terminate the Agreement on Grant Funding without prior notice.

## **8. ANNEXES**

Annex 1 – Categorisation of Scientific Fields into Evaluation Panels

Annex 2 – Affidavit to Demonstrate Eligibility (standardised form)

Annex 3 – Structure of OECD Research Fields by Two-Digit Classification

Annex 4 – Definition of Types of Outputs

Annex 5 – Request for Change of Beneficiary

## ANNEX 1 – CATEGORISATION OF SCIENTIFIC FIELDS INTO EVALUATION PANELS

### 1. Technical Sciences

- P101 Mechanical Engineering
- P102 Electrical and electronic engineering
- P103 Computer and information engineering
- P105 Civil engineering
- P106 Chemical engineering
- P107 Inorganic materials science and engineering
- P108 Organic materials and biomaterials science and engineering
- P109 Advanced materials science and engineering

### 2. Physical Sciences

- P202 Mathematics and Computer Science
- P203 Nuclear and Particle Physics, Astronomy and Astrophysics
- P204 Condensed Matter and Material Physics, Plasma Physics and Low Temperature Physics
- P205 Biophysics, Macromolecular Physics and Optics
- P206 Analytical and Physical Chemistry
- P207 Chemical and Biochemical Transformations
- P209 Atmospheric Sciences, Hydrology, Physical Geography and Geophysics
- P210 Geochemistry, Geology and Mineralogy, Hydrogeology

### 3. Medical and Biological Sciences

- P301 Biochemistry, Molecular and Structural Biology, Genetics, Genomics and Bioinformatics
- P302 Microbiology, Parasitology, Immunology and Biotechnology
- P303 Cell, Developmental and Evolutionary Biology, Regeneration and Reproduction
- P304 Tumour Biology, Experimental Oncology
- P305 Neurosciences
- P306 Medical Sciences - Physiology and Biophysics, Pathology and Pathophysiology, Diagnostics and Therapy, Pharmacology and Toxicology

### 4. Social Sciences and Humanities

- P401 Philosophy, Theology, Religious Studies
- P402 Economic Sciences, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Econometrics except Financial Econometrics, Quantitative Methods in Economics except Operational Research
- P403 Business and Management Science, Finance, Financial Econometrics and Operational Research
- P404 Sociology, Demography, Social Geography, Media Studies and Social Work
- P405 Archaeology and Pre-Modern History until 1780
- P406 Linguistics and Literature
- P407 Psychology, Pedagogy, Sport Science
- P408 Juridical Science and Political Science
- P409 Art Sciences
- P410 Modern History (since 1780) and Ethnology

### 5. Agricultural and Biological-environmental Sciences

- P501 Plant Physiology and Genetics, Plant Medicine
- P502 Animal Physiology and Genetics, Veterinary Medicine
- P503 Food science, Ecotoxicology and Environmental Chemistry
- P504 Landscape Management, Forestry and Soil Biology, Ecosystem Ecology
- P505 Animal and Plant Ecology
- P506 Botany and Zoology

## ANNEX 2 - AFFIDAVIT TO DEMONSTRATE ELIGIBILITY (STANDARDISED FORM)

I. Identification data:

Affidavit made by a legal entity:

**Business name or Organization name:**

**Registered seat:**

**Registration number ("IČO"):**

Affidavit made by a natural person:

**Name and surname:**

**Birth date:**

**Place of residence:**

**Place of business:**

**Registration number ("IČO"):**

II. I honestly declare, that Organization:

- 1) meets the professional requirements for project implementation as defined in the Tender Document (**section 18 (2)(a) of Act no. 130/2002 Coll.**),
- 2) meets all conditions for the type of organization which it declares to be, it means either the conditions for one of **the categories of a business** (small enterprise, medium size enterprise, large enterprise) pursuant to the Commission Regulation No. 651/2014 from 17th June 2014 that, in accordance with articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty, declares certain categories of aid compatible with the common market, the so called General Block Exemption Regulation (hereinafter the "Regulation"), or conditions specified in the definition of **research organizations** in the Regulation, or conditions for other type of organization as defined in the Tender Document/National conditions for the Czech organization for given international call for proposals,
- 3) documented in the project an appropriate licence to carry out the intended activities, if so required by a special legal regulation (**section 18 (2)(b) of Act no. 130/2002 Coll.**),
- 4) is not in liquidation and their insolvency or impending bankruptcy is not being dealt with in insolvency proceedings, neither such bankruptcy petition was denied for lack of property (**section 18 (2)(c) of Act no. 130/2002 Coll.**),

- 5) has settled all debts in relation to the state budget or the budget of local government units and other debts to the state, state fund, health insurance or the Czech Social Security Administration **(section 18 (2)(d) of Act no. 130/2002 Coll.)**,
- 6) if it is a natural person, has not been convicted of a criminal offense, the matter of which is related to the business of the organization, or of an economic crime or a crime against property, or is considered so under the law; if it is a legal person, has not been convicted with finality of a criminal offense, the matter of which is related to the subject of the business (activity) or an economic offence or an offence against property, or is regarded as such under the law **(section 18 (2)(e) of Act no. 130/2002 Coll.)**,
- 7) has not received within the last three years any disciplinary punishment on the execution of professional activities related to the subject of the project proposal **(section 18 (2)(f) of Act no. 130/2002 Coll.)**,
- 8) is not in employment or other similar relationship with a legal person entrusted with the organisation of the Public Tender in research, experimental development and innovation within the meaning of section 23(2) of Act No 130/2002 Coll. **(section 18(2)(g) of Act no. 130/2002 Coll.)**,
- 9) is not a company in difficulty **(section 18 (2)(h) of Act no. 130/2002 Coll.)**,
- 10) is not a company, in which the public official or a person controlled by them owns a share representing at least 25 % of the shareholder participation **(section 4c of Act No. 159/2006 Coll., on conflict of interest)**,
- 11) has ensured that the legally required data on all its beneficial owners within the meaning of **Act No 37/2021 Coll., on the registration of beneficial owners**, have been registered so that no later than by the deadline for the submission of proposals /deadline for the submission of full project proposals at international level, these data are available in the register of beneficial owners,
- 12) is not an entity that is prohibited from providing support under directly effective European Union legislation,  
simultaneously:
- 13) none of the members of the statutory body of the organization has been convicted of a criminal offense, the matter of which is related to the business of the organization, or of an economic crime or a crime against property **(section 18 (2)(e) of Act no. 130/2002 Coll. and section 18 (4)(b) of Act no. 130/2002 Coll.)**,
- 14) no beneficial owner of the organization within the meaning of **Act No. 37/2021 Coll., on the registration of beneficial owners**, is a public official pursuant to **§ 2(1)(c) of Act No. 159/2006 Coll., on conflict of interest**, nor is any such beneficial owner listed among the persons subject to sanctions applicable pursuant to Act No. 69/2006 Coll., on the implementation of international sanctions,
- 15) is not subject to an unpaid outstanding recovery order following a previous Commission Decision declaring an aid illegal and incompatible with the common market **(section 18 (2)(i) of Act no. 130/2002 Coll.)**.



The Organization declares that all information contained in the project proposal and documents submitted together with the project proposal to the Provider are in accord with the actual situation at the date of submission of the project proposal and fully acknowledges that the provision of any false information may result in legal consequences, in accordance with applicable laws.

The Organization declares that it will inform the provider in the event of a change of data or submit a new affidavit.

Done at ..... date .....

.....

signature

## **ANNEX 3 – STRUCTURE OF OECD RESEARCH FIELDS BY TWO-DIGIT CLASSIFICATION<sup>26</sup>**

### **Natural Sciences**

- 1.1. Mathematics
- 1.2. Computer and Information Sciences
- 1.3. Physical Sciences
- 1.4. Chemical Sciences
- 1.5. Earth and Related Environmental Sciences
- 1.6. Biological Sciences
- 1.7. Other Natural Sciences

### **Engineering and Technology**

- 2.1. Civil Engineering
- 2.2. Electrical Engineering, Electronic Engineering, Information Engineering
- 2.3. Mechanical Engineering
- 2.4. Chemical Engineering
- 2.5. Materials Engineering
- 2.6. Medical Engineering
- 2.7. Environmental Engineering
- 2.8. Environmental Biotechnology
- 2.9. Industrial Biotechnology
- 2.10. Nanotechnology
- 2.11. Other Engineering and Technologies

### **Medical and Health Sciences**

- 3.1. Basic Medicine
- 3.2. Clinical Medicine
- 3.3. Health Sciences
- 3.4. Medical Biotechnology
- 3.5. Other Medical Sciences

### **Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences**

- 4.1. Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- 4.2. Animal and Dairy Science
- 4.3. Veterinary Science
- 4.4. Agricultural Biotechnology
- 4.5. Other Agricultural Sciences

### **Social Sciences**

- 5.1. Psychology and Cognitive Sciences
- 5.2. Economics and Business
- 5.3. Education
- 5.4. Sociology
- 5.5. Jurisprudence
- 5.6. Political Science
- 5.7. Social and Economic Geography
- 5.8. Media and Communications
- 5.9. Other Social Sciences

### **Humanities and The Arts**

- 6.1. History and Archaeology
- 6.2. Languages and Literature
- 6.3. Philosophy, Ethics and Religion
- 6.4. Arts (Arts, History of Arts, Performing Arts, Music)
- 6.5. Other Humanities

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<sup>26</sup> Please see [https://www.rvvi.cz/dokumenty/Ciselnik\\_oboru\\_Frascati\\_v20171207web.pdf](https://www.rvvi.cz/dokumenty/Ciselnik_oboru_Frascati_v20171207web.pdf) for a more detailed classification of research fields.

## **ANNEX 4 – DEFINITION OF TYPES OF OUTPUTS**

A publication may only be recognized as an output of a Grant Project if it explicitly states that the work was carried out through the Grant Funding of the Provider, and also if the registration number of the Grant Project concerned is given, as well as the author's affiliation with the Beneficiary. In the event that the publication outputs of the Czech Science Foundation projects include multiple acknowledgements to other projects receiving targeted aid, it is necessary to justify these multiple acknowledgements to such other projects. Multiple acknowledgements to other projects must be explained — which author thanks which project, what was the contribution of each project of Targeted Aid to the publication output in question, and which specific steps in generating publication outputs were supported by the given project. If the above condition has not been met, the publication cannot be accepted. In the event that the rules for output acceptance change in the course of the project, the procedure shall be implemented in accordance with the Rules applicable to the call published in the year in which the results are evaluated, as well as in accordance with the instructions listed within the application. Upon submitting the results of the Grant Project, the Beneficiary shall proceed pursuant to the information contained in the Project Proposal. It is advisable to publish the results in the Open Access form if the practice in the given field, the character of the results, and the terms and conditions for the Project so permit; alternatively, the publication results can be transferred to open digital archives pursuant to the terms and conditions of the publisher's license.

### **DEFINITION OF TYPES OF OUTPUTS**

#### **J – a peer-reviewed article**

A peer-reviewed article in a scientific periodical is an original article and/or a review article published in a scientific periodical (journal) notwithstanding the publisher's country, presenting the original research outputs achieved by the author or a team that included the author, and whose stated affiliation is with a Czech research organization. These are comprehensive texts featuring scientific works, organised as per the requirements of publisher(s) of the periodical in respect of the structure of scientific work (most frequently a summary, introduction, material and methods, outputs, discussion, conclusion, literature/sources overview) including the usual citation style, and an apparatus of footnotes, if any. These types of articles are usually placed in the group of original articles or the reviews in such scientific periodicals.

A scientific periodical means a peer-reviewed, periodically published scientific journal with a scientific editorial board, which is assigned only the ISSN or e-ISSN code, and is published in print-only, digital-only, or print-and-digital form, including an on-line release.

The articles in a scientific periodical are classified as follows:

- **Jim** – an original/review article in a peer-reviewed journal which is included in the Web of Science database and tagged as “Article”, “Review”, or “Letter”; only articles published in journals with a non-zero impact factor registered in the WoS Core Collection may be accepted as Jim outputs in accordance with the evaluation as specified in Methodology 17+ and GACR rules;
- **Jsc** - original / review article in a scientific periodical which is included in the Scopus database with the tag “Article”, “Review”, or “Letter”;

- **Jost** - original / review article in a scientific periodical which does not fit in any of the two foregoing groups, and which meets the general requirements for an article in a scientific periodical. The list of peer-reviewed non-impact scientific periodicals shall not be used.

**The following are not deemed to be scientific periodicals:**

- periodicals which do not have ISSN, nor e-ISSN assigned;
- periodicals or extraordinary periodicals published under an ISSN and simultaneously under an ISBN in book form (this often occurs in case of conference papers which are registered in the WoS and Scopus databases. Outputs published in this type of source fall under outputs of type D);
- periodicals for which the method of reviewing contributions is not published and/or established;
- daily or newspaper press and the like, i.e. regular daily press, focused “popular-science” supplements to daily press, weekly newspapers, specialised newspapers (e.g. Zdravotnické noviny, Hospodářské noviny, Učitel'ské noviny etc.);
- non-fiction popular science periodicals intended for the general public, published by commercial publishers, public institutions, and others;
- science-popularising science periodicals intended for a broader professional public, e.g. published by professional societies, scientific institutions etc., in order to promote and popularise science;
- periodicals of trade unions, political parties, associations etc.;
- business and insurance periodicals;
- standardised forms and newsletters;
- special issues of journals in which texts of conference papers are published.

**The following are not deemed to be peer-reviewed articles:**

- reprints, abstracts, expanded abstracts (e.g. at conferences) etc., even if published in a specialised scientific periodical, articles of an informative or popularising character on research outputs;
- editorial materials, corrections, reviews, literature searches and summaries, even if published in a specialised scientific periodical;
- a preprint article, i.e. the version of the article published before the peer-review process;
- in case of articles under “Jost” ones comprising fewer than 2 pages of text, exclusive of photographs, charts, map exhibits, images, tables, and/or.

## **B – Monograph**

A monograph presents the outputs of research which was carried out by the author of the book or by a team of authors that included the author. A monograph book is a non-periodical scientific publication comprising of at least 50 printed pages of the author's own text excluding exhibits such as photographs, graphics, maps etc., published in print or digitally, and reviewed by at least one broadly recognized expert in the respective field in the form of an expert review (such expert reviewer may not be from the author's institution). Such monograph deals with a well-defined problem in a particular scientific field, including the formulation of an identifiable and scientifically recognized methodology (explicitly formulated methodological bases and/or formulation of a new methodology based on previous theoretical research in the field). The formal attributes of a monograph are references to literature in the text, a list of citations, and possibly also an apparatus of footnotes, a bibliography of sources, and a summary in at least one world language.

A monograph book has an ISBN or ISMN assigned. The whole book is developed by a unified team of authors (regardless of each team member's share in the content), even if the individual chapters of the book were written by different/separate authors. Scientific books include monographs, scholarly encyclopaedias and lexicons, critical editions of sources, critical editions of art (music, art etc.), materials accompanied by studies, critical commented translations of demanding philosophical, historical, or philological texts accompanied by studies, critical translations accompanied by commentary of demanding philosophical, historical or philological texts, scientifically designed dictionaries and Thesaurus- or encyclopaedia-type dictionaries in a given field, critical exhibition catalogues etc., as long as they meet the formal criteria set out above.

In case of a multi-volume scientific monograph, each volume may be recognized as an output (and included in the RIV) if each volume alone meets the criteria and has been published as a separate publication with its own ISBN. If a monograph is recognized (and classified in RIV) as type B output, its chapters may not be recognized (nor classified in RIV) as a type C output by the same submitter.

### **The following are not deemed to be monographs:**

- books which do not have an ISBN or ISMN assigned;
- teaching texts (i.e. textbooks, coursebooks);
- expert opinions and reports, studies, translations, manuals, information and promotional publications, yearbooks (except for those that meet the requirements of a monograph), annual or similar periodic reports;
- common language dictionaries;
- printed or digitally published research summaries, purpose-made summaries of specialist papers (e.g. within one institution);

- printed or digitally published abstract summaries, or expanded abstracts, or oral communication from conferences;
- methodological manuals, catalogues, and standards;
- proceedings (individual contributions in the proceedings may be an output of type D);
- fiction, non-fiction, travelogues, texts of theatre plays;
- selective bibliographies, annual reports, speeches, reports, collections of students' contest papers, tourist guides;
- commercial translations from foreign languages;
- memoirs, information materials, popularising monographs, biographies, autobiographies, monographically issued final reports from grants or projects.

If the book is published in the Czech Republic, a mandatory copy must be registered in the National Library of the Czech Republic. "Monograph" type of outputs published outside the Czech Republic are verified by a reference to a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) or Open Access (OA), traceability in an internationally recognized catalogue, or by a returnable borrowing from the reporting institution confirmed by the Provider.

### **C – chapter in a monograph**

A chapter in a monograph (if the book complies with the definition of type B output) may be acceptable if the entire book has only an editor, or in cases where the author is stated as a co-author (albeit with a minority share in the contents) of the entire book (on title page, on the back of title page), and is a member of the team of authors with clearly identified main authors. However, the chapter needs to have an individual author or team of authors.

If the monograph is classified as a type B output in RIV, its chapters cannot be included as a type C output for the same submitter.

### **D – article in proceedings registered in the Scopus database or in the Web of Science Conference Proceedings Citation Index**

An article in proceedings presents the original outputs of the research carried out by the author or the team that included the author. The article has the regular structure of scientific work including the citation style (it is not an abstract nor an extended abstract), and is published in proceedings.

The proceedings are a reviewed non-periodical publication, published on the occasion of a conference, seminar, or symposium, which contains separate articles by various authors, which usually have a mutual element or share a related topic, and have an ISBN and/or ISSN assigned.

An "article in proceedings" type of output is a paper with a total range of at least 2 pages, excluding photos, graphs, map exhibits, pictures, tables, and advertisements.

**An “article in proceedings” type of output is an article, which is registered:**

- in the Scopus database in sources (“Sources”) as a Book Series or Conference Proceedings, and has an ISBN and/or an ISSN assigned;
- in the Web of Science Conference Proceedings Citation Index database and has an ISBN and/or ISSN assigned;
- an article in a special issue of a journal registered in one of the above databases dedicated to the publication of conference papers.

**The following texts are not deemed to be articles in proceedings:**

- occasionally published summaries of scientific papers (e.g. within one institution, on the occasion of anniversaries, founding celebrations and/or annual conferences);
- collected and/or published abstracts, or expanded abstracts; articles assorted and published elsewhere etc.



## ANNEX 5 – REQUEST FOR CHANGE OF BENEFICIARY

### REQUEST FOR CHANGE OF BENEFICIARY

REGISTRATION NUMBER OF THE GRANT PROJECT  
(HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS “PROJECT”): .....

PROJECT TITLE: .....

PROJECT INVESTIGATOR: .....

PROJECT START DATE: .....

PROJECT COMPLETION DATE: .....

PROPOSED DATE OF PROJECT ASSIGNMENT: .....

CURRENT BENEFICIARY: .....

With its registered seat at: .....

Registration number: .....

Represented by: .....

Registered at: .....

Name and address of bank: .....

Bank account number: .....

(hereinafter referred to as “**Current Beneficiary**”)

NEW ORGANIZATION: .....

With its registered seat at: .....

Registration number: .....

Represented by: .....

Registered at: .....

Name and address of bank: .....

Bank account number: .....

(hereinafter referred to as “**New Organization**”)

The Current Beneficiary, the New Organization and the Project Investigator hereby request an amendment to the Agreement on Grant Funding for Grant Project No. .... Panel No. P ..... executed on ..... (hereinafter the “Agreement”) by and between the Current Beneficiary and the Czech Republic – Grantová agentura České republiky (the Czech Science Foundation), with its registered seat at Evropská 2589 / 33b, 160 00 Prague 6, Czech Republic, registration number: 48549037 (hereinafter the “Provider”)

I. Detailed explanation of all relevant facts, justifying the conclusion that the Project cannot continue at the Current Beneficiary's institution:

II. Total approved costs for carrying out the Project from all sources of financing pursuant to the Agreement:

	1 <sup>st</sup> year	2 <sup>nd</sup> year	3 <sup>rd</sup> year	4 <sup>th</sup> year	5 <sup>th</sup> year	Total
Total funding remitted by the Provider to the Project				-	-	
Total funding received from other public sources (domestic and international)				-	-	
Total funding received from non-public sources (own funds, private grants)				-	-	
Total approved costs covered by all sources of financing				-	-	
Proportion of Funding from Provider				-	-	

III. Breakdown of the total approved costs of the Project incurred by the Current Beneficiary from all sources of funding up until the date of this Request:

	1 <sup>st</sup> year	2 <sup>nd</sup> year	3 <sup>rd</sup> year	4 <sup>th</sup> year	5 <sup>th</sup> year	Total
Total funding remitted by the Provider to the Project				-	-	
Total funding received from other public sources (domestic and international)				-	-	
Total funding received from non-public sources (own funds, private grants)				-	-	
Total approved costs covered by all sources of financing				-	-	
Proportion of Funding from Provider				-	-	

**IV. Expected breakdown of the total approved costs to be incurred in the Project by the Current Beneficiary from all sources of funding up until the proposed date of assignment of the Project:**

	1 <sup>st</sup> year	2 <sup>nd</sup> year	3 <sup>rd</sup> year	4 <sup>th</sup> year	5 <sup>th</sup> year	Total
Total funding remitted by the Provider to the Project				-	-	
Total funding received from other public sources (domestic and international)				-	-	
Total funding received from non-public sources (own funds, private grants)				-	-	
Total approved costs covered by all sources of financing				-	-	
Proportion of Funding from Provider				-	-	

**V. Approved costs of the Project pursuant to the Agreement:**

	1 <sup>st</sup> year	2 <sup>nd</sup> year	3 <sup>rd</sup> year	4 <sup>th</sup> year	5 <sup>th</sup> year	Total
Material costs				-	-	
Personnel costs				-	-	
Investment costs				-	-	
Total				-	-	

**VI. Total approved costs incurred in the Project by the Current Beneficiary of the Project up until the date of submission of this Request:**

	1 <sup>st</sup> year	2 <sup>nd</sup> year	3 <sup>rd</sup> year	4 <sup>th</sup> year	5 <sup>th</sup> year	Total
Material costs				-	-	
Personnel costs				-	-	
Investment costs				-	-	
Total				-	-	

**VII. Estimate of approved costs to be incurred the Current Beneficiary of the Project up until the proposed date of Project assignment:**

	1 <sup>st</sup> year	2 <sup>nd</sup> year	3 <sup>rd</sup> year	4 <sup>th</sup> year	5 <sup>th</sup> year	Total
Material costs				-	-	
Personnel costs				-	-	
Investment costs				-	-	
Total				-	-	

**VIII. Application of Project outputs:**

**Outputs applied to date:**

Type of output	
Title of output	
Description (bibliographic information)	
Application rate in RIV of the institution	
Type of output	
Title of output	
Description (bibliographic information)	
Application rate in RIV of the institution	

**Outputs being applied:**

Type of output	
Title of output	
Description (bibliographic information)	
Application rate in RIV of the institution	
Type of output	
Title of output	
Description (bibliographic information)	
Application rate in RIV of the institution	

**Expected outputs:**

Type of output	
Title of output	
Description (bibliographic information)	
Application rate in RIV of the institution	
Type of output	

Title of output	
Description (bibliographic information)	
Application rate in RIV of the institution	

**IX. Proposal for the mutual settlement of assets acquired with the use of the approved costs of the Project. This proposal shall also include the settlement of all property rights incurred during the Project, including rights to research outputs. The proposal of the settlement is being made so as to take effect on the intended date of Project assignment:**

The details of the mutual settlement effective as of the proposed date of assignment of the Project are contained in the agreement on the assignment of the Agreement, which is incorporated in this Request by reference.

**X. Annexes proving the eligibility of the New Organization which are attached to this Request:**

- .....
- .....
- .....

#### **XI. Warranties and Representations**

1. The New Organization has been made aware in detail of the institutional and technical requirements, and those of the Project team, to carry out the Project and represents that it is able to provide and shall provide the Project Investigator and its team members with similar or better institutional and technical resources for the continuation of the Project.

2. The Project Investigator has been made aware in detail of the institutional and technical resources of the New Organization and is convinced that the New Organization is able to provide the Project Investigator and his/her team members with institutional and technical resources to carry out the Project which are similar as, or better than, the resources provided by the Current Beneficiary.

3. The Current Beneficiary represents and declares on its honour that it has made the New Organization aware of the detail of the institutional and technical requirements of the Project Investigator, and of the status of the Project as of the proposed date of assignment of the Project, and that it has not omitted any substantial circumstance that might impair the successful completion of the Project, and/or that the New Organization has been made aware of the potential risks in the continuation of the Project.

4. The Current Beneficiary, the New Organization, and the Project Investigator represent and declare on their honour that they are not aware as of the date of submitting this Request of any obstacles to the successful completion of the Project after the assignment of the Agreement by the Current Beneficiary to the New Organization.

5. The Current Beneficiary and the New Organization hereby represent that they have exercised due care in their consideration of the settlement of property resulting out of the assignment of the Project, and that this complete settlement of property is included in the agreement on the assignment of Agreement, which is incorporated in this Request by reference.

6. The Parties hereto request the assignment of the Project based on the agreement on the assignment of the Agreement as of the proposed date of the assignment of the Project.

- Annexes:**
- 1) Interim Financial Statements of the Project of the Current Beneficiary closed as of the date of Request submission
  - 2)
  - ..)

For Current Beneficiary: .....

Done at ..... on this.....day of.....

For New Organization: .....

Done at ..... on this.....day of.....

For Project Investigator: .....

Done at ..... on this.....day of.....