

## Romania's National Recovery and Resilience Plan

Pillar III. Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, including economic cohesion, jobs, productivity, competitiveness, research, development, and innovation, and a well-functioning internal market with strong small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

### **Component C9. SUPPORT FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR, RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION**

**“I8. Development of a program to attract highly specialised human resources from abroad in research, development and innovation activities”**

## **Applicant's Guide 2023**

(Only the Romanian version of Investment 8 call has legal validity.)

---

## NATIONAL RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE PLAN

---

*I8. Development of a program to attract highly specialised human resources from abroad in research, development and innovation activities*

**WITHIN PROJECT CALL – PNRR-III-C9-2023 - I8**  
**PNRR/2023/Component 9/Investment 8**

---

**COMPONENT C9. SUPPORT FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR, RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION**  
**INVESTMENT I8. Development of a program to attract highly specialised human resources from abroad in research, development and innovation activities**

### PREAMBLE

This guide refers to the call for proposals entitled “Development of a program to attract highly specialized human resources from abroad in research, development and innovation activities”, Component C9. SUPPORT FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR, RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION, Investment I8. *Development of a program to attract highly specialized human resources from abroad in research, development and innovation activities*, within the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP).

This document is addressed to all potential applicants for the above-mentioned call.

The interpretation of the information included in the funding application is carried out systematically, in accordance with the provisions of the Specific Guide regarding the rules and conditions applicable to the financing process from European funds related to the NRRP within the call for proposals - Development of a program to attract highly specialized human resources from abroad in research, development and innovation activities, accredited and published on the website of the investment coordinator - [www.mcid.gov.ro/](http://www.mcid.gov.ro/).

The aspects contained in these documents deriving from the National Recovery and Resilience Plan and its implementation method will be interpreted by the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalization, in compliance with the legislation in force.

### IMPORTANT

We highly recommend you make sure that you have gone through all the information presented in this document before you start filling in the funding application for the call for proposals and make sure that you understand all the aspects related to the specifics of interventions financed from European funds related to the NRRP.

We advise you to periodically consult the website [www.mcid.gov.ro/](http://www.mcid.gov.ro/) until the deadline for submitting the funding application under this call for proposals, in order to follow any changes in interpretation of the specific conditions, as well as other clarifications for accessing European funds related to the NRRP.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. GENERAL INFORMATION.....	5
1.1 Pillar, component, general objective .....	5
1.2 Call for projects type, the duration, method and period for submitting project proposals....	6
1.3 Eligible activities .....	7
1.4 Eligible applicants .....	7
1.5 Project Call Budget .....	12
1.5.1 Total estimated budget .....	12
1.5.2 Minimum and maximum funds granted per project.....	12
1.6 Indicators of the call for projects .....	13
1.7 Project objectives .....	13
2. STATE AID.....	14
3. ELIGIBILITY OF EXPENDITURE .....	14
4. FILLING OUT THE FUNDING APPLICATIONS .....	17
4.1 Funding application.....	17
4.2 Language used in completing the funding application .....	19
4.3 Signing the funding application and attached documents.....	19
5. PROJECT EVALUATION AND SELECTION .....	19
5.1 Eligibility check .....	20
5.2. Evaluation process .....	20
5.2.1. Individual evaluation.....	21
5.2.2. Reaching consensus .....	22
5.2.3 Panel evaluation .....	22
5.3. Publication of evaluation results .....	23
5.4. Dissemination.....	23
5.5. Appeal .....	23
5.6. Results of the call .....	23
6. CONTRACTING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS .....	24
6.1 Contracting of projects.....	24
6.2 Rules on project implementation and monitoring.....	25
6.2.1 Main obligations of the parties.....	26
6.3 Implementation risk management mechanisms .....	27
7. TRANSPARENCY.....	29

8. PREVENTION OF SERIOUS IRREGULARITIES, DOUBLE FUNDING.....	29
9. COMPLIANCE WITH THE "DO NO SIGNIFICANT HARM (DNSH)" PRINCIPLE .....	29
10. REAL BENEFICIARY .....	29
11. ANNEXES.....	30
ANNEX 1 – Funding application.....	31
ANNEX 2 – Evaluation sheet .....	37
ANNEX 3 – Scientific fields .....	39
ANNEX 4 – Affidavit certifying the legality and accuracy of the information contained in the funding application and the information filled in the submission platform.....	51
ANNEX 5 – Affidavit of the host institution certifying acceptance of the implementation of the project in the institution .....	52
ANNEX 7 – Affidavit of eligibility of the research organisation.....	56
ANNEX 8 – Affidavit on the compliance of the project proposal with the DNSH Technical Guidelines (2021/C58/01).....	57
ANNEX 9 – PhD supervisor's agreement .....	58
ANNEX 10 – Declaration on the eligibility of VAT on expenditure to be incurred in the project proposed for funding .....	59
ANNEX 11 – Affidavit of conflict of interest, fraud and corruption .....	60
ANNEX 12 – Declaration of consent to the processing of personal data.....	61
ANNEX 13 – Affidavit on the avoidance of double funding .....	63
ANNEX 14 – Affidavit of the applicant's eligibility .....	64
ANNEX 15 – Declaration of commitment .....	66
ANNEX 16 - Affidavit on certifying the incentive effect .....	67
ANNEX 17 - Grid for verification of administrative compliance and scientific eligibility .....	68

## 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

### 1.1 Pillar, component, general objective

*Pillar III.* Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, including economic cohesion, jobs, productivity, competitiveness, research, development and innovation, as well as a functioning internal market with strong small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

*Component C9.* SUPPORT FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR, RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION

The main objective of the component is the creation of a sustainable, predictive and simplified environment for the development of business activities, increasing access to financing, through the developing of tools adapted to the needs of businesses, with an emphasis on the contribution made to climate change and the digital transition, increasing the capacity of the RDI system for innovation, for the creation of research-business environment synergies, as well as the development of the necessary premises for a sustainable reforming process for state companies.

On specific objectives of this Pillar III component is to ensure the growth of economic competitiveness through RDI, by increasing the attractiveness of the national RDI system and the researcher's career with the aim of obtaining a better integration process into the European Research Area.

*Investment I8.* Development of a program to attract highly specialised human resources from abroad in research, development and innovation activities

*Estimated objective:* Funding 100 projects led by international researchers

*General objective:* Supporting the national research and development system by attracting highly specialized human resource from abroad, and in this way, around them, excellence research groups will be created and will develop in leading scientific fields, contributing to the fulfillment of the objectives set out in the National Strategy for Research, Innovation and Smart Specialization.

*Specific objectives:*

- Developing and promoting fundamental scientific research in Romania;
- Encouraging formation of competent human resources with the aim of balancing the investment in research infrastructures;
- Increasing the institutional capacity to absorb European funds, respectively the stimulation of international institutional partnerships;
- Closing the research and development gaps that Romania has when compared to the EU

average and the countries within the region;

- Adhering to the European Charter for Researchers and adopting the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers;
- Increasing the number of publications with a high international impact, as well as the number of patent applications / EPO, USPTO, JPO patents or patents obtained in other EU and OECD countries;
- Identifying, supporting and developing research teams in order to enable them to achieve, maintain and strengthen the critical mass necessary for international competitiveness;
- Training and actively involving doctoral students and post-doctoral researchers for a career of excellence in scientific research in Romania, thus encouraging training of researchers in an environment of high scientific quality;
- Supporting researchers of excellence with the aim of stimulating participation in competitions under the European Union's Horizon Europe framework program.

## 1.2 Call for projects type, the duration, method and period for submitting project proposals

Call type: competitive.

Call duration: 26.06.2023 – 31.07.2023

Method of submission: through the platform <https://proiecte.pnrr.gov.ro>.

Calendar of the Call:

<b>Launching of the competition</b>	<b>26.06.2023, 09:00 (Romanian time zone)</b>
<b>Submission of funding applications</b>	<b>27.06.2023 - 31.07.2023, 16:00 (Romanian time zone)</b>
<b>Publication of results regarding eligibility</b>	<b>08.08.2023</b>
<b>Receiving of appeals regarding eligibility</b>	<b>09.08.2023 - 11.08.2023, 16:00 (Romanian time zone)</b>
<b>Publication of final results regarding eligibility</b>	<b>16.08.2023</b>
<b>Evaluation of funding applications</b>	<b>17.08.2023 - 23.10.2023</b>
<b>Publication of preliminary results (separately for each domain)</b>	<b>31.10.2023</b>
<b>Receiving of appeals (3 working days from the date publication of preliminary results for a domain)</b>	<b>01.11.2023 - 03.11.2023, 16:00 (Romanian time zone)</b>
<b>Publication of the final list of projects proposed for funding</b>	<b>27.11.2023</b>
<b>Contracting of projects approved for funding</b>	<b>December 2023</b>

The project timeline is a minimum of 24 months and a maximum of 30 months, but the projects' development will end no later than 30.06.2026.

### 1.3 Eligible activities

Eligible activities:

1. fundamental research activities, as stated in the Government Ordinance no. 57/2002, with subsequent amendments and additions, in the scientific fields listed in Annex 3 – Scientific fields;
2. support activities for the development of the project;
3. dissemination activities.

In order to ensure compliance with the DNSH Technical Guidelines (2021/C58/01), research, development and innovation activities related to the activities/assets included in the exclusion list cannot be eligible.

Thus, the following areas/activities are excluded from funding:

1. Activities related to fossil fuels, including downstream use;
2. Activities covered by the EU emissions trading System (ETS) achieving CO2 emissions expected not to be lower than the relevant benchmarks
3. Compensation of indirect ETS costs;
4. Activities related to landfills, incinerators, and mechano-biological waste treatment facilities;
5. Activities in which long-term waste disposal may harm the environment.

The potential impact of investment 8 “Development of a programme to attract highly specialized human resources from abroad in research, development and innovation activities” in relation to the criteria related to the green and digital transition is circumscribed to the specific scientific fields of this call.

### 1.4 Eligible applicants

The funding instrument addresses researchers from outside of Romania, including the Romanian diaspora, for whom starting, continuing or returning to a research career in Romania is a viable alternative. It is expected that, through the acquired experience, these researchers will open new research paths or add to the performance of existing ones, form solid research groups, attract other researchers from abroad and, last but not least, attract researchers in training and attract new research funds.

The project director is an active researcher with experience and outstanding scientific performance,

demonstrated by originality and major international impact of scientific publications, recognized as a personality or leader in the research field in which the project proposal is submitted.

The project takes place in institutions or research-development units in Romania (research organizations), hereinafter called host institutions. The host institution cannot be an enterprise, in the sense of the state aid legislation.

The project will be implemented by a research team led by the project director, who has the main responsibility for the administration of the project.

The project director is able to publish independently as first author and /or corresponding author, supervises the research team's activity, including doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers; during the grant period, the winner of the grant will submit at least one project eligible to Horizon Europe together with the host institution.

If the project proposal is accepted for funding, the top researcher must work in the host institution for at least 75% of the period covered by the grant and will be the employee of the host institution during the ongoing of the project.

The host institution must have adhered or must be going to adhere to the European Charter for researchers and the Code of Conduct for the recruitment of researchers within a maximum of 12 months from the date of signing the funding contract; it must also initiate or continue the procedure of implementing the researchers' charter and code until obtaining the "HR Excellence in Research" logo granted by the European Commission, until the project is completed.

### ***Project team structure***

The research team composition is decided by the project director.

At the time of project proposal submission, the team structure must be presented, specifying the exact number of full-time equivalent positions, their type, the link to the project activities, and the allocated budget. The nomination of the research team members within the project proposal is possible, but not necessary, as the team members can be employed or recruited after the project has been accepted for funding.

The structure of the research teams, in addition to the project director, must mandatorily comprise at least 2 full-time equivalent positions for post-doctoral researchers and at least 2 full-time equivalent positions for doctoral students (enrolled in the institutions organizing doctoral studies in Romania - [https://www.edu.ro/IOSUD\\_2022](https://www.edu.ro/IOSUD_2022)).



For the project director and for the nominated experienced researchers, the address of the profile in Publons/ResearcherID or ORCID will be indicated. The change of individual researchers nominated in the funding application is possible in compliance with the performance criteria and their role and competences as described in the funding application.

Vacancies will be advertised publicly, including those for the staff of the host institution (<https://jobs.research.gov.ro>; [www.euraxess.ro](http://www.euraxess.ro)). Substitution of the nominees in the funding application is possible in compliance with The European Charter for Researchers and Researcher's Recruitment Code of Conduct and the performance criteria and duties of the position specified in the funding application.

### ***Ethics***

The project director has the obligation to ensure that the project proposal complies with the norms provided by Romanian Law no. 206/2004 on good conduct in scientific research, technological development and innovation, as amended and supplemented, as well as other legislative ethics regulations specific to the project research field. In addition, if the project field requires obtaining specific approvals and certifications, the project director will ensure that they are obtained prior to the submission of the funding application.

### ***Equal opportunities***

Equal opportunities, as well as gender equality, will be ensured for all participants, both at project level in accordance with national legal provisions and European practices and at the level of implementing Investment 8.

Applicants must take all measures to promote equal opportunities for men and women in writing and implementing the grant/project application. They must aim, as far as possible, for a balance between women and men for all positions provided for the grant/project application, including at the management level.

**Eligibility criteria**<sup>1</sup> for applicants and host institutions:

- Project director has a PhD degree awarded at least three years prior to the deadline for proposal submission;
- If the doctoral degree was awarded by ministerial order, the date of the ministerial order shall

---

<sup>1</sup> The fulfillment of the eligibility conditions will be accomplished by uploading the supporting documents in the <https://proiecte.pnrr.gov.ro> platform, in the „Other documents” section.

be taken into account, otherwise the date indicated on the diploma shall be taken into account.;

- Project director has led at least one research and development project within the last seven years prior to the submission of the project proposal;
- Project director is a researcher whose home organisation is based outside Romania and who has performed research activities in a country other than Romania, for at least three years prior to the call deadline for submission of funding applications;
- Seven years prior to the call deadline for submission of projects, the project director has published as lead author:
  - In the fields of (1) **PHYSICAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING**; (2) **LIFE SCIENCES**:
    - ✓ Minimum eight papers (identified as document type/*document type article, review or proceedings paper*) published in Science Citation Index Expanded journals ranked amongst the first 50% (First [Q1] or Second [Q2] Quartile) in one subfield/Web of Science Category set by the Clarivate Analytics;
    - ✓ At least four papers out of the eight papers are in top 25% (Q1 as of the *Journal Impact Factor (JIF)* or the *Article Influence Score (AIS)*), within one subfield/ Web of Science Category set by the Clarivate Analytics;

*Note: The most favourable quartiles (Q) corresponding to the values of Journal Impact Factor (JIF) or Article Influence Score (AIS) scientometric indicators from the latest edition of Journal Citation Reports (JCR) available at the time of proposal submission are taken into account.*

- In the field of (3) **SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES**:
  - ✓ Minimum eight papers (identified as document type/*document type article, review or proceedings paper*), published in Social Sciences Citation Index or Arts & Humanities Citation Index journals ranked amongst the first 50% (Q1 and Q2) in one subfield/ Web of Science Category established by Clarivate Analytics or in Scopus journals placed in the first 50% (i.e., with the percentile between 50<sup>th</sup> and 100<sup>th</sup>, according to the CiteScore) within one subfield/Subject area-Category established by Elsevier;
  - ✓ At least four papers out of the eight papers are in top 25% (Q1 concerning JIF or AIS) within one subfield/Web of Science Category established by Clarivate Analytics or in top 25% (i.e., with the percentile between 75<sup>th</sup> and 100<sup>th</sup> according to the CiteScore)

within one subfield/Subject area-Category established by Elsevier.

*Note: the most favourable quartiles (Q) corresponding to the values of the scientometric indicators Journal Impact Factor (JIF) or Article Influence Score (AIS) of the latest Journal Citation Reports (JCR) available at the time of submission of the project proposal, as well as the most favourable percentiles corresponding to the scientometric indicator CiteScore of the latest available in the SCOPUS platform at the time of submission of the project proposal are taken into account.*

**For the presentation of the 8 articles, the following information is provided: authors, article title, journal name, volume, pages, year of publication, category (quartile, percentile) and DOI.**

The journal quartiles in Science Citation Index, Social Sciences Citation Index or Arts & Humanities for each subfield/ Web of Science Category corresponding to the values of Journal Impact Factor (JIF) or Article Influence Score (AIS) scientometric indicators published by Clarivate in the October 2022 revised edition of the Journal Citation Reports (JCR 2021) are available also at: <https://uefiscdi.gov.ro/scientometrie-reviste>.

- If the project proposal is accepted for funding, the top researcher must have an employment contract with the host institution for the duration of the project, at a minimum of 75% of full-time position;
- The Project Director has the employment agreement of the host institution in Romania for the funding period of the grant. In the case of a grant decision, the host institution is obliged to sign the employment contract with the Project Director within 30 working days from the date of signature of the grant contract, with the exception of other time limits laid down in other legislation which may affect compliance with this period;
- In this competition, a person may submit only one such project proposal as a director. If more than one project proposal is submitted by the same project leader, all project proposals will be declared ineligible;
- It is forbidden to submit projects that involve activities already funded or in the process of being funded from other national or international sources, or that are the result of plagiarism. Project leaders who have already carried out similar research topics must mention them and clearly indicate the degree of novelty of the present one. It is forbidden to fabricate and use false information and experimental data to influence the results of the evaluation of the project proposal, the activity reports or the publications resulting from the project;
- The host institution is not declared by law to be in default of payment, does not have its

accounts frozen under a court order, has not provided inaccurate statements regarding the information requested by the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalisation (MCID) for the selection of contractors, has not breached the provisions of another funding contract previously concluded with a contracting authority;

- To be eligible, host institutions must have adhered to or commit to adhere to the following programme documents within 12 months of the date of signature of the grant contract: the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers, as well as continuing the implementation of the Charter and the Code of Conduct for Researchers until the "HR Excellence in Research" logo awarded by the European Commission has been obtained by the date of completion of the project coordinated by the hosted foreign researcher of excellence from abroad.

## **1.5 Project Call Budget**

### **1.5.1 Total estimated budget**

The budget allocated to this competition for the period of the projects implementation is 237.072.000 RON (48.000.000 EUR).

The RON/EUR rate used for the submission of applications will be the InforEuro rate of May 2023 (1EUR=4,9390 RON). The RON/EUR exchange rate to be used for the signature of grant contracts will be the InforEuro rate on the day of signature.

### **1.5.2 Minimum and maximum funds granted per project**

The maximum amount of funds to be granted to a project with a time duration of 30 months is a maximum of 6.000.000 RON. The maximum funding allowed for a project with a time duration of less than 30 months is calculated in proportion to the duration of the project divided by 30 months.

The amount of VAT related to eligible expenditure shall be provided from the budget of the reform and/or investment coordinator for Component 9 - Support for Private Sector, Research, Development and Innovation – Investment 8 - Development of a program to attract highly specialized human resources from abroad in research, development and innovation activities, in accordance with existing legal framework.

## 1.6 Indicators of the call for projects

The following indicators shall be considered as project results:

- *result indicators:*

- scientific articles published/accepted for publication in Science Citation Index Expanded, Social Sciences Citation Index or Arts & Humanities Citation Index journals in the top 25% (or quartile Q1) within a subfield/Web of Science Category established by Clarivate Analytics (number); the most favourable quartiles corresponding to the Journal Impact Factor (JIF) or Article Influence Score (AIS) values of the scientometric indicators in the latest Journal Citation Reports (JCR) available at the time of submission for publication will be taken into account;
- patent applications at EPO, USPTO, JPO or in other EU and OECD countries (number);
- projects submitted by Romanian research organisations that have reached at least the funding threshold for Horizon Europe competitions (number);
- projects submitted by Romanian research organisations in national research, development and innovation programmes (number);
- PhD students (number) and post-doctoral students (number) employed in the project;
- researchers working in Romanian research organisations (research centres) receiving support (full-time equivalent) (number).

- *impact indicator:*

Adhering to the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers by research organisations (number of RDI entities having adhered to the Charter and the Code).

## 1.7 Project objectives

- Development and promotion of fundamental scientific research in Romania;
- Encouraging the training of competent human resources and the creation of research teams of excellence with the aim of balancing the existing investment in research infrastructures in the country;
- Increasing the institutional capacity to absorb European funds, i.e., stimulating international institutional partnerships;
- Overtaking lags Romania is having compared to the EU average and with the countries in the region in the field of research and development;

- Adhering to the European Charter for Researchers and adopting the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers by Romanian research organisations;
- Increasing the number of publications with high international impact, as well as the number of EPO, USPTO, JPO patent applications/patents or patent applications/patents obtained in other EU and OECD countries;
- Identifying, supporting and developing research teams to enable them to achieve, maintain and strengthen the critical mass required for their international competitiveness;
- Preparing and actively involving PhD students and post-doctoral researchers for a career of excellence in scientific research in Romania, thus encouraging the training of researchers in an environment of high scientific quality;
- Supporting excellent researchers in order to stimulate their successful participation in the European Union's Horizon Europe framework programme competitions.

## 2. STATE AID

The financing of the projects is carried out in accordance with the provisions of the State aid scheme "Attracting highly specialised human resources from abroad in research, development and innovation activities", approved by the Order of the Minister of Research, Innovation and Digitalization no. 20465/28.04.2022, published in the Official Gazette of Romania, Part I, no. 490/17.05.2022.

## 3. ELIGIBILITY OF EXPENDITURE

Eligible expenditure must simultaneously meet the following conditions:

- they must be necessary for the implementation of the project;
- they must be incurred during the implementation of the project (between the start date and the end date of the project);
- they must be included in the accounts of the host institution;
- they must be included in the list of eligible expenditure (see below).

The categories of eligible<sup>2</sup> expenditure are as follows:

---

<sup>2</sup> The categories of eligible expenditure are set out in GD 134/2011 for the approval of the Methodological Norms on the establishment of categories of expenditure for research and development activities and stimulation of innovation, financed from the state budget; activities within projects carried out by research organizations are financed at 100% of eligible costs.

a) *staff costs*: salaries and salary-related income, according to the law, for researchers, technicians and other auxiliary personnel (for auxiliary staff maximum 5% of total direct costs), insofar as they are employed in the project; contributions related to salaries and salary-related income, according to the law. Direct expenditure is the following: staff costs, logistical costs and travel costs, excluding the value of tangible fixed assets.

b) *logistics costs*:

- capital expenditure: research tools and equipment necessary for the implementation and running of the project. For entities involving State aid, where such tools and equipment are not used throughout their lifetime in the project, only depreciation costs corresponding to the lifetime of the project, calculated on the basis of generally accepted accounting principles, shall be considered eligible;
- expenditure on the purchase of materials, consumables and similar products: maximum 20% of the project budget;
- costs of contract research, patents purchased or licensed from external sources on a fully competitive basis, and costs of consultancy and equivalent services used exclusively for the project;
- other operating costs incurred directly as a result of the project: costs related to the 'open access' dissemination of project results;

c) *travel expenses*: maximum 2.5% of the amount of staff and logistical expenses;

d) *overheads*: these shall not exceed 15% of the total staff, logistics and travel costs, excluding the value of tangible fixed assets.

The thresholds on the basis of which direct salary costs are calculated for grant contracts are detailed in the table below:

Nr. crt.	Category of activities	Level of studies	Function/professional grade	Maximum limit in EUR per hour
1	Activities requiring a high level of creativity and/or experience and leadership/management skills	Higher education	CS I, CS II, IDT I, IDT II, university professor, university lecturer, director, member of the management team for the functions defined in the funding application	50

Nr. crt.	Category of activities	Level of studies	Function/professional grade	Maximum limit in EUR per hour
2	Activities requiring a thorough knowledge of analysis and synthesis methods and the ability to use them.	Higher education	CS III, IDT III, CS, IDT, university lecturer, university assistant, program/project leader, post-doc, legal/technical/purchasing/project finance officer	35
3	Activities involving knowledge of analysis and synthesis methods, research methodologies, and skills in their use	Higher education	Research assistant, PhD student, Graduate student	25
4	Support activities	Higher or secondary education	TI, TII, TIII, TS, Student, other	15

Note:

1. The maximum limit includes all taxes due by the employee and applies to all income earned by a person, subject to the provisions of labour law.
2. The amounts in lei representing direct wage costs are determined at the date of conclusion or updating of the contract, according to InforEuro exchange rate at the date of signing of the contract.

The amount of VAT related to eligible expenditure will be provided from the budget of the coordinator of reforms and/or investments for COMPONENT 9 - Support for Private Sector, Research, Development and Innovation - Investment 8 - Development of a program to attract highly specialised human resources from abroad in research, development and innovation activities, in accordance with the legislation in force.

The financing of the projects is carried out in accordance with the provisions of the State aid scheme "Attracting highly specialised human resources from abroad in research, development and innovation activities", approved by the Order of the Minister of Research, Innovation and Digitalisation No 20465/28.04.2022, published in the Official Gazette of Romania, Part I, No 490/17.05.2022.



## 4. FILLING OUT THE FUNDING APPLICATIONS

### 4.1 Funding application

The submission of project proposals is carried out in a single step using the online submission platform: <https://proiecte.pnrr.gov.ro>. The submission of a project proposal is mandatory to be carried out by the host institution, which will specify whether they are submitting a new project or whether they are resubmitting a project already evaluated under the call PNRR-III-C9-2022-I8. The documents associated with a project proposal are signed by the host institution using the electronic signature.

The funding application shall be written according to Annex 1 to this applicant's guide.

*Note:*

1. The funding application must be submitted via the web platform - <https://proiecte.pnrr.gov.ro> and does not need to be submitted in paper format - **ANNEX 1**.
2. The funding application is uploaded in the dedicated section of the platform in **.pdf textual format** (not scanned).
3. The funding application must be legible and complete at the time of uploading to the online submission platform. No subsequent additions will be accepted. Incomplete funding applications at the time of application are declared ineligible.
4. The annexes to the funding application are uploaded on the web platform - <https://proiecte.pnrr.gov.ro>, in the *Other documents* section.
5. The funding application shall be accompanied by **an affidavit on the project director's own responsibility regarding certification of the legality and accuracy of the information contained in the funding application and of the information filled in the submission platform, in Romanian or English - ANNEX 4**.
6. The funding application will be accompanied by **an affidavit from the host institution** in Romanian (signed by the legal representative) certifying **acceptance of the implementation of the project in the institution**, provision of administrative support, provision of the necessary infrastructure to the project team, adherence to the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers, commitment to support the project in good conditions and employment of the project team members, under the conditions of the law, according to the project proposal, provided the project is funded - **ANNEX 5**.

7. The funding application must be accompanied by an affidavit of **compliance with the definition of a research organisation - ANNEX 6.**
8. The funding application will be accompanied by an affidavit of **eligibility of the research organisation - ANNEX 7.**
9. The funding application will be accompanied by an affidavit on the **compliance of the project proposal with the DNSH Technical Guidelines (2021/C58/01) - ANNEX 8.**
10. The funding application must be accompanied by an **agreement from the PhD supervisor**, in Romanian, which describes the link between the project topic and the PhD research. The agreement of the PhD supervisor is not required if the PhD supervisor is a member of the project team, and this will be specified in the funding application, under section: Research team structure. - **ANNEX 9.**
11. The funding application will be accompanied by a declaration on the eligibility of VAT on expenditure to be incurred in the project proposed for funding - **ANNEX 10.**
12. The funding application must be accompanied by an affidavit of **conflict of interest, of fraud and corruption - ANNEX 11.**
13. The funding application will be accompanied by a declaration of consent to the processing of personal data - **ANNEX 12.**
14. The funding application shall be accompanied by an affidavit on the avoidance of double funding - **ANNEX 13.**
15. The funding application shall be accompanied by an affidavit of the applicant's eligibility - **ANNEX 14.**
16. The funding application will be accompanied by a declaration of commitment - **ANNEX 15.**
17. The funding application must be accompanied by an affidavit certifying the incentive effect - **ANNEX 16.**
18. The project leader can indicate 3 - 5 research teams relevant to the field of the research topic proposed for funding in a document which will be uploaded in the Other documents section. The project director may also indicate the most relevant publishers (max. 10) and scientific journals in the field of the proposed research topic.

19. For applicants such as associations and foundations, the funding application must be accompanied by an extract from the Ministry of Justice (National NGO Register) on the actual beneficiaries of the association/foundation; in case of if the association/foundation is a foreign entity or has foreign real beneficiaries, a affidavit given by the legal representative/president, according to the provisions of Article 326 of the Penal Code on false declarations, containing the data on the real beneficiaries (at least name, surname and date of birth), in accordance with Law 129/2019, as amended and supplemented by subsequent amendments.

#### **4.2 Language used in completing the funding application**

The project proposal must be written in English, including an abstract in Romanian.

#### **4.3 Signing the funding application and attached documents**

For the submission of funding applications via the IT application, the extended electronic signature of the legal representative/authorised person must be certified in accordance with the legal provisions in force.

### **5. PROJECT EVALUATION AND SELECTION**

In order to carry out the evaluation process of project proposals, the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalization (MCID) approves, by ministerial order, the methodology for the selection of a public partner for the evaluation of project proposals, under conditions of scientific competence, impartiality, and performance. The methodology complies with the legal provisions laid down by:

- Government Emergency Ordinance No 124/2021 on the establishment of the institutional and financial framework for the management of European funds allocated to Romania through the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism, as well as on the modification and completion of GEO No 155/2020 on some measures for the development of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan necessary for Romania to access reimbursable and non-reimbursable external funds under the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism;
- Government Decision No 209/2022 for the approval of the Methodological Norms for the implementation of the provisions of Government Emergency Ordinance no. 124/2021 on the establishment of the institutional and financial framework for the management of European funds allocated to Romania through the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism, as well as for

the amendment and completion of Government Emergency Ordinance no. 155/2020 on some measures for the elaboration of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan necessary for Romania to access reimbursable and non-reimbursable external funds under the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism;

- other legislation in force specific to the field of research, development and innovation.

### **5.1 Eligibility check**

Project proposals received are checked by the staff of the PSF Reform Implementation Unit (UIRPSF)/MCID to ensure that all eligibility criteria are met by both the host institution and the project director.

The list of eligible project proposals will be posted on the website [www.mcid.gov.ro/](http://www.mcid.gov.ro/).

Objections concerning the fulfilment of the eligibility criteria can be sent by e-mail to [secretariat.psf@research.gov.ro](mailto:secretariat.psf@research.gov.ro) within 3 working days, until 16:00, Bucharest time, from the date of publication of the results.

If, during or after the end of the evaluation phase, it is found that any of the eligibility criteria have not been met, the project proposal will be declared ineligible and will be excluded from the competition.

### **5.2. Evaluation process**

Project proposals declared eligible enter the evaluation process.

Project proposals are evaluated by independent experts with a high level of professional experience and a very good international visibility in a specific research field.

For each project, at least 50% of the expert evaluators are selected from abroad, within the member states of the European Union, or within the member states of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Evaluators will be selected on the basis of experience and international scientific expertise. In the analysis of the CV (preferably the narrative part of the CV), the following criteria will be considered, mainly and non-cumulatively:

- Professor (full professor) at Top - 300 universities in the ARWU /THE /QS/ URAP international rankings, general or specific, from the 2021/2022 editions (as applicable);
- Directors of research projects, similar in budget (minimum 1 000 000 EUR), at ERC /NSF/ NIH/EC funding agencies (eg from Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe);

- Teaching staff/researchers with at least 10 articles published as corresponding author in scientific journals in the top 25% (Q1 quartile) of Science Citation Index Expanded, Social Sciences Citation Index or Arts & Humanities Citation Index within a sub-domain/Web of Science Category established by Clarivate. The most favorable quartiles (Q) corresponding to the values of the scientometric indicators Journal Impact Factor or Article Influence Score from the latest edition of Journal Citation Reports (JCR) available at the time of selection are taken into account; For the field (3) SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES articles can also be published in Scopus Journals that are among the top 25% (percentile between 75<sup>th</sup> and 100<sup>th</sup> after CiteScore) within a subdomain/subject area category established by Elsevier
- Teaching staff/researchers appearing in the annual list, Highly Cited Researchers, published by Clarivate with: [https://recognition.webofscience.com/awards/highly-cited/2021/?utm\\_source=HCR&utm\\_medium=recognition\\_page&utm\\_campaign=2020](https://recognition.webofscience.com/awards/highly-cited/2021/?utm_source=HCR&utm_medium=recognition_page&utm_campaign=2020);
- Editor-in-chief of a scientific journal in the top 50% (Q1 + Q2 quartile) of the Science Citation Index Expanded, Social Sciences Citation Index or Arts & Humanities Citation Index within a subdomain/Web of Science Category established by Clarivate. The values of the scientometric indicators Journal Impact Factor or Article Influence Score from the latest edition of Journal Citation Reports (JCR) available at the time of selection are taken into account.

Each evaluator shall declare in writing his impartiality, confidentiality and competence in the field to which the project proposal under evaluation belongs and shall undertake that at any time, during the evaluation process, if he finds that one of the mentioned conditions is not satisfied or that it is found in conflict of interest, will inform the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalisation (MCID), in writing. In the situation where the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalisation (MCID) finds out or is being informed about the existence of a conflict of interest or a deviation, it will take the necessary measures to replace the evaluator in question. The evaluations are anonymous, ensuring the confidentiality and impartiality of the expert evaluators. The list of expert evaluators for this competition is approved by the PSF Reform Implementation Unit (UIRPSF)/MCID.

### **5.2.1. Individual evaluation**

Each project proposal declared eligible is evaluated online, from a scientific quality point of view, in an independent way, by three expert evaluators. The experts fill in the evaluation sheet (Individual evaluation report), awarding points and identifying, under the format of a list, the strengths and weaknesses for each evaluation criterion, according to the evaluation form presented in Annex 2.

Once all individual evaluations for a project have been completed, each evaluator will have access to the comments of the other evaluators. If deemed necessary, each evaluator may adjust his/her initial comments and score.

### **5.2.2. Reaching consensus**

Each project proposal has a designated rapporteur, selected from the list of expert evaluators approved by UIRPSF/MCID for this competition. The rapporteur did not participate in the individual assessment of the assigned project.

The task of the rapporteur is to facilitate and mediate the achievement of consensus between the individual evaluations of the experts (comments and scores related to each evaluation criterion or sub-criterion). Once the consensus on the evaluation has been reached, the rapporteur completes the consolidated evaluation report, which will contain, for each criterion/sub-criteria, the score given and the supporting comments, organized in the form of a list of strengths and weaknesses, as appropriate. The other three expert evaluators will express their agreement or disagreement on the platform in relation to the consolidated evaluation report ("agree" or "disagree" vote). If the consolidated evaluation report, drawn up by the rapporteur, is validated unanimously ("agree" vote), it is considered that consensus has been reached for the respective project.

If consensus is not reached, an online meeting is organized between the rapporteur and the expert evaluators, for discussions and to reach a final decision. If no consensus is reached after this meeting, the evaluation process for the respective project proposal is resumed.

### **5.2.3 Panel evaluation**

For each area of the competition, shall be established a panel made up of the rapporteurs of projects with a total score of at least 80 points and a minimum rating of 3 for each sub-criterion of evaluation, after consensus has been established. Each panel Member, prior to the panel meeting, has access to all project proposals and consolidated evaluation reports.

During the panel meeting, each project proposal is presented by the appointed rapporteur.

Afterwards, the project director is invited to the panel meeting to support the project proposal and to answer the panel's specific questions. Following these discussions, the panel members draw up the Final Evaluation Report, with the possibility of adjusting comments and scores.

In anticipation of the discussion with the project director, the expert evaluators are requested to provide, within the individual evaluation form, possible questions addressed to the project director, for further clarification necessary to ensure the implementation of the project and the achievement of excellent scientific results.

### 5.3. Publication of evaluation results

Lists of project proposals, ranked in descending order, after the score obtained, one for each of the areas listed in Annex 3, (1) MATHEMATICS, PHYSICAL SCIENCES, INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION, ENGINEERING, UNIVERSE AND EARTH SCIENCES; (2) LIFE SCIENCES; (3) SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES, will be published on the MCID website, [www.mcid.gov.ro](http://www.mcid.gov.ro).

### 5.4. Dissemination

The directors of the project proposals will be informed upon the final evaluation report in the accounts from the submission platform, <https://proiecte.pnrr.gov.ro>, by sending a notification, by e-mail, to the address specified in the project proposal.

### 5.5. Appeal

Project directors of the project proposals can submit their appeals within 3 working days until 16:00, Bucharest time, after the publication of the evaluation results. Appeals may relate exclusively to procedural defects which the candidate considers to be inconsistent with the specifications from the applicant's guide. Appeals will not concern the evaluators' scores and comments. Complaints can be sent by e-mail, at [secretariat.psf@research.gov.ro](mailto:secretariat.psf@research.gov.ro).

### 5.6. Results of the call

- The list of project proposals and the Reserve List with the score set after the analysis and resolution of the complaints is published on the website [www.mcid.gov.ro](http://www.mcid.gov.ro), for each of the 3 domains.
- A project proposal is considered eligible for funding if it achieves a final score of at least 80 points and has obtained a minimum rating of 3 for each sub-criterion of evaluation.
- The projects are ranked based on the final scores for each of the 3 areas and are proposed for funding in each of the 3 areas within the allocated budget. The success rate applicable to each field is referred to the success rate of the competition (the ratio between the number of projects that can be financed, within the competition budget, and the number of eligible project proposals).
- If there are two or more project proposals with an identical final score, the tiebreaker, if the budget does not allow the financing of all projects, will be decided in accordance with the score obtained for

each evaluation criterion, in the order established in the final evaluation report.

- If there are funds available as a result of non-contracting or reduction of the budget proposed for the projects accepted for funding or as a result of an increase in the budget initially allocated to the competition, the negotiation and contracting of projects included in the Reserve List will be initiated, up to the approved amount, respecting the hierarchical order based on the final scores for each of the 3 areas.
- After the competition is completed, MCID will publish on the website the list of experts used in the evaluation process.

## **6. CONTRACTING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS**

### **6.1 Contracting of projects**

After publication of the preliminary results of the scientific evaluation in each of the three scientific fields covered by this call, the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalisation may proceed directly to the contracting of projects eligible for funding that meet or exceed the quality threshold of the call, i.e. a final score of at least 80 points and a minimum score of 3 for each evaluation sub-criterion.

Projects will be contracted in descending order of the scores obtained in the scientific evaluation, the amount of each project will be the amount of the submitted funding application. If, following the evaluation, it is found that there are insufficient projects exceeding the quality threshold in one of the scientific fields covered by this call, then the remaining amount available for the remaining amount available for that area may be reallocated to the other areas, thus contributing to increasing the success rate of the other areas.

The Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalisation will take all measures to ensure that the final ranking of eligible projects resulting from the appeal process is respected at the end of the contracting process until the total amount allocated to this call for projects is reached. Grant recipients are required to submit to the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalisation (MCID), no later than 25 working days from the date of signature of the grant contract, the documents specified in the Grant Applicant Information Letter; if grant recipients do not provide the requested documents by the deadline and in the format specified in the information letter, then MCID may unilaterally terminate the grant contract.

The value of contracts may be reduced following verification of the documents required by the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalisation.



The directors of the projects accepted for funding will negotiate the amount and structure of the requested budget with MCID, based on the comments received from the evaluators (if there are any) on the degree of correlation between the foreseen objectives and the requested budget. The negotiated budget may not exceed the amount of the budget initially requested in the funding application. The financing contract is signed after the negotiation process. In the event that funds become available as a result of non-contracting or a reduction in the proposed budget for projects accepted for funding or as a result of an increase in the budget initially allocated to the competition, negotiation and contracting of projects on the reserve list will be initiated, in the order of the scores obtained, up to the approved amount.

## **6.2 Rules on project implementation and monitoring**

Payment method: advance payments of a maximum of 90% can be made at the beginning of each research stage, with their recovery, in accordance with the legal provisions.

The evaluation of the projects' activity during the implementation period will be carried out annually, as well as at the completion of the project.

Planning and reporting tools: the standard format of the planning and reporting tools will be provided as an annex to the financing contract.

The Reform and/or Investment Coordinator is obliged to verify the fulfilment of the conditions for making transfers, i.e. to verify ex-post the procurement procedures carried out by the beneficiaries, including on a sample basis, to authorise transfer requests and to make payments to beneficiaries under the financing contract, in compliance with the provisions of the Government Decision no. 209/2022 for the approval of the Methodological Norms for the application of the provisions of the Government Emergency Ordinance no. 124/2021 on the establishment of the institutional and financial framework for the management of European funds allocated to Romania through the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism, as well as for the amendment and completion of Government Emergency Ordinance No. 155/2020 on some measures for the preparation of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan necessary for Romania to access reimbursable and non-reimbursable external funds under the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism, with subsequent amendments and additions.

The Beneficiary is obliged to allow unrestricted access, including to its premises, to the national and European authorities responsible for verification, control and audit, including the national coordinator, within the limits of their powers, on the basis of the notification sent by them, subject to the terms and conditions laid down in accordance with the legal provisions in force and the provisions

of this contract. To this end, it shall make available to them all the documents and information required concerning the project and the financing contract and shall take all necessary steps to ensure that the verification activities carried out by the audit or control authorities run smoothly.

### 6.2.1 Main obligations of the parties

*The project director and the host institution:*

1. Are responsible for project implementation;
2. Prepare and submit to the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalisation the interim financial and scientific progress reports and the final report, on time, and using the format indicated by MCID in the financing contract;
3. Publicize project activities and advertise vacancies within the research project (including on the websites <https://jobs.research.gov.ro/> and [www.euraxess.gov.ro](http://www.euraxess.gov.ro) );
4. Provide up-to-date information on project progress (at least the project summary and the updated list of publications resulting from the project) on a web page, in English;
5. The host institution shall ensure that the project director and the research team have access to the existing research infrastructure and shall offer administrative assistance in the project implementation;
6. The host institution shall prepare and submit to the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalisation the project's financial reports at the end of each financial reporting stage. The format of financial reports is established by MCID;
7. The host institution, through the legal representative's signature and the project director's signature, certifies, on its own responsibility, the legality and accuracy of the information contained in the funding application, accepts the project implementation within the institution, provides administrative support for the project, ensures the resources indicated in the funding application, takes responsibility to support the development of the project in good conditions and to hire the project team's members, in accordance with the legal provisions, according to the project proposal, if the project is to be accepted for funding;
8. For project directors who are not employees of the institution at the time of submission of the funding application, the employment of the project director during the project implementation must be certified by the institution (according to Annex 8);
9. Ensure the project visibility is financed through NRRP in accordance with the obligation to comply with the provisions of the NRRP visual identity manual;

10. Fullfill all the obligations of the beneficiaries of NRRP funds, as specified in GEO no. 124/2021 on the establishment of the institutional and financial framework for the management of European funds allocated to Romania through the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism, as well as for the modification and completion of Government Emergency Ordinance no. 155/2020 regarding certain measures for the elaboration of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan necessary for Romania to access reimbursable and non-reimbursable external funds under the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism and GD no. 209/2022 for the approval of the Methodological Norms for the implementation of the provisions of Government Emergency Ordinance No 124/2021 on the establishment of the institutional and financial framework for the management of European funds allocated to Romania through the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism, as well as for the amendment and completion of Government Emergency Ordinance No 155/2020 regarding certain measures for elaboration of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan necessary for Romania to access reimbursable and non-reimbursable external funds under the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism.
11. Fully comply with the provisions of the financing contract.

*Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalisation:*

1. Ensures the financing and monitoring of the project, along with the financing contract and the available budgetary resources, in accordance with the legal provisions.
2. Processes personal data in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR 2018) and Romanian Law 190/2018 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data.

### **6.3 Implementation risk management mechanisms**

Research failure corresponds to situations where, following proper execution of the activities foreseen in a research project, with the achievement of deliverables assumed according to the funding contract, the results obtained do not correspond to the provisioned outcome (working hypotheses stated in the project proposal are not confirmed, the functionality preliminary in the project proposal is not validated).

For an ongoing project, research failure can be identified by the evaluation and monitoring committees set up for this purpose by the MCID (in accordance with the provisions of Article 87 of the

Government Ordinance no. 57/2002, as amended and supplemented) and during the annual evaluations.

During evaluation and monitoring, the evaluation committees will determine whether:

- The project research team has complied with the financing contract, carrying out the planned activities in good faith, even if the results are not the foreseen (expected) ones. This case falls under research risk;
- The project research team has not carried out appropriately the activities provisioned in the financing contract, or has failed to implement these activities, without notifying MCID of the reasons that led to this situation. In these circumstances, the failure shall be attributable to the beneficiary and MCID will request that the funds used inappropriately to be returned by the project team and shall terminate the financing contract.

The process of identifying and certifying situations that fall under the risk of research involves the examination of:

- Means by which the activities within the project are carried out, in accordance with the funding application, annexed to the financing contract (compliance with the content and timetable);
- The way of obtaining results (theoretical or experimental) including the achievement of deliverables that are associated with objectives/activities, even if they differ from the ones foreseen in the funding application;
- Means of communication with MCID regarding the inconsistencies between the results obtained during the ongoing of the project and those initially foreseen in the funding application.

Based on the reports of the evaluation and monitoring committees, if the MCID accepts the failure in research, there is no obligation for the recovery of the funds that have been spent from the state budget.

If the evaluation and monitoring committees realize that the stages/activities and objectives set out in the implementation plan that has received funding have not been achieved, due to the beneficiary's own fault, the project shall be stopped and the funding quota allocated from the program's budget is returned to MCID and MCID terminates the financing contract.

## **7. TRANSPARENCY**

The Applicant's Guide for the first call of proposals, named - Development of a programme to attract highly specialized foreign human resources in research, development and innovation activities, Component C9. SUPPORT FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR, RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION, INVESTMENT I8. The development of a programme to attract highly specialized human resources from abroad in research, development and innovation activities, within the framework of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR), has been put in public debate, being published on the website of the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalisation ([www.mcid.gov.ro/](http://www.mcid.gov.ro/)) on 31.03.2022, in accordance with the legal provisions.

## **8. PREVENTION OF SERIOUS IRREGULARITIES, DOUBLE FUNDING**

Funding applications will be accompanied by the Declaration of non-funding from other sources, certification of legality and accuracy of the information contained in the funding application and of the information filled in the submission platform (see ANNEX 4 – Affidavit certifying the legality and accuracy of the information contained in the funding application and the information filled in the submission platform).

Funding applications will be accompanied by an Affidavit on conflict of interest, of fraud and corruption (see ANNEX 11 - Affidavit of conflict of interest, of fraud and corruption).

Funding applications must be accompanied by an affidavit on the avoidance of double funding (see ANNEX 13 - Affidavit on the avoidance of double funding).

## **9. COMPLIANCE WITH THE "DO NO SIGNIFICANT HARM (DNSH)" PRINCIPLE**

The funding applications will be accompanied by a declaration on the project director's own responsibility, written either in Romanian or in English, on the compliance of the project proposal with the DNSH Technical Guidelines (2021/C58/01) (see ANNEX 8 - Affidavit on the compliance of the project proposal with the DNSH Technical Guidelines (2021/C58/01)).

## **10. REAL BENEFICIARY**

The Reform and/or Investment Coordinator is required to identify and report on the actual beneficiaries of NRRP funds, direct or indirect, and to request information from the actual

beneficiaries as defined in Article 3(3). (6) of Directive (EU) 2015/849 of the European Parliament and of the Council. At the application stage, for applicants such as associations and foundations, the responsible authority collects from them an extract from the Ministry of Justice (National NGO Register) on the real beneficiaries of the association/foundation; in case the association/foundation is a foreign entity or has foreign persons as real beneficiaries, collects an affidavit given by the legal representative/president, in accordance with the provisions of Article 326 of the Penal Code on false declarations, which will contain the data on the real beneficiaries (at least name, surname and date of birth), in accordance with Law 129/2019, as supplemented and amended.

## **11. ANNEXES**

ANNEX 1 – Funding application

ANNEX 2 - Evaluation sheet

ANNEX 3 - Scientific fields

ANNEX 4 - Affidavit certifying the legality and accuracy of the information contained in the funding application and the information filled in the submission platform

ANNEX 5 - Affidavit of the host institution certifying acceptance of the implementation of the project in the institution

ANNEX 6 - Affidavit of compliance with the definition of research organisation

ANNEX 7 - Affidavit of eligibility of the research organisation

ANNEX 8 - Affidavit on the compliance of the project proposal with the DNSH Technical Guidelines (2021/C58/01)

ANNEX 9 - PhD supervisor's agreement, showing the link between the project topic and the PhD research. The agreement of the PhD supervisor is not required if the PhD supervisor is a member of the project team.

ANNEX 10 - Declaration on the eligibility of VAT on expenditure to be incurred in the project proposed for funding

ANNEX 11 - Affidavit of conflict of interest, fraud and corruption

ANNEX 12 - Declaration of consent to the processing of personal data

ANNEX 13 - Affidavit on the avoidance of double funding

ANNEX 14 - Affidavit of the applicant's eligibility

ANNEX 15 - Declaration of commitment

ANNEX 16 - Affidavit on certifying the incentive effect

ANNEX 17 - Grid for verification of administrative compliance and scientific eligibility

## **ANNEX 1 – Funding application**

*The document uses Times New Roman font type, 12 font size, 1.5 line spacing and 2 cm margins. The grey text contains filling instructions for candidates and will NOT be deleted and replaced with the required information. There will be maintained the black text, which marks the mandatory information and sections of the application.*

### **A. General information**

**Project title (maximum 200 characters):**

**Summary in Romanian (max. 2000 characters, including spaces):**

**Summary in English (max. 2000 characters, including spaces):**

**Project director and host institution:**

Name:

Previous names (if applicable):

First name:

Date of birth:

PhD graduate since (year):

Telephone:

E-mail address:

Name of the institution:

Address of the institution:

The contact person in the institution:

**Research team structure/** (nominated team members/ the team structure in case the team structure is not nominated):

**Fields in which the project fits** (according to Annex 3).

*(The chosen main field also represents the field of the project proposal)*

Main domain:

Subdomains:

Main research area:

Secondary research area:

Secondary research area:

**Keywords:**

1:

2:

3:

4:

5:

**Project duration: min. 24 - max. 30 months**

**Requested budget (RON):**

**The requested budget (EUR; InforEuro rate May 2023):**

**New Project       Redeployment**

***B. Project director***

***B1. Important scientific achievements of the project director*** (max. 4 pages)

*The most important contributions of the project director in his field of research will be presented (for example, discoveries which significantly led to a better knowledge in the field provable through publications and patents).*

*The following categories of information will be presented:*

- a) *the total number of citations (excluding self-citations), according to the Web of Science/ Publons;*
- b) *the Hirsch index, according to the Web of Science/ Publons;*
- c) *the address of the Web of Science/Publons or ORCID profile will be indicated;*
- d) *the most representative publications will be indicated (max. 10):*
- e) *projects that the project director has done as principal investigator/group leader (the link/ project web page will be indicated)*

***B2. Curriculum Vitae*** (max. 2 pages)

**C. Funding application** (max. 11 pages)

*In this chapter, the scientific context, the purpose, the objectives, the way of implementing the objectives (project activities), the deliverables and the necessary resources will be specified in detail.*



The evaluation of the project proposal will be done taking into account ONLY the specified number of pages.

**C1. Motivation of the proposed topic in the current scientific context. Border-like character, relevance and expected impact. Originality and degree of innovation.**

*The scientific motivation of the project theme will be justified by delimiting the problem addressed in the current scientific context; It will be justified to what extent the proposed research addresses important challenges (complex/frontier issues). The following two aspects will be highlighted: (1) the importance of the problem from a scientific, technological, socio-economical or cultural point of view, the elements of difficulty of the problem, the limitations of current approaches, through the analysis of the current state of knowledge in the project's topic; (2) the originality and innovation elements that the proposed project brings to the field, in relation to the current state of knowledge. If the proposed topic has been addressed in previous projects, the details of the previous projects need to be indicated (financier/funder, name and code of project, web page, obtained results) and the novelty elements need to be clearly mentioned in relation to the previous studies.*

**C2. Objectives, methodology and work plan**

*The approach taken within the project will be presented, at a principal level, highlighting the following three aspects: (1) the concrete objectives of the project; (2) the proposed work strategy, including investigation methods and tools; (3) a work plan, staggered over time, which will describe the way in which the project will be organised, in relation to the proposed objectives.*

**C3. Project feasibility: available resources, research team structure and preliminary results**

*The existing resources in the host institution, relevant for the development of the project (the link from <https://eertis.eu/> platform will be indicated) will be presented, as well as the necessary ones that will be purchased within the project. In particular, the following aspects shall be specified: (1) the estimation of the time allocated to the project by each member of the project team, in months / member units, in accordance with the work plan presented in section C2; (2) the argumentation of the project team's adequacy and the research infrastructure available to the fulfilling of the project's objectives in the allocated time; in the case of the vacancies the expected competencies will be briefly described (3) the preliminary results that support the working hypothesis of the project (if there are any).*

**C4. Risks and alternative approaches**

*The potential scientific and administrative risks will be described, alongside with the approaches through which these risks would be going to be addressed.*

### **C5. Impact and dissemination**

*The expected impact of the project will be discussed within a wider area of the scientific field, with an emphasis on the following aspects: (1) the estimated scientific results of the project, with the mentioning of the expected result indicators; (2) the potential impact of the project on the host institution, the project team, the scientific, social, economic and cultural environment (if the latter three are relevant to the field or theme of the project) and/or the applicative directions which will be explored in the project (if it's applicable for the proposed research direction); (3) concrete elements of the strategy for disseminating scientific results.*

### **C6. Requested budget**

*The following aspects will be presented, in detail: (1) The distribution of budget by type of expenses and by project year must be indicated and justified; (2) Justification for the purchase of new equipment with a value higher than 250 000 lei (price without VAT), with reference to the project objectives; (3) The budget is distributed on types of expenses as follows: staff expenses, logistics expenses, travel expenses, and indirect costs (overheads).*

*Section C6 will not receive points in the evaluation; the evaluators' comments associated with this sub-criterion will only be used in the negotiation and contracting process, in the case that the project will be funded.*

Quotation estimate (in RON, by calendar years):

<b>Budget chapter</b>	<b>First year</b>	<b>Second year</b>	<b>Third year</b>	<b>Total budget</b>
<b>Staff expenses</b>				
<b>Logistics expenses</b>				
<b>Travel expenses</b>				
<b>Indirect costs</b>				
<b>Total</b>				

Quotation estimate (in EUR, by calendar years):

<b>Budget chapter</b>	<b>First year</b>	<b>Second year</b>	<b>Third year</b>	<b>Total budget</b>
<b>Staff expenses</b>				
<b>Logistics expenses</b>				

<b>Travel expenses</b>				
<b>Indirect costs</b>				
<b>Total</b>				

## **C7. Bibliography**

**Estimated Budget (in RON):**

Budget chapter	Months 1-12		Months 13 - 24		Months 25 - 30		Total budget	
	Eligible expenditure - NRRP funding/State aid (RON) (1)	VAT on eligible expenditure - 19% (RON) (2)	Eligible expenditure - NRRP funding/State aid (RON) (3)	VAT on eligible expenditure - 19% (RON) (4)	Eligible expenditure - NRRP funding/State aid (RON) (5)	VAT on eligible expenditure - 19% (ron) (6)	Eligible expenditure - NRRP funding/State aid (RON) (7)	VAT on eligible expenditure - 19% (ron) (8)
<b>A.</b> Direct expenditure (staff costs, logistical costs and travel costs, excluding the value of tangible fixed assets).								
1. Staff expenditure, of which:								
"1.1. Staff expenditure related to position <<P1 - Project Director>>:								
no. hours/month x 12 months x rate lei/hour x (1+2.25%) = ... lei/year"								
...								
2. Logistics costs, of which:								
(a) capital expenditure: research instruments and equipment necessary for the implementation and running of the project;								
b) expenditure on the purchase of materials, consumables and other similar products: maximum 20% of the project budget;								
(c) costs of contract research, patents purchased or licensed from external sources on a fully competitive basis, and costs of consultancy and equivalent services used exclusively for the project;								
(d) other operating costs incurred directly as a result of the project: expenditure related to the 'open access' dissemination of project results.								
3. Travel expenses (maximum 2.5% of the sum of staff and logistical expenses), of which:								
<b>B.</b> Overheads (indirect) - (maximum 15% of total staff costs, logistics costs and travel costs, excluding the value of tangible fixed assets).								
Total								

Notă: **The amount of eligible expenditure is/is not State aid** (please select the applicable option)

## **ANNEX 2 – Evaluation sheet**

**Please deliver your comments for each sub-criterion as a bullet point list of strengths (+) and weaknesses (-).**

### **1. Principal Investigator (PI) - 40% of the total score;**

#### **1.1 Quality of the PI's research output - 40% of the total score of Criterion 1**

Evaluate to what extent the PI's research has led to progress in their field of expertise, in general (i.e., not only in the narrow field/theme of the project). Comment on the importance of the PI's scientific discoveries, as reflected in their track record or other achievements.

#### **1.2 Visibility and impact of the PI's research output - 30% of the total score of Criterion 1**

Evaluate to what extent the PI's scientific output is internationally recognized. Comment on the international visibility of the PI's scientific output as reflected, for example, in attracting research funding, in citations in top journals, number of citations, relevance of their published work (For 1.1.-1.2. please take into account the scientific output in relation to the current career stage of the PI).

#### **1.3 PI's ability to tackle the proposed topic - 30% of the total score of Criterion 1**

Evaluate to what extent the PI's research output is relevant for the present project. Comment on how the previously published work or previous projects of the PI relate to the proposed research.

### **2. Research Project - 60% of the total score**

#### **2.1 State-of-the-art and originality/innovation - 30% of the total score of Criterion 2**

Evaluate whether the problem addressed by the project is clearly identified in relation to the state-of-the-art in the field. Comment on the originality and novelty of the proposed solution. If previous projects of the applicant addressing a similar topic are mentioned, comment on the novel aspects investigated in the present project.

#### **2.2 Research objectives, methodology and work plan - 30% of the total score of Criterion 2**

Evaluate the clarity and coherence of the scientific objectives. To what extent is the proposed methodological approach suitable for reaching these objectives? How effective is the work plan (timelines, milestones, deliverables) in terms of achieving the proposed objectives? Comment on the coherence of the approach in terms of activities and time scales.

#### **2.3 Feasibility (resources, research team and preliminary results) - 20% of the total score of Criterion 2**

To what extent is the success of the project plausible? To what extent will the human and material resources available for the project will ensure successful implementation of the project? Are there any preliminary results presented in support of the hypothesis and proposed solution?

## 2.4 Risks and contingency plans - 10% of the total score of Criterion 2

To what extent does the risk analysis correctly identify potential pitfalls? Also comment on the effectiveness of the alternative solutions proposed.

## 2.5 Expected impact and dissemination plan - 10% of the total score of Criterion 2

To what extent is the expected scientific output of the proposed work realistically described and how likely is it to lead to significant progress in the field? How will the proposed research impact (the visibility of) the host institution, PI and research team? Also, comment on the quality of the proposed measures to disseminate the scientific output of the proposal. Social, economic, or cultural impact should be considered only if relevant for the proposed research.

## 3. Budget; this section will not be scored

Please provide an overall assessment of the research budget requested and evaluate to what extent it is justified by the proposed research activities. There will be no score associated with this criterion, but the assessment will be useful to the funding agency in negotiating the final financial award.

**Please deliver your comments for each sub-criterion as a bullet point list of strengths (+) and weaknesses (-).**

Scoring chart:

0	<b>ABSENT</b>	The proposal fails to address the criterion under examination or cannot be judged due to <i>missing or incomplete information</i> .
1	<b>UNSATISFACTORY</b>	The criterion is addressed in an <i>inadequate manner</i> , or there are <i>serious inherent weaknesses</i> .
2	<b>SATISFACTORY</b>	While the proposal <i>broadly addresses</i> the criterion, there are <i>significant weaknesses</i> .
3	<b>GOOD</b>	The proposal addresses the criterion <i>well</i> , although <i>improvements would be necessary</i> . <i>A number of shortcomings are present</i> .
4	<b>VERY GOOD</b>	The proposal addresses the criterion very well, although <i>certain improvements are still possible</i> . <i>A small number of shortcomings are present</i> .
5	<b>EXCELLENT</b>	The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

2. When scoring use the full scale, from 0 to 5 – in 0.25 increments.

3. The scores must reflect the strengths and weaknesses and they must be in line with the comments. Scores below 5 (i.e., also **3** – good or **4** - very good) **must be in accordance with the identified weaknesses, which should be clearly indicated** in your comments!

4. Each strength and weakness must be reflected only once in the report and the scores (**no double penalty**).

**Note:** The final score will be calculated as a sum of the grades for each of the eight subcriteria weighed by the corresponding percentage and multiplying by 20 (final score between 0 and 100).

## **ANNEX 3 – Scientific fields**

### **FIELD (1) Physical Sciences and Engineering**

#### *PE1 Mathematics*

*All areas of mathematics, pure and applied, plus mathematical foundations of computer science, mathematical physics and statistics*

PE1\_1 Logic and foundations

PE1\_2 Algebra

PE1\_3 Number theory

PE1\_4 Algebraic and complex geometry

PE1\_5 Lie groups, Lie algebras

PE1\_6 Geometry and global analysis

PE1\_7 Topology

PE1\_8 Analysis

PE1\_9 Operator algebras and functional analysis

PE1\_10 ODE and dynamical systems

PE1\_11 Theoretical aspects of partial differential equations

PE1\_12 Mathematical physics

PE1\_13 Probability

PE1\_14 Mathematical statistics

PE1\_15 Generic statistical methodology and modelling

PE1\_16 Discrete mathematics and combinatorics

PE1\_17 Mathematical aspects of computer science

PE1\_18 Numerical analysis

PE1\_19 Scientific computing and data processing

PE1\_20 Control theory, optimisation and operational research

PE1\_21 Application of mathematics in sciences

PE1\_22 Application of mathematics in industry and society

#### *PE2 Fundamental Constituents of Matter*

*Particle, nuclear, plasma, atomic, molecular, gas, and optical physics*

PE2\_1 Theory of fundamental interactions

PE2\_2 Phenomenology of fundamental interactions

PE2\_3 Experimental particle physics with accelerators

PE2\_4 Experimental particle physics without accelerators

PE2\_5 Classical and quantum physics of gravitational interactions

PE2\_6 Nuclear, hadron and heavy ion physics

PE2\_7 Nuclear and particle astrophysics

PE2\_8 Gas and plasma physics

PE2\_9 Electromagnetism

PE2\_10 Atomic, molecular physics

PE2\_11 Ultra-cold atoms and molecules

PE2\_12 Optics, non-linear optics and nano-optics

PE2\_13 Quantum optics and quantum information

PE2\_14 Lasers, ultra-short lasers and laser physics

PE2\_15 Thermodynamics

PE2\_16 Non-linear physics

PE2\_17 Metrology and measurement

PE2\_18 Equilibrium and non-equilibrium statistical mechanics: steady states and dynamics

*PE3 Condensed Matter Physics*

*Structure, electronic properties, fluids, nanosciences, biological physics*

PE3\_1 Structure of solids, material growth and characterisation

PE3\_2 Mechanical and acoustical properties of condensed matter, lattice dynamics

PE3\_3 Transport properties of condensed matter

PE3\_4 Electronic properties of materials, surfaces, interfaces, nanostructures

PE3\_5 Physical properties of semiconductors and insulators

PE3\_6 Macroscopic quantum phenomena, e.g. superconductivity, superfluidity, quantum Hall effect

PE3\_7 Spintronics

PE3\_8 Magnetism and strongly correlated systems

PE3\_9 Condensed matter – beam interactions (photons, electrons, etc.)

PE3\_10 Nanophysics, e.g. nanoelectronics, nanophotonics, nanomagnetism, nanoelectromechanics

PE3\_11 Mesoscopic quantum physics and solid-state quantum technologies

PE3\_12 Molecular electronics

PE3\_13 Structure and dynamics of disordered systems, e.g. soft matter (gels, colloids, liquid crystals), granular matter, liquids, glasses, defects

PE3\_14 Fluid dynamics (physics)

PE3\_15 Statistical physics: phase transitions, condensed matter systems, models of complex systems, interdisciplinary applications

PE3\_16 Physics of biological systems

*PE4 Physical and Analytical Chemical Sciences*

*Analytical chemistry, chemical theory, physical chemistry/chemical physics*

PE4\_1 Physical chemistry

PE4\_2 Spectroscopic and spectrometric techniques

PE4\_3 Molecular architecture and Structure

PE4\_4 Surface science and nanostructures

PE4\_5 Analytical chemistry

PE4\_6 Chemical physics

PE4\_7 Chemical instrumentation

PE4\_8 Electrochemistry, electrodialysis, microfluidics, sensors

PE4\_9 Method development in chemistry

PE4\_10 Heterogeneous catalysis

PE4\_11 Physical chemistry of biological systems

PE4\_12 Chemical reactions: mechanisms, dynamics, kinetics and catalytic reactions

PE4\_13 Theoretical and computational chemistry

PE4\_14 Radiation and Nuclear chemistry

PE4\_15 Photochemistry

PE4\_16 Corrosion

PE4\_17 Characterisation methods of materials

PE4\_18 Environment chemistry

*PE5 Synthetic Chemistry and Materials*

*New materials and new synthetic approaches, structure-properties relations, solid state chemistry,*



*molecular architecture, organic chemistry*

- PE5\_1 Structural properties of materials
- PE5\_2 Solid state materials chemistry
- PE5\_3 Surface modification
- PE5\_4 Thin films
- PE5\_5 Ionic liquids
- PE5\_6 New materials: oxides, alloys, composite, organic-inorganic hybrid, nanoparticles
- PE5\_7 Biomaterials synthesis
- PE5\_8 Intelligent materials synthesis – self assembled materials
- PE5\_9 Coordination chemistry
- PE5\_10 Colloid chemistry
- PE5\_11 Biological chemistry and chemical biology
- PE5\_12 Chemistry of condensed matter
- PE5\_13 Homogeneous catalysis
- PE5\_14 Macromolecular chemistry
- PE5\_15 Polymer chemistry
- PE5\_16 Supramolecular chemistry
- PE5\_17 Organic chemistry
- PE5\_18 Medicinal chemistry

*PE6 Computer Science and Informatics*

*Informatics and information systems, computer science, scientific computing, intelligent systems*

- PE6\_1 Computer architecture, embedded systems, operating systems
- PE6\_2 Distributed systems, parallel computing, sensor networks, cyber-physical systems
- PE6\_3 Software engineering, programming languages and systems
- PE6\_4 Theoretical computer science, formal methods, automata
- PE6\_5 Security, privacy, cryptology, quantum cryptography
- PE6\_6 Algorithms and complexity, distributed, parallel and network algorithms, algorithmic game theory
- PE6\_7 Artificial intelligence, intelligent systems, natural language processing
- PE6\_8 Computer graphics, computer vision, multimedia, computer games
- PE6\_9 Human computer interaction and interface, visualisation
- PE6\_10 Web and information systems, data management systems, information retrieval and digital libraries, data fusion
- PE6\_11 Machine learning, statistical data processing and applications using signal processing (e.g. speech, image, video)
- PE6\_12 Scientific computing, simulation and modelling tools
- PE6\_13 Bioinformatics, bio-inspired computing, and natural computing
- PE6\_14 Quantum computing (formal methods, algorithms and other computer science aspects)

*PE7 Systems and Communication Engineering*

*Electrical, electronic, communication, optical and systems engineering*

- PE7\_1 Control engineering
- PE7\_2 Electrical engineering: power components and/or systems
- PE7\_3 Simulation engineering and modelling
- PE7\_4 (Micro- and nano-) systems engineering
- PE7\_5 (Micro- and nano-) electronic, optoelectronic and photonic components

PE7\_6 Communication systems, wireless technology, high-frequency technology  
PE7\_7 Signal processing  
PE7\_8 Networks, e.g. communication networks and nodes, Internet of Things, sensor networks, networks of robots  
PE7\_9 Man-machine interfaces  
PE7\_10 Robotics  
PE7\_11 Components and systems for applications (in e.g. medicine, biology, environment)  
PE7\_12 Electrical energy production, distribution, applications

*PE8 Products and Processes Engineering*

*Product and process design, chemical, civil, environmental, mechanical, vehicle engineering, energy processes and relevant computational methods*

PE8\_1 Aerospace engineering  
PE8\_2 Chemical engineering, technical chemistry  
PE8\_3 Civil engineering, architecture, offshore construction, lightweight construction, geotechnics  
PE8\_4 Computational engineering  
PE8\_5 Fluid mechanics  
PE8\_6 Energy processes engineering  
PE8\_7 Mechanical engineering  
PE8\_8 Propulsion engineering, e.g. hydraulic, turbo, piston, hybrid engines  
PE8\_9 Production technology, process engineering  
PE8\_10 Manufacturing engineering and industrial design  
PE8\_11 Environmental engineering, e.g. sustainable design, waste and water treatment, recycling, regeneration or recovery of compounds, carbon capture & storage  
PE8\_12 Naval/marine engineering  
PE8\_13 Industrial bioengineering  
PE8\_14 Automotive and rail engineering; multi-/inter-modal transport engineering

*PE9 Universe Sciences*

*Astro-physics/-chemistry/-biology; solar system; planetary systems; stellar, galactic and extragalactic astronomy; cosmology; space sciences; astronomical instrumentation and data*

PE9\_1 Solar physics – the Sun and the heliosphere  
PE9\_2 Solar system science  
PE9\_3 Exoplanetary science, formation and characterization of extrasolar planets  
PE9\_4 Astrobiology  
PE9\_5 Interstellar medium and star formation  
PE9\_6 Stars – stellar physics, stellar systems  
PE9\_7 The Milky Way  
PE9\_8 Galaxies – formation, evolution, clusters  
PE9\_9 Cosmology and large-scale structure, dark matter, dark energy  
PE9\_10 Relativistic astrophysics and compact objects  
PE9\_11 Gravitational wave astronomy  
PE9\_12 High-energy and particle astronomy  
PE9\_13 Astronomical instrumentation and data, e.g. telescopes, detectors, techniques, archives, analyses

*PE10 Earth System Science*

*Physical geography, geology, geophysics, atmospheric sciences, oceanography, climatology, cryology, ecology, global environmental change, biogeochemical cycles, natural resources management*

PE10\_1 Atmospheric chemistry, atmospheric composition, air pollution

PE10\_2 Meteorology, atmospheric physics and dynamics

PE10\_3 Climatology and climate change

PE10\_4 Terrestrial ecology, land cover change

PE10\_5 Geology, tectonics, volcanology

PE10\_6 Palaeoclimatology, palaeoecology

PE10\_7 Physics of earth's interior, seismology, geodynamics

PE10\_8 Oceanography (physical, chemical, biological, geological)

PE10\_9 Biogeochemistry, biogeochemical cycles, environmental chemistry

PE10\_10 Mineralogy, petrology, igneous petrology, metamorphic petrology

PE10\_11 Geochemistry, cosmochemistry, crystal chemistry, isotope geochemistry, thermodynamics

PE10\_12 Sedimentology, soil science, palaeontology, earth evolution

PE10\_13 Physical geography, geomorphology

PE10\_14 Earth observations from space/remote sensing

PE10\_15 Geomagnetism, palaeomagnetism

PE10\_16 Ozone, upper atmosphere, ionosphere

PE10\_17 Hydrology, hydrogeology, engineering and environmental geology, water and soil pollution

PE10\_18 Cryosphere, dynamics of snow and ice cover, sea ice, permafrosts and ice sheets

PE10\_19 Planetary geology and geophysics

PE10\_20 Geohazards

PE10\_21 Earth system modelling and interactions

### *PE11 Materials Engineering*

*Advanced materials development: performance enhancement, modelling, large-scale preparation, modification, tailoring, optimisation, novel and combined use of materials, etc.*

PE11\_1 Engineering of biomaterials, biomimetic, bioinspired and bio-enabled materials

PE11\_2 Engineering of metals and alloys

PE11\_3 Engineering of ceramics and glasses

PE11\_4 Engineering of polymers and plastics

PE11\_5 Engineering of composites and hybrid materials

PE11\_6 Engineering of carbon materials

PE11\_7 Engineering of metal oxides

PE11\_8 Engineering of alternative established or emergent materials

PE11\_9 Nanomaterials engineering, e.g. nanoparticles, nanoporous materials, 1D & 2D nanomaterials

PE11\_10 Soft materials engineering, e.g. gels, foams, colloids

PE11\_11 Porous materials engineering, e.g. covalent-organic, metal-organic, porous aromatic frameworks

PE11\_12 Semi-conducting and magnetic materials engineering

PE11\_13 Metamaterials engineering

PE11\_14 Computational methods for materials engineering

## **FIELD (2) Life Sciences**

*LS1 Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures and Functions*

*For all organisms: Molecular biology, biochemistry, structural biology, molecular biophysics, synthetic and chemical biology, drug design, innovative methods and modelling*

LS1\_1 Macromolecular complexes including interactions involving nucleic acids, proteins, lipids and carbohydrates

LS1\_2 Biochemistry

LS1\_3 DNA and RNA biology

LS1\_4 Protein biology

LS1\_5 Lipid biology

LS1\_6 Glycobiology

LS1\_7 Molecular biophysics, biomechanics, bioenergetics

LS1\_8 Structural biology

LS1\_9 Molecular mechanisms of signalling processes

LS1\_10 Synthetic biology

LS1\_11 Chemical biology

LS1\_12 Protein design

LS1\_13 Early translational research and drug design

LS1\_14 Innovative methods and modelling in molecular, structural and synthetic biology

*LS2 Integrative Biology: from Genes and Genomes to Systems*

*For all organisms: Genetics, epigenetics, genomics and other 'omics studies, bioinformatics, systems biology, genetic diseases, gene editing, innovative methods and modelling, 'omics for personalised medicine*

LS2\_1 Genetics

LS2\_2 Gene editing

LS2\_3 Epigenetics

LS2\_4 Gene regulation

LS2\_5 Genomics

LS2\_6 Metagenomics

LS2\_7 Transcriptomics

LS2\_8 Proteomics

LS2\_9 Metabolomics

LS2\_10 Glycomics/Lipidomics

LS2\_11 Bioinformatics and computational biology

LS2\_12 Biostatistics

LS2\_13 Systems biology

LS2\_14 Genetic diseases

LS2\_15 Integrative biology for personalised medicine

LS2\_16 Innovative methods and modelling in integrative biology

*LS3 Cellular, Developmental and Regenerative Biology*

*For all organisms: Structure and function of the cell, cell-cell communication, embryogenesis, tissue differentiation, organogenesis, growth, development, evolution of development, organoids, stem cells, regeneration, therapeutic approaches*

LS3\_1 Cell cycle, cell division and growth

LS3\_2 Cell senescence, cell death, autophagy, cell ageing

- LS3\_3 Cell behaviour, including control of cell shape, cell migration
- LS3\_4 Cell junctions, cell adhesion, the extracellular matrix, cell communication
- LS3\_5 Cell signalling and signal transduction, exosome biology
- LS3\_6 Organelle biology and trafficking
- LS3\_7 Mechanobiology of cells, tissues and organs
- LS3\_8 Embryogenesis, pattern formation, morphogenesis
- LS3\_9 Cell differentiation, formation of tissues and organs
- LS3\_10 Developmental genetics
- LS3\_11 Evolution of developmental strategies
- LS3\_12 Organoids
- LS3\_13 Stem cells
- LS3\_14 Regeneration
- LS3\_15 Development of cell-based therapeutic approaches for tissue regeneration
- LS3\_16 Functional imaging of cells and tissues
- LS3\_17 Theoretical modelling in cellular, developmental and regenerative biology

#### *LS4 Physiology in Health, Disease and Ageing*

*Organ and tissue physiology, comparative physiology, physiology of ageing, pathophysiology, interorgan and tissue communication, endocrinology, nutrition, metabolism, interaction with the microbiome, non-communicable diseases including cancer (and except disorders of the nervous system and immunity-related diseases)*

- LS4\_1 Organ and tissue physiology and pathophysiology
- LS4\_2 Comparative physiology
- LS4\_3 Physiology of ageing
- LS4\_4 Endocrinology
- LS4\_5 Non-hormonal mechanisms of inter-organ and tissue communication
- LS4\_6 Microbiome and host physiology
- LS4\_7 Nutrition and exercise physiology
- LS4\_8 Impact of stress (including environmental stress) on physiology
- LS4\_9 Metabolism and metabolic disorders, including diabetes and obesity
- LS4\_10 The cardiovascular system and cardiovascular diseases
- LS4\_11 Haematopoiesis and blood diseases
- LS4\_12 Cancer
- LS4\_13 Other non-communicable diseases (except disorders of the nervous system and immunity-related diseases)

#### *LS5 Neuroscience and Disorders of the Nervous System*

*Nervous system development, homeostasis and ageing, nervous system function and dysfunction, systems neuroscience and modelling, biological basis of cognitive processes and of behaviour, neurological and mental disorders*

- LS5\_1 Neuronal cells
- LS5\_2 Glial cells and neuronal-glia communication
- LS5\_3 Neural development and related disorders
- LS5\_4 Neural stem cells
- LS5\_5 Neural networks and plasticity
- LS5\_6 Neurovascular biology and blood-brain barrier
- LS5\_7 Sensory systems, sensation and perception, including pain

LS5\_8 Neural basis of behaviour  
LS5\_9 Neural basis of cognition  
LS5\_10 Ageing of the nervous system  
LS5\_11 Neurological and neurodegenerative disorders  
LS5\_12 Mental disorders  
LS5\_13 Nervous system injuries and trauma, stroke  
LS5\_14 Repair and regeneration of the nervous system  
LS5\_15 Neuroimmunology, neuroinflammation  
LS5\_16 Systems and computational neuroscience  
LS5\_17 Imaging in neuroscience  
LS5\_18 Innovative methods and tools for neuroscience

*LS6 Immunity, Infection and Immunotherapy*

*The immune system, related disorders and their mechanisms, biology of infectious agents and infection, biological basis of prevention and treatment of infectious diseases, innovative immunological tools and approaches, including therapies*

LS6\_1 Innate immunity  
LS6\_2 Adaptive immunity  
LS6\_3 Regulation of the immune response  
LS6\_4 Immune-related diseases  
LS6\_5 Biology of pathogens (e.g. bacteria, viruses, parasites, fungi)  
LS6\_6 Infectious diseases  
LS6\_7 Mechanisms of infection  
LS6\_8 Biological basis of prevention and treatment of infection  
LS6\_9 Antimicrobials, antimicrobial resistance  
LS6\_10 Vaccine development  
LS6\_11 Innovative immunological tools and approaches, including therapies

*LS7 Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Human Diseases*

*Medical technologies and tools for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of human diseases, therapeutic approaches and interventions, pharmacology, preventative medicine, epidemiology and public health, digital medicine*

LS7\_1 Medical imaging for prevention, diagnosis and monitoring of diseases  
LS7\_2 Medical technologies and tools (including genetic tools and biomarkers) for prevention, diagnosis, monitoring and treatment of diseases  
LS7\_3 Nanomedicine  
LS7\_4 Regenerative medicine  
LS7\_5 Applied gene, cell and immune therapies  
LS7\_6 Other medical therapeutic interventions, including transplantation  
LS7\_7 Pharmacology and toxicology  
LS7\_8 Effectiveness of interventions, including resistance to therapies  
LS7\_9 Public health and epidemiology  
LS7\_10 Preventative and prognostic medicine  
LS7\_11 Environmental health, occupational medicine  
LS7\_12 Health care, including care for the ageing population  
LS7\_13 Palliative medicine  
LS7\_14 Digital medicine, e-medicine, medical applications of artificial intelligence

## LS7\_15 Medical ethics

### *LS8 Environmental Biology, Ecology and Evolution*

*For all organisms: Ecology, biodiversity, environmental change, evolutionary biology, behavioural ecology, microbial ecology, marine biology, ecophysiology, theoretical developments and modelling*

LS8\_1 Ecosystem and community ecology, macroecology

LS8\_2 Biodiversity

LS8\_3 Conservation biology

LS8\_4 Population biology, population dynamics, population genetics

LS8\_5 Biological aspects of environmental change, including climate change

LS8\_6 Evolutionary ecology

LS8\_7 Evolutionary genetics

LS8\_8 Phylogenetics, systematics, comparative biology

LS8\_9 Macroevolution and paleobiology

LS8\_10 Ecology and evolution of species interactions

LS8\_11 Behavioural ecology and evolution

LS8\_12 Microbial ecology and evolution

LS8\_13 Marine biology and ecology

LS8\_14 Ecophysiology, from organisms to ecosystems

LS8\_15 Theoretical developments and modelling in environmental biology, ecology, and evolution

### *LS9 Biotechnology and Biosystems Engineering*

*Biotechnology using all organisms, biotechnology for environment and food applications, applied plant and animal sciences, bioengineering and synthetic biology, biomass and biofuels, biohazards*

LS9\_1 Bioengineering for synthetic and chemical biology

LS9\_2 Applied genetics, gene editing and transgenic organisms

LS9\_3 Bioengineering of cells, tissues, organs and organisms

LS9\_4 Microbial biotechnology and bioengineering

LS9\_5 Food biotechnology and bioengineering

LS9\_6 Marine biotechnology and bioengineering

LS9\_7 Environmental biotechnology and bioengineering

LS9\_8 Applied plant sciences, plant breeding, agroecology and soil biology

LS9\_9 Plant pathology and pest resistance

LS9\_10 Veterinary and applied animal sciences

LS9\_11 Biomass production and utilisation, biofuels

LS9\_12 Ecotoxicology, biohazards and biosafety

## **FIELD (3) Social Sciences and Humanities**

### *SH1 Individuals, Markets and Organisations*

*Economics, finance, management*

SH1\_1 Macroeconomics; monetary economics; economic growth

SH1\_2 International trade; international management; international business; spatial economics

SH1\_3 Development economics; structural change; political economy of development

SH1\_4 Finance; asset pricing; international finance; market microstructure

SH1\_5 Corporate finance; banking and financial intermediation; accounting; auditing; insurance

SH1\_6 Econometrics; operations research

SH1\_7 Behavioural economics; experimental economics; neuro-economics  
SH1\_8 Microeconomic theory; game theory; decision theory  
SH1\_9 Industrial organisation; entrepreneurship; R&D and innovation  
SH1\_10 Management; strategy; organisational behaviour  
SH1\_11 Human resource management; operations management, marketing  
SH1\_12 Environmental economics; resource and energy economics; agricultural economics  
SH1\_13 Labour and demographic economics  
SH1\_14 Health economics; economics of education  
SH1\_15 Public economics; political economics; law and economics  
SH1\_16 Historical economics; quantitative economic history; institutional economics; economic systems

*SH2 Institutions, Governance and Legal Systems*

*Political science, international relations, law*

SH2\_1 Political systems, governance  
SH2\_2 Democratisation and social movements  
SH2\_3 Conflict resolution, war, peace building, international law  
SH2\_4 Legal studies, constitutions, human rights, comparative law  
SH2\_5 International relations, global and transnational governance  
SH2\_6 Humanitarian assistance and development  
SH2\_7 Political and legal philosophy  
SH2\_8 Big data in political and legal studies

*SH3 The Social World and Its Diversity*

*Sociology, social psychology, social anthropology, education sciences, communication studies*

SH3\_1 Social structure, social mobility, social innovation  
SH3\_2 Inequalities, discrimination, prejudice  
SH3\_3 Aggression and violence, antisocial behaviour, crime  
SH3\_4 Social integration, exclusion, prosocial behaviour  
SH3\_5 Attitudes and beliefs  
SH3\_6 Social influence; power and group behaviour  
SH3\_7 Kinship; diversity and identities, gender, interethnic relations  
SH3\_8 Social policies, welfare, work and employment  
SH3\_9 Poverty and poverty alleviation  
SH3\_10 Religious studies, ritual; symbolic representation  
SH3\_11 Social aspects of teaching and learning, curriculum studies, education and educational policies  
SH3\_12 Communication and information, networks, media  
SH3\_13 Digital social research  
SH3\_14 Social studies of science and technology

*SH4 The Human Mind and Its Complexity*

*Cognitive science, psychology, linguistics, theoretical philosophy*

SH4\_1 Cognitive basis of human development and education, developmental disorders; comparative cognition  
SH4\_2 Personality and social cognition; emotion  
SH4\_3 Clinical and health psychology



SH4\_4 Neuropsychology  
SH4\_5 Attention, perception, action, consciousness  
SH4\_6 Learning, memory; cognition in ageing  
SH4\_7 Reasoning, decision-making; intelligence  
SH4\_8 Language learning and processing (first and second languages)  
SH4\_9 Theoretical linguistics; computational linguistics  
SH4\_10 Language typology; historical linguistics  
SH4\_11 Pragmatics, sociolinguistics, linguistic anthropology, discourse analysis  
SH4\_12 Philosophy of mind, philosophy of language  
SH4\_13 Philosophy of science, epistemology, logic

*SH5 Cultures and Cultural Production*

*Literary studies, cultural studies, study of the arts, philosophy*

SH5\_1 Classics, ancient literature and art  
SH5\_2 Theory and history of literature, comparative literature  
SH5\_3 Philology; text and image studies  
SH5\_4 Visual and performing arts, film, design and architecture  
SH5\_5 Music and musicology; history of music  
SH5\_6 History of art and architecture, arts-based research  
SH5\_7 Museums, exhibitions, conservation and restoration  
SH5\_8 Cultural studies, cultural identities and memories, cultural heritage  
SH5\_9 Metaphysics, philosophical anthropology; aesthetics  
SH5\_10 Ethics and its applications; social philosophy  
SH5\_11 History of philosophy  
SH5\_12 Computational modelling and digitisation in the cultural sphere

*SH6 The Study of the Human Past*

*Archaeology and history*

SH6\_1 Historiography, theory and methods in history, including the analysis of digital data  
SH6\_2 Classical archaeology, history of archaeology, social archaeology  
SH6\_3 General archaeology, archaeometry, landscape archaeology  
SH6\_4 Prehistory, palaeoanthropology, palaeodemography, protohistory, bioarchaeology  
SH6\_5 Palaeography and codicology  
SH6\_6 Ancient history  
SH6\_7 Medieval history  
SH6\_8 Early modern history  
SH6\_9 Modern and contemporary history  
SH6\_10 Colonial and post-colonial history  
SH6\_11 Global history, transnational history, comparative history, entangled histories  
SH6\_12 Social and economic history  
SH6\_13 Gender history, cultural history, history of collective identities and memories, history of religions  
SH6\_14 History of ideas, intellectual history, history of economic thought  
SH6\_15 History of science, medicine and technologies

*SH7 Human Mobility, Environment, and Space*

*Human geography, demography, health, sustainability science, territorial planning, spatial analysis*

- SH7\_1 Human, economic and social geography
- SH7\_2 Migration
- SH7\_3 Population dynamics: households, family and fertility
- SH7\_4 Social aspects of health, ageing and society
- SH7\_5 Sustainability sciences, environment and resources
- SH7\_6 Environmental and climate change, societal impact and policy
- SH7\_7 Cities; urban, regional and rural studies
- SH7\_8 Land use and planning
- SH7\_9 Energy, transportation and mobility
- SH7\_10 GIS, spatial analysis; big data in geographical studies

**ANNEX 4 – Affidavit certifying the legality and accuracy of the information contained in the funding application and the information filled in the submission platform**

*This form is to be completed by the project director*

I, the undersigned, ..... (name and surname of the project director) declare at my own risk that the activities and works within the project proposal with the title: ".....", are not and have not been financed from other budgetary sources.

I also confirm that the information included in this project proposal, as well as the details presented in the attached documents and the information completed in the submission platform, are legal and correct.

I understand that if the funding application is not complete with all the required details and aspects, including this statement, the project proposal will be rejected.

Affidavit, under the sanction of elimination from the competition or the sanctions applied to the act of forgery in public acts.

**Date:**

**Project director**

**Full name:**

*Signature*

## **ANNEX 5 – Affidavit of the host institution certifying acceptance of the implementation of the project in the institution**

*This form is to be completed by the applicant's legal representative.*

I, the undersigned.....(*surname and first name of legal representative*), acting as..... (*position of legal representative*) of ..... (*full name of the applicant institution*), declare, at my own risk, in the event that the project with the title "....." is funded, the institution accepts the implementation of the project, provides administrative support and makes available to the project team the infrastructure necessary to carry out the project proposal accepted for funding in the best possible conditions and ensures the fact that the project director is being hired in a full-time regime, by the host institution for at least 75% of the period covered by the grant and along with the research team members of the project, in accordance with the legal provisions and in compliance with the provisions of the Applicant's Guide (including the financing contract), throughout the project implementation period.

At the same time, I declare that, within 12 months from the date of signing the financing contract, I will initiate or continue the procedure for implementing the Charter and the Code of researchers until obtaining the logo "HR Excellence in Research" granted by the European Commission, until the completion of the project.

**Date:**

**Legal representative**

**Position:**

**Full name:**

Signature

## **ANNEX 6 – Affidavit of compliance with the definition of research organisation**

*This form is to be completed by the applicant's legal representative.*

I, the undersigned, ..... (*full name of the legal representative of the research organisation*), as ..... (*position of the legal representative of the applicant institution*) of ..... (*full name of the research organisation*), declare, on my own responsibility, that the following conditions are cumulatively fulfilled:

1. The organisation I represent is a research organisation\* as follows:

- Higher education institution\*\*;
- Institution whose main activity is research and development (CAEN Code / NACE code 72..), as indicated in the statutes or the legal act of establishment;

2.

- There are no economic agents that can exercise a decisive influence on the research organisation;
- There are economic operators who can exert influence on the research organisation, but they do not have preferential access to the results generated by it;

3.

- The organisation carries out exclusively non-economic activities\*\*\*;
  - In addition to the main non-economic activity, the organisation also carries out purely ancillary economic activities, but in the balance sheet or the analytical balance sheet, non-economic activities, their costs, revenues and financing are shown separately from economic activities.

**Affidavit under penalty of forgery in public documents.**

**Date:**

**Legal representative:**

**Position:**

**Full name:**

*Signature*

\*) "Research organisation" means an entity (such as universities or research institutes, technology

transfer agencies, innovation intermediaries, physical or virtual collaborative research entities), irrespective of its legal status (public or private law organisation) or funding modality, of whose primary objective is to carry out independently fundamental research, industrial research or experimental development or to disseminate widely the results of such activities through teaching, publication or transfer of knowledge. If the entity also carries out economic activities (as auxiliary activities), the financing, costs and revenues of those economic activities shall be accounted for separately. Enterprises that can exercise a decisive influence over such an entity, for example, as shareholders or associates, may not benefit from preferential access to the results generated by it

\*\*) Including clinical hospitals with university clinical wards as defined in the Romanian Law no. 95/2006 on Health Care Reform, as amended and supplemented. University clinical wards are hospital wards in which medical care, medical education, medical scientific research, and ongoing medical training are carried out. Institutes, medical centers and specialist hospitals that have a university clinical department are clinical hospitals.

\*\*\*) Non-economic activities are:

(a) core activities of research organisations, in particular:

training activities to increase and improve the skills of human resources;

- independent RD activities in order to gain wider knowledge and understanding, including collaborative RD projects in which the research organisation engages in effective collaboration;
- the wide dissemination of research results, in a non-exclusive and non-discriminatory way, for example through teaching, open access databases, open publications or free software;

(b) knowledge transfer activities, where they are carried out either by the organisation of (including its departments or subsidiaries), or jointly with such entities, or on their behalf and where all profits from such activities are reinvested in the core activities of the research organisation. The non-economic nature of the activities is not jeopardised by contracting out the provision of corresponding services to third parties through open tenders.

\*\*\*\*) The economic activity is purely ancillary when it corresponds to an activity which is directly linked to and necessary for the operation of the research organisation or which is intrinsically linked to and limited in scope to its main non-economic use. This will be considered to be the case when the

economic activities consume exactly the same inputs (e.g. materials, equipment, labour and fixed capital) as the non-economic activities and the capacity allocated each year to such economic activities does not exceed 20 % of the overall annual capacity of that entity.

Renting equipment or laboratories to enterprises, providing services to enterprises or carrying out contract research are economic activities.

## **ANNEX 7 – Affidavit of eligibility of the research organisation**

*This form is to be completed by the applicant's legal representative.*

I hereby declare, on my own responsibility, that ..... (*Please write the full name of the organisation*) is not declared by law to be in default of payment and does not have its payments/accounts frozen by court order.

Furthermore, the organisation is not guilty of:

- Misrepresentation of information requested by MCID for contractor selection;
- Serious breach of provisions of another grant contract previously concluded with a contracting authority.

**Affidavit under penalty of forgery in public documents.**

**Date:**

**Legal representative**

**Position:**

**Full name:**

*Signature*



## **ANNEX 8 – Affidavit on the compliance of the project proposal with the DNSH Technical Guidelines (2021/C58/01)**

*This form is to be completed by the project director, including the partnership members (if applicable).*

I, the undersigned, ..... (*name and surname of the Project director*) declare, at my own risk, that activities and works of the project proposal with the title: ".....", are in accordance with the DNSH Technical Guidelines (2021/C58/01).

Furthermore, I hereby confirm that the activities and works indicated in the project proposal do NOT fall under the following list of activities:

1. Activities and assets related to fossil fuels, including downstream use;
2. Activities and assets under the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) with projected greenhouse gas emissions that are not lower than the relevant reference values;
3. Activities and assets related to landfills, incinerators and mechanical-biological waste treatment facilities;
4. Activities and assets where the long-term disposal of waste may harm the environment.

**Date:**

**Project director**

**Full name:**

*Signature*

## **ANNEX 9 – PhD supervisor's agreement**

I, the undersigned, ..... (name and surname), as doctoral supervisor of Mr/Ms ..... (name and surname), hereby I declare my agreement regarding his/her participation as a member of the research project team, with the title ....., project director .....(name and surname), submitted in the competition .....

I mention that the scientific research program associated with the doctoral thesis with the proposed title ..... is related to the theme of this project through .....

The working time allocated to the doctoral student for the implementation of the project is .....

**Date:**

**Doctoral supervisor**

**Full name:**

*Signature*

## ANNEX 10 – Declaration on the eligibility of VAT on expenditure to be incurred in the project proposed for funding

*This form must be completed by the applicant's legal representative, including the members of the partnership (if applicable).*

A. Data identifying the legal entity

Identification code: [CIF]

Name: [Name of the applicant]

Fiscal address: [County, City, Street, Apt., Postal code, Sector, Telephone, Fax, E-mail]

B. Project identification data

Project title: [Title]

Date of project submission: [Date]

C. [Name and legal status of applicant], grant applicant

for the above-mentioned project, in accordance with the provisions of the Tax Code, I declare that I am:

entity not registered for VAT purposes, according to Article 316 of Law No. 227/2015, as amended and supplemented

entity registered for VAT purposes, according to Article 316 of Law no. 227/2015, as amended and supplemented

D. [Name and legal status of the applicant], applicant for funding for the above-mentioned project, ), in accordance with the provisions of the Tax Code, declare that for the purchases of the project included in the table below VAT is non-deductible according to national tax legislation and non-recoverable according to the provisions of Emergency Ordinance No 124 of 13 December 2021.

No.	Acquisition	Purpose of the acquisition/activity <sup>3</sup>

**Date:**

**Legal representative**

**Position:**

**Full name:**

*Signature*

<sup>3</sup> Attention! To be completed with the same corresponding information from the Funding Application

## **ANNEX 11 – Affidavit of conflict of interest, fraud and corruption**

*This statement shall be filled in by both the project director and the legal representative<sup>4</sup>*

I, the undersigned ....., holding the position of ..... within  
..... , knowing that false statements are punishable under Romanian Penal Code,  
declare, on my own responsibility, based on the information available to me at this date, that my  
involvement in the project with the title "....." is not likely  
to create a situation of conflict of interest, of fraud and corruption in accordance with the provisions  
of Article 61 - Conflict of interest of the Regulation (EU, Euratom) no. 2018/1046.

### **Legal representative / Project director / Team Member**

Full name:

Position:

Date:

Signature:

---

<sup>4</sup> If the funding application is successful, an Affidavit of Conflict of Interest, Fraud and Corruption (Annex 11), modelled on the one above, must be completed by all members of the research team no later than the signing of the grant contract.

## ANNEX 12 – Declaration of consent to the processing of personal data

*This statement will be completed by both the legal representative and the project director including the members of the partnership (if applicable).*

I, the undersigned ....., holding the position of .....  
within ....., I declare the following:

- I have been informed of the provisions of Regulation (EU) 679/26 April 2016 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data.
- I have been informed that I have the right of access, the right to intervene on my data and the right not to be subject to an individual decision.
  - I have been informed that personal data will be processed and stored within the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalisation in the framework of the call for projects PNRR-III-C9-2023-I8<sup>5</sup>.
- I have been informed that the processing of my personal data is necessary for the purposes of the legal obligations incumbent on the data entry operator, i.e. the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalisation within the call for projects PNRR-III-C9-2023-I8, as well as for the purposes of my interests and rights.
- I have been informed that my personal data are being communicated to public authorities as well as to other authorised institutions (e.g., National Agency of Fiscal Administration (ANAF), National Agency of Civil Servants (ANFP), Territorial Labor Inspectorate (ITM), National Integrity Agency (ANI), at the request of the courts or criminal investigation bodies, etc.).
- I have been informed that in order to process my personal data accurately, I have the obligation to inform the operator, i.e., the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalisation, of any changes to my personal data.
- I have been informed that I have the right to withdraw my consent at any time by submitting a written, reasoned, dated and signed declaration to the Ministry of Research, Innovation and

---

<sup>5</sup> PNRR-III-C9-2022-I8: Call for proposals entitled Development of a program to attract highly specialized human resources from abroad in research, development and innovation activities, component C9. SUPPORT FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR, RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION, INVESTMENT I8. Development of a program to attract highly specialized human resources from abroad in research, development and innovation activities, within the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP).



Digitalisation, unless the processing of my personal data is necessary in connection with my work/service relation

I hereby consent to the processing, transmission and storage of my own personal data within the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalisation in the framework of the call for projects PNRR-III-C9-2023-I8.

**Date:**

**Legal representative/ Project director:**

**Position:**

**Full name:**

*Signature*

### **ANNEX 13 – Affidavit on the avoidance of double funding**

*This declaration shall be completed by both the legal representative and the project director.*

The undersigned ....., with CNP ....., as legal representative of ....., with registered office at ....., nr....., sector ....., Bucharest, tax registration code ....., knowing the provisions of art. 326 of the Penal Code and the provisions of art. 18<sup>^</sup>1 of Law no. 78/2000 on false declarations, I declare on my own responsibility that the organisation I represent has not received and does not currently receive any non-reimbursable public funding from the national budget and/or the budget of the European Union or the budgets administered by it or on its behalf, for the specific activities that are financed from the PNRR budget and that are to be carried out for the implementation of the reforms and investments that are the subject of this financing contract of which this annex is an integral part. I also declare that I am not aware of any situation of 'double funding' as defined in Article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021 and Article 191 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2018/1046 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union.

I am aware that the false declaration entails the termination of the funding contract and the obligation for the organisation I represent to reimburse the money that is the subject of the double funding and to pay compensation for the period between the receipt of the grant and the date of discovery of the false declaration.

**Date:**

**Legal Representative/Project director**

**Position:**

**Full name:**

*Signature*

## **ANNEX 14 – Affidavit of the applicant's eligibility**

*This declaration shall be completed by both the legal representative and the project director.*

I, the undersigned (name and surname of the legal representative of the applicant institution) \_\_\_\_\_, holder of the ID card series \_\_\_\_\_, no. \_\_\_\_\_, issued by \_\_\_\_\_, CNP \_\_\_\_\_/ passport no. \_\_\_\_\_, issued by \_\_\_\_\_, in my capacity as (position of the legal representative of the applicant institution), knowing that false statements are punishable by criminal law, declare on my own responsibility that:

1. The applicant does not have at the date of submission of the funding application and at the date of signature of the grant contract net budgetary obligations (difference between outstanding payment obligations to the budget and amounts to be recovered from the budget):
  - greater than 1/12 of the obligations due in the last 12 months - in the case of the tax certificate issued by the National Tax Administration Agency;
  - greater than 1/6 of the total amount due in the last six-month period - in the case of tax certificates issued by local public authorities;
2. The applicant has not received financial support from public funds, including EU funds, in the last 5 years, or is not currently running projects funded in part or in full from other public sources for the same activities. It has also not obtained funding for other projects implemented with the same objective, but which for various reasons did not achieve their indicators. In this case, the funding will not be granted or, if this is discovered during implementation, the funding will be withdrawn and the amounts already granted will be recovered.;
3. The applicant is directly responsible for the preparation, management and implementation of the project, does not act as an intermediary for the project proposed to be funded and is responsible for ensuring the sustainability of the project results.;
4. The applicant is not the subject of a recovery order following a previous decision of the European Commission declaring an aid illegal and incompatible with the common market or, if the institution has been the subject of such a decision, the decision must have already been enforced and the aid fully recovered, including the related recovery interest;
5. The applicant's legal representative has not been convicted of professional misconduct against the law by a decision of a court of res judicata (e.g. not subject to appeal) within the last 36 months;
6. The applicant fulfils the conditions or requirements specific to the action for which the call is launched;
7. The applicant must prove the existence of the right invoked on the property on which it is proposed to carry out the investment as part of the funding application, in accordance with the legislation in force:
  - a) public ownership
  - b) the right to manage publicly owned property
8. The applicant, if receiving NRRP funding for infrastructure investments, must, for a period of 5 years after the completion of the project: maintain the completed investment (ensuring the necessary maintenance and associated services); not make a change in the ownership/management of the infrastructure, except under the conditions set out in the grant contract; not make a substantial change affecting the nature, objectives or conditions of implementation that would undermine the original objectives of the investment. Failure to comply with these elements shall constitute grounds for termination of the financing contracts;
9. The applicant's legal representative has not been found guilty, by a final court judgement, of



committing fraud/corruption/offences relating to the obtaining and use of European funds and/or related national public funds in accordance with the provisions of the Criminal Code as amended, involvement in criminal organisations or other illegal activities to the detriment of the financial interests of the European Union;

10. The applicant's legal representative has not been found guilty of a serious breach of a previous contract due to failure to comply with contractual obligations following a procurement procedure or following a procedure for the award of a grant from the budget of the European Union;

11. The applicant's legal representative has not been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify;

12. The applicant's legal representative is not subject to a conflict of interest, defined in accordance with the national/EU provisions in force;

13. The applicant's legal representative does not provide misleading information that could seriously mislead the MCID during participation in the call for proposals.

**Date:**

**Legal Representative/Project director**

**Position:**

**Full name:**

*Signature*

## **ANNEX 15 – Declaration of commitment**

*This declaration shall be completed by the legal representative of the applicant.*

I, the undersigned (name and surname of the legal representative of the applicant institution) \_\_\_\_\_, holder of the ID card series \_\_\_\_\_, no. \_\_\_\_\_, issued by \_\_\_\_\_, CNP \_\_\_\_\_/passport no. \_\_\_\_\_, issued by \_\_\_\_\_, in my capacity as [position of the legal representative of the applicant institution], knowing that false statements are punishable by criminal law, undertake that I and the institution I represent:

1. to ensure optimal conditions for the project activities;
2. to ensure the use of equipment and applications for the purpose stated in the project;
3. to maintain ownership of refurbished facilities (where applicable), purchased assets and the nature of the activity for which funding was provided until at least the end of the sustainability period;
4. to ensure the necessary operational and administrative capacity to implement the project (sufficient human resources and necessary material resources);
5. to ensure mandatory warranty and maintenance of purchased equipment, through contract(s) concluded during implementation with various suppliers or through own sources;
6. not to make any substantial changes to the approved project, and in the event of any such changes, to inform MCID within a maximum of 10 working days from the date of occurrence. Substantial changes to a project are those which cumulatively:
  - substantially affects the nature and conditions of implementation or gives an undue advantage to a third party, and
  - results from a change in the nature of ownership of an item of infrastructure, a cessation or change in location of the investment or the cessation of a production activity (where applicable); Substantial changes lead to the automatic termination of financing contracts.
7. to comply, during the preparation and implementation of the project, with the provisions of Community and national legislation in the field of sustainable development, technological neutrality, equal opportunities and non-discrimination and gender equality, environmental protection, public procurement, information and publicity);
8. not to provide false information.

**Date:**

**Legal representative**

**Position:**

**Full name:**

*Signature*

## **ANNEX 16 - Affidavit on certifying the incentive effect**

*This declaration shall be completed by the legal representative of the applicant.*

The undersigned .....(name and surname of the legal representative of the applicant institution), acting as.....(position of the legal representative of the applicant institution) of..... (name of the applicant institution),

declare on my own responsibility that the commencement of the works or activities proposed for funding under the project entitled: "..... ", submitted to the competition ..... (competition code), has not taken place before the submission of the application and accompanying documents to MCID.

Affidavit under penalty of perjury.

**Date:**

**Legal representative**

**Position:**

**Full name:**

*Signature:*

## ANNEX 17 - Grid for verification of administrative compliance and scientific eligibility

Pillar III. Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, including economic cohesion, jobs, productivity, competitiveness, research, development and innovation, and a well-functioning internal market with strong small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Component C9. SUPPORT FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR, RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION

Investment 8. "Develop a programme for attracting highly specialised human resources from abroad in research, development and innovation activities"

Identifier: PNRR-III-C9-2022 – I8

PROJECT ID.....

CRITERIA		Verified elements	YES	NO
<b>A. VERIFICAREA CONFORMITATII ADMINISTRATIVE</b>				
<b>Funding application</b>				
A1	The funding application has all mandatory fields completed and follows the standard template and is legible	The format of the funding application submitted by the host institution and electronically signed (maximum number of pages per section, font type and size requirements, spacing) is checked.		
A2	The applicant has uploaded to the <a href="https://proiecte.pnrr.gov.ro">https://proiecte.pnrr.gov.ro</a> platform all the required accompanying documents according to the requirements and templates specified in the Applicant's Guide (the content of the documents corresponds to the requirements, they are digitally signed and are within the validity period).	Check the existence of the mandatory annexes A4-A16, the accompanying CF documents and their conformity (check for form and content according to the Applicant's Guide, if digitally signed).		
A2.1	ANNEX 4 - Affidavit certifying the legality and accuracy of the information contained in the funding application and the information filled in the submission platform	Check that the declaration (in Romanian or English) has all the fields filled in and that it is signed by the project director.		
A2.2	ANNEX 5 - Affidavit of the host institution certifying acceptance of the implementation of the project in the institution	Check that the declaration (in Romanian) has all fields completed and that it is signed by the legal representative.		
A2.3	ANNEX 6 - Affidavit of compliance with the definition of research organisation	Check that the declaration has all fields completed and that it is signed by the legal representative		
A2.4	ANNEX 7 - Affidavit of eligibility of the research organisation	Check that the declaration has all fields completed and that it is signed by the legal representative		

A2.5	ANNEX 8 - Affidavit on the compliance of the project proposal with the DNSH Technical Guidelines (2021/C58/01)	Check that the declaration has all fields completed and that it is signed by the project director/partnership members (if applicable)		
A2.6	ANNEX 9 - PhD supervisor's agreement	Check that the declaration (in Romanian) has all the fields completed and that it is signed by the PhD supervisor. *Appendix 9 may be missing, if the PhD supervisor is a member of the project team - see Item 4 - 4.1 - Note 10 of the Guidelines for Applicants		
A2.7	ANNEX 10 - Declaration on the eligibility of VAT on expenditure to be incurred in the project proposed for funding	Check that the declaration has all fields completed and that it is signed by the legal representative/partnership members (if applicable)		
A2.8	ANNEX 11 - Affidavit of conflict of interest, fraud and corruption	Check that the declaration has all fields completed and that it is signed by both the legal representative and the project director		
A2.9	ANNEX 12 - Declaration of consent to the processing of personal data	Check that the declaration has all fields completed and that it is signed by both the legal representative and the project director		
A2.10	ANNEX 13 - Affidavit on the avoidance of double funding	Check that the declaration has all fields completed and that it is signed by both the legal representative and the project director		
A2.11	ANNEX 14 - Affidavit of the applicant's eligibility	Check that the declaration has all the fields completed and that it is signed by both the legal representative		
A2.12	ANNEX 15 - Declaration of commitment	Check that the declaration has all the fields completed and that it is signed by both the legal representative		
A2.13	ANNEX 16 - Affidavit on certifying the incentive effect	Check that the declaration has all the fields completed and that it is signed by both the legal representative		
<b>Project Director</b>				
A3	The project leader holds a doctoral degree obtained at least 3 years before the deadline for submission of projects <i>* If the title of doctor has been awarded by ministerial order, the date of the ministerial order shall be taken into account, otherwise the date indicated on the diploma shall be taken into account.;</i>	Check section A. General information and B2. Curriculum Vitae in the Funding Application		
A4	The project director has led at least one research and development project in the 7 years prior to the application deadline.	Check section B1. Important scientific achievements of the project leader in the Funding Application		

A5	The project director is a researcher whose home institution is located outside Romania and who has carried out research activities outside Romania for at least the last 3 years calculated at the closing date of the call.	B2 is checked. Curriculum Vitae from the Funding Application		
A6	<p>The project director has published, in the 7 years preceding the deadline for submission of projects, as lead author:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the fields (1) PHYSICAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING; (2) LIFE SCIENCES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ a minimum of 8 papers (categorized as paper/document type article, review or proceedings paper), published in Science Citation Index Expanded journals, in the top 50% (quartile Q1 or quartile Q2) of a subfield/Web of Science Category established by Clarivate Analytics;</li> <li>✓ Of the 8 papers, at least 4 papers are in the top 25% (Q1 by Journal Impact Factor (JIF) or Article Influence Score (AIS)) within a subdomain/Web of Science Category established by Clarivate Analytics.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Note: the most favourable quartiles (Q) corresponding to the Journal Impact Factor (JIF) or Article Influence Score (AIS) scientometric indicator values in the latest Journal Citation Reports (JCR) available at the time of submission of the project proposal are taken into account..</li> <li>• For field (3) SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ a minimum of 8 papers (classified as paper/document type article, review or proceedings paper), published in Social Sciences Citation Index or Arts &amp; Humanities Citation Index journals in the top 50% (Q1 or Q2) of a subfield/Web of Science Category established by Clarivate Analytics or in Scopus journals in the top 50% (50th to 100th percentile by CiteScore) of a subfield/Subject area-Category established by Elsevier;</li> <li>✓ of the 8 papers, at least 4 papers are in the top 25% (Q1 by JIF or AIS) within a subfield/Web of Science Category established by Clarivate Analytics or in the top 25% (75th to 100th percentile by</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	To be verified in the Application for Financing and confirmed to <a href="https://uefiscdi.gov.ro/scientometrie-reviste">https://uefiscdi.gov.ro/scientometrie-reviste</a>		

	CiteScore) within a subfield/Subject area-Category established by Elsevier. Note: the most favourable quartiles (Q) corresponding to the values of the scientometric indicators Journal Impact Factor (JIF) or Article Influence Score (AIS) of the latest Journal Citation Reports (JCR) available at the time of submission of the project proposal, as well as the most favourable percentiles corresponding to the scientometric indicator CiteScore of the latest available in the SCOPUS platform at the time of submission of the project proposal are taken into account..			
A7	In this competition, a person may submit only one such project proposal as a director. If more than one project proposal is submitted by the same project leader, all project proposals will be declared ineligible.	It is checked in the platform <a href="https://proiecte.pnrr.gov.ro">https://proiecte.pnrr.gov.ro</a>		

	CRITERIA	Verified elements	YES	NO
<b>B. APPLICANT'S ELIGIBILITY</b>				
B1	The host institution is not declared by law to be in default of payment, has not had its accounts frozen by a court order, has not provided inaccurate statements regarding the information requested by the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalisation (MCID) for the selection of contractors, has not breached the provisions of another funding contract previously concluded with a contracting authority	Check Annex 7 - Affidavit of eligibility of the research organisation		
B2	The host institution must have adhered to or undertake to adhere to the following programme documents: the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers, within a maximum of 12 months from the date of signature of the grant contract, and to continue the process of implementing the Charter and the Code of Conduct for Researchers until the HR Excellence in Research logo awarded by the European Commission has been obtained by the date of completion of the project coordinated by the researcher of excellence from abroad that it hosts	To be verified at the date of signature of the grant contract	N/A	
<b>C. PROJECT ELIGIBILITY</b>				
C1	The project proposal must contain eligible activities as specified in the Applicant's Guideline.	Check section C2. Objectives, methodology and work plan in the Funding Application and C5. Impact and dissemination		

		Eligible activities are: * fundamental research activities, in the scientific fields in the guide; * support activities; * dissemination activities.		
C2	Research projects relating to the following list of activities will be excluded from funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1. fossil fuel activities, including downstream use;</li> <li>- 2. activities covered by the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) achieving CO2 emissions that are not expected to be below the relevant reference values;</li> <li>- 3. compensation of indirect ETS costs;</li> <li>- 4. activities related to landfills, incinerators and mechanical-biological waste treatment plants;</li> <li>- 5. activities where long-term disposal of waste may harm the environment.</li> </ul>	ANNEX 8 - Affidavit on the compliance of the project proposal with the DNSH Technical Guidelines (2021/C58/01)		
C3	The project's field	Check section A. General information of the Funding Application - selection according to Annex 3 Scientific fields		
C4	Project duration is within the maximum duration allowed (point 1.2 Call for projects type, the duration, method and period for submitting project proposals)	Check section A. General information in the Funding Application		
C5	The maximum value of the project is within the limits specified in point 1.5.2 Minimum and maximum funds granted per project	Check section C6. Budget requested from the Funding Application		
C6	The type and level of eligible expenditure complies with the guidelines for applicants (point 3. Eligibility of expenditure)	Check section C6. Budget requested from the Funding Application		

<b>Final comments</b> (if applicable):	
<b>CONCLUSION:</b>	

Date: ...

Issued

Call secretary: ...

Assent

Call president: ...