

The Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding as Programme Operator – Research Programme under EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021

Announce

Call for Mobility Grants (Fund for Bilateral Relations) - 2018

1. Scope

The call aims to facilitate establishment of bilateral partnerships between researchers from the Donor States and Romania in order to submit a collaborative research proposal funded under EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021.

2. Objectives of the call

- To strengthen the cooperation and to increase mutual knowledge and understanding between research teams from Romania and the Donor States (*Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein*);
- To identify potential partners for preparation of collaborative research proposals, having a common research interest;
- To exchange relevant experience and best practices.

3. Call Budget

Total budget for this call is EUR 70.000.

Mobility grant is awarded for one researcher from Romania, Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein, as follows:

- Max. EUR 1.200 for a researcher who travels from Romania to Norway or from Norway to Romania;
- Max. EUR 1.500 for a researcher who travels from Romania to Iceland or from Iceland to Romania;
- Max. EUR 1.000 for a researcher who travels from Romania to Liechtenstein or from Liechtenstein to Romania.

It is estimated that a maximum of 10 mobilities for each thematic area will be awarded.

4. Thematic areas

- Energy;
- Environment;
- Health;
- Social sciences and humanities, including gender studies and social inclusion studies;
- ICT;
- Biotechnology.

5. Who can apply

Mobility grant must be in connection to searching for partners and/or development the idea for a collaborative research proposal.

In order to increase the chance to identify potential partners, it is recommended that the applicant to register in the Brokerage Platform: <https://uefiscdi-direct.ro/brokerage/>.

- Researchers from research organizations, legal entities in Romania or in Donor States, as defined in the Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation (2014/C 198/01)¹;
- Mobility could take place at individual level (one researcher);
- During the mobility, the applicant can visit one or more research organizations in the same country;
- For Donor States' researchers, the mobility grants are eligible for travelling in Romania (*not in or between Donor States*);
- One researcher can benefit from only one mobility grant.

6. Eligible expenditures

- Travel (*including the cost travel from/to the airport*);
 - Subsistence allowance (*per diem, internal transport and accommodation*).
- ✓ All expenditures must occur only after mobility grant approval.
 - ✓ The currency that will be used for budget estimation in the application form will be the EUR.
 - ✓ The currency used for reimbursement will be RON for applicants from Romania and EUR for applicants from Donor States.
 - ✓ For Romanian applicants, the exchange rate used will be the European Commission Exchange rate from the date of the contract between UEFISCDI and employing organization.
 - ✓ VAT is not an eligible expense for VAT registered institutions.

In estimating the budget, applicants must be aware about the reimbursement rules related to travel, accommodation and subsistence allowance of the employing organization.

7. Submission of proposals

The proposals must be submitted in English, via a specific electronic proposal submission platform (www.uefiscdi-direct.ro), according to *ANNEX 1 (the online form)* and *ANNEX 1.1 (documents to be uploaded)*.

¹ **research and knowledge dissemination organisation** or 'research organisation' means an entity (such as universities or research institutes, technology transfer agencies, innovation intermediaries, research-oriented physical or virtual collaborative entities), irrespective of its legal status (organised under public or private law) or way of financing, whose primary goal is to independently conduct fundamental research, industrial research or experimental development or to widely disseminate the results of such activities by way of teaching, publication or knowledge transfer. Where such entity also pursues economic activities, the financing, the costs and the revenues of those economic activities must be accounted for separately. Undertakings that can exert a decisive influence upon such an entity, for example in the quality of shareholders or members, may not enjoy a preferential access to the results generated by it.

Submission of the proposal must be done by the researcher (applicant) using own credentials (username and password).

8. Selection criteria

In order to be awarded a proposal for mobility grant must fulfill the following criteria:

- All sections in the online application are filled in correctly and the requested documents are uploaded in the dedicated sessions;
- Employing organization of the applicant is eligible;
- Planned activities/costs are eligible;
- Planned activities are within the objectives of this call.

The result of selection process will be “recommended for funding” or “not recommended for funding”. For the proposals “recommended for funding” (proposals obtaining YES for all criteria from Evaluation sheet – *ANNEX 1.2*), the applicants will receive a written approval.

Applications will be assessed by PO and awarded on a continuous basis, until depletion of the available budget.

9. Reimbursement and reporting

Under this call, the amounts representing the mobility grants are reimbursed to researchers' employing organizations and not to the individual researcher.

For Donor State applicants, UEFISCDI holds that the **written approval** of the mobility grant issued and sent to applicant is considered the contractual agreement between UEFISCDI and the respective employing organization.

For Romanian applicants, a mobility contract will be signed between UEFISCDI and researcher's employing organization (*ANNEX 3, RO*).

Reimbursement principle:

- Based on the written approval or a mobility contract, the employing organization of the applicant can cover the costs of the mobility;
- After the mobility is ended, the applicant submits to UEFISCDI:
 - Mobility Report (*ANNEX 2*);
 - Reimbursement request (*ANNEX 2.1*) and requested attachments;
 - Financial Identification Form (*ANNEX 2.2*);
- UEFISCDI will reimburse the costs to employing organization that settles the advance granted to researcher;
- The requested documents should be sent within maximum one month after the mobility ended. The documents (*signed by legal representatives of the organization and*

applicant) must be up-loaded in dedicated section of web platform, www.uefiscdi-direct.ro;

- If the costs of mobility are over the budget limits presented in chapter 3, the difference is not covered by UEFISCDI.

All legal arrangement between employing organization and applicant, related to the mobility, are in the responsibility of the employing organization and applicant.

10. Timeline of the Call 2018

Action	Date
Launching the call	16 – 20 of April 2018
Deadline for submission of applications	until the depletion of the available budget but no later than 14 th of September 2018
Evaluation process	Ongoing process
Funding decision	Ongoing process

11. Contact person:

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