EIG CONCERT JAPAN
Connecting and Coordinating European Research and Technology Development with Japan

Joint Call for Proposals on Solutions for Carbon-Neutral Cities

CALL TEXT AND

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL REGULATIONS

Proposal Submission Period:

https://ptoutline.eu/app/eigjapan_jc2023

(Deadline of Tuesday, 1st August 2023, 10:00 Central European CEST / 17:00 Japan Time JST)

Website:

http://www.concert-japan.eu/ (for call text and national/regional regulations)

https://ptoutline.eu/app/eigjapan_jc2023 (for online proposal submission portal)

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PART 1: Call Text

1. Background and Rationale

1.1. EIG CONCERT-Japan

European Interest Group (EIG) CONCERT-Japan (http://www.concert-japan.eu/) is an international joint initiative to support and enhance science, technology and innovation (STI) cooperation between European countries and Japan. EIG CONCERT-Japan is flexible and inclusive in nature, able to accommodate a range of forms of collaboration from broad concerted efforts to individual participation among its core members and other interested STI institutions.

CONCERT-Japan began as an ERA-NET project funded by the 7th EU Framework Program for Research and Technical Development (FP7) from 2011 to 2014. As an FP7 project, CONCERT-Japan had a high impact on the coherence and coordination of European collaboration and joint funding activities with Japan as a partner country.

At the end of the period, the success of the program until that point called for its continuation. As a result, the European Interest Group was founded as a flexible successor platform for communication and coordination among STI institutions in Europe and Japan. The collaboration, which began in the FP7 work programme, is now continuing independently of EU support as an activity of the European Interest Group, now under the name of EIG CONCERT-Japan.

The primary function of EIG CONCERT-Japan is to implement multilateral joint funding activities collaboratively, with the objective of enhancing cooperation and promoting transnational mobility between European countries and Japan in various STI fields.

As a collaborative funding initiative of EIG CONCERT-Japan (the tenth of CONCERT-Japan, the eighth as an EIG activity), the core members representing Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Japan, Poland, Slovakia and Türkiye have decided to implement a joint call for proposals titled of Solutions for Carbon-Neutral Cities.

Incentives for partnering with EIG CONCERT-Japan

The EIG CONCERT-Japan research community, in addition to nurturing links between Europe and Japan, is a close-knit coordinated network supported by common academic interests as well as social and interdisciplinary concerns. The coordinating funding institutions are an independently governed, flexible body continually monitoring current support needs in research as well as science-society engagement. Successful applicants may be invited as speakers at interdisciplinary scoping events, institutional advisory roles and generally looked to as pillars of the EU-Japan cooperative network.

1.2. EIG CONCERT-Japan joint calls

EIG CONCERT-Japan joint calls aim to support sustainable and multilateral research cooperation, especially promoting the transnational mobility between European and Japanese researchers, through:

- Enhancing inter-regional communication and cooperation
- Increasing and developing opportunities for high quality research networking between researchers
- Developing new partnerships and strengthening existing ones
- Exchanging existing knowledge and creating new knowledge

Previous EIG CONCERT-Japan joint calls have included Efficient Energy and Distribution and Resilience against Disasters (2012), Photonic Manufacturing (2014), Food Crops and Biomass Production Technologies (2016), Efficient Energy Storage and Distribution (2017), Functional Porous Materials (2018), Smart Water Management for Sustainable Society (2019), ICT for Resilient, Safe and Secure Society (2020), Sustainable Hydrogen Technology as Affordable and Clean Energy (2021) and Design of Materials with Atomic Precision (2022) with more than two hundred joint applications received and more than €21,200,000 of funding offered in total.

2. Joint Call for Proposals on Solutions for Carbon-Neutral Cities

2.1 Thematic area

This EIG CONCERT-Japan joint call for proposals is titled Solutions for Carbon-Neutral Cities and focuses on three key research themes: 1) sustainable smart urban mobility, 2) improving water, soil and air quality in carbon-neutral cities and 3) efficient waste management.

Background

The transition to a climate-neutral society, a climate-neutral economy with net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 is targeted as defined by the Paris Agreement and European Green Deal, is both a key challenge and an opportunity to build a better future for all. As articulated in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), by 2030, achieving a climate-neutral society entails reducing the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by making improvements to air and water quality and waste management practices.

In this transition, climate resilient cities are the laboratories for transformative and sustainable solutions and transformational carbon-neutral solutions. For the transition to be inclusive and effective, it requires active involvement and cooperation among the various stakeholders living and working in cities. The transition to a climate-neutral society also presents opportunities for the development and deployment of new technologies and innovative solutions.

These innovative solutions are also capable of supporting economic growth through job creation and new business opportunities, which in turn enhances well-being. Furthermore, increasing the share of sustainable and green mobility in urban areas, and enabling the safe removal and subsequent management of solid waste, lay the foundation for more sustainable, accessible, economical and secure urban solutions. Additionally, measures must be taken to enhance the resilience of critical

infrastructure such as water and energy systems to climate-related risks such as floods, droughts, and extreme weather events.

This call for proposals, therefore, targets research which addresses the development of solutions to improve adaptability of cities to global warming, reduce cities environmental impact, and help build a better society.

The expected output is therefore:
- The creation of new innovative solutions to reduce pollutant emissions and population exposure
- The development of new analysis and tools to measure urban environmental issues
- A deeper understanding of urban transformations and the relationship between urbanization and decarbonisation

Call aims and requirements

This call for proposals invites Japan and Europe-based researchers to develop new solutions to improve the sustainability of urban environments. We welcome not only single-discipline research, but also research taking inter- and transdisciplinary approaches, which incorporate not only natural and social sciences, but also the involvement of key stakeholders, such as practitioners, industry and other individuals and groups of the general public relevant to the research.

Research scope

This call for proposals focuses on finding solutions for carbon neutral cities and is divided into three key themes. To qualify for this call, researchers must explore the research topic which apply to at least one of the three below themes. Proposals that will combine multiple of themes in innovative ways are welcome.

1) <u>Sustainable Smart Urban Mobility</u>

As the urban network expands and becomes denser, the problems created by poor transport management in urban areas are significantly increasing. In this context, it is urgent to examine how to better optimize each of the involved services, how to reduce the environmental impact and the many costs borne by citizens. As a part of this theme, researchers are envisioned to explore areas of research including, but not limited to:

- Practices for increasing the share of sustainable and green transport modes by fostering multimodality in urban transport and logistic activities.
- Innovative practices for the development of smart transport systems, considering the impact of the transport sector on the environment
- New generation of vehicles (used in passenger and freight transport) and their integration to the existing mobility infrastructure

2) <u>Improving Water, Soil and Air Quality in Carbon-Neutral Cities</u>

Reducing the exposure of citizens to pollution is becoming a major public health issue. It is crucial to explore new solutions to help monitor and improve urban air, soil and water quality. As a part of this theme, researchers are envisioned to explore areas of research including, but not limited to:

- Innovative solutions for carbon neutral cities having improved water and air quality
- Development of green infrastructure to improve urban soil and air quality
- Smart traffic management systems for less traffic jams and cleaner air

3) Efficient Waste Management

The last few years have seen a decline in raw materials and pressure on resources coupled with an exponential increase in the production of non-recycled waste. The development and reinforcement of efficient and competitive recycling channels is an opportunity to meet these two challenges. It is also an opportunity to reduce our consumption of natural resources and the environmental impact of our production and consumption methods. As a part of this theme, researchers are envisioned to explore areas of research including, but not limited to:

- Increasing big data-supported urban mining logistics to increase the residence time of urban wastes in value chains and greatly reduce raw material demands
- Increasing waste collection rates through improving technologies, creating new technologies and promoting the innovative industrialization of existing ones
- Limiting food and organic waste in cities and increasing its reuse in innovative technologies

The topics listed above should be considered as examples. This list is non-exhaustive and all researchers are encouraged to also explore other topics beyond those listed.

2.2. Participating countries and regions

The following national and regional funding organisations have agreed to participate in this joint call, leveraging their national and regional R&D programs and applying their respective funding regulations:

- **Bulgaria:** Bulgarian National Science Fund (BNSF)
- **Czech Republic:** Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MEYS)
- **Czech Republic:** Czech Academy of Sciences (CAS)
- **France:** Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)
- **Hungary:** National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NKFIH)
- **Japan:** Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)
- **Poland:** National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR)
- **Slovakia:** Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS)
- **Türkiye:** The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK)

Only researchers based in these countries/regions are eligible for funding in this EIG CONCERT-Japan joint call. See the annexes for each of the above funding agencies for details.

2.3. Eligible beneficiaries and composition of the consortia

In general, this EIG CONCERT-Japan Joint Call is open to applications from *public and private legal RTD entities, higher education institutions and non-university research establishments*, as well as enterprises and other kinds of organisations (the "beneficiaries") depending on the individual national/regional regulations and restrictions of the participating funding institutions (see Part 2).

Each project consortium submitting an application should consist of *at least three (3) eligible beneficiaries (project partners), one (1) from Japan and two (2) from two different European countries participating in the Joint Call.* The number of beneficiaries in a project consortium should be appropriate for the aims of the research project and reasonably balanced in terms of multilateral participation. Applications should clearly demonstrate the added value of working together.

Each project consortium should choose *two (2) project leaders, one from the Japanese side and one from the European side*. One of the two project leaders (the "principal project leader") will be responsible for submitting the proposal on behalf of the whole consortium. Project leaders may participate in only one project proposal. Each beneficiary will be represented by one (and only one) Principal Investigator (PI) and this PI will be the contact person for the relevant national/regional funding organisation.

Researchers/research teams from countries/regions not participating in this EIG CONCERT-Japan Joint Call may participate as additional partners in a project consortium (after satisfying the minimum consortium criteria) if they can prove that they have secured funding from other sources that allows them to fulfil their obligations within the consortium. A *confirmation letter* from the external funding institution has to be submitted at the time of proposal submission.

2.4. Eligible costs and duration of funding

Within the framework of this EIG CONCERT-Japan Joint Call, costs eligible for funding may be:

- **Research materials and small-scale research equipment**: Consumables, small equipment and subcontracting (for example for the fabrication of samples at a specialised facility) are eligible if their need is listed in detail and duly justified
- **Travel costs**: Only travel costs and associated living expenses incurred in travel to the countries participating in the same project consortium (including additional partners from countries/regions other than those participating in the Joint Call who secure their own funding) are eligible
- **Expenses for the organisation of small scientific events**: Room rent, catering, printing of conference brochures, travel and accommodation of invited external experts (that do not form part of the project consortium but are considered necessary for the success of the event) are eligible
- **Personnel costs:** According to the rules of each agency

The *eligibility of all costs for each applicant depends on the relevant national and regional regulations* applied by each Joint Call funding institution and should be calculated accordingly (see Part 2).

All project partners are advised to contact their National and Regional Contact Persons (see Part 3) for further information on eligible costs and national and regional specifications.
Funding will be provided for the maximum duration of 3 years. The funding of projects should start in April 2024 and should be concluded by the end of March 2027.

2.5. Call budget and funding principle

This EIG CONCERT-Japan Joint Call follows the principle that the national and regional financial contributions to a virtual common pot will be assigned to project partners of that respective country or region only, in accordance with national and regional regulations. Cross-border funding is not envisaged.

The overall budget of this EIG CONCERT-Japan Joint Call is the sum of the individual budgets allocated by each participating funding institution. If more than one funding institution from a given country participates in the Joint Call, the combined amount from these institutions is considered as the country's overall Joint Call contribution.

Below is an overview of the individual national and regional funding contributions envisaged to this EIG CONCERT-Japan Joint Call budget by each participating funding institution:

Country/funding institution	**Amount***
Bulgaria: Bulgarian National Science Fund (BNSF)	€ 383 468
Czech Republic: Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MEYS)	€ 600 000
Czech Republic: Czech Academy of Sciences (CAS)	€ 240 000
France: Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)	€ 110 000**
Hungary: National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NKFIH)	€ 300 000
Japan: Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)	€ 780 000
Poland: National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR)	€ 800 000
Slovakia: Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS)	€ 120 000
Türkiye: The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK)	€ 300 000
Overall call budget	**€ 3 633 468**

*Indicative only. The funding amount should be confirmed with the national contact point towards the end of the call. Check Part 2: National and Regional Regulations for details on funding in local currencies

** CNRS personnel costs are not included in the framework of the EIG CONCERT-Japan Call budget. CNRS funding covers only the international extra cost of the project.

It is expected that six (6) *projects* will be funded in this EIG CONCERT-Japan Joint Call.
Some funding institutions may choose to set an upper limit on the amount that can be requested per project partner coming from their country/region. *Applicants should therefore thoroughly check the national and regional regulations (Part 2) and contact their National and Regional Contact Persons (Part 3) for related inquiries.*

3. Proposal Submission

3.1. Project consortium submission

Project proposals are to be submitted between 9 May 2022 and 1 August 2023 10:00 CEST electronically using the PT-Outline webtool:

https://ptoutline.eu/app/eigjapan_jc2023

(The server will not accept proposals outside of this application period)

The principal project leader should submit the proposal via the webtool on behalf of the whole consortium. Only one online proposal per project is needed. Proposals sent by post, e-mail, or fax will be rejected. *Proposals must be written in English*.

3.2. National funding institution submission

Some participating funding institutions may require the project partner applicant from their country or region to submit a *parallel proposal* or project registration in line with the national and regional requirements (see *Part 2*).

The *Japanese project leader* is required to register their project's information on the *e-Rad* website portal according to the national regulations listed in Part 2.

Before the submission of a proposal the national or regional regulations (Part 2) applicable for each consortium partner should be thoroughly checked.

4. Proposal Evaluation and Funding Decisions

A four-step evaluation process will be implemented for proposals submitted within this EIG CONCERT-Japan Joint Call.

4.1. Eligibility check

The Program Secretariat and the National and Regional Contact Persons (see Part 3) will check the eligibility of all submitted proposals taking into consideration the general Joint Call criteria and the

individual national and regional criteria respectively. If a partner is found to be ineligible by one of the funding organisations, the entire proposal may be rejected without further review.
The *general eligibility criteria* are:

- Appropriate length and layout of the proposal (maximum number of pages adhered to and use of template for the Project Description)
- Inclusion of all necessary information in English
- Eligibility of all project partners
- Participation of at least three eligible project partners (beneficiaries), from a minimum of two different European countries participating in this Joint Call and Japan
- Eligible thematic focus
- Eligibility of requested funding
- Inclusion of a confirmation letter from the external sponsoring institution in case of additional partners that need to secure their own funding

The *national and regional eligibility criteria* of the participating funding institutions are given in the National and Regional Funding Regulations (Part 2).

Proposals meeting all eligibility criteria will be forwarded to the online evaluation stage.

4.2. Online evaluation of proposals

The selection of project proposals to be funded is based on an *international, independent evaluation by scientific peers*. Each proposal is assessed and given a written evaluation by at least two evaluators, nominated by the participating funding institutions.

The following *three evaluation criteria* are used:

1. Scientific excellence (scoring from 0 to 5 points)

- Sound research concept and quality of objectives
- Ambition, innovative potential and uniqueness of the research idea
- Scientific track–record and potential of the partners (including publications in scientific journals)
- Scientific standing of the organisations the applicants belong to

2. Impact of project results (scoring from 0 to 5 points)

- Impact of the project on the scientific field and community
- Contribution to enhancing innovation capacity and integration of new knowledge
- Expected exploitation and dissemination of the results

3. Implementation (scoring from 0 to 5 points)

- Quality and effectiveness of the methodology
- Feasibility of the work plan (in relation to governance, adequate budget, resources, time schedule)

- Collaborative interaction and complementarity of project partners
- Added value of each of the partners
- Expected sustainability of the collaboration
- Interdisciplinarity
- Involvement of early-stage researchers and gender balance

The *scoring system* is as follows:

5: **EXCELLENT** – The proposal fully satisfies all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor.

4: **VERY GOOD** – The proposal addresses the criterion very well, although certain improvements are possible.

3: **GOOD** – The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but improvements are necessary.

2: **FAIR** – There are serious inherent weaknesses in relation to the criterion in question.

1: **POOR** – The criterion is addressed in an inadequate and unsatisfactory manner.

0: **FAILS / INCOMPLETE INFORMATION –** The proposal fails to address the criterion in question or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information.

4.3. Meeting of the scientific committee

A Scientific Committee, comprising one expert nominated by each participating funding institution and chaired by an independent chairperson, will rank the proposals based on the online evaluations and internal discussion and recommend to the Funding Organisations' Forum a list of proposals to be funded.

4.4. Meeting of the funding organizations' forum

The Funding Organizations Forum, comprising representatives of each participating funding institution, will take the final decision on the project proposals to be funded on a consensus basis, based on the recommendations of the Scientific Committee and in consideration of available budget. Funding will be administered in accordance with the rules and regulations of the participating national and regional funding institutions.

All applicants will be informed by the Program Secretariat of the outcomes of the evaluation.

5. Project Implementation and Reporting

Following announcement of the funding decision to successful applicants, the project partners of each proposal to be funded will conclude an individual funding contract with their respective national/regional funding institution. Support to funded projects will be provided on the basis of these funding contracts and in accordance with all applicable national/regional rules and regulations.

Each project consortium funded in this EIG CONCERT-Japan Joint Call is *required to conclude a Consortium Agreement* listing the rights and responsibilities of each project partner. Depending on the

nature of the funded project, special regulations should be included in the Consortium Agreement regarding intellectual property rights. Scientific and technological outcomes and any other information derived from the collaborative activities funded in this call can be announced, published or commercially exploited with the agreement of all partners in a funded project and according to the national and regional regulations as well as international agreements concerning intellectual property rights. The Consortium Agreement *must be signed by all project partners and sent to the Program Secretariat by the principal project leader* preferably before the official project start date but *no later than six months* after the official project start date.

The principal project leaders of the funded projects will be requested to send an *interim report (after 18 months of funding)* as well as *a final report (after three years of funding)* to the Program Secretariat. The reports should highlight the main results and outputs of the projects and any problems that have arisen and how they have been solved. Report templates will be prepared to ensure the comparability of information.

Additional reporting to the individual national/regional funding institutions *may also be necessary* depending on national/regional regulations (see Part 2).

Project teams will be expected to attend and reserve budget for two joint workshops to be held within Europe, one mid-term and one final, as shown in 6. *Indicative Timetable.*

In case of any significant changes in the work program or the consortium composition, the principal project leader must inform the Program Secretariat, who will inform the relevant funding organisations, who will decide upon the proper action to be taken.

6. Indicative Timetable*

Publication of the Call for Proposals	23 May 2023
Deadline for Proposal Submission	1st August 2023 *(10 weeks)*
Online Evaluation	8 August – 16 September 2023 *(6 weeks)*
Scientific Committee Meeting & Funding Organizations' Forum Meeting	Late October 2023
Publication of Results Online and Notification Letters to Applicants (Principal Project Leader only)	December 2023
Preparation of National and Regional Funding Agreements	December 2023 – February 2024
Start of Projects	April 2024
Joint Kick-off Workshop	First year of research

Joint Midterm Workshop	Second year of research
Interim Project Reporting	Second year of research
Final Joint Workshop	Last year of research
Final Project Reporting	Last year of research

* This is an approximate implementation schedule and is subject to change

PART 2: National and Regional Funding Regulations

Japan – Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

The official national call announcement for Japan is published on the JST website:
https://www.jst.go.jp/inter/program/announce/announce_scnc2023.html (Japanese)
https://www.jst.go.jp/inter/english/program_e/announce_e/ announce_scnc2023.html

→ Who can apply?

Any independent researcher personally affiliated with (and actively conducting research at) a domestic Japanese research institution (or who would fulfil this requirement by the start of the research project if not currently affiliated with a research institution in Japan), regardless of nationality, is eligible to apply.

"Domestic Japanese research institution" in Japan refers to universities, independent administrative institutions, national/public testing and Research Institutions, specially authorized corporations, public-service corporations and enterprises, etc. that must satisfy predetermined requirements designated by MEXT. Please refer to the MEXT homepage for more information:

https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/kansa/houkoku/1324571.htm (available in Japanese only)

In addition to the joint application process, Japanese applicants will have to register their applications on the Cross-Ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad):

https://www.e-rad.go.jp/index.html

Applicants must complete a research ethics training program conducted by the research institute with which they are affiliated and then declare the completion of the program to JST within 30 days after the deadline of the call for proposals. If it would be difficult for them to undertake a program provided by their own institute, they should contact JST to register for a research ethics program via JST. Unless applicants complete a research ethics program, their application will be deemed ineligible for funding.

Funded researchers will also have to complete a consortium agreement and should consult within their own institutions regarding their regulations. Further guidance can be found on the JST website:

https://www.jst.go.jp/inter/research/contract/contract.html (available in Japanese only)

→ What types of funding are eligible for researchers in Japan?

The level of the funding available to Japanese researchers may be up to 6,067,000 Japanese Yen including 30% of indirect costs per year (i.e. overall 18,200,000 Japanese Yen for the three years of funding). Funding will be made in Japanese Yen.

1. Eligible direct costs

In principle, eligible direct costs are those costs directly necessary for accomplishing the research, indicated below from 1.1 to 1.4. Please refer to the guidance documents available at the following link for further details of eligible direct costs (available in Japanese only).
https://www.jst.go.jp/inter/research/contract/contract.html (available in Japanese only)

1.1 Research materials and small-scale research equipment
Research equipment, spare parts, prototypes, software (in-line product), and purchase of books, reagents, materials and consumables

1.2 Personnel costs
Personnel costs of the researchers, temporally staff, etc., who are hired for the research, and other costs such as honoraria for invited lecturers

1.3 Travel costs
Travel costs and associated living expenses of the Project Leader as well as research project members registered in the research project plan, and costs of inviting external experts

1.4 Others
Costs for organizing meetings in Japan including rental costs for the venue, food & beverage (excluding alcohol) costs and other costs which are deemed to be necessary for organizing the event. Expenses for creating software, renting or leasing equipment, transporting equipment, etc.

2. Eligible indirect costs

Please refer to the following link for the provisions regarding indirect costs:

https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/compefund/kansetsu_sikkou.pdf (available in Japanese only)

Türkiye – The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK)

Who can apply?

Higher education institutions, training and research hospitals, public research centers and institutes, companies established in Türkiye (private organizations) can apply for funding under TÜBİTAK 1071-The Support Programme for Increasing the Capacity to use International Research Funds and to Join International R&D Cooperations.

Funding Rates

The maximum funding per project is 2.500.000 TL (total for three years) to be shared between participating Turkish partners. This amount includes the scholarship payments, However, it excludes overhead and payments to the Project Incentive Premium (PTİ) and institution shares.

Higher education institutions, training and research hospitals and public research centers and institutes will be supported by 100% support rate. In private organizations, the support rate is applied to 60% of the budget of large-scale organizations and 75% of the budget of SMEs.

Eligible Costs

The personnel costs, travel costs, consultancy and service purchase costs, equipment, machinery, software and publication expenses and material/consumable purchase costs. . Please see the detailed information at **https://uidb-pbs.tubitak.gov.tr.**

The online national application is compulsory and will be received online **until 1st August 2023** (in parallel to the one on PT-Outline) Please see the detailed information at **https://uidb-pbs.tubitak.gov.tr**

Important Note: National applications to TÜBİTAK can only be made by using electronic signature. The persons who are included in the project team and all executive / participant institutions should have qualified electronic certificate **(e-signature)**.

Further information relevant to national applicants/regulations please visit https://uidb-pbs.tubitak.gov.tr

For more information please contact:
EIG CONCERT-Japan Call National Contact Point
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France – National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS)

→ Who can apply?

Research proposals may be submitted by any laboratory or joint research unit (UMR) affiliated to CNRS.

What types of funding are eligible for French researchers?

1. Eligible direct costs

The level of the funding of French researchers may be up to ***EUR 12,000*** per project per year, over 3 years.

National rules and CNRS internal processes will apply.

1.1. Travel costs

Travel costs are eligible for funding and will be paid by the sending country. Travel costs for French project partners who travel to foreign countries will be covered (economy class flight / train ride 2nd class). For booking purposes, CNRS standards and applications apply.

1.2. Living expenses

Living expenses are eligible for funding and will be paid by the sending country. The amounts of the allowances (lump-sum) vary according to the destination country. For calculation purposes, CNRS standards apply.

1.3. Expenses for the organisation of small scientific events in France

In general, all costs directly related to the preparation and the implementation of events like international workshops, conferences, etc. in relation with the project are eligible.

→ Room rent, catering, printing of conference brochures, travel and accommodation of invited external experts (that do not form part of the project consortium but are considered necessary for the success of the event), translation…

The upper limit of 20% of the project budget per partner/year should not be exceeded.

1.4. Research materials and small-scale research equipment

Costs for consumables and small equipment (research equipment, prototypes, computer hard or software, office supplies, purchase of books, etc) are eligible only on a limited scale and if its need is demonstrated and directly related to the project. Equipment belonging to the applicant's basic facilities is not eligible.

Any consumables necessary for the implementation of the project may be considered as direct eligible costs (i.e. consumable: unit cost less than 800 EUR and/or duration of use less than one year). Consumables are only eligible costs under the project if bought ("service fait") after the start date of the project. Consumables belonging to the applicant's basic facilities are not eligible.

The upper limit of 20% of the project budget per partner/year should not be exceeded.

1.5. Personnel costs

Personnel included in the project may be from CNRS laboratories including joint research units (*UMR*), whether they are hired by CNRS or by its partner institution. Nonetheless, personnel costs are not eligible for funding.

2. Eligible indirect costs

There are no eligible indirect costs.

→ Is additional/parallel application requested to the funding organisation?

No

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

Information about the Joint Call announcement will be published on the MEYS website: http://www.msmt.cz

→ Who can apply?

Universities, research organizations and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are eligible for funding by MEYS.

The Czech research team must not have another Czech research participant in the project.

The aid intensity is determined according to Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014. For universities and research institutes, up to 100% of the eligible cost can be funded. For SMEs, up to 50% of the eligible cost can be funded (if the conditions are met, the aid intensity for industrial research and experimental development can be increased by 10 % for medium enterprises and 20 % for small enterprises).

→ What types of funding are eligible for researchers in the Czech Republic?

The level of funding available to Czech researchers may be up to € 600 000 for the three years of funding.

The **maximum funding per project is** € **150 000** for the entire duration of the project. Proposals not respecting this limit could be declared ineligible.
Funding will be made in Czech Koruna.

1. Eligible direct costs

National rules will be applied in accordance with Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 (in line with articles No. 107 and 108 Agreement) and Act. No. 130/2002 Coll. Costs eligible for funding need to be listed in detail and duly justified.

1.1 Research materials and small-scale research equipment

Research equipment, spare parts, software, reagents, materials and consumables.

1.2 Personnel costs

Personnel costs of the researchers, temporally staff, etc., who are hired for the research, in accordance with the internal regulations of the applicant. Max. 40 % of a total budget of a Czech participant.

1.3 Travel costs

Travel costs (economy class flight/train ride 2nd class) are eligible and associated living expenses of research project members on a daily allowance basis (in accordance with the national legislation) and accommodation costs of the members of the participating Czech team are eligible.

2. Eligible indirect costs

Eligible indirect costs are up to a **maximum of 25 % of the sum of eligible direct costs**.

→ Projects funded from other national or EU sources will not be supported.

→ Is additional/parallel application requested to the funding organisation?

There is no need for an additional/parallel application to MEYS for the proposal evaluation phase. After the announcement of the EIG CONCERT Japan call results, MEYS will announce the call for the Czech member of the supported international consortia, who will have to submit a grant application to MEYS in order to prepare the contracts in line with the national regulations Act. No. 130/2002 Coll., §7, article 8 b).

→ For more information please contact EIG CONCERT-Japan Call MEYS Contact Point:

Ms Veronika Konečná

Ministry of Education Youth and Sports

Email: veronika.konecna2@msmt.cz

Phone: +420 234 811 164

Czech Republic – Czech Academy of Sciences (CAS)

→ Who can apply?

Only teams from the CAS institutes are eligible to apply. SMEs, industries, universities and other research organisations are eligible to apply to MEYS (see MEYS's guidelines and conditions).

→ What types of funding are eligible for CAS teams participating in consortia?

The level of funding for the CAS teams may be up to 120,000.00 Euro per project for the entire duration of the project (3 years), in case two or more project partners in a proposal are from the CAS institutes, they may together request up to 120,000.00 Euro per project proposal.

1. Eligible direct costs

Mobility costs. All mobility costs may only be related to networking events and secondments within the project.

Transport costs of the members of the participating Czech team (economy class flight / train ride 2nd class) are eligible.

Living expenses on the daily allowance basis (in accordance with the national legislation) and accommodation costs of the members of the participating Czech team are eligible.

Expenses for the organisation of small scientific events related to the project in the Czech Republic are eligible. The upper limit of 20% of the project budget should not be exceeded.

Costs for consumables and small equipment, only on a limited scale and if its need is demonstrated, are eligible.

Personnel costs for young researchers (PhD students and postdocs) participating in the project are eligible. The upper limit of 20% of the project budget should not be exceeded.

2. Eligible indirect costs

There are no eligible indirect costs.

→ Is an additional/parallel application requested to the funding organisation?

Yes. Basic information about project and project team must be submitted on a special form available for download at https://era.avcr.cz/cs/multilateralni-spoluprace/EIG-CONCERT-Japan/ to the Contact point at the CAS. Following information will be required:

1. Identification of the project: Project title, Name of the principal project coordinator and List of all project partners and their affiliations;
2. Abstract of the project (1 100 characters incl. spaces);
3. Summary of Research Plans of the Czech Project Partner(s), their Implementation and Justification of Proposed Collaboration (1/2 page);
4. Description of the Czech Project Team – Involvement of Young Researchers is Mandatory (1/2 page);
5. CV of the Czech Principal Investigator (1 page).

→ For more information please contact EIG CONCERT-Japan Call CAS Contact Point:

Dr. Filip Zrno
Division of International Cooperation, CAS
E-mail: zrno@kav.cas.cz
Phone: +420 221 403 566

Bulgaria – Bulgarian National Science Fund (BNSF)

The official national call announcement for Bulgaria is published on the BNSF website: https://www.fni.bg/

→ Who can apply?

Eligible applicants under the present call are Bulgarian entities, which are:

1) Accredited universities under Art. 85 Para. 1 item 7 of the Law on Higher Education

2) Science organizations under Art . 47 Para. 1 of the Law on Higher Education.

Applicants under items 1 and 2 must comply with the definition for "research and knowledge distribution organization" under item 15 "b" of the Framework for State Aid for research and development and innovation.

Applicants under the present procedure must be directly responsible for the implementation of the activities of the project proposal, and not act as intermediaries; they must perform the proposed project activities on their own behalf and at their own expense.

Call applicants must be persons:

- performing research;

  and

- whose activities are fully not-for-profit or
- whose activities are both for-profit and not-for-profit, but they are clearly separated and are organized in a way to allow tracking of expenses and revenues related to their performance, including through analytical accounting. When the applicant performs both for-profit and not-for-profit activities, the financing, expenses and revenues about each type of activity are considered separately on the basis of consistently applied accounting principles for costs that can be objectively justified.

In addition to the joint application process, Bulgarian applicants will have to submit in Bulgarian and English following documents: Administrative description of the project and Declarations

https://www.fni.bg/?q=node/578

→ What types of funding are eligible for researchers in Bulgaria?

The level of the funding available to Bulgarian researchers may be up to 127 822€ per project over 3 years.

Funding will be made in Bulgarian Leva.

National rules and BNSF internal processes will apply.

1. Eligible direct costs

In principle, eligible direct costs are those costs directly necessary for accomplishing the research, indicated below from 1.1 to 1.4.

1.1 Research materials and small-scale research equipment

Research equipment, spare parts, prototypes, software (in-line product), and purchase of books, reagents, materials and consumables.

1.2 Personnel costs

Personnel costs of the researchers, temporally staff, etc., who are hired for the research, and other costs such as honoraria for invited lecturers

1.3 Travel costs

Travel costs and associated living expenses of the Bulgarian Project Team Members registered in the research project plan.

1.4 Expenses for the organisation of small scientific events in Bulgaria

In general, all costs directly related to the preparation and the implementation of events like international workshops, conferences, etc. in relation with the project are eligible.

→ Room rent, catering, printing of conference brochures, travel and accommodation of invited external experts (that do not form part of the project consortium but are considered necessary for the success of the event), translation.

1.5. Expenses for dissemination of the project results

All costs related to participation in seminars, conferences and congresses related to the topic of the Project and presenting its results (travel, accommodation, daily subsistence) of Bulgarian Project Team Members. These costs have to be based on the National Regulation, respectively Ordinance for business trips abroad.

2. Eligible indirect costs

There are no eligible indirect costs.

→ Is additional/parallel application requested to the funding organisation?

In addition to the joint application process, Bulgarian applicants will have to submit in Bulgarian and English following documents: Administrative description of the project and Declarations

Hungary - National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NKFIH)

The official national call announcement for Hungarian participants is published on the NKFIH website: https://www.nkfih.gov.hu/

→ Who can apply?

Eligible applicants from Hungary are entities falling under any of the following GFO codes:

• budgetary units and other entities falling under the budgetary rule (e.g. higher education institutions, municipalities; etc.) (GFO code: 311, 312, 322, 341 342, 381, 382)
• enterprise with legal entity and other non-profit enterprise (GFO code: 113, 114, 141, 572, 573)
• non-profit organisation with legal entity (GFO code: 551, 552, 559, 562, 563, 569 599, 931)
• enterprise with a registered office in the European Economic Area and a branch in Hungary (GFO: 226).

→ What types of funding are eligible for researchers in Hungary?

The level of funding of Hungarian participants may be up to around ***EUR 100 000 – 150 000*** per project over 3 years.

→ Eligible activities and costs

All research-related costs in accordance with government decree 380/2014 (XII.31) are eligible.
In case a partner is subject to State Aid rules, funding intensity shall be set at a level that complies with the State Aid rules in force at the time of the funding decision.

The detailed eligible costs and funding rules of the national 2019-2.1.7-ERA-NET call shall apply.

2019-2.1.7-ERA-NET Call for proposal & Guide for applicants:
PÁLYÁZAT AZ ERA-NET COFUND és EJP COFUND PROGRAMOK KÖZÖS NEMZETKÖZI PÁLYÁZATI FELHÍVÁSAIBAN SIKERESEN SZEREPLŐ MAGYAR SZERVEZETEK TÁMOGATÁSÁRA, 2019
https://nkfih.gov.hu/palyazoknak/nkfi-alap/era-net-ejp-cofund-2019-217-era-net

→ Is additional/parallel application requested to the funding organisation?

There is no need for an additional/parallel application for the proposal evaluation phase. After the announcement of the EIG CONCERT JAPAN call results, the Hungarian member of the supported international consortia will have to submit a grant application to NKFIH in order to prepare the contracts in line with the national regulations, as described in the 2019-2.1.7-ERA-NET Call for proposal & Guide for applicants.

→ For more information please contact EIG CONCERT-Japan Call National Contact Point:

Ms Györgyi Juhász
gyorgyi.juhasz@nkfih.gov.hu

Poland – National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR)

Information about call announcement will be published on the NCBR website:
https://www.gov.pl/web/ncbr/platforma-konkursowa

Who can apply?

- **Research organisations**
- **Enterprises** (micro, small, medium or large)
- **Groups of entities** (scientific consortia)

The scope of support:

- **Basic research** (only research organisations)
- **Applied research**
- **Experimental development**

What types of funding are eligible for the Polish researchers?

The NCBR´s total allocation for the current EIG CONCERT-Japan Joint Call for Proposals is **800.000 EUR**. The level of funding for Polish participants is limited up to the maximum **of 200.000 EUR per project** for up to 3 years (36 months).

What types of costs are eligible for funding?

1. Personnel costs (W) - researchers, technicians and other supporting staff to the extent employed on the research project;

2. Costs of subcontracting (E) - i.e. costs based on agreements with third parties to perform a portion of the project without a direct supervision of the project participant and without a relationship of subordination the subcontracting can be obtained from consortium partner only in justified case, this need will be verified by a national experts panel; Costs of subcontracting cannot exceed 70% of all eligible costs of the project.

3. Other costs (Op):

- Costs of instruments, equipment and intangible assets (such as patents, certificates etc.) to the extent and for the period used for the research project; if they are not used for their full life for the research project, only the depreciation costs corresponding to the life of the research project, as calculated on the basis of good accounting practice, shall be considered eligible;
- Purchase of land and real estate to the extent and for the period used for the research project; if such instruments and equipment are not used for their full life for the research project, only the depreciation costs corresponding to the life of the research project, as calculated on the basis of good accounting practice, shall be considered eligible;
- Other costs including costs of support services, materials, supplies and similar products incurred directly as a result of the research activity, travel costs (costs of delegations, costs of participation in conferences), costs of maintaining a separate bank account, costs of promoting the project.

4. Overheads (O) - incurred indirectly as a result of the research project; Overheads must be calculated according to the formula: O = (W+Op) x 25%*
*percentage 25% estimated by the Applicant himself (the same percentage for every task in the project)

For the funding granted by the NCBR, the following regulations apply:

1. The Act of 20 July 2018 on the Law of Higher Education and Science, published in Journal of Laws item 1668, 2018, as amended;
2. The Act of 30 April 2010 on the National Centre for Research and Development, published in Journal of Laws item 1770, 2019;
3. The Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 19 August 2020 on granting state aid by the National Centre for Research and Development, published in Journal of Laws item 1456, 2020.

Maximum level of funding:

- For research organisations – up to 100% of eligible costs
- For enterprises – up to the level submitted in the Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 19 August 2020 on granting state aid by the National Centre for Research and Development, published in Journal of Laws item 1456, 2020.

	Large Enterprises	**Medium Enterprises**	**Micro/Small Enterprises**	**Research Organizations**
Basic Research	0%	0%	0%	Up to 100 %
Applied Research	Up to 50+15 (max 65 %)	Up to 50+10+15 (max 75 %)	Up to 50+20+15 (max 80 %)	Up to 100 %
Experimental development	Up to 25+15 (max 40 %)	Up to 25+10+15 (max 50 %)	Up to 25+20+15 (max 60 %)	Up to 100 %

National phase of the applying procedure:

After international evaluation has been completed and the ranking list established, Polish participants from consortia recommended for funding will be invited to submit the National Application Form (NAF). All eligible entities invited to submit NAF are obliged to use the rate of exchange of the European Central Bank dated on the day of opening of the call.
NAFs will be then examined by the interdisciplinary panel of experts for international projects for the appropriateness of funding requested. Based on recommendations of the panel, the Director of NCBR issues a funding decision/rejection decision.

Contact Person:

Mrs. Krystyna Maciejko
National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR)
Department of International Cooperation
E-mail: krystyna.maciejko@ncbr.gov.pl
Phone: +48 22 39 07 489

Slovakia – Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS)

→ Who can apply?

Only research institutes and/or centres of the Slovak Academy of Sciences are eligible organisations for funding by the SAS. The main applicant must have an employment contract with the SAS institute/centre on behalf of which the application is being submitted. If his/her contract is on a part-time basis, it must be for more than 50% of standard working time. All members of the applicant's team except doctoral students must, too, have employment contracts with the same or another SAS institute/centre.

Individuals involved in preparation of the Call, the evaluation process or the funding decision process are eligible neither as PIs nor as team members

→ What types of funding are eligible for Slovak researchers?

Funding available for Slovak researchers is up to 120 000 EUR per project (i.e. 40 000 EUR per year) in accordance with the SAS Presidium's resolution no. 233 (of 10 February 2022), of which 45 000 EUR is an in-kind personnel contribution (spoluucast) of the applicant's organisation. This must be declared in a Letter of Commitment sent to the national contact point by the application deadline. A template will be published alongside the Call announcement at https://oms.sav.sk/en/news/open-calls/ .

Project funding (excluding the in-kind personnel contribution) is regulated by the Financial Rules for awarding SAS grants for international research projects -EN (Finančné pravidlá na udeľovanie grantov SAV na medzinárodné výskumné projekty - SK), which include detailed information on eligible costs and specific limits. Applicants are strongly encouraged to read this document carefully and to contact their national contact point before submission in order to ensure compliance.

→ Is additional/parallel application requested to the funding organisation?

Yes. Submission of an application at the national level (MVTS A form) will be required once the international evaluation and the ranking list have been performed and endorsed by the Funding Organisations Forum. Only the Slovak partners of the projects recommended for funding will be invited to submit the national-level application. The final decision on funding of the Slovak partners must be approved by the SAS Presidium.

Further guidance

- www.oms.sav.sk
- Finančné pravidlá na udeľovanie grantov SAV na medzinárodné výskumné projekty

Before submitting the proposal, Slovak applicants are strongly encouraged to contact their EIG CONCERT-Japan National Contact Point:

Ms Silvia Kecerová
kecerova@up.upsav.sk
+421 2 5751 0 118

PART 3: Contact information of the EIG CONCERT-Japan Program Secretariat and National and Regional Contact Persons

The EIG CONCERT-Japan Program Secretariat (PS) is entrusted with the overall operational management of this EIG CONCERT-Japan Joint Call. It is the general contact point for questions related to the Joint Call, the application process and the use of the PT-Outline webtool.

The *National and Regional Contact Persons (NRCPs)* are located in each country/region participating in this EIG CONCERT-Japan Joint Call. One of their main tasks is to advise potential applicants from their countries/regions on the applicable national/regional regulations during the proposal submission process.

CONCERT-Japan Program Secretariat Ms. Léa Debraux National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) E-mail: concert-japan-jcs@cnrs.fr Phone: +33 (0) 1 44 96 40 11
Contact Person for Japan - JST Mr. Ando Masashi , Dr. Junko Katayama, Mr. Oscar Rudenstam Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) E-mail: concert@jst.go.jp Phone: + 81 3 5214 7375
Contact Person for Bulgaria - BNSF Ms. Milena Aleksandrova Bulgarian National Science Fund (BNSF) Email: aleksandrova@mon.bg Phone: +359 884 171 363
Contact Person for Czech Republic - MEYS Ms. Veronika Konečná Ministry of Education Youth and Sports Email: veronika.konecna2@msmt.cz Phone: +420 234 811 164
Contact Person for Czech Republic - CAS Dr. Filip Zrno Czech Academy of Science Email: zrno@kav.cas.cz Phone: +420 221 403 566
Contact Person for France – CNRS Ms. Lea Debraux Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) E-Mail: concert-japan-jcs@cnrs.fr Phone: +33 (0) 1 44 96 40 11
Contact Person for Hungary – NKFIH Dr. Györgyi Juhász National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NKFIH)

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Contact Person for Türkiye – TÜBİTAK Mr. Murat Tiltak The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK) E-mail: murat.tiltak@tubitak.gov.tr Phone: +90 312 298 18 22