



# **Statute and Rules of Procedure of the IMPULZ Programme Evaluation Committee**

## **Article I**

### **General provisions**

1. This Statute and Rules of Procedure of the IMPULZ Programme Evaluation Committee (hereinafter referred to as the “Statute”) governs the role, powers and responsibilities of the IMPULZ Programme Evaluation Committee, established pursuant to Article IV of the Statute of the IMPULZ Programme as the programme’s expert evaluation body (hereinafter referred to as the “Committee”).
2. The Committee is an advisory body to the Presidium of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (hereinafter referred to as the “Presidium of SAS”).  
Its recommendations and decisions are advisory in nature and are not binding on the Presidium of SAS.
3. This Statute is an internal regulation governing the mandate, organisation and operation of the Committee.
4. This Statute is approved by the Presidium of SAS.

## **Article II Scope**

### **and Responsibilities of the Committee**

1. The Committee shall evaluate applications submitted to the IMPULZ Programme on the basis of its own assessment and the evaluations provided by independent experts (hereinafter referred to as the “reviewers”). The Committee shall also oversee the interim monitoring and final evaluation of the achievement of the objectives of funded projects.
2. A single Evaluation Committee shall be established for the purposes of the IMPULZ Programme.
3. The Committee’s responsibilities shall include, in particular, activities related to the selection of the highest-quality applications submitted to the IMPULZ Programme, namely:
  - a) assessing applications submitted under the IMPULZ Programme, in particular



the quality of the extended project abstract, the applicant's curriculum vitae, and the statement of a public research institution established by the Slovak Academy of Sciences (hereinafter referred to as the "research institution") expressing its interest in hosting the applicant (hereinafter referred to as the "host research institution");

- b) nominating and approving three reviewers for each application advancing to the next stage of the evaluation process;
- c) discussing the individual review reports prepared by the reviewers and preparing a consensus evaluation under the responsibility of the Committee member acting as rapporteur for the application concerned;



- d) conducting interviews, usually by videoconference, with selected applicants in the presence of representatives of the host research institutions;
  - e) determining the final ranking of applications;
  - f) submitting recommendations for project funding to the Presidium of SAS for approval;
  - g) reviewing interim reports submitted by Principal Investigators;
  - h) reviewing final reports submitted by Principal Investigators;
  - i) preparing proposals and recommendations for the Presidium of SAS concerning the IMPULZ Programme.
4. The Committee shall be accountable to the Presidium of SAS for the performance of its duties.

### **Article III**

#### **Composition of the Committee and membership**

1. The Chair of the Committee shall be appointed by the Presidium of SAS upon the proposal of the Vice-President of SAS for Science, Research and Innovation. The other members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Presidium of SAS upon the proposal of the Chair of the Committee.
2. The Committee shall consist of ten members, including the Chair. In duly justified cases, the Presidium of SAS may decide to increase the number of Committee members.
3. Members of the Committee shall be distinguished scientists and experts representing the following fields:
  - a) Earth and Space sciences;
  - b) Mathematical, Physical and Computer sciences;
  - c) Engineering and Technical sciences;
  - d) Medical sciences;
  - e) Biological and Chemical sciences;
  - f) Agricultural and veterinary sciences;
  - g) Historical sciences;
  - h) Social and Behavioural sciences;
  - i) Arts and Humanities.

When proposing members of the Committee, the Chair shall make every effort to



ensure balanced representation across the above fields.

4. At least seven members of the Committee shall be experts affiliated with institutions outside Slovakia and shall have worked at such institutions continuously for at least five years.
5. The term of office of the Committee shall be five years, unless the Presidium of SAS decides otherwise.



6. Membership of the Committee shall be incompatible with the following positions:
  - a) Member of the Presidium of SAS;
  - b) Member of the Scientific Council of SAS;
  - c) Director of a research institution;
  - d) Head of an organisational unit of a research institution;
  - e) Member of the Scientific Council of a research institution.
7. Membership of the Committee shall terminate:
  - a) upon expiry of the Committee's term of office;
  - b) upon written resignation of a Committee member submitted to the Chair of the Committee or, in the case of the Chair, to the President of SAS; membership shall terminate on the date the resignation is delivered, unless a later date is specified therein;
  - c) upon removal by the Presidium of SAS; membership shall terminate on the date specified in the relevant decision of the Presidium of SAS;
  - d) on the day preceding the assumption of any position listed above as incompatible with Committee membership.
8. Where the membership of a Committee member terminates, the Presidium of SAS shall appoint a new member in accordance with the procedure set out in this Article.
9. Members of the Committee shall maintain confidentiality regarding all matters discussed and all conclusions reached by the Committee unless and until such conclusions are made public. Members of the Committee shall not disclose any materials or information provided to them to third parties, unless the nature of such materials or information requires or reasonably necessitates their disclosure.
10. Members of the Committee shall promptly inform the Chair of any actual or potential conflict of interest in relation to a particular applicant or application. The existence of a conflict of interest shall be determined by the Chair. The Chair shall promptly inform the Vice-Chair of any actual or potential conflict of interest concerning the Chair, and the Vice-Chair shall decide on the matter. A Committee member in respect of whom a conflict of interest has been identified shall be excluded from the evaluation and decision-making process concerning the relevant application.
11. The list of Committee members shall be published on the IMPULZ Programme website.
12. Unless the context requires otherwise, any reference in this Statute to a Committee member shall also include the Chair.
13. The following shall apply to the Secretary of the Committee:



- a) the Secretary shall be appointed by the Presidium of SAS upon the proposal of the Vice-President of SAS for Science, Research and Innovation;



- b) the Secretary shall not be a member of the Committee;
- c) the Secretary shall provide organisational and administrative support to the Committee;
- d) the provisions of this Statute shall apply to the Secretary as appropriate.

#### **Article IV**

##### **Management and activities of the Committee**

1. The activities of the Committee shall be directed by, and the Committee shall be represented by, the Chair.
2. The Chair shall appoint and dismiss the Vice-Chair from among the members of the Committee. If the Chair does not appoint a Vice-Chair within two months of the commencement of the Committee's term of office, the President of SAS may appoint the Vice-Chair.
3. In the absence of the Chair, the Chair shall be replaced by the Vice-Chair or, where appropriate, by another Committee member designated by the Chair, within the scope of the authority granted.

#### **Article V**

##### **Meetings of the Committee**

1. Meetings of the Committee shall be convened and chaired by:
  - a) the Chair;
  - b) in the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair; or
  - c) in the absence of both the Chair and the Vice-Chair, another Committee member designated by the-Chair  
(hereinafter referred to as "Presiding Officer").
2. The dates and venue of Committee meetings shall be arranged by the Secretary in consultation with the Presiding Officer so as to ensure the proper functioning of the Committee and the fulfilment of its responsibilities under the Statute of the IMPULZ



Programme.

3. The Secretary shall, on behalf of and with the approval of the Presiding Officer, circulate the invitation to the meeting, together with the agenda and relevant supporting documents, no later than ten working days before the meeting.
4. The working language of the Committee shall be English. Correspondence addressed to Committee members shall be conducted in English.
5. In order to ensure flexibility and efficiency of communication, correspondence shall be sent electronically to the e-mail addresses provided by the Committee members.



6. Meetings of the Committee shall not be open to the public.
7. Committee meetings shall be attended by the members of the Committee and the Secretary. Where a meeting includes interviews with applicants, the invited applicants and representatives of the host research institution shall also attend the relevant part of the meeting. Where justified, external experts may be invited on an ad hoc basis upon the proposal of the rapporteur responsible for the application concerned and with the approval of the Presiding Officer.
8. As a general rule, meetings of the Committee shall be held by videoconference unless the Presiding Officer determines otherwise or unless a majority of the Committee members agree otherwise.
9. The Committee shall have a quorum if more than half of its members are present.
10. The Committee shall adopt decisions by resolution. A simple majority of the members present shall be required for the adoption of a resolution. In the event of a tie, the Presiding Officer shall have the casting vote.
11. In justified cases and with the consent of the Committee members, the Committee may adopt decisions by written procedure (per rollam).

A decision adopted by written procedure shall be valid if more than half of all Committee members participate in the procedure.
12. The costs of the Committee's activities, including remuneration of Committee members, shall be covered from the budget of SAS.
13. Committee members shall be entitled to remuneration for their service on the Committee, the amount of which shall be determined by the Presidium of SAS.
14. Committee members shall also be entitled to reimbursement of duly documented and justified travel and accommodation expenses incurred in connection with their participation in Committee meetings.
15. Minutes shall be prepared for each Committee meeting and shall include the date of the meeting, the attendance list, the agenda, the conclusions and resolutions adopted, the deadlines for their implementation, and the persons responsible for their implementation.
16. Where decisions are adopted by written procedure, minutes shall be prepared and accompanied by records evidencing the votes cast by individual Committee members.
17. The minutes shall be prepared by the Secretary, who shall circulate them electronically to the Committee members after approval by the Presiding Officer.



## Article VI

### Final provisions

1. Any matters not governed by this Statute shall be subject to the relevant provisions of the Statute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences.
2. This Statute and Rules of Procedure of the IMPULZ Programme Evaluation Committee was approved by the Presidium of SAS at its meeting held on 14 May 2026 and shall enter into force on the day following its publication on the IMPULZ Programme website. Upon the entry into force of this Statute, the Statute and Rules of Procedure of the IMPULZ Programme Evaluation Committee approved by the Presidium of SAS on 8 April 2021 shall cease to have effect.
3. The current version of the Statute shall be published on the IMPULZ Programme website.

Bratislava, 14 May 2026

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the Slovak  
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Sciences