



Guide for Applicants

Call 2025_May 2025



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IMPULZ – SLOVAK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES PROGRAMME

GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

This guide provides practical information to potential applicants to assist in preparing and applying for Programme IMPULZ based in Slovak Republic. In addition, it provides a general overview of the scheme and the assessment process.

Why choose Slovakia?

Slovakia is a central European country bordered by Poland to the North, Ukraine to the East, Hungary in the south, and Austria in the South West, and the Czechia in the North West. The population is around five and half million people.

The capital is Bratislava, the largest city in the country. Slovakia has been a member of the European Union since 2003 and Eurozone since 2009. The country as it exists today was founded in 1993, when Czechoslovakia split up into Slovakia and the Czech Republic. Since then, the country has been growing in importance in Europe.

Slovakia also remains a country with deep heritage, where tradition, culture, music, conversation, time to relax, listen and make friends are all important.

For more information about Slovakia as a place to live and work including travel, food, shopping, accommodation, climate and practicalities see <https://slovakia.travel/en>.

EU Member States, Associated Countries and Third Countries

The 27 EU Member States are Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

The Associated Countries are Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine.

Third countries are neither EU Member States nor Countries associated with Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe.



Economy

Export revenues in Slovakia are increasing, mainly because of export to other EU countries. There is a sustained tendency toward growth in foreign direct investments and Slovakia offers many opportunities for domestic and foreign investors. The strongest position is currently held by the automobile industry and its subcontractors (Volkswagen, Peugeot-Citroën, Kia Motors, and Jaguar Land Rover). Export of motor vehicle, electronic equipment or petroleum oils is dominant.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The IMPULZ Programme aims to improve the excellence of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS) and its research institutes by recruiting internationally recognized scientists and highly talented young researchers either from abroad or within Slovakia. The task for the excellent scientists will be to create and manage their own research groups which will work on new research directions in line with the current world trends. The Programme will provide excellent scientists with the incentives for their cutting-edge research and it will bring an improvement to the SAS research institutes in their research capacity and scientific outputs. The IMPULZ Programme should improve the excellence, internationalization, interdisciplinarity and competitiveness of SAS in the European Research Area, among other things, by increasing its chances to receive the prestigious European grants.

Slovak Academy of Sciences – the main scientific and research institution in Slovakia fostering basic and strategic basic research. SAS is the founder of 45 scientific organisations whose focus covers a wide range of scientific fields on nature, technology and society. The organisations are located in several regions of Slovakia, where most of these are located in the capital Bratislava and in the second largest city in Slovakia – Košice. The total number of staff amounts to more than 3 000 employees including about 1900 researchers and scholars.

This **Guide for applicant** provides practical information to potential applicants in preparing and applying for Programme IMPULZ.

The Programme IMPULZ is characterized by transparency and openness, granting candidates freedom to choose research project and host organisation.



SAS was granted the HR Excellence in research award (HRS4R). SAS follows the principles of the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers.



SAS is a proud member of the Euraxess Slovakia Network, we will provide support and practical information on visa, entry condition, taxation, social security and daily life in Slovakia.

Programme IMPULZ is intended both for experienced scientists and postdoc researchers.

Organisation and people involved

Applicant refers to the researcher that applies for an IMPULZ project. Applicant may be also referred as “researcher” or “candidate” (in case of implementation of the project).

Host Organisation refers to the organisation where the applicant plans to carry out his/her research project. Host organisation must be chosen from SAS scientific organisations.

Authorized Representative refers to the statutory authority of the Host Organisations – director of the Host Organisation.

2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Within the application, applicant needs to show his/her outstanding research track record and a competence to fully investigate the proposed research project. Research project can also contain inter-/multidisciplinary approaches.

Eligibility criteria are set for a) applicant, b) application, c) project, d) host organisation.

Eligibility criteria for applicants

- The Program is designated for scientists working abroad as well as in the Slovak Republic. Applicants may apply regardless their citizenship or residence or working activity.
- The applicant must hold a PhD at the time of application (or equivalent).
- The applicant must demonstrate sufficient research experience gained at a foreign research institute. Either s/he obtained a PhD degree or completed a long-term stay outside Slovakia, usually not shorter than 2 years.

- The applicant must prove that s/he regularly publishes in quality scientific journals in the given scientific field; that s/he has been repeatedly invited to present her/his scientific results at important international conferences; and that s/he has been a leading researcher of a scientific project.
- In case of a young researcher, the applicant must prove an autonomy from the thesis advisor by providing a list of publications which were not co-authored by the advisor. Moreover, the proposed topic of the project must be different from the topic of the applicant's thesis.
- The candidate must demonstrate the capability to lead a proposed research team as well as the ability in obtaining competitive resources for research in the long term. The applicant must commit to submitting a project proposal to the European Research Council (ERC), the Horizon Europe programme, or another prestigious international grant scheme within the first half of the IMPULZ project implementation. The financial benefit for the host institution must be comparable to that of the IMPULZ project, thereby ensuring the sustainability of the research team after the conclusion of the IMPULZ project.

Researchers who already hold permanent positions within the SAS organization, where the research project activities are to be carried out, may be recruited to implement the IMPULZ project and receive support.

Eligibility criteria for application

A complete application consists of:

Part A – Proposal and Applicant Information; Scan version of the PhD. diploma or equivalent; Recommendation letters (optional); CV (upload and follow template)

Part B – Host Organization (upload template);

Part C – Research Project (upload template);

Part D – Budget (upload template);

Part E – Ethical Issues (upload template);

Part F – Confirmation of data correctness/truthfulness



Eligibility criteria for project

The entire application must be written **in English** and **submitted through the online system before the deadline**. The **completeness** of the application is also an eligibility criterion; it must include all required components, annexes, and information as specified.

To ensure that the evaluation focuses solely on the proposed research and the applicant's capacity to carry it out, the proposal should be presented in a neutral manner. Personal details such as gender, age, or nationality should be omitted. First names in publication references may be abbreviated to a single initial (e.g., A. Fox) to avoid indicating gender.

There are **no restrictions on scientific fields**. The only potential limitation may arise from the scientific focus of the host organization. The research topic may be freely chosen by the researcher; however, it must align with current international research trends in the respective field. Only research topics that represent a significant innovation at the host organization of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS)—that is, topics that are either entirely new to the institution or have not been actively developed there for more than three years—are considered eligible. The project must clearly describe the current global state of the proposed topic and its objectives. The evaluation process will also consider the potential impact of the topic on the long-term development of the host organization and its sustainability after the project concludes.

Ethics issues: Certain research areas may be subject to ethical restrictions and therefore may not be eligible for funding. For further information, please refer to the “How to Apply” section.

Eligibility criteria for host organization

All **SAS scientific organisations** are eligible host organisations. They are divided into three scientific divisions according to their research orientation (please see the Annex 1 for websites of SAS organisations):

- I. Scientific Section: Physical, Space, Earth and Engineering Sciences
- II. Scientific Section: Life, Chemical, Medical and Environmental Sciences
- III. Scientific Section: Social Sciences, Humanities, Arts and Culture

The Programme IMPULZ partners are mostly located in the capital city Bratislava. Some host organizations are also located in different regions and cities of Slovak Republic that allows free decision of candidates where to realize their research. List of the Host Organisations is in the Annex I. and on the IMPULZ website.

3. HOW TO APPLY

- Applications for the program are submitted on the basis of a call announced by the Presidium of the SAS (P SAS).
- Application is prepared and submitted by the applicant, application is written in English (text must be comprehensible. In case of doubts consider proof-reading by a native speaker before submitting).
- Each applicant may submit one application per call.
- Application must be submitted via the online system available on the Programme IMPULZ website. Applications submitted in other ways (by post, personally, etc.) will not be taken in consideration and will not be evaluated.
- All documents must be uploaded as a PDF file using the template available on the website. **All templates must be followed.** Instructions are included in each of the templates to assist you when writing your proposal to make sure you include all the necessary information required.

The application shall contain the parts necessary for assessment of the qualities of the applicant, the host organization and the proposed research topic, in particular:

- a. Structured professional curriculum vitae of the candidate, including the presentation of scientific activities and outputs. **The CV must contain a unique scientist identifier (ORCID, Researcher ID, Google Scholar, etc.).**
- b. Extended project abstract, which should be written according to underlying structure of the structured abstract and in a form that is shorter than the full text.
- c. Project proposal for the entire period with a detailed work plan for the period of the first half of the project.
- d. Draft budget for the entire project period.
- e. Opinion of the host organization describing the relationship of the project towards the organization's plans for its further development. Description of the scientific infrastructure, staffing capacity and other possible support to be provided to the project, including a specification of the indirect costs provided.
- f. Acknowledgement made by the organization that the successful candidate will be full-time employed in the organization and that the organization will provide the necessary resources and infrastructure.

- g. Declaration of project compliance with ethical rules and legislation, consent to capture and process the personal data, a statement on the data veracity and other.

The host organization may only be a SAS scientific organization. The principal project investigator must have a full-time employment in the organization throughout the project implementation and is expected to build a research team. Therefore, the host organization may request the relocation of PI to Slovakia.

Part of the Application	How to prepare the application
Part A – proposal and applicant Information; scan version of the PhD. or equivalent diploma; recommendation letters (optional); CV	Online application – Download CV template → complete it → convert to PDF → upload it
Part B – Host Organisation	Host organisation can be chosen from the list of SAS institutes provided in the Annex I. Download template for the LETTER OF COMMITMENT → complete it → convert to PDF → upload it
Part C – Research Project	Download template → complete it → upload it
Part D – Budget	Download template , upload in xlsx format
Part E – Ethics Issues	Download template , fill in and upload it
Part F – Confirmation of data correctness/truthfulness	Online form

Call deadline which is specified on the IMPULZ Programme website is absolutely firm and is strictly kept. Applications must be submitted on or before this deadline. Online system will be closed at the deadline and after this moment access to the system will not be possible.

Step by step
1. Check if you comply with eligibility criteria given for applicant.
2. Choose a host organization and contact them in order to receive your LETTER OF COMMITMENT .
3. Read CAREFULLY all documents necessary to prepare and submit your application.
4. Download all necessary templates. Templates must be followed.
5. Register yourself to the online system for application submission.
6. Double check your application to comply all requirements.
7. Once completed and double checked, make sure you submit your application by pressing submit button.

4. PROJECT BUDGET (PART D)

The amount of project funding shall be a minimum of EUR 60,000 and a maximum of EUR 160,000 per year. The eligible project costs are:

- a. Personnel costs (super gross salary of PI and team members)
- b. Travel costs (including per diems, conferences, workshops etc.)
- c. Material (consumables)
- d. Research infrastructure (equipment)
- e. Publishing costs including Open Access
- f. Services

The contribution to the responsible researcher's wage costs covered from the project is amounting to 1.5 times the salary tariff 11 and the salary scale No. 14 of the valid Special salary scale of university teachers and research and development employees.

Note: Super gross salary is the employee's gross salary plus percentage of social and health insurance that are paid by employer.

The respective scientific organization of the SAS undertakes to ensure to pay the indirect project costs. Indirect costs do not need to be specified in the application table; however, if they are included, they must be approved by the SAS Host Institute. The funds will be transferred to the host organization on the basis of a grant agreement concluded between it and the SAS. This contract shall also specify the conditions for drawing the allocated funds.

The funds allocated to the project must be utilized economically, efficiently, effectively and demonstrably in connection with the planned activities of the project.

Table: Usage of contribution, give breakdown by year and by category (personnel costs, equipment, consumables, publishing costs including Open Access, services, travel costs including conferences, workshops, etc., other).

Category	Year 2026	Year 2027	Year 2028	Year 2029	Year 2030	Year 2031	Total	Specification justification
Personnel costs – researcher***	17701,00	53102,00	53102,00	53102,00	53102,00	35401,00	265510,00	
Personnel costs – team***								Include the number of personnel divided by R1,R2, etc.
Equipment IT								
Equipment - other								
Consumables								
Publishing costs (Open Access)								
Travel costs								
Services								
Other								
Total								

***2166 Eur *1,5 = 3249 Eur gross salary x 36,2 % social welfare =4425,00 Eur total cost for employer per month, please apply the amount in the form of so-called super gross wage in the project for Personnel costs for team as well. For more information contact us impulz@savba.sk
When planning personnel costs for the team, please consult the SAS Host Institute to confirm the current salaries of researchers and PhD students at the SAS Institute.

5. ETHICAL ISSUES (PART E)

In particular, you should explain the benefit and burden of the experiments and the effects these may have on the research subject. Applicants should take time to consider the benefit/burden balance of each part of the project; consider the impact of the research, not only in terms of scientific advancement, but also in terms of human dignity and social and cultural impact; consider elements such as the ethics and social impact of the research and whether there is a balance between the objectives and the means.

The following special issues should be taken into account:

- Human embryo/foetus, human cells/tissues
- Human biological samples and data
- Personal data (privacy and data protection)
- Research on animals
- Research in developing countries
- Environmental, health and safety
- Dual and misuse

If relevant, identify the countries where research will be undertaken and which ethical committees and regulatory organisations will need to be approached during the life of the project.

Ethics Issues Table (upload template)

1. Human Embryo/Foetus		
Does the proposed research involve Human Embryonic Stems Cells (hESCs)?	Yes	No
Does the proposed research involve human Embryo?	Yes	No
Does the proposed research involve human Fetal Tissues/Cells?	Yes	No
2. Humans		
Does the proposed research involve human participants?	Yes	No
Does the proposed research involve physical interventions on the study participants?	Yes	No
3. Human cells/tissues		
Does your research involve human cells or tissues (other from Human Embryos/Foetus, i.e. section 1)?	Yes	No
4. Personal Data		
Does your research involve personal data collection and/or processing?	Yes	No
Does your research involve further processing of previously collected personal data (secondary use)?	Yes	No
5. Animals		
Does your research involve animals?	Yes	No
6. Third countries		
In case non-EU countries are involved, do the research related activities undertaken in these countries raise potential ethics issues?	Yes	No
Do you plan to use local resources (e.g. animal and/or human tissues samples, genetic material, live animals, human remains, materials of historical value, endangered fauna or flora samples, etc.)?	Yes	No
Do you plan to import any material – including personal data – from non-EU countries into the EU?	Yes	No
Do you plan to export any materials – including personal data – from the EU to non-EU countries?	Yes	No
In case your research involves low and/or lower middle income countries are any benefits-sharing actions planned?	Yes	No
Could the situation in the country put the individuals taking part in the research at risk?	Yes	No
7. Environment & Health and Safety		
Does your research involve the use of elements that may cause harm to the environment, to animals or plants?	Yes	No
Does your research deal with endangered fauna and/or flora and/or protected areas?	Yes	No
Does your research involve the use of elements that may cause harm to humans, including research staff?	Yes	No
8. Dual Use		
Does your research involve dual-use items in the sense of Regulation 428/2009, or other items for which and authorization is required?	Yes	No

9. Exclusive focus on civil applications		
Could your research raise concerns regarding the exclusive focus on civil applications?	Yes	No
10. Misuse		
Does your research have the potential for misuse of research results?	Yes	No
11. Other ethics issues		
Are there any other ethics issues that should be taken into consideration? Please specify	Yes	No

Confirmation of data correctness/truthfulness

1. You confirm that the information and details provided, and other information relating to your formal application for fellowship, are correct.
2. You understand that any false information or misrepresentation would result in your application being disqualified or, if appointed, could lead to your dismissal without notice.

6. EVALUATION AND SELECTION

Evaluation Process

The evaluation process is two-round. Applications that meet the necessary formal requirements shall be accepted for a peer review. Applicants who do not meet the formal requirements will be invited to complete their application within 5 working days of invitation receipt.

In the first round, the application is assessed by the IMPULZ Programme Evaluation Committee, established by the decision of the Presidium of SAS. The number of members of the commission is usually 10, in the case of a larger number of submitted applications, the P SAS may increase the number of its members. The Evaluation Committee consists of independent foreign evaluators from the areas as follows:

- a. Earth and space sciences
- b. Mathematical, physical and computer sciences
- c. Technical science
- d. Medical science
- e. Biological and chemical sciences
- f. Agricultural and veterinary sciences
- g. History science
- h. Sciences of human and society
- i. Sciences of culture and art

Within the first round it evaluates the applicant's curriculum vitae, the extended abstract of the project and the opinion of the host organization. The evaluation committee assesses in particular the following parameters:

- a. Quality, skills and experience of the applicant, his/her scientific results, ability to obtain and successfully implement projects, especially the ability to submit a successful project to obtain an ERC grant or other prestigious grant scheme, domestic and international cooperation, autonomy from the dissertation supervisor, leadership and other competencies.
- b. The quality of the project research intention, the topicality of the topic within the international context.
- c. The quality of the host organization and the conditions it is able to provide for the implementation of the project (research focus, domestic and international cooperation, resources and capacities, infrastructure).

The evaluation committee shall evaluate the projects within the above three parameters. It will propose applications that shall be shortlisted for the second round and reject the others. It will send a brief wording assessment to candidates with rejected applications.

In the second round, the entire project is evaluated, which is at first assessed by three independent foreign evaluators. The evaluators must reach a final consensus evaluation review under the responsibility of a rapporteur, who is a member of the Evaluation Committee. The final evaluation will take place in the Evaluation Committee.

The evaluation of applications is carried out mainly at a distance. The Commission's final evaluation, which shall propose the project financing or non-financing, will take place in person. The P SAS may decide that the evaluation also includes a personal presentation of the applicant with the participation of representatives of the host organization. The final decision on project financing shall be made by the P SAS. All applicants shall receive a project evaluation. Partial evaluation reports will not be disclosed.

Evaluation Criteria

The main evaluation criteria for the second round of evaluation are project excellence, applicant, project impact and project implementation.

1. Excellence

1.1 State of the art

Give a clear description of the state-of-the-art of the research area supported by the relevant literature. Provide motivation and broader context of the intended research, include preliminary work if applicable.



1.2 Objectives

- a) Describe overall and specific project objectives, which should be clear, measurable, realistic and achievable within the duration of the project.
- b) Explain the scientific and technical contributions that the project is expected to make to advance the state-of-the-art within the research area covered by the project.
- c) Describe the novelty and inter- and multidisciplinary aspects of the proposed project.

1.3 Concept and Methodology

The methodology should be presented as clearly as possible. For each objective explain the methodological approach that will be employed in the project and justify it in relation to the project objectives. When any novel methods or techniques are proposed, explain their merits and limitations.

2. Applicant

Provide sufficient supporting evidence and arguments to demonstrate that your skills and experience are suitable to carry out successfully the proposed project. Discuss your main research achievements in relation to this proposal and alignment between your research expertise and the host organization's research infrastructure and priorities. Demonstrate your experience in supervision, mentoring, and leadership roles, highlighting your ability to lead a successful research group.

NOTE: Part A of the application – Curriculum Vitae will serve for better assessment of the quality of the applicant.

3. Impact

3.1 Transfer of knowledge and estimated impact

- a) Describe the potential impact on society, the scientific community, the research area, and the application sector, considering significant advancements beyond the project's immediate scope, for example by
 - opening new avenues of inquiry
 - challenging the existing paradigms
 - proposing innovative approaches that could lead to the development of new concepts, tools, frameworks, and techniques, that can be applied by other researchers in and outside the research field
- b) Describe the potential impact of the project on advancing the scientific career of the researcher (fellow).
- c) Describe the potential impact on the host organisation (new methods, improvement of scientific work, etc.).
- d) Describe the transfer of the expected results in the short, medium or long term, benefits derived from the increase of knowledge and technology.

3.2. Measures to maximise impact

Dissemination and exploitation of results:

- Provide a draft plan for the dissemination and exploitation of the project's results
- Communication and popularization activities
- Targeted outreach, collaborations with industry partners, and utilization of digital platforms

4. Implementation

4.1 Work plan – work packages, deliverables and procedures

a) Provide overall objectives of the proposed project and a work plan structured in 12-month periods. The work plan must provide realistic objectives – work packages (management, communication activities, deliverables – overall structure of the project, coherent and effective work plan, description of the work packages and tasks, list of deliverables.

b) Outline quantifiable outcomes of the project such as expected conference/workshop presentations, courses, seminars, secondment, training in specific new areas, and other professional training.

c) Please include a Gantt chart (include schedule for work packages, deliverables, milestones, planned secondment, dissemination and communication/popularization activities).

d) Plan must include a commitment to submit a project of the European Scientific Council, the ERC, or another Horizon Europe project, or another prestigious foreign grant scheme within the first half of the project implementation.

e) Please provide a contingency plan.

f) Provide justification for scientific personnel (PhD. Students, postdocs) expected to be hired on the project (describe their roles and objectives).

4.2 Host organisation

a) Describe the scientific quality of the host organisation (achieved results and outputs, most important publications, patents, etc.).

b) Write a short description how the proposed project is relevant to the international scientific collaboration of the host organisation and to its short, medium- or long-term scientific objectives and priorities.

c) What are the most important projects carried out in the host institution, especially in the selected department (titles, funding resources, duration of the projects, etc.).

d) Describe how the applicant will be supported and which resources will be available to the project. Describe the quality of the infrastructure and personal resources.

To consider the capacity of the researcher, the following items will be taken into the consideration: (1) previous achievements of the researcher, in terms of publication activity, and leadership; (2) the match between the researcher background and the scope of the proposed research.

Since the Participating Organizations are comprised from several potential host organizations which are freely chosen by the applicants it is necessary to assess the match between the proposed project and host organization and the adequacy of institutional environment in order to assess feasibility of the project at given host organization.

For the criterion of EXCELLENCE, the evaluator assigns a score as follows:

5	Excellent. The research project is of world-class quality with respect to the above criteria: it addresses a problem of very high importance and interest, demonstrates exceptional novel approaches, and is a solid foundation for a potentially successful ERC grant application. The project exhibits no discernable weaknesses
4	Very good. The research project is of high quality: it addresses a problem of high importance and interest and no significant elements have to be improved. Any shortcomings are minor
3	Good. The research project is of good quality: it addresses the criteria well. However, several shortcomings are present, and some elements could be improved to enhance its overall effectiveness
2	Moderate. The research project is of moderate quality, addressing a problem of moderate importance or containing significant elements that could be improved
1	Modest. The research project is of low quality, addressing a problem of low importance or inadequately and demonstrating serious weaknesses that require substantial modification.
0	Poor. The research project is of very low quality, addressing a problem of low or no importance and containing structural flaws, or it cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information

For the criterion of APPLICANT, the evaluator assigns a score as follows:

5	Excellent. The applicant possesses an excellent scientific and publication track record and research achievements that are internationally recognized and highly esteemed for their quality and contribution to science and other research activities. The applicant is regarded as a leading researcher in the research area(s).
4	Very good. The applicant has a very good scientific and publication track record and research achievements that are internationally recognized and valued for their quality and contribution to science and other research activities. The

	applicant is acknowledged as an internationally recognized researcher in the research field(s).
3	Good. The applicant exhibits a good scientific and publication track record and research achievements, though with limited international recognition regarding their quality and contribution to science and other research activities. The applicant has achieved modest international recognition in the research field(s)
2	Moderate. The applicant's scientific and publication track record and research achievements are average, with limited recognition within the research field(s) in terms of quality and contribution to science and other research activities. The applicant has limited recognition in the research field(s).
1	Modest. The applicant's scientific and publication track record and research achievements are below average and lack significant recognition within the research field(s) regarding their quality and contribution to science and other research activities. The applicant lacks recognition in the research field(s).
0	Poor. The applicant has either poor or no scientific and publication track record and research achievements. The presented track record is unreliable.

For the criterion of IMPACT, the evaluator assigns a score as follows:

2	High. The research project will substantially impact the research field and enhance the host organization's research performance. The project results are likely to be published by academic publishers or journals of the highest academic rank
1	Moderate. The project will have some impact on the advancement of the research field(s) or discipline(s) and the research performance of the host organization. The project results are likely to be published by academic publishers or journals that are widely recognized.
0	Low. The project will have no impact on the advancement of the research field(s) or discipline(s) and the research performance of the host organization. The project results are unlikely to be published by academic publishers or journals that are widely recognized.

For the criterion of IMPLEMENTATION, the evaluator assigns a score as follows:

2	High. The implementation of the research project is very well planned: the proposed timescale and methodology are relevant and suitable to achieve the goals of the project; the Gantt chart and contingency plan are clearly described; the available research facilities and equipment are sufficient for the proposed research.
1	Moderate. The implementation of the project is reasonably planned, but it contains some gaps or shortcomings or it leaves room for improvement with respect to: the proposed timescale and methodology, Gantt chart and contingency plan, the allocation of research tasks, or the available research facilities and equipment.
0	Low. The implementation of the project is not feasible or it cannot be evaluated due to missing or incomplete information

Score is assigned only to main criteria, not to sub-criteria. They serve to evaluators for a better estimation of the main criteria; they also can help applicants in preparing the application, if necessary.

For this part of evaluation, an overall threshold of 70% will be applied to the total score, which determines the minimum of the score that the application must achieve so that it may pass forward into further part of evaluation. On basis of evaluators' opinions, the applicants who have not reached the specified threshold are rejected.

Besides the score assigning the evaluators also comment in writing on each criterion. The score and evaluations are background for consensual opinion elaborated by the application Rapporteur.

The Evaluation Committee can invite selected applicants for an interview. The purpose of the interview is to evaluate if the candidate is able to lead a scientific team and increase a research capacity of the relevant SAS institute. The interview is not meant to clarify the excellence of the proposals (this is done in the external evaluation phase) but impact, implementation and presentation skills (i.e. the ability to clearly communicate to non-specialists – other scientists, policymakers and public). The interview is also a good practice for future ERC applications of the candidates which they are expected to submit before the IMPULZ project mid-term evaluation. The ratio of 75:25 will be used for the assignment of final score for external reviews and interviews of the selected candidates. The candidates will be awarded additional points for the interview.

On basis of the final evaluation (and interviews if applicable), the Evaluation Committee split applications into these individual categories:

A	Applications recommended for funding. Applications are placed within the allowed budget. Applicants whose applications were placed in this category will be invited to the negotiation.
B	Applications on the reserve list. Funding is available in such case if the applications of A category are withdrawn by applicants or the agreement shall not be reached during negotiation. Applicants will be kept informed.
C	Applications of sufficient quality. Applications reached a specified threshold, but their funding is impossible due to limited budget.
D	Applications of insufficient quality. Applications have not reached the given threshold.
E	Not rated/evaluated applications. These applications were not assessed during the second round of evaluation.

Proposal to class the applications into individual categories is approved by the SAS Presidium according to the Evaluation Committee proposal. Success ratio, i.e. the ratio of funded applications to submitted applications total number cannot be higher than 50%.



Applicants will be informed about the evaluation results via e-mail, publishing the results in the system, as well as on the IMPULZ Programme website.

SAS Presidium may, on a proposal from the Evaluation Committee, require that the applicant shall submit the necessary permits and other needed documents issued by the Slovak authorities regarding project ethical issues.

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR THE SELECTED PROJECTS:

If your project is selected for funding, you must be able to start to implement the project within 6 months following the decision by the SAS Presidium. If you do not comply with this requirement, the SAS Presidium may still decide to not fund your project.

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR THE REJECTED PROJECTS:

It is possible to appeal against decision about classifying applications into individual categories. There must be proper grounds for making an appeal. If you wish to use an appeal procedure, any such request must be received by 3 working days since results' receipt day to the following email address: impulz@savba.sk Downloadable "appeal request form" should be used and followed. Reply will be sent out via email within 30 days.

Interim and Final Project Evaluation

The part for the implementation and project financing also includes the condition to submit an interim and final report on the solution of the project.

The interim report shall be submitted after half term of the project solution. The interim report is evaluated by the Evaluation Committee. Part of the evaluation of the interim report is also a personal presentation made by the responsible researcher with the participation of the host organization's representatives. Based on the evaluation of the interim report, the project is either approved or not for the further funding. The interim evaluation of the project also considers the acquisition of additional funds for cofinancing from sources outside the SAS and the submission of a project to obtain an ERC grant, Horizon Europe or another prestigious foreign grant with comparable funding, such as the IMPULZ project.



The final report shall be submitted at the end of the project solution. The final report is evaluated by the relevant evaluation committee and the P SAS. The evaluation of the final report also includes a personal presentation of the incoming scientist with the participation of the host organization representatives. Based on the evaluation of the final report, the P SAS will issue a decree of fulfilment / non-fulfilment of the project objectives.

When evaluating the interim and final report, only those publications are considered as project outputs in which the responsible solver states thanks exclusively to the IMPULZ Programme project and projects of prestigious grant schemes obtained during the project implementation.

The Slovak Academy of Sciences reserves the right to conduct project evaluations more frequently if deemed necessary.

ANNEX I. LIST OF SAS HOST ORGANIZATIONS DIVIDED BY SCIENTIFIC SECTIONS

1) Physical, Space, Earth, and Engineering Sciences

Earth and Space Sciences

- [Astronomical Institute](#)
- [Earth Science Institute of the SAS](#)
- [Institute of Geography](#)
- [Institute of Hydrology](#)

Mathematical and Physical Sciences

- [Centre for Advanced Materials Application SAS](#)
- [Institute of Experimental Physics](#)
- [Institute of Physics](#)
- [Mathematical Institute](#)

Engineering Sciences

- [Institute of Construction and Architecture](#)
- [Institute of Electrical Engineering SAS](#)
- [Institute of Geotechnics SAS](#)
- [Institute of Informatics](#)
- [Institute of Materials and Machine Mechanics](#)
- [Institute of Materials Research](#)
- [Institute of Measurement Science](#)
- [Centre of operations – Computing center of the SAS](#)



2) Life, Chemical, Medical, and Environmental Sciences

Medical Sciences

- [Biomedical Research Center SAS](#)
- [Centre of Experimental Medicine SAS](#)
- [Institute of Neuroimmunology](#)

Biological and Chemical Sciences

- [Centre of Biosciences SAS](#)
- [Institute of Chemistry](#)
- [Institute of Inorganic Chemistry](#)
- [Institute of Molecular Biology](#)
- [Institute of Zoology SAS](#)
- [Polymer Institute](#)

Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences

- [Institute of Forest Ecology](#)
- [Institute of Landscape Ecology](#)
- [Institute of Parasitology](#)
- [Plant Science and Biodiversity Center SAS](#)



3) Social Sciences, Humanities, Arts, and Culture

Historical Sciences

- [Institute of Archaeology](#)
- [Institute of Ethnology and Social Anthropology](#)
- [Institute of History](#)

Humanities and Social Sciences

- [Centre of Social and Psychological Sciences SAS](#)
- [Institute for Research in Social Communication SAS](#)
- [Institute for Sociology](#)
- [Institute of Economic Research](#)
- [Institute of Philosophy SAS](#)
- [Institute of Political Sciences SAS](#)
- [Institute of State and Law](#)

Arts and Culture

- [Art Research Centre of SAS](#)
- [Institute of Musicology](#)
- [Institute of Oriental Studies](#)
- [Institute of Slovak Literature](#)
- [Institute of World Literature SAS](#)
- [Jan Stanislav Institute of Slavistics SAS](#)
- [Ludovit Stur Institute of Linguistics](#)