

Information for Applicants

Austrian Science Fund (FWF) – Slovak Research and Development Agency (APVV)

2026 Call for Austrian-Slovak Joint Projects

Vienna, July 2026

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what
matters.

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1 Introduction

A cooperation between the **Austrian Science Fund / Österreichischer Wissenschaftsfonds (FWF)** and the **Slovak Research and Development Agency / Agentúra na podporu výskumu a vývoja (APVV)** gives researchers the opportunity to apply for bilateral **Austrian-Slovak** Principal Investigator Projects International. Bilateral Austrian-Slovak projects should combine the complementary expertise of the project partners, meaning that the project parts should be closely integrated and there should be relevant research input from both sides.

Funding for bilateral Austrian-Slovak projects must be secured in Austria and in Slovakia.

2 Call procedure

Project applications must be prepared and carried out jointly by the Austrian and the Slovak partners and must be submitted to both the FWF (Austrian team) and the APVV (Slovak team) in accordance with **each agency's application guidelines**. Applications submitted by only one side will not be accepted. For this reason, it is important that both project partners make sure that their counterparts submit a matching application.

Applications will be processed independently by both organizations according to their **standard evaluation and decision-making procedures**. This means that each project is evaluated on both sides, and the project may be funded only if both the FWF and the APVV approve the respective proposals.

2.1 Project duration

Principal Investigator Projects International submitted to this call may have a duration of **up to three years**.

2.2 Subject areas

The call is open to all areas of basic research.

2.3 Deadlines

The deadline for submitting joint proposals to the FWF is **October 13, 2026, at 2:00 pm (Vienna local time)**. The time at which the proposal is approved for submission by the lead research institution and submitted using the FWF's digital application portal [elane](#) is documented as the time of submission. Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be processed.

At the APVV, the deadline for submissions in this joint call is October 13, 2026, at 12:00 noon (Bratislava local time).

2.4 Eligibility

The FWF-funded part of the project and all FWF applicants must meet the eligibility criteria specified in the FWF [Application Guidelines for Principal Investigator Projects](#).

Please note that the FWF policy on the restriction on the number of ongoing projects and the submission of funding applications applies (see [here](#)).

All **Austrian research institutions** are eligible to apply. Please note: Research institutions must be [registered](#) in the FWF's research institution portal. The proposed research must be carried out in Austria under the auspices of the Austrian lead research institution. Applications are submitted by the research institution where the project is to be carried out. The research institution appoints a principal investigator to carry out the project.

For the Slovak part of the project, the APVV's eligibility requirements apply.

2.5 Cost calculation

Each agency provides funding for the costs incurred by its own country's team according to its own rules. This means that costs for the Austrian part of the project must be calculated in accordance with the [FWF Application Guidelines for Principal Investigator Projects](#).

For cost-related questions, we recommend consulting the scientific project officers in the FWF specialist departments prior to submission.

For the Slovak part of the project, the APVV's cost guidelines apply.

3 Preparing the application

To apply for a bilateral Austrian-Slovak project, parallel applications to both the APVV and the FWF are required in accordance with each organization's own guidelines.

The Austrian team must prepare their proposal in accordance with the [FWF Application Guidelines for Principal Investigator Projects](#), while Slovak applicants must comply with the APVV's guidelines. Any application requirements outlined in the respective call documents on both sides also apply.

The Austrian proposal must describe the **entire Austrian-Slovak project**, including a clear explanation of the connection between the two project parts and the resources to be deployed on each side. Austrian-Slovak project proposals submitted to the FWF must include additional information on:

- The **distribution of work** between the partners
- The **added value** of the international cooperation

A **20-page limit** applies to the project description.

In order to be considered complete, the Austrian application must include the following parts (pursuant to the FWF guidelines):

- All of the necessary **administrative and financial data and forms** as well as an **academic abstract in English**
- **Annexes 1–4**, and where applicable **Annex 5**, which must be attached to the max. 20-page **project description (proposal.pdf)**.
- **Annex 2** ("Financial Aspects") must include information on **both the Austrian and the Slovak parts of the project**.
- The **CV and publication list of the principal investigators in Austria and in Slovakia** must be included. According to the FWF guidelines (see section 2.2.3), CVs for **up to three additional key project participants** may be added.

4 Submitting the application

Joint proposals with **identical titles** must be submitted to both the FWF and the APVV in compliance with all relevant regulations before the call deadline. Please note that the FWF applicant/principal investigator who is stated in the application submitted to APVV must be identical with the person who acts as the applicant at FWF.

Applications to the FWF must be submitted online using the [elane](#) digital application portal. When submitting your application, please choose the program category “**PIN – International Programs.**” The online submission must be completed by **October 13, 2026, at 2:00 pm (Vienna local time)**.

Project funding is administered through the research institutions ([PROFI mode](#)); this means the application must be approved for submission by both the applicant and the respective research institution (= lead research institution).¹ All forms required for the application must be completed online; other required documents such as the project description incl. annexes and any additional documents must be uploaded in full before the application can be approved for submission by the research institution. For additional information, please see the [elane user manual](#).

In calls with fixed deadlines such as this one, applicants are given the opportunity to rectify any issues with their applications if they do not meet the FWF’s formal requirements. Any necessary corrections must be made within **10 days** of notification by the FWF Office. If the proposal still does not meet the FWF’s requirements after the 10-day period, the FWF Executive Board can decide to reject the proposal without further review.

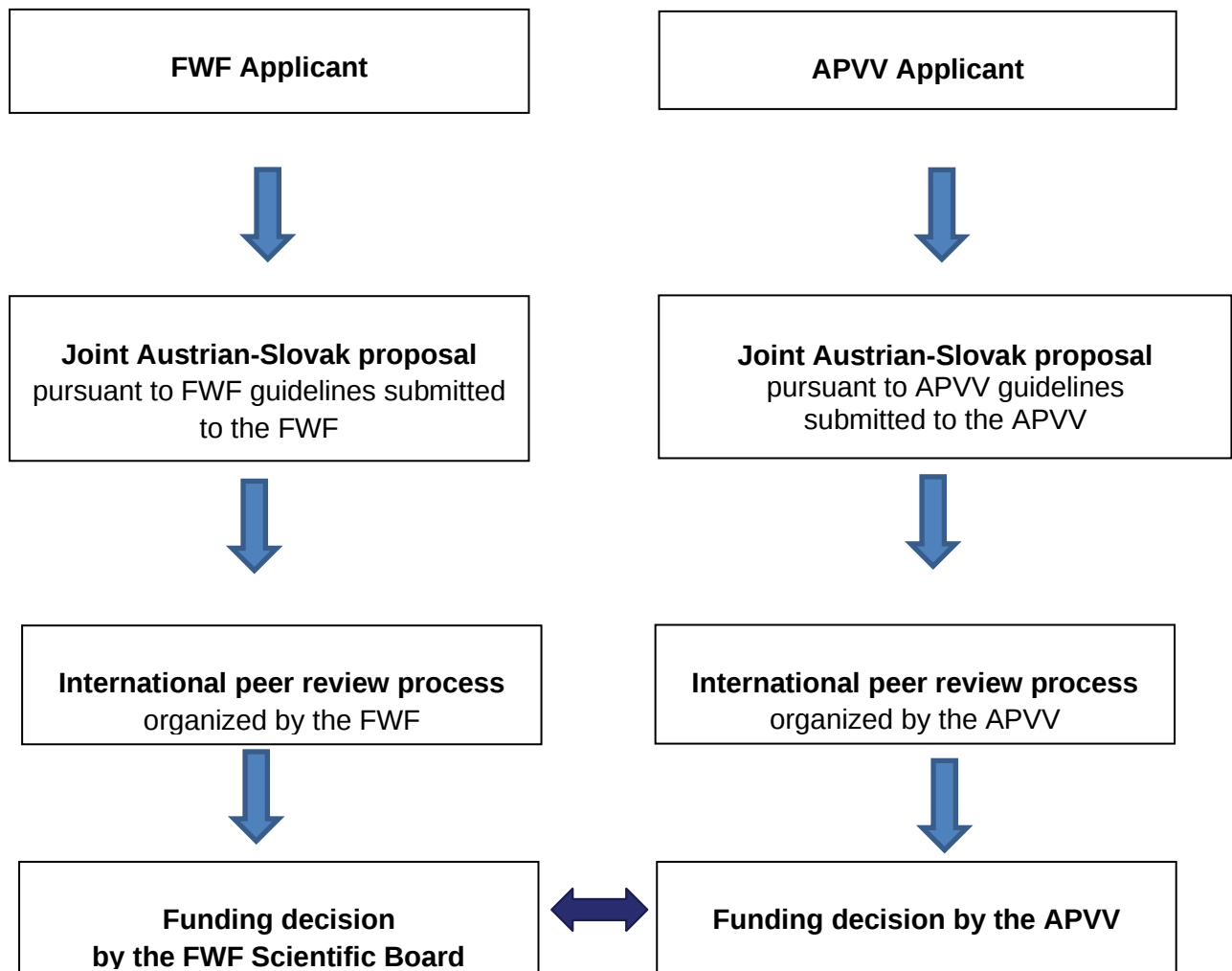
For the Slovak project part, the APVV’s guidelines apply.

5 Evaluation and funding decision

The FWF and the APVV evaluate the applications independently and make their funding decisions separately on the basis of the reviews received. At the FWF, bilateral projects (program: [Principal Investigator Projects International](#)) in cooperation with partner organizations abroad will be reviewed in competition with all other (national) proposals. A joint project can be funded only if it is approved by both funding organizations. Results are expected to be available **by May 2027**.

¹ Approval for submission by the research institution may be waived by the research institution.

6 Graphic summary



7 Contact details

Austrian Science Fund (FWF)	Slovak Research and Development Agency (APVV)
Tamara Kamberer MA Individual Funding and International Collaborations Georg-Coch-Platz 2 1010 Wien / Vienna, Austria Tel: +43 676 83487 8704 tamara.kamberer@fwf.ac.at https://www.fwf.ac.at	JUDr. Stanislav Mydlo Slovak Research and Development Agency Mýtna 23, P.O.BOX 14 810 05 Bratislava Phone: +421 908 932 340 E-mail: stanislav.mydlo@apvv.sk http://www.apvv.sk Mgr. Tímea Števková, PhD. Slovak Research and Development Agency Mýtna 23, P.O.BOX 14 810 05 Bratislava Phone: +421 2 572 04 527 E-mail: timea.stevkova@apvv.sk http://www.apvv.sk Mgr. Andrea Danková Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic Department of European and International Science Policy Division of Research and Development Černyševského 50 851 01 Bratislava Phone: +421 2 5937 4715 E-mail: andrea.dankova@minedu.sk http://www.minedu.sk