



Call for Proposals

Bilateral Research Projects

under the

Norway Grants 2009-2014

Hungarian-Norwegian Research Programme

Further information:

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<http://www.norvegalap.hu>

Table of Contents

1. Objectives of the Programme.....	3
2. Prioritised areas.....	3
3. Research topics.....	4
4. Eligible applicants	5
5. Form of partnerships, partners	5
6. Budget allocation for the call	5
7. Indicative budget and project size.....	6
8. Project implementation period	6
9. Project grant rate	6
10. Disbursement of the grant	6
11. Eligible costs	7
12. In-eligible costs.....	7
13. Eligible activities.....	8
14. Preparatory costs	8
15. Eligibility criteria.....	8
16. Selection process and criteria	10
17. Call application process and deadline.....	11
18. Complaint management.....	11
19. Relevant legal acts.....	11
20. Call documents.....	12
21. Further information	12



**The National Innovation Office, as Programme Operator
of the
Hungarian-Norwegian Research Programme
implemented under the
Norway Grants 2009-2014
announces a
Call for Proposals
for
Bilateral Research Projects**

1. Objectives of the Programme

The **overall objectives** of the Norway Grants are:

1. to contribute to the **reduction of economic and social disparities** in the European Economic Area, and
2. **to strengthen bilateral relations between Norway and Beneficiary States** through financial contributions in priority sectors, including research and scholarship

The overall objective of the “**bilateral research cooperation**” programme area is to enhance **research-based knowledge** development in Hungary through **enhanced research cooperation** between Norway and Hungary.

2. Prioritised areas

The Programme invites bilateral research project proposals in the following areas:

1. Health
2. Environment
3. Social sciences, humanities including gender related research

3. Research topics

Research topics may include, but are not restricted to the following priorities

1 Research topics under the thematic area “Health”

- 1.1 Innovative methodologies in public health and health systems research
- 1.2 Personalized medicine in non-communicable diseases
- 1.3 Computational processing, database building and mining for supporting research in personalized medicine
- 1.4 Research in healthy ageing
- 1.5 Biomedical research including nano/- and biotechnology
- 1.6 Research in healthy food production

2 Research topics under the thematic area “Environment”

- 2.1 Environmental protection oriented research of natural resources, products and services
- 2.2 Research in pollution prevention and management
- 2.3 Research in impact assessment of environmental technologies
- 2.4 Research in nature conservation and biodiversity
- 2.5 Research on the impact of forestry and agricultural technologies on environment and food safety

3 Research topics under the thematic area “Social Sciences and Humanities”

- 3.1 Demographic and social transformation
- 3.2 Economic and political development and governance issues
- 3.3 Research on social exclusion, inclusion and social integration of disadvantaged groups
- 3.4 Culture, tradition and identity
- 3.5 Knowledge based economy, societal and economic resource requirements, globalisation
- 3.6 Research into various aspects of entrepreneurial culture, primarily in Hungary and Norway
- 3.7 Ageing population, impacts of ageing on health and social systems, the economy, the role of technological development
- 3.8 Hungary’s relations with Norway, the EU and neighbouring states.

4 Research topics under gender related research

- 4.1 Research into the barriers to gender equality
- 4.2 Social and cultural construction of gender in Hungary and Norway

4. Eligible applicants

Any public or private legal entity, commercial or non-commercial, as well as non-governmental organisations are eligible applicants under the call for proposals.

For Hungarian applicants, please see Guide for Applicants for additional information.

5. Form of partnerships, partners

The cooperation must be based on **equal partnerships between Norwegian and Hungarian partners**, with the leading role of the latter. More specifically, each project must be lead by a Hungarian project promoter, and must include at least one partner from Norway.

Participants from third countries may take part in projects as partners, but are not eligible to receive funding from the Programme.

For each proposal, the project partners designate a **“Project Promoter”** (PP) which has the formal administrative responsibility for the project, and has to submit the proposal on their behalf. The Project Promoter may only be a Hungarian entity eligible according to the call.

The framework of the cooperation between Project Promoter and Project Partners shall be laid down in the **Partnership Agreement** concluded prior to the signature of the project contract, and attached to the project contract. The partnership agreement must be in English and must be submitted to the Implementing Agency before the signing of the project contract with the Programme Operator. The Implementing Agency verifies if the agreement complies with art 6.8 of the Regulation.

6. Budget allocation for the call

The total budget allocation for the Call is **EUR 21 773 082**, which will be devoted for the co-financing of projects within the three thematic areas listed above in the second point of this announcement.

In addition to the allocation above, **EUR 200.000** is provided from the “Fund for bilateral relations” to support preparation of partnership projects as described in Chapter 14.¹

¹ The availability of these funds is contingent upon the signature of the Programme Agreement agreed between the Norwegian Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the National Focal Point. The Programme Operator does not take any responsibility and does not make a commitment for making available the funds, in case for any reason the conclusion of the above Agreement would fail. Once the Programme Agreement is signed, the Programme Operator will release this waiver of responsibility.

7. Indicative budget and project size

Thematic priority areas	Indicative budget	Project grant amount
Health	8.329.233 €	Minimum: 1 M €
Environment	8.329.233 €	Maximum: 3 M €
Social sciences and humanities (SSH), including gender related research	Minimum 5,114,616 €, which represents 20% of the total budget of the research programme, This amount includes 1 M € for gender related research	Minimum: 170.000 € Maximum: 1 M €

8. Project implementation period

The duration of the projects shall not exceed 30 months.

The first date of the eligibility of costs is the date on which the Programme Operator decides to award the project grant.

The final date of the eligibility of costs shall be 30 April 2017.

9. Project grant rate

Grants from the programme may be up to 100% of total eligible project costs and shall be set at a level that complies with the State Aid rules in force at the time of the funding decision and takes into account any and all other forms of public support granted to projects and/or the Project Promoter or partner, where relevant, except in cases where the project promoter is a NGO, as defined in Article 1.5.1(m) of the Regulation, where the grant from the programme will not exceed 90% of total eligible project costs.

Any remaining part of the project's eligible costs that are not covered by the requested grant shall be provided by the Project Promoter or Project Partner(s) as own contribution.

Own contribution-in-kind in the form of labour shall be accepted to certify own resources.

10. Disbursement of the grant

Payments towards the Project Promoter will be in the form of advance payments, interim payments and a final payment in the form of a reimbursement of incurred expenditure.

The advance payment shall be calculated on the basis of the budget requested by the Project Promoter in the application form.

Payments will be transferred directly to the account of the project promoter or, in case of an assignment, to the account of the assignee (e.g. the project partner). If no assignment is made, the Project Promoter should ensure that all appropriate payments to the project partners are made without delay, no later than 15 days after the receipt of the payment from the National Focal Point.

Payments to projects are made on the basis of approved interim or final reports.

The advance payment and interim payments shall in principle consist of up to 135% of the proposed expenditure for the following reporting period, less a withholding of 15%. Interim payments shall be calculated on the basis of up to 135% of the proposed expenditure for the following reporting period, less a withholding of 15%, and will be offset with the balance of previous advance and/or interim payments and the actual expenditures.

The total of the advance and interim payments shall at no time exceed 85% of the total grant for the project. The amount withheld will be disbursed to the Project Promoters upon the full completion of the project and the approval of final reports.

11. Eligible costs

A detailed description of the categories of costs and conditions applying to this topic can be found in the “Guide for Applicants – Call for Bilateral Research Projects”.

The eligibility of costs is determined by reference to Chapter 7 of the Regulation, and in particular, Annex 12. The rules on eligibility of costs shall apply equally and without limitation to both Project Promoters and project partners.

a) Direct cost:

- Personnel costs
- Travel costs
- Equipment
- Consumables and supplies
- Other costs

b) Indirect cost (overheads) shall be eligible in line with the Regulation and in particular, article 5.4 Annex 12 thereto.

The first and final dates of eligibility of each project will be stated in the project contract for that project.

Expenditures incurred after 30 April 2017 shall not be eligible.

12. In-eligible costs

The following cost categories will not be eligible for support under this programme:

- interest on debt, debt service charges and late payment charges;
- charges for financial transactions and other purely financial costs, except costs related to accounts required by the NMFA, the National Focal Point or the applicable law and costs of financial services imposed by the project contract;
- provisions for losses or potential future liabilities;
- exchange losses, except losses covered by a provision explicitly approved by the NMFA for each programme;
- recoverable VAT;
- costs that are covered by other sources;
- fines, penalties and costs of litigation; and
- excessive or reckless expenditure,
- purchase of land and real estate

13. Eligible activities

Fundamental research, industrial research, and experimental development will be eligible for financing in all thematic areas.

Further details on eligible activities are available in the “Guide for Applicants – Call for Bilateral Research Projects”.

14. Preparatory costs

Project promoters may apply for the reimbursement of costs incurred while applying for a project to be funded under the call for proposals

EUR 200 000 is allocated to such activities that will be covered by the funds for bilateral relations within the Research Programme.

Preparatory costs include:

- Costs related to the search for partners for donor partnership projects prior to or during the preparation of a project application,
- The development of such partnerships and the preparation of an application for a donor partnership project proposal.

In the case of project promoters, up to EUR 15 000 will be reimbursed in the case of proposals recommended for financing as well as proposals not recommended for financing but that reach a certain threshold set by the Programme Committee.

In the case of project partners, up to EUR 7 500 will be reimbursed in the case of proposals recommended for financing as well as proposals not recommended for financing but that reach a certain threshold set by the Programme Committee.

The total maximum eligible costs for any single grant application may not exceed 22 500 EUR.

The financial resources earmarked for the above-mentioned costs will be accounted for and reported on separately from those for project financing.

15. Eligibility criteria

A proposal will only be considered eligible if it meets all of the following conditions:

- It is received through the on-line submission system before the deadline given in the call text.
- It involves at least the minimum number of participants given in the call text.
- The Project Promoter is an eligible applicant and has its seat in Hungary
- All project partners are eligible applicants, and project partners applying for funding have their seat in Hungary or Norway
- It is complete (i.e. the requested administrative forms, documents and the proposal description are present)
- The application forms and the proposal description are written in English (except where otherwise indicated)

- The content of the proposal relates to the prioritised areas and funding scheme
- The requested grant amount corresponds to the minimum and/or maximum amount of funding that can be awarded according to the Call for Proposals

After submission, the Implementing Agency shall verify compliance with the eligibility criteria of the application. If an application does not comply with the eligibility criteria, the Implementing Agency shall make a decision to reject the application

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16. Selection process and criteria

Selection process

The selection procedures for all projects to be funded under the call for proposals shall be in accordance with Annex 12 to the Regulation. A one-stage submission procedure will be followed.

Selection criteria

Criteria	Description	Thresholds / Points (x weight)
1. Relevance in relation to the objectives and prioritised areas of the Programme (chapter 2 – Prioritised areas)		YES
2. Scientific and/or technical excellence	2.1 Innovativeness of the idea	3,5 (out of 5)
	2.2 Appropriateness of the approach	x 3
3. Quality and efficiency of the implementation and management	3.1 Competence and expertise of the applicant team	3,0 (out of 5)
	3.2 Feasibility and efficiency of the project plan	x 1
4. Potential impact of the project	4.1 Contribution to capacity and competence building	3,5 (out of 5) x 1
	4.2 Intended short-term outcomes	
	4.3 Intended long-term outcomes	

A project proposal must reach an overall threshold of 17/25 to be considered for funding and be ranked.

17. Call application process and deadline

Applications may only be submitted through the on-line submission system accessible through the official call information page on <https://nora.norvegalap.hu>.

Applications may not be submitted on paper.

Call opening: to be confirmed

Deadline for submission of proposals is **to be confirmed**

Official call information is published on: <http://www.norvegalap.hu>

18. Complaint management

On the basis of Chapter 17 of Government Decree 326/2012 (XI.16.) on the Implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009---2014 the Applicant may submit a reasoned complaint not later than 5 working days after receipt of the decision rejecting its application for reasons of non-eligibility or non-compliance with formal requirements, provided that a violation of law or the provisions of the Call for Proposals has occurred.

Complaints may be sent to the Implementing Agency at the following address:

International Development and Fund Coordination Agency Co.,
1037 Budapest Montevideo u. 16/A

If the decision to reject the application was made by the Implementing Agency, the Programme Operator shall make the decision with regard to the complaint, in all other cases it shall fall under the competence of the National Focal Point.

19. Relevant legal acts

- Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009 – 2014 between the Kingdom of Norway and the Republic of Hungary
- Regulation on the implementation of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009 – 2014,
- in particular, Annex 12 of the Regulation, on Rules for the establishment and implementation of donor partnership programmes falling under the Programme Areas “Research within priority sectors” and “Bilateral Research Cooperation”
- further guidelines published by the donor in line with the regulations (www.eeagrants.org);
- Government Decree 326/2012. (XII.31.) on the Implementation of the European Economic Area (EEA) Financial Mechanism 2009---2014 and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009 – 2014;
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 800/2008 of 6 August 2008 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the common market in application of Articles 87 and 88 of the Treaty (General block exemption Regulation);
- Government Decree 37/2011 (III.22.) on the Procedure regarding State Aid within the meaning of European Union Competition Law and the Regional Aid Maps;
- Act CVIII of 2011 on Public Procurement;
- Act CXCV of 2011 on Public Finances;
- Government Decree 368/2011. (XII. 31.) on the implementation of Act on Public Finances

20. Call documents

- Annex 1 – Project Proposal Administrative Form
- Annex 2 – Project Proposal Description Template
- Guide for Applicants – Call for Bilateral Research Projects
- Guidelines for Evaluators

21. Further information

Questions regarding the call may be addressed to the International Development and Fund Coordination Agency Co., telefon: +36-1-999 44 00, email: info@norvegalap.hu

Questions will be answered within 8 days of their receipt.

Replies shall be given within 8 days. We would like to inform Applicants that we only guarantee to reply to questions asked at least 10 days prior to the submission deadline.

Norwegian partners may contact the Research Council of Norway. Aleksandra W. Haugstad, awh@rcn.no.