

**MINISTRY OF SCIENCE,
EDUCATION AND
YOUTH OF THE
REPUBLIC OF CROATIA**

**MINISTRY OF SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY OF
THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

CROATIA-CHINA SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION

Call for Project Proposals for R&D projects 2027 - 2029

Within the framework of the Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of the People's Republic of China, concluded on June 11th 1994, Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China on joint funding of research and development projects, signed on April 10th 2019 and Protocol of the 11th Session of the Croatia-China Scientific and Technological Cooperation Committee, signed on May 23rd 2025, the governments of the two states provide financial support for joint R&D projects carried out by Croatian and Chinese scientists.

Croatian-Chinese research teams are hereby invited to submit joint proposals in following priority fields:

- **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**
- **Green Transformation**
- **Digital Economy**
- **Life Sciences**

A. MODE OF COOPERATION

Cooperation should take the form of:

- organization of scientific events (forums, symposia, and project fairs, etc.);
- joint research activities where interdependent subprojects of a single program are conducted in the Croatian and the Chinese laboratories;
- joint usage of facilities in scientific institutions and R&D centers in both countries;
- the exchange of scientific and technological information and personnel;
- joint training;
- joint founding of research centers, labs, joint ventures, etc.

Other requirements:

During the project implementation period, the Croatian and Chinese project implementing partners must complete at least 2 co-authored papers.

B. LEVEL OF FUNDING AND PROJECT DURATION

Support will be given to up to **5** joint projects.

The highest total amount approved per project from the Croatian side is **180.000 EUR** for the entire project duration (two years), and the condition for the allocation of financial resources for the second year of project implementation is the submission of a scientific and financial report on the activities carried out and funds spent for the intended purpose within the project in the first year of implementation.

C. ELIGIBILITY

1. Proposals must involve a Principal Investigator from each country.
2. The Principal Investigator on each side must be affiliated to an academic institution or research institute. Researchers from industry may take part in the program as partners in teams headed by Principal Investigators from an academic institution or research institute.
3. The Principal Investigator and the affiliated Research Authorities are expected to take responsibility for the execution of the research work throughout the duration of the project.

Special Eligibility Provisions for Croatian Researchers:

Applicants who are already engaged in an ongoing project with China during the same period are not eligible to apply. This provision is intended to ensure equitable access to funding opportunities and to avoid overlapping commitments that may impact the successful implementation of proposed projects.

D. MUTUAL VISITS

Participating scientists are encouraged to spend an extended period visiting their counterpart's institutions. So long as the visits are an integral part of research collaboration, international travel and in-country living expenses of visiting scientists will be borne by the funding agencies. International travel costs as well as in-country living expenses should be included in the budget of the visiting side. The visits must take place in Croatia or China only, while visits to third countries are not to be integrated in the budget of the project.

The total duration of visits in one direction, which will be funded, is not more than one month a year.

Teams from each side must exchange visits at least 4 times, with each team having at least 2 visits.

E. EVALUATION CRITERIA & PROCEDURES

Proposals will be evaluated by a joint Croatian-Chinese scientific committee. Evaluation will be based on:

- a) Scientific merit;
- b) Extent of genuine collaboration between the Croatian and Chinese research teams.

F. CONTRACTS, PAYMENTS AND REPORTS

1. The expected starting date for approved projects is **January 2027**.
2. **Contracts**
Upon approval of a particular project, separate contracts will be signed between the Ministry and the institution of the Principal Investigator. The contracts will include provisions regarding intellectual property rights, as agreed upon by the Croatian and Chinese research teams. A request for the continuation of research funding must be submitted to the Ministry on the appropriate forms at least two months prior to the end of the first year of the project, together with the annual scientific report.
3. While projects are, in principle, to be authorized for a period of two years, **the research contract relates to the first year only. The Ministry reserves the right not to fund a second year of work for scientific-professional, administrative or budgetary reasons.**
4. **Payments**
Payments will be made in keeping with the provisions of the contracts mentioned above, according to the practices and regulations in effect in each country.
5. **Reports**
 - a) **Financial Reports**
Financial reports will be submitted according to the practice of each country, as specified in the research contract.
 - b) **Scientific Reports**
A joint scientific report must be submitted to the Ministry two months prior to the end of the first year of the research contract, together with the request for continuation of research funding (see Paragraph F[2] above).

A joint final report covering the work carried out during the entire two-year project period must be submitted within two months of the conclusion of the project. Additional interim progress reports may be required, according to the practices and regulations of each country, as specified in the research contracts.

Project proposals (the application forms and accompanying material) should be submitted in English, exclusively in electronic form to the address: pisarnica@mzom.hr, by June 18, 2026.

G. INFORMATION

Additional information can be obtained by phone: +385 1 4594 452 or by e-mail: medjunarodna@mzom.hr

Contact in China:

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