

**MINISTRY OF SCIENCE
AND EDUCATION 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
2022 - 2024**

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 11 June 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 10 April 2019 and Protocol of the 9th Session of the Croatia-China Scientific and Technological Cooperation Committee, signed on 28 October 2019, 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 categories:

- **public health**
- **epidemic prevention**

A. MODE OF COOPERATION

Cooperation may 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.

B. LEVEL OF FUNDING AND PROJECT DURATION

Support will be given to up to **2** joint projects. The maximum total amount approved for the project on the Croatian side is **200,000 USD** for the entire duration of the project (two years).

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.

D. MUTUAL VISITS

Participating scientists are encouraged to spend an extended period of time 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.

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 2022**.
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.

Proposals (the application forms and accompanying material) should be submitted in English by email to silvana.siebert@mzo.hr, and a printed copy **by 28th of May 2021** to the following address:

**Ministry of Science and Education
Independent Sector for Coordination of European Affairs and International Cooperation
Donje Svetice 38
10 000 Zagreb
Croatia**

G. INFORMATION

Additional information can be obtained by email: silvana.siebert@mzo.hr

Contact in China:

Mr. XIN Bingqing, phone: +86 010 68598010, email: zfj@cstec.org.cn