

The Norwegian Financial Mechanism and the Hungarian Scientific Research Fund open a joint call for proposals entitled ‘The Furtherance of Internationally Acknowledged Young Researchers’ Career’

Purpose of the Call

The purpose of the call is to support basic research of exceptional promise by young researchers of international recognition, particularly young researchers relocating to Hungary.

Source and Amount of Financing

The call is announced once; its full amount is HUF 638.781.275, 85% is financed from the funds of the Norway Grants, and 15% is financed from the budget of the Hungarian Scientific Research Fund (OTKA). The form of support: grant, own contribution not necessary as OTKA has provided an additional HUF 70.975.697 for this purpose. The minimum amount available for a project is HUF 7.638.889; the maximum amount is HUF 30.555.556. Maximum duration of projects is 24 months. The projects should be completed and the final reports submitted by March 31, 2011 at the latest. The OTKA Committee intends to finance an additional year from its own budget for those projects which have achieved excellent results.

Eligible Activities

In the frame of the call, basic scientific research will be supported in full-time employment in the scientific fields of protection of the environment, promotion of sustainable development, conservation of European cultural heritage, human resource development, and health and childcare.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are scientific researchers under the age of 40 at the beginning of their career. Applicants must have a PhD degree followed by 2-10 years of research experience, with excellent scientific track record. Applicants must have good qualifications, preferably with international recognition or experience. Preference will be given to those applicants who cooperate with a European partner institution, and to those proposals that aim at the returning of Hungarian researchers working abroad. Eligible applicants are individual scientists but the applicants must be connected to a university or other research institution. A support contract will be entered into with the applicant as well as the research institution providing the research conditions. The research institution is also responsible for the implementation of the project.

Eligible Costs

Costs are eligible if they are justified, necessary and appropriate, and directly related to the project’s long term effects and planned results. Eligible costs are personnel costs (including the salary of the principal researcher, employment, per-diem, administration cost), indirect personnel costs (taxes, social security), conference and travel costs, consumables, overhead, investment (smaller equipment). Overhead costs can be maximum 10 percent of the total amount of the project costs.

Selection Criteria

The applications will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

- Performance of the applicant to date
- Nature of the basic research theme, its scientific importance, and the compliance of its estimated results with the proposed activities, and including the relevance of the eligible activities
- Relevance of the budget of the project as compared to the proposed activities

- Relevance of budget items

Applicants who co-operate with a European partner research institute will be preferred. Projects which imply the return to Hungary of Hungarian researchers operating abroad will also be preferred.

Possibility of Review of Decision

Applicants rejected for administrative reasons or for not complying with eligibility requirements can request the Hungarian Scientific Research Fund to review its decision. Applicants should submit their requests upon 10 days of receipt of the notification of rejection, along with a justification for the revision of the decision.

Monitoring and Reports on Research

The researchers shall submit reports every 6 months and a completion report. The 6-month reports shall include information on progress and payments made. The completion report shall include documentation on activities and payments and show that the project has been completed according to the conditions on which the grant was awarded.

First Date of Eligibility

Costs in projects become eligible at the date of the signing of the grant contract between the Hungarian Scientific Research Fund and the researcher.

Advance Payments and Disbursements

Project applications may qualify for an advance payment of up to 40 percent of the total grant which shall be paid upon the signing of the contract between the Hungarian Scientific Research Fund and the researcher. 40 percent shall be paid as installments in equal shares of the scheduled implementation, after submission of the 6-month reports. At least 20 percent of the grant shall be withheld until the completion report has been approved by the Hungarian Scientific Research Fund.

Publicity

The decisions on the awarding of grants to researchers will be published on the OTKA website (www.otka.hu) and in the newsletter of the Hungarian Scientific Research Fund. The Committee of the Hungarian Scientific Research Fund will issue a publication of the summaries of final reports of the completed projects in the Hungarian and the English languages and will also publish a summary of the evaluation of the final reports in its newsletter.

The researchers shall, when appropriate, publicize the fact that the implementation of the project has been supported from the Norway Grants. The beneficiaries must indicate that resources have been contributed to the recipient from the Norwegian Financial Mechanism in all published research results, institutional publications, and various advertising boards.

Submission of Proposals

The proposals should be submitted in English through the electronic proposal submission system of the Hungarian Scientific Research Fund, available at: www.otka.hu. The deadline of submission of the electronic version of the proposal and its electronic approval by the host institution is **October 15, 12 midnight 2008**. One copy of the printed version (along with the appendices indicated in the instructions and signed in the original) – separate from any other material – should be sent as registered mail with a post stamp not later than **October 25, 2008** to the Hungarian Scientific Research Fund Office. Please indicate the type of proposal on the mail: ‘**Norwegian NNF**’. Mailing address: OTKA Office 1476 Budapest 100 PO Box 289. Please keep the receipt of the registered mail. Proposals without electronic submission or mailed and submitted after the deadline will not be evaluated. The expected date of decision is the end of 2008 or the beginning of 2009. Projects must be completed by March 31, 2011 at the latest.

Information

All relevant documents are available at the following websites: www.otka.hu (http://www.otka.hu/index.php?akt_menu=3531) and <http://www.eeagrants.org>. Further information from the OTKA Office: phone: 36-1-219-8700 or e-mail: norvegpalyazat@otka.hu.