

R&D and Innovation Ecosystem of Turkey

Your next destination for excelling in R&D and innovation

The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) offers research entities in Turkey a rich variety of over 50 grant-based support mechanisms, which are differentiated based on the different needs of researchers in the private and public sectors, entrepreneurs, and scholars. These support mechanisms are designed to augment the thriving R&D, innovation, and entrepreneurship ecosystem in the country, which can be your "home away from home" for excelling the R&D based innovative endeavors of your company.

The R&D, innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem of Turkey is currently working to meet three key targets for the year 2023. These targets are to raise gross expenditure on

R&D (GERD) to 3% of GDP and the number of researchers to 300 thousand full-time equivalent (FTE) researchers. The private sector is expected to hold the leading role in satisfying these targets – the private sector will contribute to these targets by raising its GERD to 2% of GDP and number of researchers to 180 FTE thousand researchers.

The dynamism of the R&D and innovation ecosystem keeps the Turkish ecosystem as a hotspot of bright and flourishing ideas and promising technologies. The R&D centers of the private sector are accelerating at an unprecedented rate and are excelling based on the synergy between generous grant programs and R&D tax deduction schemes for undertaking leading edge R&D projects.

As TUBITAK, we know the merit of supporting the bright research projects and technologies of tomorrow from today and the importance of standing by the side of researchers in

the public and private sectors to ease the challenges of scientific discovery and technological innovation. This is the reason that we offer innovative grant programs in our portfolio of solutions, all with an outlook to facilitate a flourishing ecosystem. Explore the value chain of the grant opportunities in the following pages and make a rewarding move for your organization.

1515 Frontier R&D Laboratory Support Program: This innovative support program is designed especially to facilitate top performing, leading R&D intense companies to establish and/or expand their R&D laboratories in Turkey, primarily in areas of priority. The merit of being an R&D intense firm is determined based on R&D intensity and net sales averaged over the last 3 years. Companies should have a 3-year average R&D intensity of at least 1% and net sales over 2 billion TRY. The 1515 Program offers an entirely grant-based financial model to cover up to 75% of the operating expenses of the R&D laboratory in Turkey with up to 10 million TRY for each calendar year for duration of at most 10 years. The coverage of the grant support consists of personnel costs, general operating costs, and consultancy fees. For eligibility to have personnel costs covered in the total grant amount, at least 50% of the personnel must hold Turkish citizenship and at least 1/3 should have a doctoral degree. Prior to the grant support, TUBITAK can further provide pre-application support to familiarize the company with the R&D capacities in the ecosystem of Turkey for a better integration of the company with the ecosystem.

R&D Projects in Priority Areas

1511 R&D Projects in Priority Areas Grant Program: In this program numerous calls are launched in topics that are related to priority areas, which are ICT, automotive, machinery and manufacturing, energy, health, water, food, defense, and space. The grant program differentiates from other call-based grant programs through its target audience, which is primarily the private sector, either as a single company or a consortium of more than one company. Eligible projects may develop products and technologies in topics that relate to the calls of the priority areas.

1003 Support Program for R&D Projects in Priority Areas: The 1003 Program is directed to support result oriented R&D projects that address the call topics launched under the priority areas. In contrast to the 1511 Program targeting the industry, in 1003 Program, the primary target groups are the universities and research institutes. Interdisciplinary projects with multilateral partnerships are encouraged.

International Mobility of Researchers

2221 Fellowships for Visiting Scientists and Scientists on Sabbatical Leave: The 2221 Program grants visiting scientists and researchers who would

like to come to Turkey as fellows in the fields of natural sciences, engineering and technological sciences, medical sciences, agricultural sciences, social sciences and humanities. Prospective fellows can receive support for three types of visits. These are fellowships for short-term visits (up to 1 month), long term visits (up to 12 months), and sabbatical leave. Visiting scientists and scholars may undertake fellowships to conduct R&D activities in Turkey, organize workshops/conferences/seminars, and teach academic courses. Scholars may come to any Turkish university and R&D institution, including those in the private sector, for Sabbatical Leave.

2236 Co-Funded Brain Circulation Scheme: The Co-Circulation Scheme aims at increasing and facilitating the international mobility of scientists. The scheme offers incoming mobility of experienced researchers for both research and employment opportunities in academic or industrial institutions that are established in Turkey.

2216 Research Fellowship Program for International Researchers: Under the 2216 Program, highly qualified PhD students and young post-doctoral researchers may be awarded with a fellowship to pursue their research studies in Turkey. Eligible fields are natural sciences, engineering and technological sciences, medical sciences, agricultural sciences, social sciences and humanities. Candidates who demonstrate the potential to contribute significantly to Turkey's

goal of international cooperation in scientific and technological development will receive priority in the program.

Intellectual Property Rights

1602 Patent Grant Program: The 1602 Program aims to increase the number of national and international patents from applicants based in Turkey. The 1602 Program promotes applicants to make patent applications and to increase registration for intellectual property rights. Applicants may apply to the Turkish Patent Institute (TPE), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), European Patent Office (EPO), Japan Patent Office (JPO), United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). The program offers financial support for application and search report fees as well as an award for the grant of a patent or triadic patent (EPO, USPTO, JPO).

Basic Research

1001 Scientific and Technological Research Projects Grant Program: As one of the fundamental grant programs of TUBITAK, the 1001 Program is designed to support research for generating new knowledge, making scientific interpretations, and/or solving significant technological problems. In addition, projects that require advanced scientific foundations for technological applications are



R&D Projects in Priority Areas 1511 and 1003 Programs
International Mobility of Researchers 2221, 2236, 2216 Programs
Intellectual Property Rights 1602 Program
Basic Research 1001 Program
R&D Projects for Technology Development 1507, 1505 and 1501 Programs
International R&D Projects 1509 Program

Figure 1. Package of Grant Programs Relevant to the 1515 Program

eligible to apply. The target audience is universities, research institutes, and private corporations with scientific discovery oriented basic research projects.

R&D Projects for Technology Development

1507 SME R&D and Innovation Grant Program: This grant program provides 75% of eligible project expenses up to 500,000 TRY for the R&D and Innovation projects of SMEs. It may further apply to the emergence of any frontier R&D lab based spin-offs into SMEs in further stages. The Program aims to support SMEs in becoming more competitive, active in developing innovative technologies, and capable of running systematic projects to develop high quality products in the national and international arena.

1505 University - Industry Collaboration Grant Program: The 1505 Program is another grant program that contributes to the value chain of programs that are designed to take ideas to the market. In this scheme, TUBITAK provides grants for entities that are located in Turkey and undertake product development activities to transfer knowledge and technology from research centers at universities and/or public research institutes to the private sector. The research entity must commit to implement the project results in Turkey. An implementing institution can apply with a customer institution.

1501 Industrial R&D Projects Grant Program: Curiosity and/or need-driven industrial R&D projects based on topics of the private sector's own choosing are instrumental for technological progress and creativity. The 1501 Program is a general bottom-up program which aims to fund national R&D projects offered by the private sector located in Turkey. The program supports projects aiming to produce new products, to raise the quality and standard of products, to develop new cost reducing techniques, and to develop new production technology. There is no limit for the project budget in the 1501 Program.

International R&D Projects

1509 International Industrial R&D Projects Grant Program: This grant program is designed to provide support to private sector in Turkey for their internationalization process to actively participate in research projects in EUREKA, ERA-Net, Horizon 2020, and other similar programs. The objective of the program is to create market focused international R&D projects and to increase cooperation with firms, universities, and research institutions in other countries. Under this program, companies must submit R&D projects with international collaborative to one of the above programs, which may further include Eurostars Programme and Joint Technology Initiatives.



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THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF TURKEY