



1st Joint Call for Proposals of TÜBİTAK - NARD Bilateral Cooperation Projects

1. Preamble

This announcement set out the rules for the submission, selection and implementation of bilateral cooperation Projects financed under the 1st Joint Call for Proposals of TÜBİTAK – NARD.

TÜBİTAK - The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey, is the leading agency for management, funding and conduct of research in Turkey. It was established in 1963 with a mission to advance science and technology, conduct research and support Turkish researchers. The Council is an affiliated institution for Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology and is governed by a Scientific Board whose members is selected from prominent scholars from universities, industry and research institutions.

TÜBİTAK is responsible for promoting, developing, organizing, conducting and coordinating research and development in line with national targets and priorities. In addition, TÜBİTAK carries out and monitors international scientific and technological collaboration activities with the rest of the world through Directorate for International Cooperation.

NARD - National Agency for Research and Development is a central administrative authority under the Government of Republic of Moldova that was established through the Decision no.196 from 28.02.2018.

NARD is responsible for implementation of the European Research Area priorities in the Republic of Moldova, by developing bilateral and multilateral cooperation activities through JPIs, ERA-Nets, COFUND, etc., supporting researcher's mobility, promoting Smart Specialization principles, Open Science opportunities and others. Among the key activities of the Agency, there are: Implementation of the state policy in research, innovation and development; Management of national development funds and funds from bilateral and multilateral programmes launched under cooperation agreements with international organizations and foundations; Facilitation of partnerships between organizations in the sphere of research & innovation and public or private companies.

Website: <http://ancd.gov.md/>

2. The objectives of the Call

The objectives of the call are:

1. To encourage international collaboration between research entities, universities, and research institutes (include private sector entities from Turkish side);

2. To facilitate the access to new research environments, facilities, knowledge and expertise;
3. To enhance the quality of research and enable the translation of research and innovation into economic and societal benefits, considering sustainable development.

2.1 Call Topics

1. Engineering and Technology;
2. Medicine and health;
3. Agriculture;
4. Environment;

2.2. Joint research and development projects

1. Joint research and development projects, including exchange of scientific and technical research results, information and documentations arising from the bilateral scientific and technological cooperation, are foreseen to be applied to this Call.

2. Project proposals have to provide detailed information on the objectives and justification of the planned joint research work, the methodology to be followed, the composition of each research team, the intended time schedule, the estimated results and dissemination strategy.

3. The results should be focused on innovative insights, exploitable research results and the creation of foundations for a well-founded and sustainable partnership between Moldova and Turkey, as well as to the call's objectives.

2.3. Funding Available

1. As a rule, Turkish partners that are eligible for funding can receive up to 720 000 Turkish Liras (\approx 110 000 EURO) (excl. overhead and Project Incentive Premium (PIP) approximately) of funding in total per project. The Moldovan partners that are eligible for funding can receive up to 800 000 MDL (\approx 40 000 EURO) of funding in total per project. The funding will be provided simultaneously by TÜBİTAK and NARD in the form of non-repayable project grants.

2. For the Turkish side – funded costs of each grant will be issued and managed by TÜBİTAK in accordance with its funding guidelines and procedures.

3. For the Moldovan side – funded costs of each grant will be issued and managed by NARD according to its funding guidelines and procedures.

4. Co-financing is not mandatory, but is foreseen as an advantage.

5. The total duration of international visits for TÜBİTAK and NARD should not exceed two months (60 days) per year for the each supported joint research project.

6. Please liaise closely with prospective partners to ensure that both TÜBİTAK and NARD - supported elements of the proposal abide by all regulations for both funders.

2.4. Duration of the Projects and reporting

1. The duration of the projects will be up to **24 months**. The projects will be monitored for its content and progress by both NARD and TÜBİTAK through progress/final and financial reports according to funding contracts provisions.

2. During the implementation period of the projects, the continuation of funding will be decided on the basis of intermediate evaluations with reference to the results proposed in the application form and funding contracts.

3. Within two months after completion of the project, a final report, presenting the work carried out and the results obtained, will be prepared in English language jointly by the two research teams and submitted to TUBITAK and NARD.

3. Call Schedule, Eligibility and Submission

The 1st Joint Call will be **opened from 19 February 2020 to 15 May 2020** for online submission. Turkish and Moldovan applicants will elaborate a joint project proposals, which will be submitted by the Turkish partners only via TÜBİTAK's online system reachable from <http://uidb-pbs.tubitak.gov.tr/>.

Applicants and partners can participate in more than one project proposal.

3.1. Eligibility

It is a prerequisite that projects include the participation of one research entity or university or research institute from Moldova (eligible to NARD) and research entity, university, research institute or private sector's representative from Turkey (eligible to TÜBİTAK).

TÜBİTAK and NARD will cover the costs of their respective country's participants. All Turkish researchers who apply for this Programme should be registered to TÜBİTAK ARBİS (Researcher Information system) through the following link: <http://arbis.tubitak.gov.tr>. Further information relevant to national applicants/regulations:

https://www.tubitak.gov.tr/sites/default/files/3125/1071_arastirma_projeleri_surec_dokumani.pdf

Moldovan partners will have to submit supporting documents signed in electronic and the paper version in Moldova.

3.2. Proposal Submission

For the Turkish side

The Turkish applicants are expected to submit the online application and supported documents published by TUBITAK through UIDB-PBS system by **15 May 2020 (till 17:30)** and sign with e-signatures by **22 May 2020 (till 17:30)**, otherwise they will be rejected from evaluation and could not apply to this call in the same call period.

For the Moldovan side

The Moldovan applicants are expected to submit to NARD the supported documents published by NARD by 15 May 2020.

Note: The applicants may submit their applications throughout the entire period of the call

for proposals, up until the afore-mentioned deadline.

The online system will not allow submission of any Application after the deadline.

Project proposals will be prepared in English.

3.3. Dissemination of resulting information:

1. Scientific and technological results and any other information derived from the co-operation activities under this Call, will be shared, announced, published or commercially exploited with the written consent of both cooperating partners and according to the international agreements concerning intellectual property rights to which states of the both Parties are signatories.

2. An agreement about ownership of intellectual property rights has to be signed between cooperating partners before execution of a joint research and development project. The said agreement shall be concluded in compliance with national legal framework of the Parties.

4. The Evaluation Procedure

Projects that are submitted online without the supporting documents and original or e-signature(s) will not be evaluated and thus will be not considered for funding. Only projects eligible for both sides, TÜBİTAK and NARD, will be evaluated.

4.1. Evaluation Method

1. The proposals that are found eligible, will be reviewed by external reviewers selected according internal procedures by TÜBİTAK and NARD, and only those proposals which are approved by both Parties will be supported.

2. The projects to be recommended for funding will be selected by a Joint Committee (TÜBİTAK-NARD) composed of equal number of office representatives from both Parties.

On Moldovan side, the final decision about financing of recommended project proposals is made by NARD and on Turkish side by TUBITAK.

3. Any dispute related to the interpretation or implementation of this Call shall be settled through consultations within the Joint Committee.

4.2. Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation and selection process starts after the deadline of the call for proposal. The project proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Scientific and Technological Excellence
- Methodology
- Project Management
- Importance of International Collaboration
- Impact

4.3. Indicative timeline for the submission of the applications

One Stage Joint Call

ACTION	DATE
Publication of the Joint Call for proposals	19 February 2020
Deadline for submitting the applications	15 May 2020 (17:30)
Deadline for applying the e-signature (for Turkish Applicants)	22 May 2020 (17:30)
Publication of eligibility verification results	6 July 2020
Relaying the project proposals to evaluation	17 August 2020
Publication of the evaluation results	20 August 2020
Joint Committee Meeting (Recommendation for funding)	End of August 2020
Final approval of results by the funding authorities NARD and TUBITAK	September 2020
Feedback sent to applicants	September 2020
Launch of the approved projects	October 2020

5. Contacts

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