



TÜBİTAK-MHESR Joint Call for Proposals CALL TEXT

2023

IMPORTANT: This Call Text is published for both Turkish and Tunisian researchers to present and explain the objective, scope and course of the “TÜBİTAK-MHESR Call that aims partnerships between two countries.

Before preparing an application, applicants are responsible to carefully read the national regulations documents to submit a complete application.

1. Objectives

Based on the Protocol on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK) and The Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MHESR) signed in 2001, this call is launched to enhance cooperative activities between two countries via research projects on the topics of this call.

A research project should focus on producing new knowledge; making new scientific interpretations or solving technological problems based on scientific principles.

2. Thematic Fields

Research projects are supported within the scope of this call. Successful projects prepared in the fields below will be supported within the scope of the program. Proposals submitted in other fields will not be accepted.

- Computer Science
- Health Sciences
- Material Sciences

3. Eligibility criteria

- Maximum project duration is **3 years (36 months)**.
- It is a prerequisite that proposals include the participation of the below as submitting and collaborative institutions:
 - Turkish side: Applications can be submitted either by universities, public institutions or organizations, research institutions, training and research hospitals **OR** by Turkish industry/private sector.
 - Tunisian side: public research institutions
- The proposal must be within the scope of fields described in **Section 2**.
- Turkish and Tunisian-based teams must each be led by a Principal Investigator (PI).
- Turkish and Tunisian partners shall prepare a joint scientific project which must be submitted to the respective funding agencies by each national scientific coordinator.
- All applicants must adhere to national eligibility rules for research proposals and any queries concerning eligibility should be addressed to the contact persons of the respective funding agencies. Applications involving any ineligible applicants (from Tunisia or Türkiye) will result in the rejection of the whole application.
- The maximum number of projects to be supported as a result of the evaluation is 5.

3.1 On Turkish side:

- For detailed information on the eligibility for Turkish team, please visit https://www.tubitak.gov.tr/sites/default/files/3125/1071_arastirma_projeleri_surec_dokumani.pdf
- Turkish team will receive funding through TÜBİTAK 1071 Program. All Turkish researchers who apply for this Program should be registered to TÜBİTAK ARBIS (Researcher Information system) through the following link: <https://arbis.tubitak.gov.tr>

3.2 On Tunisian Side:

The Principal Investigator (PI) should be full professor or associate professor (maître de conférence) and must belong to a research laboratory.

4. Financial conditions

Financial contributions must be calculated and provided in compliance with the valid national legislation and internal regulations of the partner organisations.

The cost of exchange of experts, scientist and other specialists will be covered on the following basis:

- The Receiving Party will take in charge the accomodation expenses, while Sending Parties has to cover the international flight expenses.

The current daily allowances are listed below:

In Türkiye:

- Free accomodation in a university guest house or equivalent.
- Daily allowance:
15 USD equivalent in Turkish currency per day for Short visits (up to 15 days)
280 USD equivalent in Turkish currency per month for Longer visits (1 to 3 months)

In Tunisia:

- Daily allowance:
200 Dinars per day for short visits for professors/researchers (up to 15 days)
1000 Dinars per Month for longer visits for Phd and post doctoral researchers(1 to 3 months)

- The total duration of international visits in one direction should not exceed 60 days per year both Turkish and Tunisian research team of the each supported joint project.

4.1 On Turkish side:

- TÜBİTAK-funded costs of each grant shall be issued and managed by TÜBİTAK in accordance with the rules of TÜBİTAK 1071 Program. TÜBİTAK-funded costs of each grant will be issued and managed by TÜBİTAK according to its funding guidelines and procedures. For detailed information please visit;
https://www.tubitak.gov.tr/sites/default/files/3125/1071_arastirma_projeleri_surec_d_okumani.pdf
- TÜBİTAK funds up to 2.000.000 Turkish Liras (excl. overhead and Project Incentive Premium (PIP) approximately) per project.

4.2 On Tunisian side:

- The Tunisian team which is eligible for funding can receive up to **30.000 DT/per year/per project.**
- Eligible costs are those spent directly by the project partner during the duration of the project and used exclusively for achieving the objectives of the project. All expenses must be incurred between the start date and the end date of the project and must be limited to the allocated budget.

The following expenses would be eligible:

- Travel and daily allowances,
- Other operating expenses directly related to the project,
- Small equipment, logistics and consumables,
- Contract provide services (non-permanent staff),
- Organization of scientific events and meetings.
- Publication and filing fees required (scientific publications, filing of patents),
- Expenses for carrying out analyzes and processing samples

The conditions of execution and financing of the projects upon the completion of the selection process shall be defined in the grant award agreements, where the PI of the selected project for financing will sign an agreement with the MHESR/General Directorate of Scientific Research.

5. Project proposal submission

- Project proposals must be submitted to both partner organisations on time.
- The partners should jointly develop and complete their project proposals before submitting it to TÜBİTAK and MHESR.
- TÜBİTAK and MHESR do not match collaborating partners.
- Project proposals must 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 and the intended time schedule.
- Because projects are bilateral, they must demonstrate equivalence in effort from the Tunisian and Turkish partners. The project must have a work plan with contribution of the Tunisian and Turkish partners having main roles and responsibilities, equating to the equivalent time and costs accrued in both countries.
- The size of the grant may vary depending on the needs of each project and must be fully justified. Applicants need to ensure that supported elements of the proposal abide by all regulations for both funding agencies.

5.1 On Turkish side

- Turkish partners will make their online application via TÜBİTAK's online application system: <http://uidb-pbs.tubitak.gov.tr>
- Turkish partners will use e-signature for their applications. Detailed information can be achieved via http://www.tubitak.gov.tr/sites/default/files/281/ardeb_e-imza_yardim_dokumani.pdf
- Submission of proposals by fax or e-mail will not be accepted.
- To complete the application process TÜBİTAK may need supporting documents. For those, please check: https://www.tubitak.gov.tr/sites/default/files/3125/1071_arastirma_projeleri_surec_dokumani.pdf

5.2 On Tunisian side:

- **Applicants can apply by accessing the link:**
- The Tunisian PI should submit the proposal electronically to partenariat.scientifique@gmail.com in a **single PDF file**.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered.
- Sending hard copies of proposals is not needed.

6. Evaluation and Selection

Projects are evaluated by TÜBİTAK and MHESR independently by their own evaluation procedures. Only the proposals which are accepted by two sides will be funded.

The proposals will be reviewed according to a certain set of evaluation criteria.

Evaluation criteria:

- Scientific/Technological Excellence
- Methodology
- Project Management (Team composition, infrastructure and budget adequacy with Project activities)
- Importance of International Collaboration
- Impact

Info for the Turkish Side: Awarded proposals will go through a pre-award stage, which starts after the announcement of results, and continues for approximately eight weeks. During pre-award period, the awarded institution will be notified about the requirements (possible budget reduction, budget details, timeline changes, etc.).

Info for the Tunisian Side: Awarded proposals will go through a pre-award stage, which starts after the announcement of results, and continues for approximately four weeks. During pre-award period, the awarded institution will be notified about the requirements (possible budget reduction, budget details, timeline changes, etc.).

Evaluation of the progress and final reports

- **For Turkish team,** The Principal Investigator of each project has to prepare financial and scientific/technical progress reports at determined dates in the project contract to be submitted to TÜBİTAK.
- **For Tunisian team,** The PI must submit an interim report (scientific and financial) to the MHESR, the granting of the second and third budget depends on the submission and positive evaluation of the interim reports. At the end of the third year, a final report is required.

7. Schedule

Call Open Date	25 December 2023
Call Close Date	26 February 2024
E-signature date for TÜBİTAK	4 March 2024

8. Contact

For further information, please contact:

On Turkish side:	Tunisia
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