

4th JOINT CALL FOR PROPOSALS

by

**The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye
(TÜBİTAK)**

and

**The Iranian Ministry of Science, Research and Technology
(MSRT)**

The Call is open between 15 March 2024 and 14 June 2024

1. Introduction

Based on the Memorandum of Understanding between the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK) and the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology (MSRT) signed in 2017, joint research projects will be supported under the TÜBİTAK-MSRT Program.

After the successful cooperation between the two Managing Authorities in launching the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Joint Calls for Bilateral Project Proposals launched in 2019, 2020 and 2022, this year the Managing Authorities will be launching a 4th Joint Call, in accordance with the framework of this said collaborative agreement.

2. Objectives and the Scope of the Call

The purpose of a partnership between TÜBİTAK and MSRT is to support projects for which there is genuine Turkish-Iranian collaboration. Under this call, the Research & Development (R&D) projects, focusing on producing new knowledge, making new scientific interpretations or solving technological problems based on scientific principles will be funded. This 4th Joint Call will assist researchers and innovators from both countries to strengthen their scientific expertise and network.

3. Thematic Areas

The project applications must be clearly compatible with at least one of these thematic areas:

Field	Topic
Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medical and Bio-Engineering• Civil Engineering• Digital Technologies for Earthquake Engineering
Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Renewable Energy• Petroleum and Natural Gas• Geothermal resources

Science and Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social impacts of science and technology • Smart Specialization Strategies for economic development • Socio-Economic and Social Widespread Impacts of the Earthquake • History, culture and art, as well as cultural and natural heritage
Agriculture and Biotechnology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant biotechnology & Breeding • Plant growth and development under extreme environments • Animal science
Medical Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of rapid detection methods for viruses, particularly those with pandemic potential. • Innovative techniques to combat antibiotic resistance. • Preventive research aimed at reducing the burden of diabetes. • Novel methods for early cancer diagnosis. • Preventive strategies to mitigate the prevalence of mental illness

4. Funding Available

Based on the respective bilateral agreement between TÜBİTAK and MSRT, each party will cover the costs of their own national team. While submitting the project proposal form, the costs, which are requested in the scope of the project, must be stated in detail and justified.

In the case of any exchange of researcher to be made within the scope of the projects, the sending party meets all the travel expenses.

TÜBİTAK will fund the Turkish side under the financial principles of TÜBİTAK 1071 Program (https://www.tubitak.gov.tr/sites/default/files/3125/1071_arastirma_projeleri_surec_dokuman.pdf).

Center for International Studies and Collaborations (CISSC) on behalf of the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology (MSRT) of Iran, will fund the Iranian Universities, Research Institutes and Science & Technology Parks whom wish to participate in this call. These so called institutes must be under the management of MSRT.

A maximum of **2.000.000 TL** will be provided by TÜBİTAK for the research team in Türkiye and **(Overhead and Project Incentive Premium (PIP) will be paid for projects.)**

Maximum payment of MSRT has been appended in the table below, Call Snapshot.

5. Duration of the Projects

The duration of the projects is 18 months. The total duration of international visits for bilateral cooperation from one direction to another should not exceed 60 days per year.

6. Eligibility and Submission

Each project proposal shall need to be in accordance with the following requirements. However, apart from adhering to below eligibility requirements in this Call Text, applicants will also need to ensure that they abide by their own respective National Rules & Regulations:

- The Turkish and Iranian partners shall form a project consortium and prepare a joint scientific project. Teams from each country must designate a Principal Investigator (PI). Projects should be submitted in parallel to respective funding agencies by each Principal Investigator (PI).
- The PI of each country shall be responsible to submit the application form to his/her own Managing Authority.
- Unilateral project applications are not accepted. Applications which are not received by both Managing Authorities will not be accepted for evaluation. Hence, Turkish/Iranian project leaders should make sure that their counterpart submits a matching application.
- Proposals must directly address the aim of the Call and needs to clearly align with at least one of the thematic fields of this Call.
- While submitting the project proposal form, the costs which are requested in the scope of the project must be stated in detail and justified. The eligible and ineligible costs are also detailed in the National Rules & Regulations of each side.
- In the case of any exchange of researchers to be made within the scope of the projects, the sending party meets all the travel expenses. The travel and stay costs need to be predicted and brought in the proposal in advance.
- Each National Applicant shall need to consult with the National Rules & Regulations imposed by the corresponding Managing Authority. Applications which are found to be ineligible by one of the Managing Authorities will automatically render the whole proposal as ineligible.
- Only proposals that have a signed **cooperation** and **IP agreement** amongst the consortium partners will be eligible to apply.
- Proposals should strive to be balanced between the two countries with respect to the volume of work and activities and also in terms of funding.
- Applicants are eligible to submit more than one proposal under the Call, however only one can be finalized as eligible for each applicant following the procedure of reviewing and ranking, in order to provide opportunities to others.
- Proposals need to be prepared and written in English.

Project submission to **TÜBİTAK** should be made via <https://uidb-pbs.tubitak.gov.tr>

Project submission to **MSRT** should be made through CISSC submission system (<http://rms.cissc.ir> under the program known as Shams Tabrizi). Also MoHME (Ministry of Health and Medical Education) should be made via **NIMAD** research system management <http://rms.nimad.ac.ir> (as representative of Health and Biomedical Science)

7. Evaluation and Selection

Managing Authorities follow their own parallel evaluation procedures. Only projects eligible on both sides will be evaluated. Projects that are submitted online but that did not submit requested supporting documents or e-signature(s) will not be evaluated and thus not considered for funding.

Based on own evaluation outcomes, each funding institution will prepare its own ranking list of proposals with the average score given to each proposal. The final score for each proposal will be an average of points received in both evaluation procedures of Managing Authorities. The common ranking list will be established based on these final scores.

A total of **five (5) projects** will be funded within this call.

8. Call Snapshot

Competition opens	15/03/2024
Final date for online proposal submission	For TÜBİTAK: 14/06/2024, 23:59 (IST time) For MSRT: 14/06/2024, 00:00 (Iran time)
Final date for electronic signatures' completion	For TÜBİTAK: 21/06/2024, 23:59 (IST time) For MSRT: 21/06/2024 (If needed)
Thematic Fields & subfields	<p>Applicants are strongly requested to provide their joint project proposals according to the suitable topics from below list and make sure that their proposed research project is in correct content. Only the projects that fit to the call topics can be funded.</p> <p>Engineering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical and Bio-Engineering • Civil Engineering • Digital Technologies for Earthquake Engineering <p>Energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable Energy • Petroleum and Natural Gas • Geothermal resources <p>Science and Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social impacts of science and technology • Smart Specialization Strategies for economic development • Socio-Economic and Social Widespread Impacts of the Earthquake • History, culture and art, as well as cultural and natural heritage <p>Agriculture and Biotechnology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant biotechnology & Breeding • Plant growth and development under extreme environments • Animal science <p>Medical Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of rapid detection methods for viruses, particularly those with pandemic potential.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative techniques to combat antibiotic resistance. • Preventive research aimed at reducing the burden of diabetes. • Novel methods for early cancer diagnosis. • Preventive strategies to mitigate the prevalence of mental illness 	
Eligible applicant	For the Turkish Team Detailed information about eligibility rules can be found at: https://www.tubitak.gov.tr/sites/default/files/3125/1071_arastirma_projeleri_surec_dokumani.pdf	For the Iranian Team The Principal Investigator (PI), must hold a PhD and be currently working as the full time academic staff or researcher in universities, research institutes or science, park and technology under MSRT, Ministry of Health and Medical Education umbrella.
Evaluation Criteria	Funding agencies will evaluate the proposals according to following evaluation criteria. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific/Technological Excellence • Methodology • Project Management • Importance of International Collaboration • Impact 	
Project Duration	Maximum 18 Months	
Award parameters	For the Turkish Team TUBITAK funds up to 2.000.000 Turkish Liras per project. Overhead and Project Incentive Premium (PIP) will be paid for projects. The funding shall cover the expenses in connection with the project, i.e. Personnel, travel, equipment/tool/software, service procurement, material costs.	For the Iranian Team Iranian Principal Investigators of selected proposals who are from MSRT institutes will be funded up to 5.000.000.000 Iranian Rials for each project. The overhead can be taken by the relevant institutes according to the current rules and regulations presented to them by MSRT. Iranian Principal Investigators of selected proposals who are from Ministry of Health and Medical Education Universities and institutes (having active profile in isid.research.ac.ir) will be funded up to 3.000.000.000 Iranian Rials , Proposals of each group of above-mentioned categories will be reviewed and

		judged by the relevant handling sector reviewing system.
Number of projects to be funded	A total of five (5) projects will be funded within this call	
Daily Allowance:	For the Turkish Team It will be provided within the scope of the provisions of per diem Law numbered 6245.	For the Iranian Team This will be checked with MSRT and NIMAD.
Duration of Travel:	For each project, the total duration of scientific visits from one side to another (from Iran to Türkiye or from Türkiye to Iran) will not exceed 60 days/year.	
Coverage of Expenses:	The funding agency is obliged to cover all expenses for travel and accommodation of its own researcher in accordance with its own rules. No money crossing borders.	
How to apply	For the Turkish Team Proposal submission is made through the TÜBİTAK's system: (http://uidb-pbs.tubitak.gov.tr).	For the Iranian Team Proposal submission is made through the following system: For MSRT: (http://rms.cissc.ir) For NIMAD and medical science members: (http://rms.nimad.ac.ir)
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