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INVESTÍCIÍ, REGIONÁLNEHO ROZVOJA
A INFORMATIZÁCIE
SLOVENSKEJ REPUBLIKY



MIT– Slovakia Seed Fund

Fund to support the
internationalization of basic
research in Slovakia



July 26 2021



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Beginning of collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the establishment of the fund

- The project with MIT is the result of cooperation between the Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic (MIRRI SR) represented by a diplomat for innovation in the USA and the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in the USA.
- The formalization of cooperation (preparation of the contract) and the setting of the fund's parameters took place during 2020 and was managed by the Investment Division (Financial Instruments Department) of MIRRI.
- The signing of the contract as well as the transfer of funds to the fund by the Slovak Republic (MIRRI) took place at the beginning of 2021.
- The first call for projects will be launched in September 2021 and subsequent calls will be launched in 2022 and 2023.



2019

2020

2021

2022

2023





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MIRRI aims is to support Slovak science and research also through short-term research collaborations, which have the potential to create a long-term partnership. That's why MIRRI has partnered with a prestigious university such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the United States.

MIRRI cooperate on the fund with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of the Foreign Affairs and the US Embassy as a result of teamwork of experts within MIRRI as well as a pilot project of innovation diplomacy, which task is to seek and create cooperation and partnerships in science and research as well as help innovative Slovak companies. The parameters of the innovation diplomacy project are currently being updated.

„Project MIT“

The subject and purpose of the Agreement are to establish a fund for financing joint basic research projects between MIT faculties and students and universities and public research institutions based in the Slovak Republic in the areas addressed by individual faculties at MIT (e.g. **natural, humanities, arts and social sciences, management, economics, engineering, computing, architecture and planning**).

By signing of the agreement, MIT undertakes to establish and manage the Fund and the Ministry undertakes to finance the fund in the form of deposit(s). Other public or private sector institutions are allowed to join the agreement by signing an amendment to the agreement as well as by depositing additional funds.



Benefits of MIT- Slovak Republic cooperation



- Cooperation with MIT is a mark of quality for Slovak scientific teams, their further potential projects and an excellent place for our young scientists to gain practical scientific experience.
- The fund's resources enable face-to-face meetings, workshops, discussions and brainstorming - a factor that often determines whether a shared interest will grow into joint research.
- Grant recipients often publish their findings together and look for larger grants to maintain their cooperation as well as the successful implementation of projects.
- Grants often have a lasting impact on the scientific direction of the faculty and the students involved in the projects.
- MIRRI is also interested in creating other forms of cooperation with MIT to support innovations, focusing in particular on the start-ups and the commercialization of the results of Slovak science and research.



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GSF family of funds

The established fund belongs to the "family" of funds managed by MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI) as GLOBAL SEED FUNDS.

Global outreach

MISTI manages the General Fund for projects from around the world and several other country, region or university-specific funds.

GLOBAL SEED FUNDS

Long-term existence

Since 2008, the program has awarded \$20 million to 948 faculty research projects.

Global interest

A total of 107 faculty international research projects (selected from among 232 proposals) received over \$2.3 million in funding in 2019-2020.



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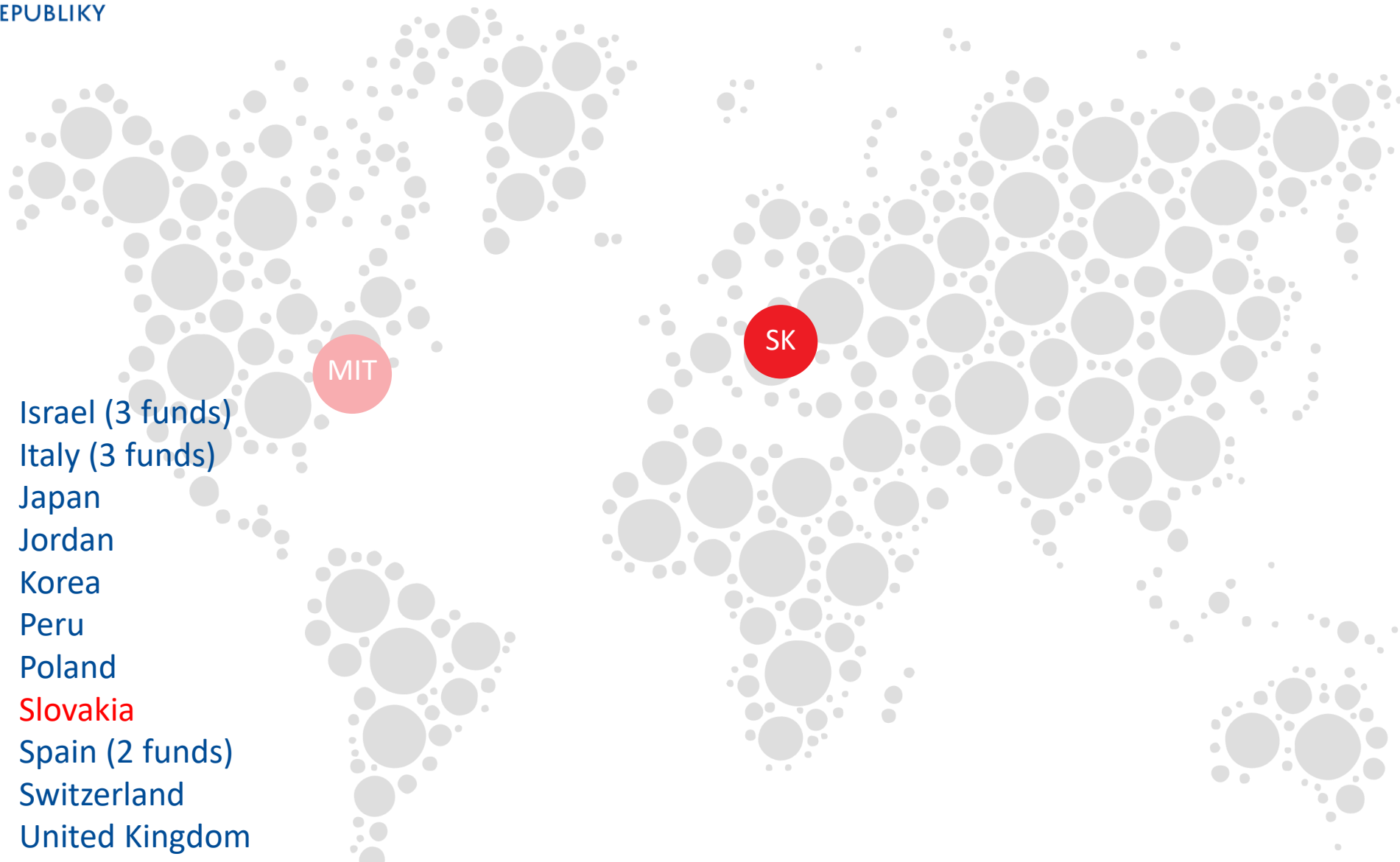
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GLOBAL SEED FUNDS – current funds

- Belgium (2 funds)
- Brazil (2 funds)
- Chile
- China
- Colombia
- Czech Republic
- France
- Germany (4 funds)
- India

MAPA

- Israel (3 funds)
- Italy (3 funds)
- Japan
- Jordan
- Korea
- Peru
- Poland
- **Slovakia**
- Spain (2 funds)
- Switzerland
- United Kingdom



Common parameters of GLOBAL SEED FUNDS

- Collaborations in the initial phase of research between MIT faculty and researchers and their counterparts abroad.
- All funds adhere to the [common rules and eligibility criteria](#) and are managed directly by MISTI.
- Most funds provide a maximum of \$ 30,000 per project.
- Applicants are encourage to involve students.
- Funding for the project is available [for use for 20 months \(possible 6 months extension\)](#).
 - Call for proposals: call opens in September;
 - Results of the call: call closes in December; evaluation untill Feb and winners announced in March
 - Grant awards: funds are available from May.
- Many funded projects are likely to be sustainable beyond the GSF grant period.
- Each fund may have its own additional requirements and specifics tailored to the country and its needs.





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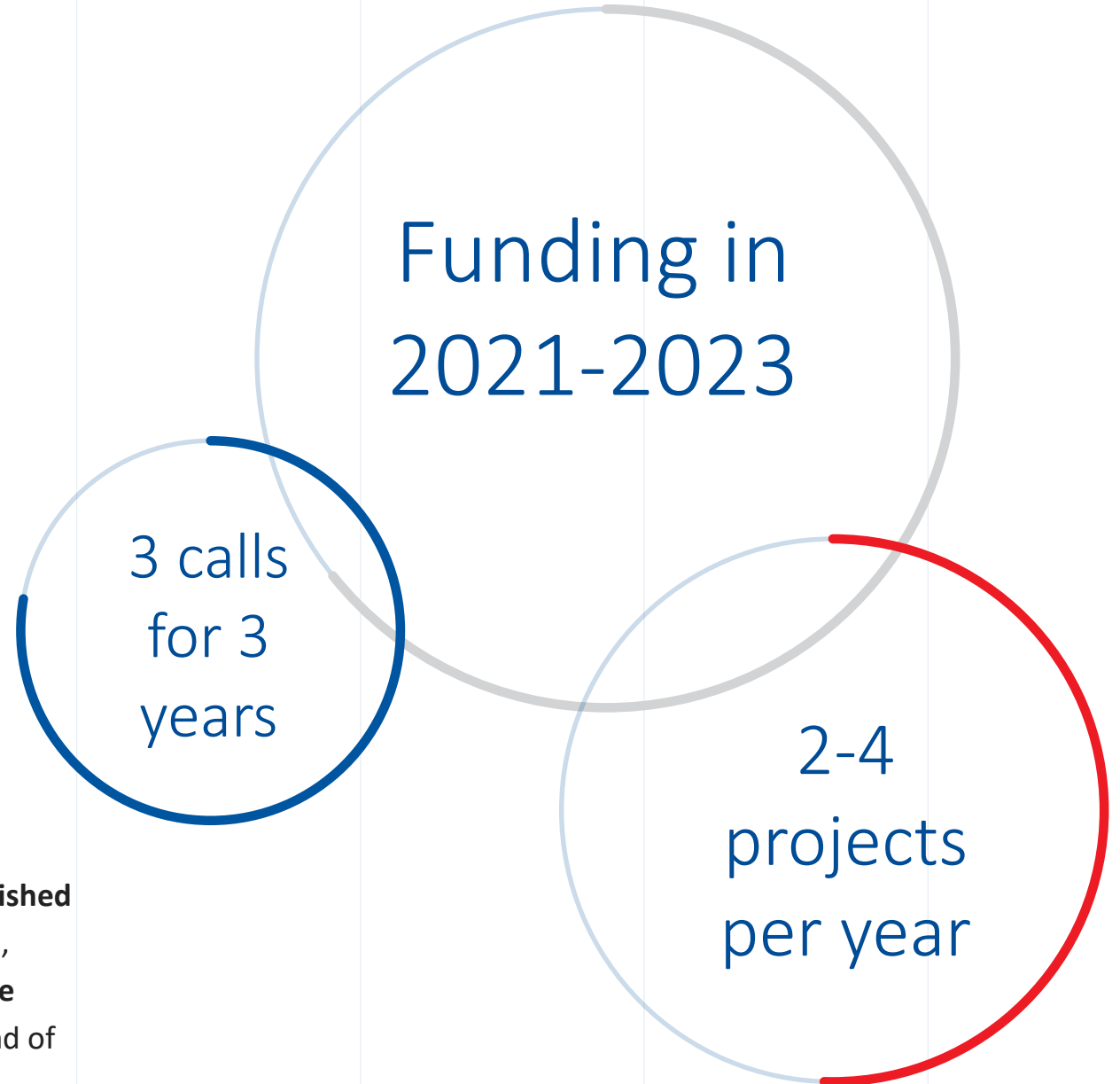
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MIT Seed Fund – overview

Funding joint basic research projects between MIT faculties and students and universities and public research institutions based in the Slovak Republic.

Eligible are projects in all areas addressed by individual MIT faculties, while **MIRRI can define priority areas specific for Slovakia.**

The final product is ideally a scientific publication published at the international level, but it can also be a workshop, seminar or other event. In addition, **a final report on the results of the cooperation** must be completed at the end of the grant period.





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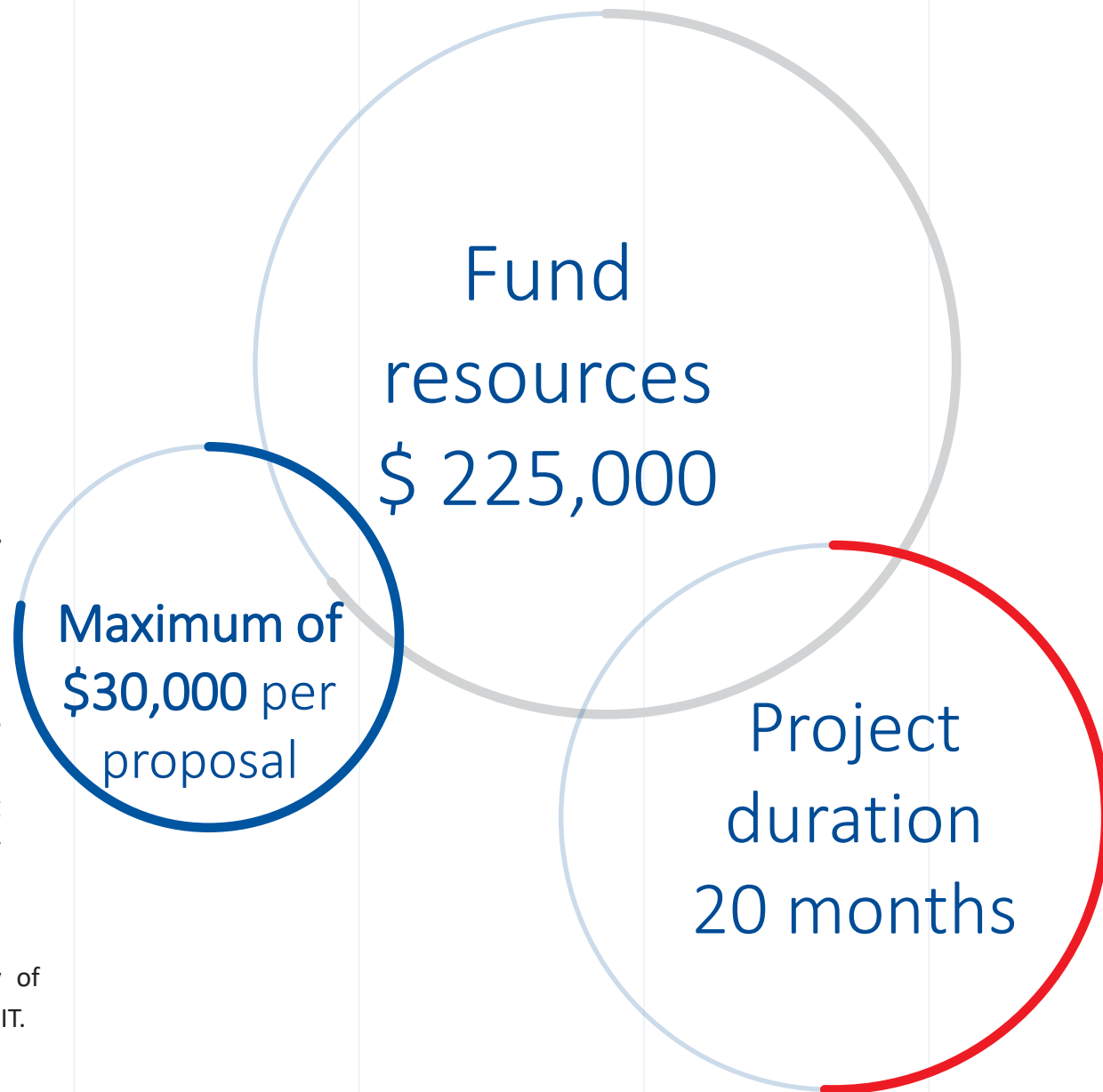
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MIT Seed Fund – overview

MIRRI's initial investment in the fund is **\$ 225,000**. It will finance three calls in 2021, 2022, 2023. A selection of **2-4 projects per year** is expected.

The **maximum grant for 1 project is 30 thousand. USD**, administrative fees will be deducted in accordance with the contract. Funding is intended for **travel costs** - for short-term research meetings of project partners in the form of working meetings, visits to laboratories, mutual consultations, which may not exceed 2 months (mostly 1-2 weeks long business trips)

Projects last a maximum of **20 months** with the possibility of extension by **6 months**. Further renewal must be approved by MIT.



Eligible applicants



- **Eligible applicants from Slovakia** are public universities, colleges and public research institutions based in the Slovak Republic, whose research takes place in areas covered by individual MIT faculties (e.g. natural, humanities, arts and social sciences, management, economics, engineering, computing, architecture and planning). Private companies and their researchers cannot apply to participate in funded projects.
- Fund is open to **all MIT faculty** members and research staff with principal investigator privileges (principal research scientists and senior research scientists). Project proposals must be submitted together with a Slovak colleague (s) working at a university or research institute .



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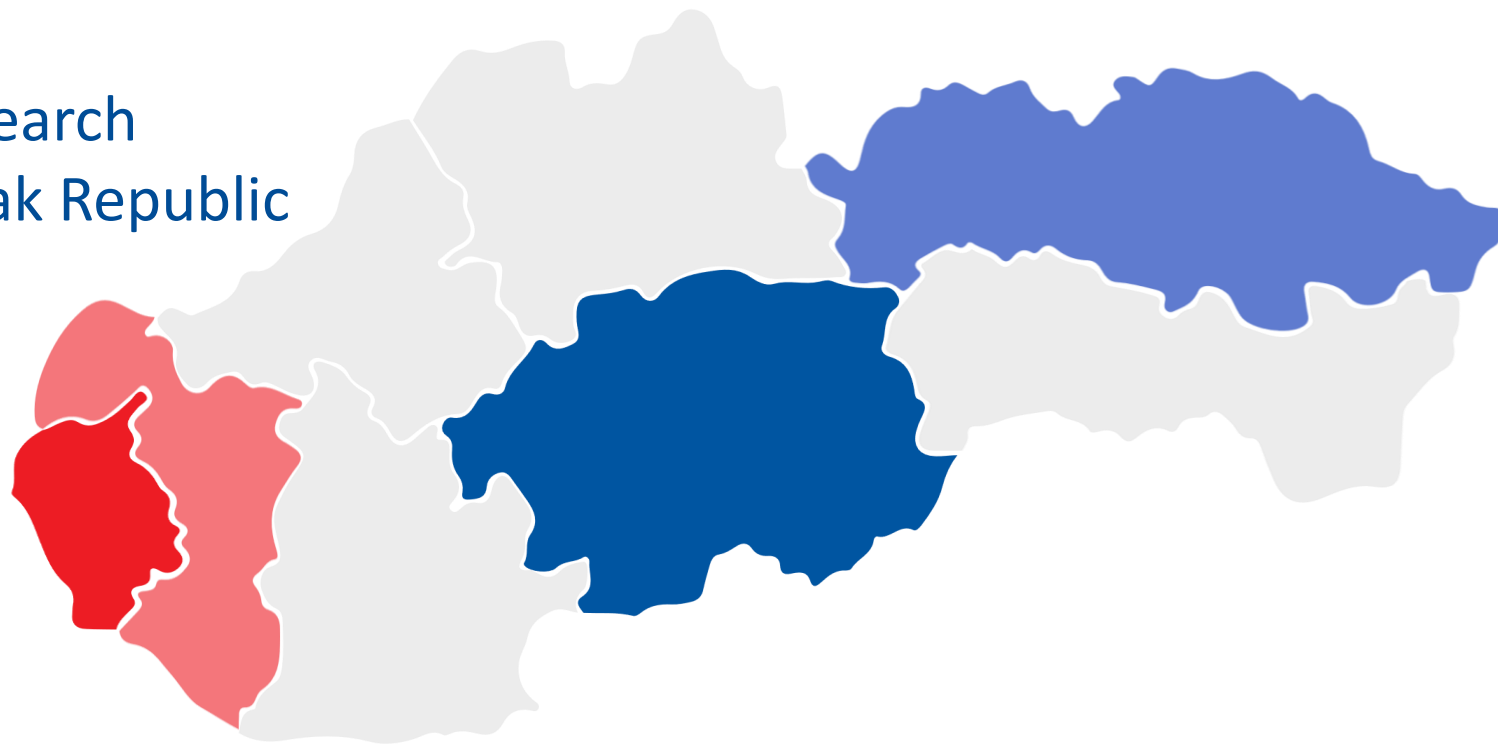
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Eligible applicants: research institutions of the Slovak Republic

 Slovak Academy of
Sciences

 Universities

 Research institutes



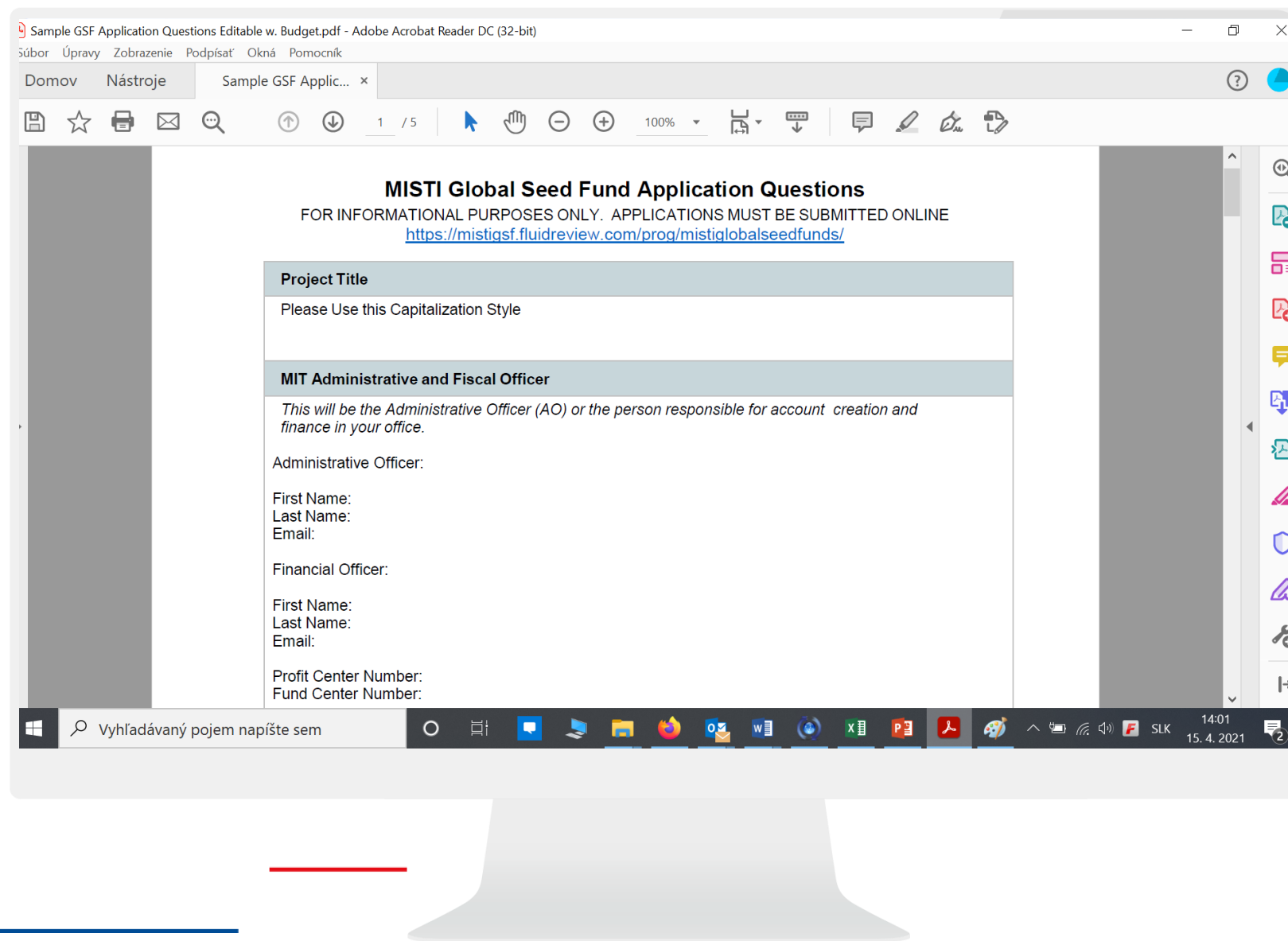
Application and selection process



- **Call for applications : September 2021**
- **Deadline for submission** of applications: **December 2021** - the proposals are submitted jointly with a foreign colleagues; the applicants must submit their proposals using the [online application portal](#).
- The **evaluation and selection** of projects will take place in **January and February 2022** and is the sole responsibility of MIT, MIRRI can provide recommendatory feedback, to guarantee the quality of the selection process.
- Final selection of projects evaluated by the relevant experts.
- Announcement of the **final selection** of successful projects: **March 2022**.
- **Release of funds: end of April / beginning of May 2022** - a successful project has a separate account created in MIT with the funds of the fund, for drawing on the the allocated funds.

Submission of applications

Applicants must submit their proposals via the *MIT online application portal*, which will be accessible after the call is opened. Slovak scientists act as co-applicants.



Project evaluation



Grantees are selected through a two-tier process:

An **evaluation committee** first reviews the proposals for scientific accuracy. This committee is comprised of MIT faculty who review proposals in their own fields of research. MIRRI will receive the results of this evaluation and can provide feedback to MIT for further consideration on the selection of funding proposals.

Taking this review into consideration, a **Selection Board** selects proposals based on the overall quality of the proposal and priorities of the fund. The selection boards are comprised of faculty from across MIT.

The process is overseen by the GSF **Advisory Committee**, consisting of:

- *Cynthia Barnhart* - Chancellor; Ford Professor of Engineering,
- *Suzanne Berger, John M. Deutch* - Institute Professor; former Faculty Director, MISTI,
- *Eric Grimson* - Chancellor for Academic Advancement,
- *Philip Khoury* - Associate Provost,
- *Chappell Lawson* - Associate Professor of Political Science; Faculty Director, MISTI,
- *Richard Lester* - Associate Provost; Japan Steel Industry Professor

Project selection criteria



Global Seed Fund Advisory Board oversees the project selection process. Priority will be given to projects that:

- are likely to make an important contribution to the field
- are new or are entering a new phase
- include a balanced exchange between participating teams
- demonstrate complementarity between participating teams
- involve undergraduate and/or graduate students in a meaningful way
- are likely to be sustainable beyond the grant period

Receiving and managing the funds

- After announcing the successful selection of the projects, the entire amount of each grant will be transferred to an account at MIT for the MIT applicant and his or her department to manage directly.
- All grant-related allowable expenses should be covered directly by this account, including travel to MIT by the international colleague(s).
- It is often preferable for the international team to cover its expenses related to visiting MIT out-of-pocket and be reimbursed via a trip report in the MIT clearing system [Concur](#) at the end of the trip. If this is not possible, MISTI recommends that MIT grantees pay for the collaborators' airfare, housing and meals with their own MIT travel or department card. When the trip is complete, close out the transactions in [Concur](#).

Receiving and managing the funds



- Funding can only be used to cover travel and meeting costs to facilitate international projects and collaboration.
- Awards may cover up to 75% of the US Department of State maximum per diem rate for the proposed travel of MIT team trips to Slovakia plus a reasonable estimate of the economy-class airfare. For travel to MIT, applicants are eligible for up to \$250 per day in expenses, plus economy-class airfare.
- Funds cannot be used to cover salaries or materials.
- Funds cannot be used for long-term stays (over two months) at MIT (or in Slovakia). However, MIT may be able to send its undergraduate and graduate students to work on faculty-led projects abroad through our internship program.
- Funds will be made available to the MIT applicant and must be administered by his or her department.
- Grantees are required to complete a final report at the end of the grant period. Funds are intended to be used during the initial phase of developing an international collaboration.
- Any unused resources for the selected project remain under the management of the Fund for financing other projects selected in subsequent call(s) according to project selection mechanism.



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„I am convinced that every single euro we invest in science will return to Slovakia. Our effort is to support Slovak science and research also through short-term research collaborations, which have the potential to create a long-term partnership. That's why we've partnered with a prestigious university like the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the United States. ”

Veronika Remišová.



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Q&A

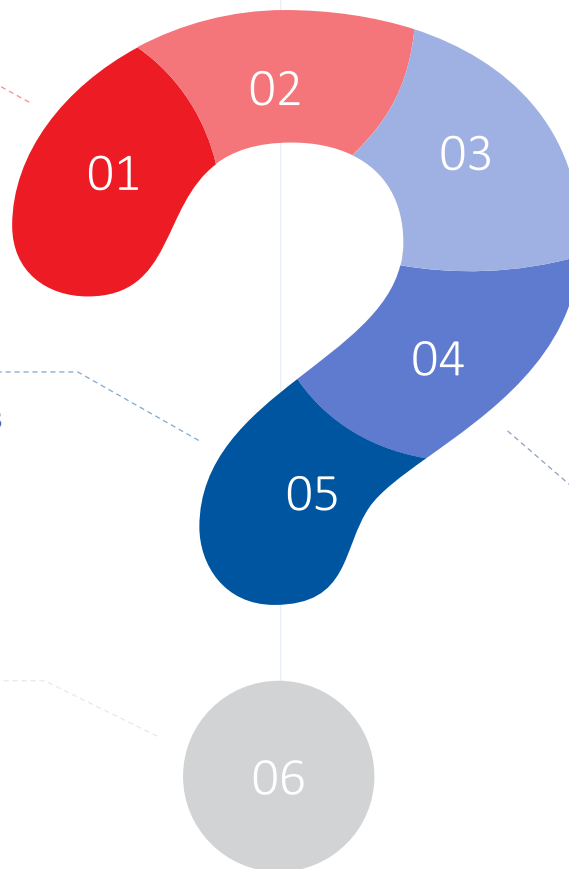
Web MIRRI

<https://www.mirri.gov.sk/>

Investment Division, Financial Instruments
Department at MIRRI
financujprojekt@vicepremier.gov.sk

Address:

Westend Court,
Dúbravská cesta 4
841 04 Bratislava



MIT/MISTI

<https://misti.mit.edu/faculty-funds>

<https://misti.mit.edu/slovakia-seed-funds>

Justin Leahey, Managing Director
Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands, & CEE Seed Funds

jleahey@mit.edu

Information webinar for applicants and those
interested in information

MISTI and MIRRI will hosts webinars for
interested participants.

THANK YOU!

www.mirri.gov.sk



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