

Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic

**as the Implementing Body of the Recovery and Resilience Plan of the Slovak
Republic¹**

announces

Call for RRF Funds application of the Funds under the Facility to support recovery and resilience

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| Call Code: | 17I04-04-V04 |
| Call Title: | Call² for RRF Funds application of the Funds under the Facility to support research and development in the field of digital transformation of Slovakia |
| Component: | Component 17: DIGITAL SLOVAKIA (MOBILE STATE, CYBER SECURITY, FAST INTERNET FOR EVERYONE, DIGITAL ECONOMY) |
| Reform/Investment: | Investment 4: Support for projects aiming at the development and application of top digital technologies |
| Legislation based on which the Funds under the Facility are granted: | Act No 368/2021 Coll. on the Mechanism to support recovery and resilience and on the amendment of some laws (hereinafter referred to as the 'Mechanism Act') |

¹ In accordance with § 5 of the Act No 368/2021 Coll. on the Mechanism to support recovery and resilience and on the amendment of some laws.

² Hereinafter referred to as "the Call"

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| Objective of the Call: | The objective of the Call is to support innovative ways of disseminating digital technologies in society, to enhance the security and added value of data generated by digital technologies and the application of technologies such as artificial intelligence, supercomputers, virtual and augmented reality, etc. |
| State aid: | The State Aid Scheme of the Recovery and Resilience Facility of the Slovak Republic for the support of research and development in the field of digital transformation of Slovakia, as amended by Amendment No. 1, SA. 113533 ³ , shall apply to the provision of the Funds under the Facility. |
| Purpose of the Call: | <p>The Call is announced in accordance with the Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation of the Slovak Republic 2021-2027 (hereinafter referred to as "SK RIS3 2021+") and the objective of the Domain 3. Digital Transformation of Slovakia⁴, which represents the integration of digital technologies by all components of society and increasing the impact of technology on society.</p> <p>The content of the Call is based on the document Summary Report on the EDP process for the SK RIS3 2021+ Strategy (Annex 4 of the Call for applications). The aim is to support the priority areas that have the greatest potential for transformation towards higher value-added activities and activities, while at the same time having sufficient research and innovation capacity.</p> <p>The strategic vision of SK RIS3 2021+ is to ensure and implement by 2027 an economic transformation that will deliver economic growth based on research, development and innovation (hereinafter referred to as "R&D&I"), on the creation of knowledge-intensive products and high value-added jobs. This transformation will build on the strengths of the Slovak R&D&I ecosystem, exploiting opportunities presented by global trends in business models and technological innovation, with the aim of strengthening the international competitiveness of domestic innovative companies as well as attracting foreign high-tech investment.</p> <p>Supporting innovative projects will result in a higher share of original Slovak innovations, research and development activities and an increase in the added value of production and related services. The result will be a transformed innovation-driven economy and the creation of long-term jobs focused on harnessing intellectual and creative skills, thereby also reducing the outflow of highly skilled young people abroad.</p> <p>The priority areas of the Domain 3 include the following transformation objectives:</p> <p>3-1: Smart and connected sensors and devices Increase the ability of Slovak society and industry to make data-driven decisions using statistical methods and machine learning, to make data-driven decisions from the level of individual personal decisions, through automated workplaces in enterprises to the level of critical national, environmental and urban infrastructure.</p> <p>3-2: Increasing the utility value of all types of data and databases Provide the public and businesses with advanced information processing tools for large databases, resulting in solutions for the analysis, integration and presentation of text, image and audio from existing digital archives and emerging large-scale data repositories, which will form the basis of high added value solutions.</p> <p>3-3: Intelligent energy systems Accelerate the transition to a more efficient and greener energy mix by developing tools to operate distribution systems and networks that serve large numbers of generators and consumers while maximising reliability, operational efficiency and energy market efficiency, not only in the electricity sector, but also in the gas, heating and water sectors. In particular, businesses will be given the opportunity to improve the energy efficiency of their operations using modern digital tools, while optimising their involvement in the energy market.</p> <p>3-4: Cyber security and cryptography The aim is to build a secure information society that uses modern technologies and can effectively defend against cyber-attacks and promote cyber hygiene. Businesses and others entities should</p> |

³ <https://obchodnyvestnik.justice.gov.sk/Handlers/StiahnutPrilohu.ashx?IdPriloha=442800&csrt=799310218991944032>

⁴ <https://vaia.gov.sk/sk/strategia-inteligentnej-specializacie-ris3-2/>

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| | <p>have digital solutions in which security is an integral part of them, so that they do not have to deal with the protection of their data and networks, production continuity and protection against cyber-attacks with additional follow-up projects. The priority is the information society, which faces a variety of risks both in terms of the technical security of information systems and the dissemination of information in the information space.</p> <p>The submitted applications for the Funds under the Facility (hereinafter referred to as "RRF Funds applications") will be projects where the main activities are user-driven research, development and innovation, i.e. validation or demonstration of technologies in a relevant (industrial) environment, prototypes demonstrated in an operational environment, and a complete and qualified system, with an expected Technology Readiness Level⁵ of 6-8 (a scale describing the level of technology development from the conceptual stage to practical use and deployment).</p> |
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| A. FORMAL AND PROCESS REQUIREMENTS | |
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| Identification and contact details of the Implementing Body | |
| Name of the Implementing Body: | Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as "MIRRI SR" and/or "the Implementing Body") |
| Address of the Implementing Body: | Pribinova 4195/25, 811 09 Bratislava, the Slovak Republic |
| Implementing Body's registration number: | 50349287 |
| Implementing Body's contact details: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - website: https://www.mirri.gov.sk/plan-obnovy/ - phone: +421 2 20 92 8190 - e-mail: plan.obnovy@mirri.gov.sk (e-mail for the applicants' enquiries on the process of submitting and assessing applications for the Funds under the Facility (hereinafter referred to as 'RRF Fund application')) - MIRRI SR electronic mailbox via the <i>general agenda</i> service: https://www.slovensko.sk/sk/detail-sluzby?externalCode=App.GeneralAgenda |
| Duration of the Call | |
| Call announcement: | 29. 7. 2024 |
| Call closure: | <p>7. 1. 2025</p> <p>Two deadlines are set for the submission of the RRF Fund applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31.10.2024 • 7.1.2025 <p>In the case, the required number of projects in relation to the goals 184 and 185 within the Investment 4, Component 17, Recovery and Resilience Facility of the SR, is not achieved, new deadline for submission of the RRF Fund applications will be announced.</p> |
| Indicative amount of the Funds under the Facility (allocation) | |
| <p>The indicative amount of the Funds under the Facility for the Call is EUR 52 603 200,00 including VAT of which:</p> <p>The allocation from the Funds under the Facility resource is EUR 43 836 000,00</p> <p>The allocation from the Funds under the Facility resource - VAT reimbursement is EUR 8 767 200,00</p> | |

⁵ hereinafter referred to as "TRL"

Minimum and maximum amount of the Funds under the Facility

The minimum amount of the Funds under the Facility per project is **EUR 300 000 excluding VAT**

The maximum amount of the Funds under the Facility per project is **EUR 1 700 000,00 excluding VAT**

Project financing

The provision of the Funds under the Facility under this Call shall be made in a **non-repayable manner** in accordance with § 14 of the Mechanism Act on the basis of submitted RRF FUND application and the conditions set out in this Call and related documents.

The aid intensity is defined in the State aid scheme SA.113533⁶. The aid intensity ranges from 25 % to 100 %, depending on the type and size of the applicant or the undertaking or other conditions defined in the scheme. The applicant/partner is obliged to provide the financial means necessary for the implementation of the project beyond the maximum amount of the requested Funds under the Facility by co-financing it from its own resources.

Notice to applicants:

During the project implementation, the beneficiary is obliged to ensure the financing of any ineligible costs incurred during the project implementation or necessary for its implementation from its own resources.

Place and method of submitting the RRF Funds Application

Prior to submitting the RRF Funds Application, the applicant is obliged to register in the Information System of the Recovery and Resilience Plan of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter also referred to as "ISPO") available on the website <https://ispo.planobnovy.sk> and thus become the registered user.

The registered user of the ISPO shall register his/her RRF Fund application on the ISPO portal by completing the application form and uploading all attachments.

The RRF FUND application, together with the Annex 1 of the Call for applications, the Application Form for the Funds under the Facility and Annex 3 of the Contract, the Project Details and the Project Budget, must also be submitted in English, i.e. the required English versions of the documents must also be uploaded to the ISPO system.

Once the RRF FUND application has been registered in ISPO, the system will generate a RRF Funds application summary. **The RRF Funds application summary** is a simplified PDF version of the completed RRF Funds application that is generated by ISPO based on registration of the RRF Funds application. The RRF Funds application summary also includes a confirmation that the information and data provided in the RRF Funds application registered in the ISPO is correct. The RRF Funds application summary shall be signed by the applicant and sent to the Implementing Body in accordance with the instructions in the Call no later than 5 working days after the registration of the RRF Funds application, including the annexes, in the ISPO and the generation of the RRF Funds application summary by the ISPO system (the RRF Funds application summary is to be received by Implementing Body prior to the closure date of the Call).

The RRF Funds application can only be accepted after the receipt of the signed RRF Funds application summary by the Implementing Body.

The summary of the application is submitted via the Central Portal of Public Administration to the electronic mailbox of the MIRRI SR, in electronic form signed with a qualified electronic signature⁷ of the statutory body of the applicant or authorized person of the applicant.

Notice to applicants:

⁶ <https://obchodnyvestnik.justice.gov.sk/Handlers/StiahnutPrilohu.ashx?IdPriloha=442800&csrt=799310218991944032>

⁷ Art. 3(12) of Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market and repealing Directive 1999/93/EC (OJ L 257, 28.8.2014).

In case an authorised person acts on behalf of the applicant, the applicant is required to submit as an attachment to the RRF Funds application a certified power of attorney⁸, by which the applicant's statutory body authorises the person(s) to act on behalf of the applicant.

If submission of the **RRF Funds application summary** is not possible via electronic communication, the applicant is entitled to submit the document in paper form, to the address of the Impelmenting Body:

Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic
Pribinova 25, 811 09 Bratislava

in one of the following ways:

- in person at the MIRRI SR office:
 - Monday - Thursday: 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.
 - Friday: 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 - 14:00 p.m.
- by registered mail
- by courier service.

The envelope must be marked: OIPOO + code of the relevant Call

B. CONDITIONS FOR THE PROVISION OF THE FUNDS UNDER THE FACILITY

The conditions for the provision of Funds under the Facility (hereinafter referred to as the "FF conditions") are a set of conditions that must be met by the applicant/partner (if applicable) in order to assess the RRF Funds application against the technical evaluation criteria (set out in the Article D., Part 1 of this Call) in accordance with Article 16(4) of the Mechanism Act⁹ for the purpose of preparing the ranking of applications.

The conditions set out in this Call (Part B. of this Call) must be fulfilled, irrespective of whether their full text is stated directly in the text of the Call or referred to or described in more detail in the document(s) referred to in this Call.

1. Eligibility condition of the applicant/partner

Eligible applicants/partners are **exclusively legal entities carrying out research and development**:

- a) the state sector, which consists of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and legal entities carrying out research and development established by central government bodies,
- b) the sector of public research institutions, which consists of public research institutions (Act No. 243/2017 Coll. on Public Research Institutions and on Amendments and Additions to Certain Acts and Act No. 133/2002 Coll. on the Slovak Academy of Sciences),
- c) the higher education sector, consisting of public universities, state universities¹⁰,
- d) the higher education sector, which consists of private higher education institutions¹¹,
- e) the non-profit sector, consisting of civic associations, non-profit organisations, associations of legal persons also carrying out research and development,
- f) the entrepreneurial sector, which consists of entrepreneurs who also carry out research and development as part of their entrepreneurial activities.

Applicants and their partners that submitted their applications under the call for the Component 9: Call for applications for the Funds under the Facility to support recovery and resilience focused on support of development of innovative digital solutions (09I05-03-V03) will be eligible under the terms of this call:

1. The activities and outputs¹² of the PPM Call Component 9: Call for Proposals for the Recovery and Resilience Facility to Support the Development of Innovative Digital Solutions (09I05-03-V03) application/project cannot overlap, in content

⁸ Document with guaranteed electronic conversion, § 35, para. 2. of the e-Government Act

⁹ Act No 368/2021 Coll. Act No 368/2021 Coll. on the Mechanism to support recovery and resilience and on the amendment of some laws

¹⁰ Including the organisational component at the level of the university within the meaning of Section 21(1) of Act No 131/2002 Coll. on Universities and on Amendments and Supplements to Certain Acts, in which case the university is the eligible applicant/partner.

¹¹ including the organisational component at the level of the university within the meaning of Section 47(10) in conjunction with Section 21(1) of Act No. 131/2002 Coll. on Higher Education and on Amendments and Supplements to Certain Acts, in which case the university is the eligible applicant/partner.

¹² It is the content, not the form, that is crucial for the evaluation of the output.

or in part, with the activities and outputs of the PPM Call Component 17 application/project: Call for applications for support for the Slovak Digital Transformation R&D Support Mechanism (17I04-04-V04) through the four transformation objectives of the Slovak Digital Transformation domain, **which are in line with condition no. 1 OF THE PPM. 6: i.e. in line with the transformation objectives of the Digital Transformation of Slovakia domain 3: 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4).**

2. Staff capacities carrying out activities in the project under a positively evaluated PPM application from the call for Component 9: Call for proposals for the provision of NDFs to support the development of innovative digital solutions (09I05-03-V03) **cannot participate in the project from the call for Component 17:** Call for proposals for the provision of NDFs to support research and development in the field of digital transformation of Slovakia (17I04-04-V04).

Notice to applicants

An eligible applicant may have a maximum of one partner organisation¹³ which must also meet the eligibility conditions.

An eligible applicant may submit more RRF FUND applications focused on minimum one and maximum four transformation objectives of the Domain 3 of the Digital Transformation of Slovakia (RRF FUND condition No. 6: in line with the transformation objectives of Domain 3 Digital Transformation of Slovakia: 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4) and there will be no overlap at the level of activities or outputs.

The applicant/partner must provide references demonstrating experience in the field of research, development and innovation for previous 2 year period. The references shall be provided in the RRF Fund application in the section Description of the applicant/partner.

Method of proving the condition by the applicant

- RRF Fund application including Affidavit of applicant

Method of proving the condition by the partner (if relevant)

- RRF Fund application including Affidavit of partner

Method of verification of the condition by the Implementing Body

- RRF Fund application including the applicant's Affidavit of applicant and Affidavit of partner (if applicable)
- Administrative check of the RRF Fund application submitted
- Register and identifier of legal persons, businesses and public authorities (<https://rpo.statistics.sk>)
- Commercial Register of the Slovak Republic (<https://www.orsr.sk/>)

2. The condition of delivery of the RRF Fund application on time and in the prescribed form

The applicant must deliver the RRF Fund application on time and in the prescribed form.

- **The RRF Fund application is delivered in time if the following conditions and deadlines are met:**

For electronic delivery:

- Confirmation of registration of the RRF Fund application in the ISPO system, generated by ISPO (confirming the submission of the electronic version of the RRF Fund application), via ISPO - i.e. generation of the RRF Fund application summary - within the period of the Call

and at the same time:

- E-receipt confirming the sending the electronic version of the RRF Fund application summary generated by ISPO, by the authorized person(s) authorized to act on behalf of the applicant to the e-repository of MIRRI SR. The e-receipt must be generated within 5 working days from the date of registration of the RRF Fund application in the ISPO system and the generation of the RRF Fund application summary by the ISPO system (the RRF Fund application summary is to be delivered by the closing date of the Call).

For paper delivery:

¹³ Hereinafter referred to as „partner“

- Confirmation of the registration of the RRF Fund application in the ISPO system, generated by ISPO, confirming the submission of the electronic version of the RRF Fund application via ISPO - i.e. the generation of the RRF Fund application summary - within the period of the Call.

and at the same time :

- The date of receipt of the RRF Fund application summary generated by ISPO, signed by the person(s) authorised to act on behalf of the applicant, by the MIRRI SR registry office, must be within 5 working days at the latest from the date of registration of the RRF FUND application in the ISPO system and the generation of the RRF Fund application summary by the ISPO system, respectively. The date of submission of the ISPO-generated RRF Fund application summary, authorised by the person(s) authorised to act on behalf of the applicant, for sending by post or courier service must be within 5 working days at the latest from the date of registration of the RRF Fund application in the ISPO system and the generation of the RRF Fund application summary by the ISPO system (the RRF Fund application summary is to be received by the closing date of the Call).
- The RRF Fund application is received in **the prescribed form** if the following conditions are met:
 - An ISPO-generated RRF Fund application summary, signed/authorised by the person(s) authorised to act on behalf of the applicant, is received by the Implementing Body,
 - The RRF Fund application, including its obligatory annexes, is submitted in the Slovak language¹⁴ in a font that enables its contents to be recognised and assessed,
 - The RRF Fund application, together with Annex 1 of the Call for applications, the RRF Fund application and Annex 3 of the Contract, the Project Details and the Project Budget, is also submitted in English.

RRF F Fund applications shall be submitted to the Implementing Body in the period from the announcement of the Call within the specified deadlines until the Call closure.

Notice to applicants

The applicant may submit more RRF Fund applications focused on minimum one and maximum four transformation objectives of the Domain 3 of the Digital Transformation of Slovakia (RRF Fund condition No. 6: in line with the transformation objectives 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4) avoiding content overlap and double financing

Method of proving the condition by the applicant

- RRF Fund application including the Affidavit of applicant and Affidavit of partner (if applicable)
- Submission of the ISPO-generated RRF Fund application summary, signed by the person(s) authorised to act on behalf of the applicant, on time and in the prescribed form

Method of verification of the condition by the Implementing Body

- RRF Fund application including the Affidavit of applicant and Affidavit of partner (if applicable)
- Administrative check of the submitted RRF Fund application summary generated by ISPO and the RRF Fund application registered in ISPO

3. Integrity of the applicant/partner

The Implementing Body can not grant the Fund under the Facility to a person who has been convicted of an offence of subsidy fraud, an offence of damage to the financial interests of the European Union, an offence of procurement and public auction-rigging, an offence of bribery, an offence of indirect corruption or an offence of receiving and granting an undue advantage.

The Funds under the Facility can not be granted to a legal person whose statutory body, member of the statutory body or other person acting on its behalf has been convicted of an offence of subsidy fraud, an offence of damage to the financial interests of the European Union, an offence of procurement and public auction-rigging, an offence of receiving a bribe, an offence of bribery, an offence of indirect corruption or an offence of receiving and granting an undue advantage.

Method of proving the condition by the applicant

- RRF Fund application, including the Affidavit of applicant

¹⁴ A RRF FUND application completed in the Czech language will be accepted by the Implementing Body

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annex to the RRF Fund application - Details required for requesting a criminal record extract (Annex 3 of the Call for applications) |
| Method of proving the condition by the partner (if relevant) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RRF Fund application, including Affidavit of partner - Annex to the RRF Fund application - Details required for requesting a criminal record certificate (Annex 3 of the Call for applications) |
| Method of verification of the condition by the Implementing Body |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RRF Fund application, including the Affidavit of applicant and Affidavit of partner (if applicable) - Administrative check of the RRF Fund application submitted - OverSi portal https://oversi.gov.sk/ / Information system of the General Prosecutor's Office of the Slovak Republic |
| 4. Condition that the applicant/partner is not registered in EDES |
| <p>The applicant/partner is not registered in the Early Detection and Exclusion System (EDES) as an excluded person or entity (within the meaning of Article 135 of Regulation 2018/1046¹⁵).</p> <p><i>The applicant/partner is obliged to familiarize with the text of the document Information for applicants for a non-repayable financial contribution published on the website: https://www.olaf.vlada.gov.sk/system-vcasneho-odhalovania-rizika-a-vylucenia-edes/.</i></p> |
| Method of proving the condition by the applicant |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RRF Fund application, including the Affidavit of applicant |
| Method of proving the condition by the partner (if relevant) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RRF Fund application, including Affidavit of partner |
| Method of verification of the condition by the Implementing Body |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RRF Fund application, including Affidavit of applicant and Affidavit of partner (if applicable) - Administrative check of the RRF Fund application submitted - Early Risk and Exclusion Detection System (EC database, both the public part available at https://ec.europa.eu/budget/edes/index_en.cfm and the non-public part¹⁶) |
| 5. Conditions relating to the State aid |
| <p>The conditions and rules of the State aid in accordance with the Article 25 of the General Block Exemption Regulation¹⁷ shall apply to the granting of the Funds under the Facility, under which aid is granted for research and development projects in the framework of industrial research, experimental development and feasibility studies.</p> <p>There are two types of eligible applicants/partners in terms of the Funds under the Facility:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applicant/partner is not subject to the State aid conditions and rules: the State aid conditions and rules do not apply to the entities listed in section B.1 Eligibility conditions of the applicant/partner, points a), b) and c), as they conduct independent research. For these entities, the Funds under the Facility will cover 100% of the total eligible costs (aid intensity 100%). Where the applicant/partner carries out an economic activity which is not the subject of funding under this Call, it will ensure that separate accounting records are kept for this activity in order to ensure that the Funds under the Facility do not finance the applicant/partner's economic activity. |

¹⁵ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the Union and amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014 and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 as amended.

¹⁶ Applicants should note that not all excluded entities are listed in the public part of the register .

¹⁷ https://www.antimon.gov.sk/data/files/2068_celex_02014r0651-20230701_sk_txt_konsolidovana_o_2023_1315.pdf?csrt=17716970431837906986

- 2. Applicant/partner is subject to the State aid conditions and rules:** the State aid conditions and rules apply to the entities listed in section B.1 Eligibility conditions of the applicant/partner, points d), e) and f). **The aid intensity is determined according to the size category of the undertaking and the type of activity and ranges from 25 % to a maximum of 80%¹⁸.**

The Funds under the Facility cannot be granted to the applicant/partner against whom return of the State aid is claimed on the basis of a decision of the European Commission in which the State aid granted by the Slovak Republic was found to be unauthorized and incompatible with the internal market.

This RRF Fund condition also includes the condition that the applicant/partner/beneficiary must not be an undertaking in difficulty as defined in Article 2(18) of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014, as amended. In assessing whether the applicant/partner is not a firm in difficulty, the applicant/partner shall follow the information published on the website of the:

<https://www.antimon.gov.sk/metodicke-usmernenia-program-slovensko/?csrt=4626391350517782660>

The applicant/partner shall, when submitting the RRF Fund application, demonstrate compliance with the condition set out in the preceding paragraph via the Affidavit. Once the RRF Fund contract has entered into a force, the Beneficiary shall be requested to submit to the Implementing Body, within 10 days of the RRF Fund contract entering into force, a test of an undertaking in difficulty on the form set out in the Beneficiary Guide to the Implementation of Projects Financed by the Recovery and Resilience Facility of the SR.

Please note that the applicant/partner/beneficiary bears full legal responsibility for complying with all the conditions of the State aid scheme.

Method of proving the condition by the applicant

- RRF Fund application, including the Affidavit of applicant

Method of proving the condition by the partner (if relevant)

- RRF Fund application, including Affidavit of partner

Method of verification of the condition by the Implementing Body

- RRF Fund application, including Affidavit of applicant and Affidavit of partner (if applicable)
- Administrative check of the RRF Fund application submitted

6. Eligibility condition of the project and activities *(purpose of use of the Funds under the Facility)*

The Funds under the Facility can only be granted to projects that contribute to the digital transformation of the economy and society of the Slovak Republic and lead to a fulfillment of the milestones and objectives of the Recovery and Resilience Facility of the Slovak Republic, i.e. projects of industrial research, experimental development and feasibility studies in the areas of digital technologies, deployment of new technologies and prototypes in industry or public administration: **research, development and application projects in the areas defined in the framework of the SK RIS3 2021+ with a technology readiness level of TRL 6-8.**

The Funds under the Facility will only be granted to projects whose results will be quantified and measurable in the form of defined indicators provided in the RRF Fund application. Each project must have at least one measurable and evaluable outcome defined. The beneficiary is obliged to make every effort during the implementation of the project to achieve the milestones and objectives of the project and, at the latest by the date of completion of the project, to achieve the project outputs (measurable indicators) set out in the project (RRF Fund condition No 9 of this Call for applications).

The implementation of the project must be completed **by 31.3.2026** at the latest (completion of the implementation of the project is defined in Article 1(2) of the General Terms and Conditions of the RRF Fund contract to support recovery and resilience).

Following research and development projects in the field of digitisation in line with the transformation objectives of the Domain 3 of the Digital Transformation of Slovakia are considered to be eligible:

3-1: Smart and connected sensors and devices

¹⁸ <https://obchodnyvestnik.justice.gov.sk/Handlers/StiahnutPrilohu.ashx?IdPriloha=442800&csrt=799310218991944032>

Increase the ability of Slovak society and industry to make data-driven decisions using statistical methods and machine learning, to make data-driven decisions from the level of an individual personal decisions, through automated workplaces in enterprises, up to the level of the critical infrastructure of the state, the environment and urban infrastructure.

Project proposals/examples:

- embedded systems and the Internet of Things in transport, energy, electrical engineering, healthcare and robotics;
- sensor data acquisition, delivery and processing in both natural and urban environments;
- production and design of intelligent products and services in applications for other domains;
- digitisation of production processes ;
- digitisation in intelligent systems solutions;
- automation, robotics and digital technologies.

3-2: Increasing the utility value of all types of data and databases

To provide the public and businesses with advanced information processing tools for large databases, which will create solutions for the analysis, integration and presentation of text, image and sound from existing digital archives and emerging large-scale data repositories, forming the basis of high added value solutions.

Project proposals/examples:

- natural language processing and image processing when using large or heterogeneous data in multiple domains;
- visualisation of data extracted from industrial or business processes;
- processing of large volumes of data, including automated classification and cataloguing innovative forms of presentation using virtual and augmented reality;
- transformation of real objects into digital form.

3-3: Intelligent energy systems

Accelerate the transition to a more efficient and greener energy mix by developing tools to operate distribution systems and networks that serve large numbers of generators and consumers while maximising the reliability and cost-effectiveness of operations and the efficiency of the energy market, not only in the electricity sector, but also in the gas, heating and water sectors. In particular, businesses will be given the opportunity to improve the energy efficiency of their operations using modern digital tools, while optimising their involvement in the energy market.

Project proposals / examples:

- management of production and consumption from various technical sources;
- analysis, exchange and processing of large volumes of data;
- data prediction of future production and consumption, anomaly detection;
- settlement between market participants;
- smart-metering (as an IoT application);
- visualisation and control systems and measures to eliminate energy poverty;
- smart energy systems in mobility.

3-4: Cybersecurity and cryptography

The aim is to build a secure information society that uses modern technologies and can effectively defend against cyber attacks and promote cyber hygiene. Businesses and other entities should have digital solutions in which security is an integral part of the solution, so that they do not have to deal with the protection of their data and networks, continuity of production and protection against cyber-attacks with additional follow-up projects. The priority is the information society, which faces a variety of risks both in terms of the technical security of information systems and the dissemination of information in the information space.

Project proposals / examples:

- encryption algorithms;
- quantum distribution of encryption keys;
- protection of computer networks;
- disinformation prevention and cyber hygiene in information space;
- natural language processing;
- Artificial Intelligence systems supporting the enhancement of cyber resilience of organisations;
- information content interpretation systems;

- cybersecurity systems in intelligent mobility solutions.

The sustainability period of the project is 3 years.

Within the meaning of the **Binding Methodology for the Management, Financing and Evaluation of Support of the Research, Development and Innovation**¹⁹ the categorisation of projects according to size is binding, in this Call, there are medium-sized projects with a minimum of 11 pages and a maximum of 20 pages in project description.

Method of proving the condition by the applicant

- RRF Fund application - Technical design of the project and its sustainability and potential for exploitation

Method of proving the condition by the partner (if relevant)

- RRF Fund application - Technical design of the project and its sustainability and potential for exploitation

Method of verification of the condition by the Implementing Body

- RRF Fund application - Technical design of the project and its sustainability and potential for exploitation

7. Eligibility condition of the project location

The applicant/partner is obliged to implement the project only in the eligible location. The eligible location of the project implementation for this Call is **the entire territory of the Slovak Republic**.

Method of proving the condition by the applicant

- RRF Fund application, including the Affidavit of applicant

Method of proving the condition by the partner (if relevant)

- RRF Fund application, including Affidavit of partner

Method of verification of the condition by the Implementing Body

- RRF Fund application, including the Affidavit of applicant and Affidavit of partner (if applicable)
- Administrative check of the RRF Fund application submitted

8. Eligibility of the project costs

Only costs to the extent and during the period of their use in the implementation of projects under RRF Fund condition 6, incurred in accordance with the terms of the State aid scheme and in accordance with the RRF Fund contract, shall be considered as eligible.

Eligible costs must meet the conditions of economy (i.e. minimisation of costs while respecting the project objectives), efficiency (i.e. maximisation of the ratio between the project input and output) and effectiveness (i.e. necessity for the implementation of the project activities and direct link to them).

Eligible costs in terms of amount and justification are only incurred for the purpose of the project which is demonstrable by original documents such as accounting documents, statements of accounts, etc. and supporting documentation clearly demonstrating the purpose of the use.

Eligible costs can only be reimbursed once, double funding is not allowed, as stated in RRF Fund condition No 10.

For the purposes of this Call, eligible costs are divided into **direct eligible costs and indirect eligible costs**, which together constitute **the total project eligible costs**.

Direct and indirect eligible costs are the costs necessary for the implementation of the project activities within the duration of the project and may be in the form of current costs and capital costs.

Direct eligible costs are incurred for a project implemented in accordance with the terms of the Call, the State aid scheme and the RRF Fund contract, are identifiable and demonstrable and must be supported by accounting documents which are duly registered by the beneficiary in accordance with the applicable legislation.

¹⁹ <https://vaia.gov.sk/sk/zavazna-metodika/>

Indirect eligible costs are incurred on activities that indirectly contribute to the achievement of the project outputs and results (project and financial management, administrative activities, utility charges, support services, rent, etc.). **The flat rate for indirect project costs is set at 7 % of the direct eligible costs.**

In accordance with Article 25 of the General Block Exemption Regulation, eligible costs shall be deemed to be:

- i. costs on staff: researchers, technicians and other support staff to the extent that they are involved in the project,
- ii. costs on tools and equipment to the extent and during the period of their use in the project. If such tools and equipment are not used within the project for their entire lifetime, only depreciation corresponding to the duration of the project, calculated on the basis of generally accepted accounting principles, shall be considered as eligible costs²⁰,
- iii. costs on contract research, know-how and patents purchased or licensed from external sources on the basis of the arm's length principle, as well as costs on consultancy and equivalent services used exclusively for the project,
- iv. a flat rate of 7 % for indirect costs: other overheads and other operating expenses, including costs on materials, supplies and similar products, incurred directly as a result of the project.

Eligible costs includes:

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| 013 Software |
| 014 Valuable rights |
| 019 Other intangible fixed assets |
| 022 Movable items and groups of movable items, equipment |
| 112 Inventories |
| 503 Other non-expendables supplies |
| 518 Other services |
| 521 Payroll expenses |
| 551 Amortisation of intangible fixed assets and non-current assets tangible fixed assets |

Software - if purchased separately and not included in the hardware delivery and pricing:

1. Purchase of software - costs of the software purchase, including costs of the licences related to the use of the software - e.g. multi-licences, group licences, etc.;
2. Software modernization - e.g. upgrades (adding new functionalities that enhance the software).

Valuable rights - the results of creative intellectual activity that have been purchased (inventions, licences, trademarks, copyrights, know-how):

3. Purchase of licences – purchase costs of licences, copyrights and patents, excluding purchase costs of licences related to the use of software, which is classified under subheading 711003.

Other intangible fixed assets:

1. Purchase and modernization of computer equipment, including accessories;
2. Purchase and modernisation of telecommunications equipment;
3. Modernisation of communication infrastructure.

Inventories - the costs related to the purchase of material in the form of computer and telecommunications equipment, general and special materials, books, textbooks and communication infrastructure.

Other services – this account shall record all other costs for services incurred in connection with the project and its activities. E.g. rent, postage, consultancy and legal representation, brokerage costs if not included in the purchase price of inventories or fixed assets, accounting and auditing costs, reproduction costs, interpretation costs, translation costs, etc.

Notice to applicant/partner:

Within the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Plan of the Slovak Republic and financing investments and reforms by the Funds under the Facility at national level, VAT is not an eligible costs, except where VAT is not recoverable under the national VAT legislation.

²⁰ the proportion of the price corresponding to the amount of depreciation over the period of eligibility of the project is eligible

Salary costs - (including remuneration for work performed outside the employment relationship, salaries, compulsory contributions on behalf of the employer and other legal compensation)

- Salary costs and insurance for the beneficiary's staff;
- Remuneration for work performed outside the employment relationship, including the employer's compulsory contributions, whereby outside the employment relationship is understood to be relations concluded within the meaning of §§ 223-228 of Act No 311/2001 Coll. on the Labour Code as amended (i.e. agreement on the performance of work, if it is work that is defined by the result, agreement on work activity, if it is an occasional activity defined by the type of work, and agreement on temporary work of students) directly related to the management of the project - in-house (indirect costs).

The eligible salary costs are in particular:

- the salaries of staff working on the project during all phases of the project (or an aliquot part corresponding to the number of hours/time worked on the project);
- employer's legal social security, pension and health insurance contributions;
- other contributions which are compulsory for the employer under the legislation, including the employer's costs for performance agreements and employment agreements for persons not in an internal employment relationship with the employer.

Ineligible costs are defined in the State aid scheme in Article H., paragraph 8.

Method of financing:

The provision of the Funds under the Facility shall be made **in a non-repayable manner** pursuant to § 14 of the Mechanism Act on the basis of a submitted RRF Fund application and under the conditions set out in this Call and related documents.

The following funding modalities apply under this Call:

- advance payment system, pre-financing and reimbursement system, or their combination, in accordance with the rules set out in the applicable Implementation System of the Recovery and Resilience Facility of the Slovak Republic.

The method of financing is the subject of the draft RRF Fund contract.

Time eligibility of the costs:

The time eligibility of the costs is from the date of submission of the RRF Fund application to 31.3.2026.

Method of proving the condition by the applicant

- Project details and project budget (Annex 3 of the RRF Fund contract)

Method of proving the condition by the partner (if relevant)

- Project details and project budget (Annex 3 of the RRF Fund contract)

Method of verification of the condition by the Implementing Body

- Project details and project budget (Annex 3 of the RRF Fund contract)
- Administrative check of the RRF Fund application submitted

9. Condition of defining the project's indicators

The project eligibility is subject to the achievement of defined values of the measurable indicators. The applicant together with the partner (if relevant) shall define their own relevant measurable indicators at output and result level, using Annex 5 of the Call (Examples of measurable indicators) for the selection of indicators.

The applicant and the partner (if relevant) are obliged to choose a minimum of one and a maximum of three main measurable indicators and a minimum of one and a maximum of three additional measurable indicators, depending on the nature of the project (a maximum of 6 measurable indicators in total). If the measurable indicators in Annex 5 of the Call are not relevant, the applicant and the partner (if relevant) are entitled to define their own measurable indicators, introducing their name, definition, unit of measurement, time of implementation and, if relevant, a baseline value. The measurable indicators defined by the applicant and the partner (if relevant) shall be subject of approval by the Implementing Body.

It is important for the applicant and the partner (if relevant) to choose measurable indicators that are relevant, measurable, achievable and related to the focus of the project, the main activities and the area of support.

The main measurable indicators are to be achieved by the applicant and the partner (if relevant) at the end of the project implementation and demonstrated in the final monitoring report. The secondary measurable indicators should include at least one indicator related to the dissemination of the project results (e.g. number of scientific articles published).

Examples of measurable indicators: number of researchers involved in research activities, number of applications for protection of intellectual property rights (copyrights, trademarks, patents), number of innovative technologies/processes/solutions developed or applied, number/volume of processes digitised, increase in revenues due to digitisation, etc. Each measurable indicator must have a defined baseline (if relevant) and target value and a relevant unit (e.g. number, EUR, MW, ...). The measurable indicators will be disaggregated (if relevant) - e.g. for number of researchers - number of women/men, age category (up to 30 years, 31-60 years, 61+ years).

An additional condition for the eligibility of a project under this Call is the fulfilment of the values of the common indicators that are set in relation to the implementation of the investments and reforms of the Recovery and Resilience Plan of the Slovak republic. The common indicators are intended to monitor progress towards achieving the objectives of the Recovery and Resilience Plan of the Slovak Republic in the context of the implementation of reforms and investments.

Under the Investment 4, the Implementing Body shall report the following two relevant measurable indicators:

1. **SU No 6, code RRFCI06: Enterprises supported in development or use of digital products, services and application processes** (number of enterprises supported in development or use of new or significantly upgraded services, products and processes based on digital technologies, due to the support from the measures under the Mechanism. This includes advanced digital technologies such as automation, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, blockchain, cloud and edge infrastructures and data rooms, quantum and high-performance computing. Significant modernisation refers only to new products, services and processes).
2. **SU NO 9, code RRFCI09: Supported enterprises** (small enterprises - including micro, medium and large enterprises). The enterprise is counted in the support scheme, even if it lasts for several years. An enterprise supported by two different support schemes should be counted twice - once for each support scheme. An enterprise is defined as a legal entity which constitutes an organisational unit producing products or services, which has a degree of decision-making autonomy, in particular as regards the use of its current resources, and which carries out one or more activities in one or more locations. An enterprise may itself be a single legal unit. Enterprises are legal persons having legal personality, regardless of which persons or institutions (such as public companies, limited liability companies, incorporated companies, etc.) own them or are members of them. Enterprises also include natural persons who carry out economic activities on their own account, such as the owner and operator of a shop or garage, a lawyer or a self-employed craftsman (Commission (Eurostat), according to Council Regulation (EEC) No 696/93, Section III, point A, 15.3.1993). The indicator is collected and reported according to the size of the enterprise. For the purposes of this indicator, enterprises are defined as profitable organisations which produce goods and services to meet market needs).

Method of proving the condition by the applicant

- RRF Fund application, including the Affidavit of applicant

Method of proving the condition by the partner (if relevant)

- RRF Fund application, including Affidavit of partner

Method of verification of the condition by the Implementing Body

- RRF Fund application, including the Affidavit of applicant and Affidavit of partner (if applicable)
- Administrative check of the RRF Fund application submitted

10. The condition "do not significant harm (DNSH)"

The project supported by the Funds under the Facility under this Call must comply with the principle of DNSH.

The DNSH condition states that any project supported by the Funds under the Facility cannot significantly harm any of the environmental objectives²¹ listed in Article 17 of the Taxonomy Regulation²². DNSH means not to promote or carry out economic activities that are significantly detrimental to any environmental objectives, where relevant, within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 establishing a framework to facilitate sustainable investments and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088. The project's compliance with the DNSH principle will be verified in the Affidavit of the RRF Fund application.

In order to ensure that the Call complies with the Technical guidance on the application of 'do no significant harm' under the Recovery and Resilience Plan Regulation 2021/C 58/01, the following activities and assets are excluded from support:

- activities and assets related to fossil fuels, including downstream uses (excluding electricity and/or heat generation projects as well as related transmission and distribution infrastructure using natural gas, which comply with the conditions set out in Annex III of the Technical Guidance Notice on the application of the DNSH principle (2021/C58/01))
- activities and assets under the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) achieving projected greenhouse gas emissions that are not below the relevant benchmarks (if the supported activity achieves projected greenhouse gas emissions that are not significantly below the relevant benchmarks, an explanation shall be provided as to why this is not possible. Benchmarks set for the free allocation of allowances for activities falling within the scope of the emissions trading scheme as set out in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/447)
- activities and assets related to landfills, incinerators (this exclusion does not apply to activities in facilities dedicated exclusively to the treatment of non-recyclable hazardous waste and to existing facilities where activities are aimed at increasing energy efficiency, capturing exhaust gases for storage or use or recovering materials from incineration ash, provided that such measures do not lead to an increase in the capacity of the waste treatment facilities or to an extension of the lifetime of such facilities; evidence of this shall be provided at the facility level) and mechanical-biological waste treatment plants (this exclusion does not apply to activities in existing mechanical-biological waste treatment plants where the activities are aimed at increasing energy efficiency or retrofitting for the activities of sorted waste recycling, bio-waste composting and anaerobic digestion of bio-waste, provided that such activities do not lead to an increase in the capacity of the waste treatment plants or to an extension of the lifetime of such plants; evidence of this shall be provided at the facility level)
- all activities and projects must be carried out in compliance with relevant EU and national environmental legislation.

Method of proving the condition by the applicant

- RRF Fund application, including the Affidavit of applicant

Method of proving the condition by the partner (if relevant)

- RRF Fund application, including Affidavit of partner

Method of verification of the condition by the Implementing Body

- RRF Fund application, including the Affidavit of applicant and Affidavit of partner (if applicable)
- Administrative check of the RRF Fund application submitted

11. Condition of compliance with the minimum and maximum amount of the Funds under the Facility

The minimum amount of the Funds under the Facility per project is **EUR 300 000 excluding VAT**

The maximum amount of the Funds under the Facility per project is **EUR 1 700 000,00 excluding VAT**

Method of proving the condition by the applicant

- RRF Fund application, including the Affidavit of applicant and Annex 3 of the RRF Fund Contract - Project Details and Project Budget

Method of proving the condition by the partner (if relevant)

²¹ Climate change mitigation; adaptation to climate change; sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources; transition to a circular economy; pollution prevention and control; protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems..

²² Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 establishing a framework to facilitate sustainable investments and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088..

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RRF Fund application, including the Affidavit of partner and Annex 3 of the RRF Fund Contract - Project Details and Project Budget |
| Method of verification of the condition by the Implementing Body |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RRF Fund application, including the Affidavit of applicant and Affidavit of partner (if applicable) and Annex 3 of the RRF Fund contract - Project details and project budget - Administrative check of the RRF Fund application submitted |
| 12. Condition of elimination of double funding within the meaning of Article 13(3) of the Mechanism Act |
| <p>The Implementing Body and the applicant/partner are obliged to avoid double funding from the Funds under the Facility and from EU funds or other EU programmes and to report suspected double funding to the National Implementation and Coordination Authority. Funds under the Facility cannot be granted to a beneficiary (applicant/partner) who receives a subsidy, grant, contribution or other form of assistance to finance the same costs and which would constitute double funding.</p> <p>At the same time, the condition, that the eligible costs which are subject of financing under the direct Call, have not previously received a contribution from public funds, must be met.</p> <p>In accordance with Article 13(3) of the Mechanism Act²³, Funds under the Facility must not be granted to a beneficiary (applicant/partner) that receives a subsidy, contribution, grant or other form of assistance to finance the same costs and which would constitute double funding.</p> <p>Double financing is also understood as a situation where the result of a given measure or part of it (project) is achieved not only by using the resources of the Funds under the Facility but also by using other resources from the EU budget, such use not having been indicated in advance to the EC in the Recovery and Resilience Facility of the Slovak Republic and reflected in the costing of the investment or reform concerned. At the same time, a situation where the result of a given operation (irrespective of the method of demonstrating the implementation of the measure) is reported to the EC under different support instruments may also be considered as double financing.</p> <p>The condition of no double funding also applies for covering the costs that are incurred in order to achieve so-called sustainability of past or future EU-funded projects.</p> <p>At the same time, in accordance with the conditions set out, applicants/partners who are applicants or listed as partners in the submitted applications under the call for the Component 9: Call for applications for the Funds under the Facility to support recovery and resilience focused on support of development of innovative digital solutions (09I05-03-V03) will be eligible under the following conditions:</p> <p>1. The activities and outputs²⁴ of the PPM Call Component 9: Call for Proposals for the Recovery and Resilience Facility to Support the Development of Innovative Digital Solutions (09I05-03-V03) cannot overlap even partially in content with the activities and outputs of the PPM Call Component 17 application/project: Call for RRF Funds application of the Funds under the Facility to support research and development in the field of digital transformation of Slovakia (17I04-04-V04) of the four transformation objectives of the Slovak Digital Transformation domain, which are in line with PPM condition no. 1. 6: i.e. consistent with the transformation objectives of the Digital Transformation of Slovakia domain 3: 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4).</p> <p>2. Staff capacities carrying out activities in the project under a positively evaluated PPM application from the call for Component 9: Call for proposals for the provision of NDFs to support the development of innovative digital solutions (09I05-03-V03) cannot participate in the project from the call for Component 17: Call for RRF Funds application of the Funds under the Facility to support research and development in the field of digital transformation of Slovakia (17I04-04-V04).</p> |
| Method of proving the condition by the applicant |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RRF Fund application, including the Affidavit of applicant |
| Method of proving the condition by the partner (if relevant) |

²³ Act No. 368/2021 Coll. on the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism and on the amendment and supplementation of certain Acts, as amended.

²⁴ It is the content, not the form, that is crucial for the evaluation of the output.

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| - RRF Fund application, including Affidavit of partner |
| Method of verification of the condition by the Implementing Body |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RRF Fund application, including the Affidavit of applicant and Affidavit of partner (if applicable) - Administrative check of RRF Fund application submitted |
| 13. Condition of meeting the technical evaluation criteria |
| <p>If the applicant meets the RRF Fund conditions 1 to 12, the Implementing Body will then assess the RRF Fund application against the technical evaluation criteria according to the rules stated in the Section C. CONTENT REQUIREMENTS - The process of assessment and technical evaluation of the RRF Fund application. In order to meet the technical evaluation criteria, the RRF Fund application must receive a minimum of 3 points in each of the criteria from each of two reviewer and at the same time, minimum of 10 points in the final scoring. Otherwise, the RRF Fund application will not qualify for granting Funds under the Facility.</p> |
| Method of proving the condition by the applicant |
| - RRF Fund application and Annex 3 of the RRF Fund contract - Project details and project budget |
| Method of verification of the condition by the Implementing Body |
| <p>The Implementing Body shall ensure the evaluation of the project according to predefined technical evaluation criteria based on the Binding Methodology for the Management, Financing and Evaluation of Support of the Research, Development and Innovation²⁵. The technical evaluation shall be carried out by two foreign experts selected for this purpose.</p> |

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| C. CONTENT REQUIREMENTS |
| Process of assessment and technical evaluation of the RRF FUND application |
| <p>The RRF Fund application assessment process starts with the delivery of the RRF Fund application summary to the Implementing Body and ends with the sending the notification on fulfilment/non-fulfilment of the RRF FUND conditions or the decision statutory body of the Implementing Body on the objections.</p> <p>Notice to applicants:</p> <p>In case that the applicant delivered to the Implementing Body the RRF Fund application which is no longer subject of assessment, the applicant may, with the agreement of the Implementing Body, withdraw his/her RRF Fund application at any time during assessment period, i.e. until the draft RRF Fund contract has been sent to him/her. The applicant shall deliver the request for withdrawal of the RRF Fund application either in electronic form via the Central Portal of Public Administration or in paper form to the address of the Implementing Body or by any other appropriate means. The applicant's request for withdrawal of the RRF Fund application shall indicate the applicant's wish not to proceed with the assessment of the RRF Fund application submitted. Upon receipt of a request for withdrawal of the RRF Fund application, the Implementing Body shall, if there are no objections to the withdrawal, indicate this fact in the file, take note of the withdrawal and not proceed further with the assessment of the RRF Fund application, and shall notify the applicant accordingly²⁶.</p> <p>1. Receipt and registration of the RRF Fund application</p> <p>The Implementing Body shall ensure the receipt of the RRF Fund application summary generated by ISPO from the date of the Call announcement until the date of its closure (the RRF Fund application summary is to be received by the date of closure of the Call). The Implementing Body shall register the RRF Fund application in its registry system. RRF FUND applications received after the Call closure date shall not be accepted by the Implementing Body.</p> <p>Recommendation to the applicant</p> |

²⁵ <https://vaia.gov.sk/sk/zavazna-metodika/>

²⁶ The withdrawal of the RRF FUND application shall not affect the obligation of the Implementing Body to make notifications to the competent authorities (e.g. law enforcement authorities) in case that the Implementing Body identifies a suspected crime, misdemeanour or other administrative offence.

The applicant is recommended to keep and archive electronic receipts and/or originals of all documents confirming the submission and/or delivery of its RRF Fund application by any of the methods set out in this Call for applications.

2. Assessment of RRF Fund conditions

In the process of assessing the RRF Fund application, the Implementing Body shall ascertain the fulfilment of each individual RRF Fund condition defined in the Call based on the data and information provided by the applicant in the RRF Fund application and in the relevant annexes and in the available sources for direct verification of the RRF Fund conditions (e.g. ISPO, the Central Reference Data Management Information System, electronic publicly available registers, etc.), by which the applicant demonstrates the fulfilment of the RRF Fund conditions as defined in the Call.

In case, that the Implementing Body in process of verification of the RRF Fund conditions fulfillment and the completeness and correctness of the information necessary for the RRF Fund application assessment identifies that the RRF Fund application is incomplete, it requests the applicant via the request for the completion of the RRF Fund application in order to remedy these shortcomings in period of minimum 5 days from the delivery of the request for RRF Fund application completion.

The Implementing Body may also ask for explanations concerning the RRF Fund application in the request for completion of the RRF Fund application. The Implementing Body shall be entitled to send to the applicant the request to complete the RRF Fund application repeatedly, while respecting the principle of equal treatment. The Implementing Body shall consider the RRF Fund application complete if it is possible to assess whether the RRF Fund conditions have been met. If the applicant does not remedy the identified shortcomings, the Implementing Body shall notify the applicant of non-fulfilment of the respective RRF Fund conditions. The information on the sending the request for completion the RRF Fund application shall also be sent by the Implementing Body to the e-mail address provided by the applicant in the RRF Fund application.

If the applicant meets all the RRF Fund conditions, the Implementing Body will assess in next step the RRF Fund application against the technical evaluation criteria to prepare a ranking using the process described below in this section.

In case, the applicant has not fulfilled all the RRF Fund conditions or has not remedied the shortcomings identified in the request for completion the RRF Fund application within the time limit, the Implementing Body shall send the applicant a notification of non-fulfilment the RRF Fund conditions, including the relevant reasons why the applicant or the RRF Fund application has not fulfilled the RRF Fund conditions.

3. Method of ranking the RRF Fund applications received - technical evaluation

In the first step, the Implementing Body assesses the fulfilment of the RRF Fund conditions (compliance with the terms of the Call, the Mechanism Act and other relevant legislation). Applications that fulfil the RRF Fund conditions are in the next step evaluated based on the technical evaluation criteria by scoring.

The individual technical evaluation, based on a separate evaluation by two foreign experts, is an evaluation of the application (project) according to defined technical criteria based on **the Binding Methodology for the Management, Financing and Evaluation of Support of the Research, Development and Innovation**. The evaluation shall be carried out by at least two foreign experts selected for this purpose.

The results of the individual evaluation shall be recorded by the experts in evaluation sheets, where, in addition to the number of points awarded for each criterion and for the project as a whole, they shall also provide a narrative evaluation and a justification for the respective scoring.

Scoring based on the technical evaluation criteria (Article D, point D.1 of this Call) will define the descending order of applicants whose RRF Fund applications have met the RRF Fund conditions:

- 1) The descending order of the RRF Fund applications will be based on the final score, which is the average of the sum of the total scores of two foreign experts.
- 2) **The minimum number of points in final scoring of the RRF Fund application in order to meet the condition of technical evaluation shall be 10 and the maximum number of points in the final scoring shall be 15.**
- 3) **The RRF Fund application has met the conditions of the technical evaluation if:**
 - a) **the application has obtained at least 3 points in each individual technical criterion (excellence, impact and implementation) from each expert, and at the same time**
 - b) **the RRF Fund application has achieved an overall score (i.e. total for all criteria) of at least 10 points from each expert and thus**

c) **the RRF Fund application has achieved at least 10 points in the final score (i.e. the average of the sum of the total scores of the two experts).**

- 4) In case that at least one criterion is evaluated as not fulfilled by one of the experts, i.e. if it scores less than 3 points, or if the RRF Fund application scores less than 10 points in the final evaluation, the conditions of the technical evaluation are not fulfilled and the RRF Fund application cannot be supported by the Funds under the Facility.
- 5) In case that two or more RRF Fund applications achieve the same score and the Call allocation is insufficient to support all projects, the following procedure will apply:
 - first, the higher score achieved under the Excellence criterion of the project and project activities will be applied. If the RRF Fund applications still have the same number of points,
 - secondly, the earlier date of submission of the RRF Fund application in the ISPO will be applied.
- 6) Minutes shall be drawn up from the technical evaluation of the RRF Fund applications, presenting the final descending order of the RRF Fund applications according to the number of points awarded based on the resulting score, a list of the RRF Fund applications which have met the RRF Fund conditions and minimum requirements under the technical evaluation, a list of foreign experts who evaluated the RRF Fund applications and the method by which the RRF Fund applications have been assigned to respective evaluation. As part of the minutes, a reserve list of RRF Fund applications will be prepared, i.e. a list of the RRF FUND applications that met the RRF Fund conditions and achieved minimum requirements as part of the technical evaluation, but due to lack of financial resources they cannot be supported.

The applicants who have met the RRF Fund conditions shall be notified by the Implementing Body that they have fulfilled the RRF Fund conditions no later than 90 calendar days from the date of closure of the Call (or the specified closing dates), excluding the time required to complete the RRF Fund application.

The anonymised evaluation sheets, or parts thereof, containing the scores for each criterion, the narrative evaluation, the overall evaluation, the strengths and weaknesses, are part of the notification on the fulfilment of the RRF Fund conditions, by which the Implementing Body notifies the applicant on the result of the assessment of the RRF Fund application (except where the RRF Fund application has not been subject to an expert evaluation, for example when the RRF Fund application has not met other conditions which were necessary for technical evaluation) represent justification of the respective scoring based on which the RRF Fund application gained the position in the list of RRF Fund applications or has not met the technical evaluation criteria.

The notification on the fulfilment of the RRF Fund conditions for the provision of the Funds under the Facility does not establish a legal right to the provision of the RRF Funds.

Applicants who have fulfilled the RRF Fund conditions, but due to insufficient allocation of the Funds under the Facility is not possible to conclude a RRF Fund contract with them, can be placed on the reserve list of the RRF Fund applications by the Implementing Body. In the case that the Funds under the Facility are subsequently made available to the Implementing Body under the same Call (e.g. in case that a draft RRF Fund contract has been sent to the applicant but the applicant has not concluded a RRF Fund contract with the Implementing Body, or due to the withdrawal from the RRF Fund contract by the Implementing Body during implementation), the Implementing Body may consider the RRF Fund applications included in the reserve list for the purpose of concluding a RRF Fund contract, according to the ranking established based on the technical evaluation criteria set out in the Call. In doing so, the Implementing Body shall consider the timeliness of the RRF Fund applications included in the reserve list.

4. Opposition proceedings (if relevant)

The applicant may submit written objections to the assessment of non-compliance with the RRF Fund conditions in accordance with § 17 of the Mechanism Act within 6 working days of receipt of the notice of non-compliance with the RRF FUND conditions. Objections which are not substantiated shall not be taken into account.

If the Implementing Body finds that the objections to non-compliance of the RRF Fund conditions are justified, it may comply with the objections in full within 8 working days of delivery.

If the Implementing Body does not fully comply with the objections, it shall refer them to the statutory body of the Implementing Body for a decision in the period within which it should have made a decision²⁷, the statutory body of the Implementing Body

²⁷ within 8 working days of their delivery

shall decide on the objections within 10 working days from the date on which the objections were delivered to it. In justified cases, the statutory body of the Implementing Body may extend this period by a maximum of further 15 working days.

The final decision on the objections cannot be appealed.

The Implementing Body may, on its own initiative or on any other initiative, re-examine the notification on fulfilment/non-fulfilment of the RRF Fund conditions. If necessary, the Implementing Body shall ensure that a remedy is provided, e.g. by sending a new, corrected notification.

The opposition proceedings is a separate procedure under the § 17 of the Mechanism Act. In the procedure under § 17 of the Mechanism Act, the provisions of § 24, 25, 25a, 27, 47 and 52 of the Administrative Procedure Code shall apply mutatis mutandis.

5. Conclusion of the RRF Fund contract

The applicant who has been sent a notification on fulfilment of the RRF Fund conditions and who has provided the necessary cooperation to the Implementing Body for the conclusion of a RRF Fund contract in accordance with § 14(3) of the Mechanism Act, shall be sent a draft of the RRF Fund contract by the Implementing Body.

As part of the cooperation, the future beneficiary shall be obliged to identify its final beneficiary to the Implementing Body.

The beneficiary shall become legally entitled to the Funds under the Facility only upon the entry into force of the RRF Fund contract²⁸ and the final verification of the eligibility of the beneficiary on the date of entry into force of the RRF Fund contract.

The disbursement of the Funds under the Facility under the RRF Fund contract shall be subject to the fulfilment of the RRF Fund conditions as agreed in the RRF Fund contract.

Notice to applicants:

The applicant is obliged to familiarize with the terms and conditions that will be imposed on the beneficiary by the RRF Fund contract and that will be verified by the Implementing Body during the implementation of the project.

If, during the period of the contractual relationship between the Implementing Body and the Beneficiary (under the concluded RRF Fund Contract), it is found that, at the time of submission of the RRF FUND application, any condition for the provision of the Funds under the Facility has been assessed as fulfilled based on information that was false and/or incorrect and/or misleading and/or incomplete, in such a case, the Implementing Body shall draw the consequences of the non-fulfilment of the conditions for the provision of the Funds under the Facility and shall be entitled to apply all procedures provided for in the RRF Fund contract, the Mechanism Act or other applicable national or EU legislation in case of non-fulfilment of the conditions for the provision of the Funds under the Facility.

The applicant, all suppliers and subcontractors under the project are obliged to register in the register of public sector partners if they are subject to the obligation to register under § 2 of the Register of Partners Act²⁹.

D. CRITERIA FOR DEFINING THE RANKING OF THE RRF FUND APPLICATIONS

Technical evaluation criteria for defining the ranking of the RRF Fund applications

The final ranking of all RRF Fund applications is defined by the scores of the technical evaluation. The procedure is described in detail in section B, point 3 and is in accordance with the VAIA Binding Methodology for the Management, Financing and Evaluation of Support of the Research, Development and Innovation.

The processes related to the technical evaluation of the RRF Fund applications - i.e. any Implementing Body requests for completion according to the rules set out in section B - shall have no impact on the ranking of the RRF FUND applications.

The technical evaluation criteria are divided into three main groups, under which project excellence, project impact (influence) and implementation are evaluated. **The RRF Fund application can obtain a maximum of 15 points. A**

²⁸ The RRF FUND contract shall enter into force on the day following the date of its publication by the Implementing Body in the Central Register of Contracts. The first publication of the RRF FUND contract shall be arranged by the Implementing Body and the date of publication of the RRF FUND contract shall be communicated to the applicant, without prejudice to the obligation of publication by the other contracting party, if it is the person obliged to publish the contract.

²⁹ Act No. 315/2016 Coll. on the Register of Public Sector Partners and on Amendments and Additions to Certain Acts, as amended.

minimum of 10 points is required for RRF Fund application to be included in the list of projects that can be supported by the Funds under the Facility.

Technical evaluation criteria:

1. Excellence (0 - 5 points)

1.1. Relevance of the project objectives

- i. Relevance of the project to its focus and planned activities, existence of demand for solutions to the problem/area in question
- ii. Consistency with strategic documents at national and/or European level and linking activities to the European Research Area
- iii. Linkage and consistency of project activities with the long-term priorities and strategic documents of the applicant and partner (if relevant)

1.2. Quality and ambition of the project, relevance and contribution of the project and project activities

- i. The proposed activities go beyond existing solutions; new concepts, processes, services, collaborations, etc. are created.
- ii. Existence of a comparative advantage of the project solution in Slovakia
- iii. The TRLs at level 6 - 8 indicated in the RRF Fund application correspond to the proposed project activities

1.3. Excellence of the applicant and partner (if relevant)

- i. The quality and adequacy of the professional experience, expertise, competences and skills of the research team and the applicant (references)
- ii. Comparative advantage of implementing the project with the applicant/partner

1.4. Quality and appropriateness of the proposed methodology

- i. The scientific method of the project and its relevance in relation to the achievement of the project objectives
- ii. Individual research and innovation activities, including strengths and weaknesses (SWOT analysis)
- iii. Expected results and outputs of the project and their sustainability and use in practice

1.5. Consideration of multi- and interdisciplinary approaches, open science principles, FAIR access to research data, gender equality in research (if relevant)

- i. Synergies between the projects addressed (e.g. - the application is developed in the framework of SME support by the European Digital Innovation Centres and the project will contribute to the development and sustainability of the digital ecosystem in Slovakia)

2. Impact (0 - 5 points)

2.1 Impact of the project

- i. Expected results and impacts of project activities, planned scope of project impact, adequacy of expected results and outputs - quantitative and qualitative measurable indicators within the monitoring data, corresponding to the scope of the project, the requested grant amount and the stated objectives of the project
- ii. Sustainability and project potential

2.2 Communication and dissemination of project results

- i. Use of research data and other research outputs after the end of the project
- ii. Knowledge transfer and access to project results

3. Implementation (0 - 5 points)

3.1 Project plan and deliverables

- i. Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, timing of project implementation, feasibility
- ii. Outputs - relevance to project objectives, quantifiability, verifiability and feasibility

3.2 Project management and project management processes

- i. Method of project implementation and coordination of the actors involved
- ii. Implementation risks and steps to mitigate them

3.3 Operational capacity of the applicant and partner (if relevant)

- i. Key researchers, innovators and experts involved in the project, their roles
- ii. Research and innovation infrastructure needed for project implementation - availability

3.4 Assessment of the efficiency, economy and effectiveness of eligible costs

- i. Assessment of the efficiency, economy and relevance of the eligible project costs

3.5 Consistency of project activities and planned project outputs and results

- i. Coordination and efficiency of project processes with regard to project results and impact

E. INFORMATION FOR THE APPLICANTS

Communication with the applicant

Method of financing:

Provision of the Funds under the Facility in the amount of a maximum of 100% of eligible costs shall be made in a non-repayable manner pursuant to § 14 of Act No. 368/2021 Coll. on the Recovery and Resilience Plan and on Amendments and Supplements to Certain Acts, as amended (hereinafter also referred to as the "Facility Act") on the basis of a submitted RRF Fund application and under the conditions set out in this Call and related documents.

The following funding modalities shall apply under this Call:

- **advance payment system, pre-financing and reimbursement system, or a combination thereof**, in accordance with the rules set out in the applicable System of Implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility of the Slovak Republic.
- The method of financing shall be the subject of the draft RRF Fund contract.

MIRRI SR will communicate with applicants electronically through an electronic mailbox during the RRF Fund application assessment process and during project implementation in accordance with the e-Government Act.

MIRRI SR sends important documents (e.g. invitation to complete the RRF Fund application, notification of fulfilment/non fulfilment of the RRF Fund conditions) to the applicant **in its own hands** via the applicant's electronic mailbox, or via the electronic mailbox of the person authorised to act during the application assessment, or the person authorised to deliver documents in the framework of the application assessment.

If the **electronic mailbox of the applicant/authorised person is not activated** for delivery, the delivery of documents will be ensured through the Central Official Delivery service. The administrator of the e-Delivery module shall ensure that a paper copy of the document is made and delivered to the addressee in paper form via the postal undertaking in accordance with § 31a of the eGovernment Act.

MIRRI SR will also inform by e-mail the person indicated by the applicant in its duly submitted RRF Fund application as the contact person for the applicant about the sending of the documents.

In the context of electronic delivery of an important document in his own hands via an electronic mailbox, the **Implementing Body shall apply the fiction of delivery**, which means that the content of the document shall be made available only after the acknowledgement of the delivery receipt. **The storage period shall be 15 calendar days.** The documents shall be deemed to have been delivered on acknowledgement of receipt (the hour, minute and second indicated on the electronic receipt) or on the expiry of the retention period (15 calendar days from the day following the day on which the electronic message was deposited), whichever is the earlier, even if the addressee has not been informed of this fact.

Within the delivery of an important document through the Central Official Delivery service, the Implementing Body shall proceed in accordance with the valid Postal Terms and Conditions of Slovak Post, a. s., according to which the time limit for picking up the parcel in the case of an unsuccessful attempt to deliver it is set at 18 calendar days. In the event of failure to collect the parcel within the specified period, the Implementing Body shall consider an important document which the addressee fails to collect within the collection period as delivered on the day of its return to the Implementing Body, even if the addressee has not been informed of this fact.

Rules for informing and communicating with the public

The Implementing Body shall publish on the website <https://www.mirri.gov.sk/plan-obnovy/>:

- **a list of applicants who have fulfilled/not fulfilled the RRF Fund conditions**, namely
 - within 10 working days of notification of the RRF Fund conditions being met/not met, or

- within 10 working days of the expiry of the objection period; or
 - within 10 working days of the sending of the decision on the objections
- and

➤ **a list of beneficiaries** within 10 working days of the entry into force of the RRF Fund contract.

The Implementing Body may publish answers to frequently asked questions of a general nature via the website <https://www.mirri.gov.sk/plan-obnovy/>.

Contact:

Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic
 Section for Implementation of Informatization Projects
 Pribinova 4195/25
 811 09 Bratislava
 tel.: +421 2 2092 8190
 e-mail: plan.obnovy@mirri.gov.sk

Office hours:

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 - 14:30 p.m.
 Friday: 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 - 14:00 p.m.

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

The applicant is advised to monitor the website of the Implementing Body <https://www.mirri.gov.sk/plan-obnovy/> . All other necessary information and updates will also be published on this link.

Modification and cancellation of the Call

In unavoidable cases where it is not possible to assess the RRF Fund application based on the Call as originally launched, or a change is necessary in order to optimise it or to align it with updated management documentation or relevant legislation, the Implementing Body is entitled to modify or cancel the Call under the conditions laid down in the Mechanism Act³⁰.

The change/cancellation of the Call shall be published by the Implementing Body through the information on the change/cancellation of the Call on the website <https://www.mirri.gov.sk/plan-obnovy/> .

The modification/cancellation of the Call **shall be effective** in accordance with the information given in the information on the modification/cancellation of the Call, but **at the earliest on the date of its publication** on the website <https://www.mirri.gov.sk/plan-obnovy/> .

Prior to the modification of the Call, the RRF Fund conditions defined under the Call are valid and the documents defining them () in force at the time of the launch of the Call, or in accordance with the last published modification of the Call.

Until the Call is modified, the Call is subject to the RRF Fund conditions and the documents that define them (including the documents to which the Call refers), valid at the time the Call was announced, or in accordance with the last published modification of the Call.

The RRF Fund application submitted before the date of cancellation of the Call, the assessment of which has not been completed by the Implementing Body by the date of cancellation of the Call, shall be returned by the Implementing Body to the applicant. The rules for cancellation of the Call shall also apply in the case of changes to the documents referred to in the Call, if such changes affect the possibility of providing the Funds under the Facility.

The cancellation of the Call does not affect the fact that a proposal for concluding the RRF Fund contract has been sent to the applicant prior to the Call cancellation. In relation to a proposal for concluding the RRF Fund contract which has been sent prior to the Call cancellation, the provisions of the general regulation governing contractual relations shall apply accordingly.

Correction of typing, counting or other obvious errors (e.g. resulting from the need to modify the technical details of selected model forms of application annexes or other parts of the Call or documents related to the Call) shall not constitute a change to the Call and the Implementing Body shall inform the applicants of the corrections/modifications made by publishing them on the website <https://www.mirri.gov.sk/plan-obnovy/> (including, where applicable, the publication of the document with the corrected obvious inaccuracy).

³⁰ § 15(6) and (7) of Act No 368/2021 Coll. on the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism and on the amendment and supplementation of certain acts..

| F. CALL ANNEXES | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. | RRF Fund application including Affidavit of applicant (<i>via ISPO</i> - https://ispo.planobnovy.sk) |
| 1.a | Affidavit of partner (if applicable) |
| 2. | Draft Grant Agreement (<i>model</i>) |
| 2.a | Annex 1 of the RRF Fund Contract - General Terms and Conditions for the provision of the Funds under the Facility |
| 2.b | Annex 2 of the RRF Fund Contract - Project Description |
| 2.c | Annex 3 of the RRF Fund Contract - Project Details and Project Budget |
| 2.d | Annex 4 of the RRF FU Fund ND Contract - Project Anti-Corruption Clause |
| 3. | Details required for requesting a criminal record extract (<i>model</i>) |
| 4. | Summary report of the EDP process for the SK RIS3 2021+ Strategy - Digital Transformation of Slovakia |
| 5. | Examples of measurable indicators |
| 6. | Model Partnership Contract |
| 6.a | Annex 1 of the Partnership Contract - Project Description (Annex 2 of the RRF Fund Contract will be used) |
| 6.b | Annex 2 of the Partnership Contract - Project details and project budget (Annex 3 of the RRF Fund Contract will be used) |