How is the Slovenian Research Agency addressing the COVID-19 pandemic?

**MEASURES BASED ON THE INTERVENTION LEGISLATION**

**Measures based on the ZZUSUDJZ and ZZUSUDJZ-A acts**

Determination of deadlines for exercising material rights and for fulfilling material obligations, filing applications and serving documents.

Note: expiration date - 31. 5. 2020

**Measures based on the ZIUZEOP act**

One-year extension of validity and funding for research and infrastructure programmes whose funding expires at the end of 2020, one-year extension of the deadline for the purchase of research equipment (Packages 17 and 18), one-year extension of bilateral projects with the USA and Russia.

**Measures based on Act ZZUOOP**

The Minister responsible for science may, for the purposes of research in the field of COVID-19 in 2020, authorize ARRS to additionally finance research programs that were already selected in a public call in 2020 and proposed for funding by ZSA.

**Measures based on Act ZIUOPDVE**

Junior researchers whose deadline for the fulfilment of contractual obligations for the completion of training (defence of a doctoral thesis) expires in the period from 12 March 2020 to 31 December 2021 shall be awarded a one-year extension of the deadline.

**MEASURES INTRODUCED BY THE AGENCY**

**U1ARRS:** **Questionnaire on research potential during the COVID-19 pandemic**

Purpose: to inform the general public and the highest-level decision-makers about research potential based on the collected data as well as to enable the integration and clustering of such potential.


**U2ARRS:** **Support for the extension and/or adaptation of the thematic areas of research programmes within the existing scope of research**

Purpose: the possibility of adapting the content of the research orientations of research programmes to direct or indirect research related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Informing leaders: 31/3/2020]

**U3ARRS:** **Joint dedicated call under the umbrella of the Leading Agency (FWF) with partners**

Purpose: dedicated projects of researchers within effective international partnerships;

partners: FWF – Austria (Leading Agency role), GACR – Czech Republic, FNR – Luxembourg, DFG – Germany, NCN – Poland, SNSF – Switzerland.
U4ARRS: Public call for applications to increase the funding of research programmes related to the COVID-19 pandemic

*Purpose:* a new mechanism to increase the scope of research programmes addressing the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Publication: 2/6/2020, Publication of results: November 2020]

U6ARRS: CRP – dedicated targeted research programme

*Purpose:* implementation of targeted research programmes monitoring phenomena similar to the COVID-19 pandemic; public tender prepared in cooperation with Ministry of Health, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

[7 research projects selected for financing, starting on 1.10.2020]

U7ARRS: Public call for the selection of research projects within the framework of the “CRP 2021” targeted research programme for 2021

*Purpose:* implementation of targeted research projects to support the government and the sectors of public call participants in relation to determining development guidelines and policies in individual areas of public interest which are necessary to improve the competitiveness and sustainable development of Slovenia.

Among the proposed topics in the public call there are topics related to the analysis of the COVID-19 epidemic and proposals for better preparedness of the country to deal with future epidemics. The public call has been prepared in cooperation with the proposers of the topics - CRP participants.

*(Publication of the public call: 26 May 2021, publication of results: September 2021)*

Note: The implementation of the planned activities depends on the pandemic situation, the preparation of the relevant acts, the coordination with the competent authorities and the available human resources while carrying out other regular activities of the Agency.