

Pursuant to Article 45(3) of the Scientific Research and Innovation Activities Act (Official Gazette of RS, Nos. 186/21, 40/23, 102/24 and 40/25) and Article 29(1) of the Decision Establishing the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency (Official Gazette of list RS, Nos. 48/23 and 70/25) the ARIS Scientific Council at its 5th correspondence session on 12.2.2026 adopted

Methodology for the Assessment of Applications in the Procedures for the (Co-)Financing of Scientific Research Activities

A. GENERAL

The methodology for the assessment of applications in the procedures for (co-)financing of scientific research activities (hereinafter: Methodology) is based on the provisions of the Scientific Research and Innovation Activities Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia Nos. 186/21, 40/23, 102/24 and 40/25; hereinafter: ZZrID) and the General Act on Procedures for (Co-)Financing, Evaluating and Monitoring of Research Activities (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos. 166/22 and 92/24).

The code list for research disciplines, fields and sub-fields of ARIS (hereinafter: ARIS code list) is specified in Annex 1, which is an integral part of this Methodology.

ARIS may also use the classification of disciplines, fields and sub-fields of ERC panels (hereinafter: ERC classification) in evaluation or funding allocation procedures as specified in Annex 2 which forms an integral part of this Methodology.

B. RESEARCH PROJECTS

I. Entry requirements

As an entry requirement, the research project leader must hold a doctoral degree obtained in accordance with Article 63 of the ZZrID.

II. Reviewers' evaluation and application selection procedure

Reviewers evaluate applications in the research field of the ERC classification as indicated in the ARIS-RPROJ-Prijava-20xx form. Reviewers evaluate the individual assessment elements by completing the evaluation sheet (form: ARIS-RPROJ-EvalForm-x/20xx). Numeric and descriptive scores for each criterion are entered into the evaluation sheet.

Reviewer scores comprise the following:

- BT score - for basic projects comprising three individual scores on the basis of criteria, indicators and evaluation methods as defined in Table B1 and Table B3.
- BA score - for applied projects comprising four individual scores on the basis of criteria, indicators and evaluation methods as defined in Table B2 and Table B3.

BT or BA score is the sum of individual scores whereby the maximum total score is:

- 15 points for basic projects (BT = BT1+BT2+BT3) and 20 points for applied projects (BA = BA1+BA2+BA3+BA4). For the Scientific Excellence of Researchers criterion, the project leader and the entire project team are evaluated.

III. Assessment elements

a) Basic projects

The assessment elements for basic projects are specified in Table B1.

Table B1:

BT score	Criterion	Indicators	Maximum No. of points
BT 1	Scientific Excellence of Researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outstanding achievements - Demonstrated capability of independent and creative thinking - Ability to prepare a research proposal and conduct the research 	5
BT 2	Scientific Excellence of Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adequacy of addressing important research challenges - Ambition and exceptionality of goals (for example, new methods and approaches for developing the scientific fields) - Soundness of the concept, including trans-disciplinary considerations and relevance of the objectives - Originality of the idea - Adequacy of the proposed research methodology to achieve the objectives 	5
BT 3	Quality and Efficiency of Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adequacy and effectiveness of the work plan, including the adequacy of the allocation of tasks and allocation of resources - Feasibility of a scientific approach 	5
Total			15

b) Applied projects

The assessment elements for applied projects are specified in Table B2.

Table B2:

BA score	Criterion	Indicators	Maximum No. of points
BA 1	Scientific Excellence of Researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outstanding achievements - Demonstrated capability of independent and creative thinking - Ability to prepare a research proposal and conduct the research 	5
BA 2	Scientific Excellence of Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Soundness of the concept, including trans-disciplinary considerations and relevance of the objectives - Adequacy of the proposed research methodology to achieve the objectives - Ambition, innovation potential and the state of the art (e.g. ground-breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches) 	5
BA 3	Quality and Efficiency of Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adequacy and effectiveness of the work plan, including the adequacy of the allocation of tasks and allocation of resources - Relevance of the project partners and the project team 	5

		- Adequacy of the management regarding the risks and overcoming existing knowledge	
BA 4	Social and Economic Impact	- Strengthening the competitiveness and growth of companies by developing innovations for meeting the needs of European and global markets - All other environmental and socially significant impacts, including impacts on cultural development (not included in other indicators) - Effectiveness of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results (including management of intellectual property rights), to communicate the project, and to manage research data - Expected effects of the project - Strengthening innovation and incorporation of new knowledge	5
	Total		20

IV. Evaluation of application criteria

Reviewers score the criteria from 0 to 5 (to one decimal place), whereby they consider the descriptions, meanings and score ranges as specified in Table B3.

Table B3:

Score description	Meaning	Numerical score (number of points)
	The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.	0.0
Inadequate	The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.	1.0 - 1.9
Deficient	The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.	2.0 - 2.9
Good	The proposal addresses the criterion well, but several shortcomings are present.	3.0 - 3.9
Very good	The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.	4.0 - 4.6
Excellent	The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.	4.7 - 5.0

The following projects cannot be selected as (co-)financed projects:

- a basic project with the BT score = $BT1+BT2+BT3$ less than 10 points or an individual BT1, BT2 or BT3 score less than 3 points.
- an applied project with the BA score = $BA1+BA2+BA3+BA4$ less than 12 points or an individual BT1, BT2 or BT3 score less than 3 points.

Reviewers shall be notified about the threshold values upon receiving the application.

V. Distribution of funds

Within the framework of the Public Call (hereinafter: the Call), ARIS publishes data on the capacity of ERC classification fields for basic projects at the base funding value by career stage, applied projects at

the base funding value, and post-doctoral projects, taking into account the indicative funding value of the Call.

Clinical studies must demonstrate the participation of healthcare/educational institutions for at least 30% of the research hours. Applicants for a clinical study project must select one ERC domain within the ERC Life Sciences (LS) and one ARIS field within the ARIS discipline of medicine. In the case of interdisciplinary study, this should be the primary field. For each project application in which the applicant selects clinical medicine as the research field, the applicant must specifically justify that the project is clinically oriented. This will be verified and either confirmed or rejected by the international panel during the evaluation procedure.

VI. Basic research projects - Dr. Aleš Debeljak Programme

Within the framework of the Call, basic research projects – Dr. Aleš Debeljak Programme (hereinafter: basic research projects – AD Programme) are also selected. The following is taken into account:

- The funding value of an individual basic research project - AD Programme is €150,000 per annum for 2 or 3 years.
- The international panel draws up a draft priority list of projects, starting with the highest evaluated projects per ERC discipline, which must concern different ERC fields within the ERC discipline. In case all submitted projects within the ERC discipline concern the same ERC field, the priority list includes the best ranked projects in the same field.
- If the draft priority project list contains fewer than 12 project applications, the method of allocating the remaining Call funds (for the subject of the Call "basic research projects - Dr. Aleš Debeljak Programme") shall be specified in the Call.
- If a basic research project – AD Programme is not selected within this programme, it can be submitted for consideration for basic research projects in line with the rules applicable for the selection of these projects and in terms of the career stage of the project leader.
- In the event that funds remain unallocated in one domain, these funds shall be used to (co-)finance the highest-rated applications in other domains where the number of applications exceeds the available funds. In the case that two or more applications receive the same number of points, the panel shall rank higher on the proposed priority list the application that is submitted in a field that does not yet have a selected application under the Dr. Aleš Debeljak Programme. If the tie persists, priority shall be given to the application that scores higher on the Scientific Excellence of Application criterion, then the application that scores higher on the Scientific Excellence of Researchers criterion, and then the application of the project leader with the least amount of time elapsed since the defence of the first doctoral thesis (the date of the defence of the doctoral thesis is taken into account).

Requirements for submitting basic research project - AD Programme are the following:

- On the closing date of the Call, the leader of the submitted project must be living abroad for at least one year and may not be employed in the Republic of Slovenia nor have a suspension of their employment contract (legal suspension or suspension based on agreement with the employer) or the status of a private researcher in the Republic of Slovenia. The requirement of living abroad for a period of at least one year is also considered fulfilled if the leader of the submitted project defended their doctoral dissertation abroad no more than one year prior to closure of the Call.
- On the closing date of the Call, the leader of the submitted project must fulfil the requirement that no more than 15 years have passed since the year of defending their first doctoral dissertation.

- The leader of the submitted project must be a citizen of the Republic of Slovenia on the closing date of the Call.
- The leader of the submitted project must be listed as working on the research project they lead for at least 340 effective research hours annually (20% of 1700 effective research hours). Upon entering into the contract for the (co-)financing of the research project, the project leader must have on record at least 20% of their employment allocated to research activities.
- The leader of the submitted project must not have previously received (co-)financing under the same or a similar scheme, i.e. a scheme intended for (co-)financing projects of researchers returning to the Republic of Slovenia from abroad.