



EVALUATION PROCESS

Annex no. 1 to the Call documentation
for the 17th call under the SIGMA programme
Sub-Objective 2: Early-Stage Researchers (Industrial Chairs)

Ref. No.: TACR/3432-2/2026

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INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION

This annex to the Call documentation contains all the information that you will need for the evaluation of project proposals submitted to this call. All documents related to the launch of this call, information on the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (hereinafter referred to as „TA CR“), applicable legislation and on the terminology used can be found on the [TA CR website](#) or directly in the TA CR shared information system (hereinafter referred to as „SISTA“).

The conditions of this call under the SIGMA programme (sub-objective 2) are given in the [Call documentation](#) or in other documents published on the day of the launch of the call.

The evaluation process is conducted in **English**. In case of divergence between the Czech version and the English translation of this document, the Czech version shall prevail.

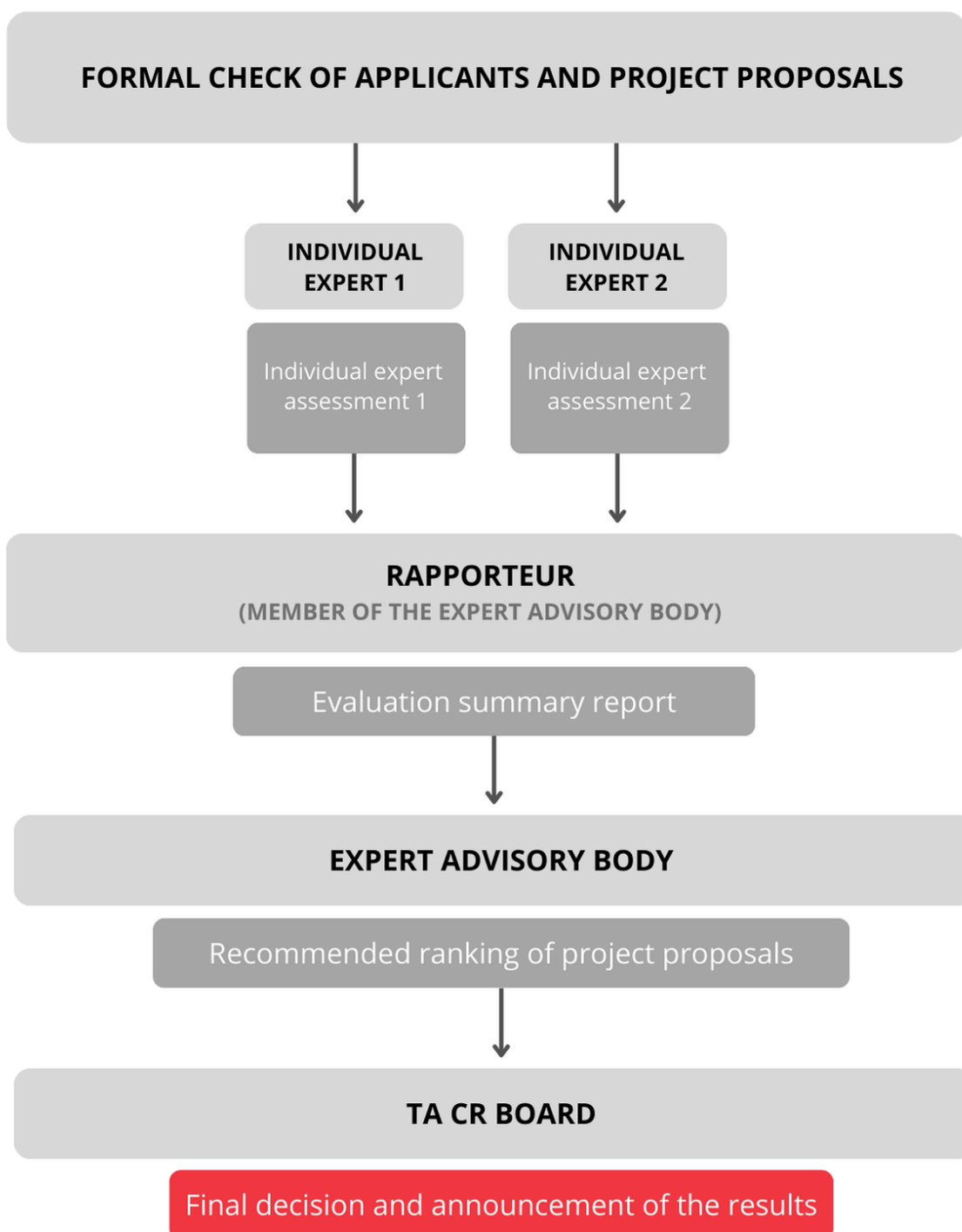
If any condition or instruction in this document addresses all stages of the evaluation process, a general expression **expert** is used. This designation – as well as other terms (individual expert, rapporteur, investigator, etc.) – is intended to refer to both the masculine and feminine genders.

Please note that after the evaluation process, all evaluation reports will be made available in an anonymous version to the applicants of the relevant project proposals in SISTA.

EVALUATION PROCESS

Each project proposal must be evaluated as follows:

- 1. FORMAL CHECK OF APPLICANTS AND PROJECT PROPOSALS** – a committee for admission of project proposals will check the formalities of the project proposal and the eligibility of all applicants. Project proposals that have met all the conditions of the call will be evaluated in the following evaluation stages.
- 2. INDIVIDUAL EXPERTS** – each project proposal is evaluated independently by two individual experts according to the evaluation criteria. Each individual expert will study the project proposal and draw up an individual expert assessment.
- 3. RAPPORTEUR** – will study the project proposal, the individual expert assessments and will draw up an evaluation summary report (hereinafter referred to as the „ESR“). The rapporteur will conclude their ESR with a proposal of the final statement provided by the Expert Advisory Body.
- 4. EXPERT ADVISORY BODY** – this body is mainly composed of the representatives of Czech government departments and public innovation institutions, and application-sector experts. The Expert Advisory Body will provide a final statement on each project proposal and propose a preliminary ranking of project proposals for the TA CR Board.
- 5. TA CR BOARD** – will use as a basis the statement and ranking proposed by the Expert Advisory Body and will decide on the granting of funding to selected project proposals under the conditions of the allocation of funds established for this public call.



1. INDIVIDUAL EXPERTS

For each project proposal, individual experts:

- evaluate the **substantive part** (according to set evaluation criteria):
 - in case of the **binary criteria**, they assess, whether the binary criteria were met by the project proposal, and they support their decision with a written commentary;
 - they evaluate each **scored criterion** using a score scale and accompany the awarded score with a written justification;
- summarise **the positives and the negatives** in the conclusion of their individual expert assessment (a system of bullet points is suitable for better clarity and orientation in the text);
- draw up their personal **final statement** on a given project proposal, leading to recommending / not recommending it for funding.

The individual expert **must not** recommend the project proposal for funding if:

- any of the binary criteria has not been met and/or
- any of the scored criteria has not been met; therefore, it was scored 0 points and/or
- the total number of points awarded is **less than 60**.

The total number of points which can be awarded by an individual expert, is **100**. The project proposal may, therefore, be awarded up to **200** points.

Each individual expert must ensure that the **awarded points and the written comments are consistent** (coherence of the evaluation). If the individual expert awards the **full number of points**, the comments should contain the positives of the project proposal. If the individual expert reduces the number of points, they must state the specific negatives so that the list of shortcomings corresponds to the overall score awarded to the project proposal.

In the justification of their assessment, individual experts will clearly summarise their views on the project proposal. In the event of a **positive assessment**, they will state the main positives of the project proposal and other reasons relevant for its funding. Even a positive statement may contain negatives, which should, however, be reflected in the awarded score. On the other hand, in the case of a **negative assessment**, they will state all the arguments why the project proposal should not be recommended for funding.

2. RAPPORTEUR

The rapporteur will draw up the **ESR** in which they will express an opinion on the evaluation of individual experts, will summarise the positives and negatives of the project proposal, and will state whether they recommend the project proposal for funding or not. Furthermore, the rapporteur will address the overall point evaluation and the adequacy of a financial plan.

The rapporteur who draws up the ESR for the eventually funded project proposal, also usually becomes the project's rapporteur in the implementation stage.¹

SECTIONS OF THE EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORT AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING THESE SECTIONS:

PREVIOUS ASSESSMENT

In this part of the ESR, there is an overview of the individual experts' assessments in each evaluation criterion.

RAPPORTEUR'S COMMENTS

Comments on the binary criteria

The rapporteur comments on the binary criteria if:

- they have doubts about the fulfillment of any binary criteria (arguments should be provided why they marked the criterion as not met or why, despite doubts, they leaned towards the evaluation „met“) and/or
- any of the individual experts marked any binary criteria as not met. If that happens, the rapporteur is obligated to comment on it and provide their own clear statement on whether they consider the binary criterion met or not.

Comments on differences in scored criteria between individual experts and an eventual proposal of the overall score adjustment

In this textbox, the rapporteur will comment on individual scored criteria. Comments need to be provided in every case when the individual experts differ by two and more scale points. Rapporteur also comments on any discrepancy in the final statements of the individual experts and the total awarded score. However, at their discretion, the rapporteur may also mention any other discrepancies considered significant for the overall assessment (the individual experts, for example, may have awarded very similar scores, while having major differences in the related comments and arguments).

A point correction is proposed by the rapporteur only if there has been a significant error in the evaluation made by any individual expert. However, any proposal to change the point evaluation must be duly justified. The rapporteur is entitled to propose a point adjustment even if the assessment provided by the individual experts does not significantly differ (in that case, they may claim what level of the score scale they find corresponding to the quality of the project proposal). Proposals for adjusting the overall point evaluation shall be presented by the rapporteur **in indents** with regard to the order of scored criteria, by indicating the number of points, specifying the individual expert's assessment, and explaining why, according to the rapporteur, the points were incorrectly awarded by the individual expert in a given criterion.

¹ Once a year, the rapporteur draws up a statement on the applicants' annual report, in which they comment on any eventual changes occurring in the project. The rapporteur may be also asked to cooperate when an administrative and financial inspection, a monitoring visit, or a project evaluation are required for a given project. Eventually, the rapporteur is informed about their duties in more detail during the project implementation.

Proposal for a point correction

In this numerical box, the rapporteur states **the exact number** of points proposed as an adjustment of the overall score, according to the justification outlined in the textbox above. The proposal to change the point evaluation may be in the range of **± 60 points**. The adjusted sum of points awarded to the project proposal needs to respect the scoring scales set for each scored criterion. If, according to the rapporteur's evaluation, a larger correction of points is needed, the rapporteur shall propose a maximum of 60 points numerically in this box, but the verbal comment in the textbox above may anticipate a need for a higher correction. Any additional corrections may be performed by the Expert Advisory Body and/or the TA CR board.

Comments on the project proposal's budget

The rapporteur shall comment on the adequacy of the budget. If the rapporteur considers the budget to be inadequate, they are entitled to propose (with due justification):

- **a reduction in the total costs or costs of one of the applicants** (it is necessary to propose a percentage reduction and specify the relevant year of project implementation).

It is **not possible** to propose a reduction in costs in a single cost category (e.g., personnel costs by 20%), but only a reduction in the total costs of the project proposal or the total costs of one of the applicants of the project proposal. A proposal for a reduction in costs must be **duly justified**, e.g., by overestimated number of FTEs with regard to the planned activities, or by unreasonably high travel costs without a clear link to the planned output/result.

Furthermore, it is **not possible** to propose a reduction in costs due to high personnel costs if the applicant indicates Average personnel costs per FTE for a given year of up to **CZK 1.6 million**. Any applicant who indicates amounts below the set threshold for this budget item in the project proposal for the individual years of implementation is entitled to provide only a general justification regarding the calculation of these amounts for key investigators and other personnel involved in the project. Amounts justified in this manner do not constitute grounds for cost reduction during the evaluation process; however, they may result in a lower score under the scored criterion no. 5.

If the Average personnel costs per FTE exceed the threshold of CZK 1.6 million in any year of implementation, applicants are required to provide a detailed justification for the level of personnel costs in the project proposal. This must be done particularly with regard to the importance of the positions of the personnel involved, the manner and extent of their participation in the planned activities within the project team, and the necessity of their professional competencies for achieving the set objectives and planned outputs/results. If the justification is insufficient, the rapporteur may propose a reduction in costs (specifically for each year in which the applicant exceeds the set threshold), and this may likewise serve as grounds for a lower score.

- **an adjustment of the IR/ED ratio** for any of the applicants in specific years in the project implementation.

Positives and negatives of the project proposal

In this part of the ESR, the rapporteur summarises the positives and negatives of the project proposal (a system of bullet points is suitable for better clarity and orientation in the text). For this summary, they can use the arguments given in the individual experts' assessments. Listed positives and negatives should clearly reflect the quality of the given project proposal with respect to the evaluation criteria as well as to the overall score.

FINAL SUMMARY

Rapporteur's recommendation of the project proposal for funding

In this box, the rapporteur will state whether they recommend the project proposal for funding or not.

The rapporteur **must not** recommend a project proposal for funding if:

- any of the binary criteria has not been met and/or
- any of the scored criteria has not been met; therefore, it was scored 0 points (in total for both individual expert assessments, considering also the later possible point correction of any of them made by the rapporteur) and/or
- the project proposal was awarded **less than 120 points** (in total for both individual expert assessments, considering also the later possible point correction of any of them made by the rapporteur).

Justification of the rapporteur's assessment on the provision of funding

In this textbox, the rapporteur summarises their assessment of the project proposal. Here, the rapporteur states the main positives and negatives of the project proposal, which must clearly demonstrate why the project proposal is recommended for funding or not.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (not available to applicants)

Draft of the final statement on behalf of the following collective body

This is a draft of the final statement serving as a basis for deliberations of the Expert Advisory Body. The rapporteur writes this justification on behalf of the Expert Advisory Body, in the third person singular. The rapporteur will state the main positives and negatives of the project proposal, from which it must be clear why the project proposal is recommended for funding or not.

If the rapporteur proposes any point correction and/or budget adjustment, they will state the proposal on behalf of the Expert Advisory Body at the end of this statement. Any proposed changes must be clearly described and duly justified.

Example:

The Expert Advisory Body recommends to decrease/increase the total sum of points by X points, namely:

- decrease/increase the score of criterion no. X by X points by the expert no. X due to...
- decrease/increase the score of criterion no. X to the level of X points due to...

Evaluation of the quality of individual experts' assessments

Furthermore, the rapporteur assesses the quality of the individual expert assessments of the project proposal. This evaluation serves as the feedback to individual experts and, at the same time, as a basis for assessing the work of experts by TA CR.

The rapporteur marks the individual expert assessments for:

- **coherence** – consistency of the score and verbal comments;
- **credibility** – professional level and the quality of evaluation.

If the rapporteur could **not rely** on any of the individual expert assessments, it is necessary to rate such assessment by a **mark of three or four**.

Moreover, the rapporteur identifies the **positives and negatives** of the individual expert assessments.

The rapporteur may also use the option of returning the individual expert assessment to be revised (by sending a request to experti@tacr.cz).

3. EXPERT ADVISORY BODY

The Expert Advisory Body provides its own final statement on the project proposal. While evaluating the project proposal, the Expert Advisory Body uses as a basis the individual expert assessments and the ESR. In its final statement, the Expert Advisory Body may diverge from the assessment of the rapporteur and/or individual experts.

In the final statement, the Expert Advisory Body is entitled to propose:

- **an adjustment of the score** awarded to the project proposal by a maximum of **60 points**. In the event that, according to the Expert Advisory Body's evaluation, a larger correction of points is needed, the TA CR Board, a following collective body, is entitled to adjust the score beyond the competence of the Expert Advisory Body. The adjusted sum of points awarded to the project proposal needs to respect the scoring scales set for each scored criterion.

Any change in score must be **duly justified** – each adjustment of the score proposed by the Expert Advisory Body will be articulated in indents with regard to the order of scored criteria, by indicating the number of points, specifying the individual expert's assessment, and explaining why, according to the Expert Advisory Body, the points were incorrectly awarded by the individual expert.

The Expert Advisory Body is entitled to propose a point adjustment even if the assessment provided by the individual experts does not significantly differ (in that case, it may claim what level of the score scale they find corresponding to the quality of the project proposal).

- **a reduction in the total costs or costs of one of the applicants** (it is necessary to specify which years in the project implementation the proposal for adjustment addresses).

It is **not possible** to propose a reduction in costs in a **single cost category** (e.g., personnel costs by 20%), but only a reduction in the total costs of the project proposal or the total costs of one of the applicants of the project proposal. A proposal for a reduction in costs must be **duly justified**, e.g., by overestimated number of FTEs with regard to the planned activities, or by unreasonably high travel costs without a clear link to the planned output/result.

Furthermore, it is **not possible** to propose a reduction in costs due to high personnel costs if the applicant indicates **Average personnel costs per FTE** for a given year of up to **CZK 1.6 million**. Any applicant who indicates amounts below the set threshold for this budget item in the project proposal for the individual years of implementation is entitled to provide only a general justification regarding the calculation of these amounts for key investigators and other personnel involved in the project. Amounts justified in this manner do not constitute grounds for cost reduction during the evaluation process; however, they may result in a lower score under the scored criterion no. 5.

If the **Average personnel costs per FTE** exceed the threshold of CZK 1.6 million in any year of implementation, applicants are required to provide a detailed justification for the level of personnel costs in the project proposal. This must be done particularly with regard to the importance of the positions of the personnel involved, the manner and extent of their participation in the planned activities within the project team, and the necessity of their professional competencies for achieving the set objectives and planned outputs/results. If the justification is insufficient, the Expert Advisory Body may propose a reduction in costs (specifically for each year in which the applicant exceeds the set threshold), and this may likewise serve as grounds for a lower score.

- **an adjustment of the IR/ED ratio** for any of the applicants in specific years in the project implementation.

The Expert Advisory Body **must not** recommend a project proposal for funding if:

- any of the binary criteria has not been met and/or
- any of the scored criteria has not been met; therefore, it was scored 0 points (in total for both individual expert assessments, considering also the later possible point correction of any of them made by the Expert Advisory Body) and/or
- the project proposal was awarded **less than 120 points** (in total for both individual expert assessments, considering also the later possible point correction of any of them made by the Expert Advisory Body).

In the event that a member of the Expert Advisory Body suspects duplication with another project proposal according to the conditions set out in the Call documentation, they will inform

the administrator of the collective bodies, who will ensure verification before the meeting of the TA CR Board.

The output from the meeting of the Expert Advisory Body is a ranking list of all evaluated project proposals in descending order of points.

4. TA CR BOARD

The TA CR Board will assess all project proposals. It will then decide (primarily based on the recommendations of the Expert Advisory Body) which project proposals will be funded and which will not.

The outcome of the meeting of the TA CR Board shall be a ranking list. Project proposals will be ranked in descending order by the total number of points.

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The evaluation under the call shall use **2 binary criteria** and **5 scored criteria**.

BINARY CRITERIA

If any of the binary criteria **is not met, the project proposal cannot be recommended for funding**, regardless of the number of points that the project proposal receives in the evaluation.

1. Fulfillment of the essential conditions for the Industrial Chair candidate and Early-Stage researchers

YES/NO

The expert must evaluate this binary criterion with due justification as not met if even one of the following conditions is not fulfilled.

For the **Industrial Chair** candidate, it is necessary to check whether:

- the key person in the role of the **principal investigator** is the Industrial Chair
- they hold a **higher education degree** (at least a Czech-accredited bachelor's degree or its foreign equivalent)
- the applicants have sufficiently demonstrated that the Industrial Chair candidate has a **minimum of 5 years of professional experience abroad**, including at least 2 years as a team leader
 - the information provided to fulfill this condition must be verified using the CV, LinkedIn profile, employment contract, reference from a direct supervisor, or another relevant annex

- they have not been in an **employment relationship** with the main applicant in the period prior to the launch of the public call, although the following is allowed:
 - the Industrial Chair candidate's study at the main applicant's institution in the past (at the bachelor's, master's, and/or doctoral level)
 - membership in advisory, expert, or similar bodies of the main applicant, particularly in the Commercialisation Board, Centre Board, etc.
 - the Industrial Chair candidate has been in an employment relationship with the main applicant at the time of submitting the project proposal, provided this employment relationship was established after 23 September 2025

Previous ties with the main applicant (employment relationship and studies) must be cross-checked with the CV (or a similar annex) to verify that they match the information provided regarding the candidate's eligibility.

- the textboxes Experience with knowledge transfer, Experience with talent development and Professional profile are filled in the project proposal (the content of these textboxes will be evaluated under the scored criterion no. 1).

For the **Early-Stage researchers**, it is necessary to check whether:

- there are **at least two persons** among the **key investigators of the main applicant** who meet the conditions set for Early-Stage researchers, and one of the following statuses is correctly selected for them:
 - a person up to 35 years of age (as of the last day of the call period), i.e., a person born on or after 13 August 1990
 - a student of a master's, or doctoral programme over 35 years of age
 - a graduate whose highest level of education was properly completed no more than 5 years ago

To fulfill this binary criterion, it is sufficient if there are 2 persons meeting the definition of an Early-Stage researcher listed under the main applicant. If there is any doubt regarding the fulfillment of this definition by any additional Early-Stage researchers, please consider this fact while evaluating the scored criterion no. 4.

Relevant parts of the project proposal:

Substantive part → Excellence → Chair

Project team

Annexes → Other Annexes

2. R&D&I project (novelty, creativity, research uncertainty, systematicity, transferability and/or reproducibility)

YES/NO

Evaluate whether the submitted proposal is a project of applied research (industrial research, experimental development and innovation) according to the [Frascati Manual](#).

The commentary is mandatory if the expert identifies any of the **five following aspects** as not met:

- novelty
- research uncertainty
- creativity
- systematicity
- transferability and/or reproducibility

*If any of the aforementioned five principles was not met, this criterion should be assessed as not met since the project proposal cannot be considered an R&D&I project. In that case, it is **necessary to duly justify** the assessment.*

Within the element of novelty, the applicants must address their own similar currently ongoing or completed projects listed in the project proposal, upon whose outputs/results the project proposal builds. The description of the differences and continuity must be sufficient to prevent double funding.

The expert must assess the fulfillment of the obligation according to Chapter 3.4 of the Call documentation, Differentiation from similar projects. If the applicant (as the main applicant or project partner) fails to specify their similar or related projects at the national or international level in the project proposal, and fails to explain how the project proposal differs from or builds upon, it will be considered grounds for not recommending the project proposal for funding during the evaluation. Therefore, if the expert identifies such a fact, they state the specific project code or title, describe the connections, and evaluate the binary criterion as not met.

Relevant parts of the project proposal:

Substantive part → Excellence → R&D project and current state of knowledge → Novelty, research uncertainty, creativity, systematicity, reproducibility; Delimitation with respect to similar projects and solutions

Substantive part → Impact of the project → Outputs/results

SCORED CRITERIA

If any scored criterion is awarded 0 points by the expert, the project proposal cannot be recommended for funding (even if the binary criteria are met and the overall evaluation by the individual expert surpasses 60 points).

A four-step scale with a corresponding verbal description is determined for the evaluation of each scoring criterion (excluding scored criterion no. 3). The score differs according to the weight of the given criterion according to the table below:

SCORING SCALE			CORRESPONDING VERBAL DESCRIPTION
28	21	15	met without reservations
18	14	10	met with minor reservations
9	7	5	met with major reservations
0	0	0	not met

Individual aspects of the criteria, which are listed in the bullet points below each scored criterion, cannot be seen as sub-criteria with a fixed point value for the scale.

1. Industrial Chair

0;9;18;28 points

Under this criterion, experts evaluate the **candidate's professional career** to date and their proven track record of success, with an emphasis on their ability to serve as a „bridge” between top-level research and industrial practice. The subject of the assessment is the candidate's overall mix of competencies; any potential one-sided imbalance in their profile – for instance, towards a more pronounced practice in industrial research and technology transfer at the expense of traditional academic outputs – is not an obstacle. The evaluation does not focus solely on academic merits but places equal emphasis on the candidate's ability to transfer knowledge into the economy and to manage research teams.

Experts must assess the **suitability of the candidate** for the position of **Industrial Chair** from three perspectives:

- **Experience with knowledge transfer** – the candidate should demonstrate tangible results in transferring knowledge into practice, evidenced, for example, by:
 - the volume of managed contract research (the total value of contracts from the commercial sector managed by the candidate in the past, in EUR)
 - utilized intellectual property (the number and value of licensed or sold results – patents, software, technical designs)
 - an overview of established spin-offs or startups (number, volume of investments acquired, or market value)
 - experience in the private sector – the level and duration of experience in managing research (positions such as Senior Scientist, CTO, R&D Manager)
- **Experience with talent development and team building** – assess the experience to date in this area, including the ability to establish cooperation with top-level (including foreign) researchers

- **Professional profile** – research track record to date, history of successful research activities, management of national and international projects (e.g., ERC, Horizon Europe), and involvement in foreign expert bodies or advisory panels

*In the event that the applicants have **not sufficiently demonstrated the professional competence of the candidate** for the position of Industrial Chair, the expert must evaluate this criterion **as not met** and award 0 points. It is particularly necessary to focus on the following shortcomings:*

- *The textboxes Experience with knowledge transfer, Experience with talent development, and Professional profile are filled in only formally, generally, without specific links, or discrepancies appear with the CV or another part of the project proposal (including the provided annexes)*
- *The candidate completely lacks a track record of success in the area of technology/knowledge transfer and has no proven experience with applied research or cooperation with the commercial sector*
- *The candidate's professional career to date clearly indicates that **they are not an internationally recognized expert**, and there is no guarantee that they would be able to independently and strategically manage a research team or co-shape the institutional culture of the research organization*

Relevant parts of the project proposal:

Substantive part → Excellence → Chair → Knowledge Transfer Experience, Talent Development Experience, Professional Profile

Project team → Principal investigator

Project Annexes → Other Annexes

2. Strategic Plan and expected outputs/results

0;7;14;21 points

Under this criterion, experts evaluate the ambitiousness, feasibility, and strategic impact of the intent described particularly in the mandatory annex **Strategic Plan**. This mandatory annex must strictly follow the structure specified in the Call documentation, Chapter 3.3, and its scope must be a maximum of 20 pages.

The scope of this criterion is to assess the following areas:

- **Strategic plan:**
 - **the vision and strategy of the Industrial Chair's operation** (the contribution of the candidate for the position of **Industrial Chair** to the main applicant); in this regard, the evaluation focuses on:
 - the extent to which the candidate brings competencies to initiate or deepen research in new or strategically significant areas and how these areas fit into the long-term development of the main applicant
 - the candidate's involvement in strategic management and their potential to bring positive changes to the internal structures and processes of the organization

- the expert evaluates both the short-term and long-term vision with respect to the cooperation of the candidate for the position of Industrial Chair with the application sector (primarily with project partners)
- **Talent development** – the work plan with Early-Stage researchers and their involvement in industrial assignments
- **Project implementation plan** – the expert assesses whether the project is divided into logical phases with clearly defined milestones:
 - A detailed schedule of activities must be provided for the first stage of the project until the end of 2030
 - For the second stage of the project (from 2031 until the end of the project implementation), experts will evaluate a framework (looser) plan of activities
- **Performance objectives and indicators of their success** – in addition to outputs/results, experts will assess specific measurable objectives and indicators for the first stage of the project implementation and framework-wise also for the second stage of implementation, which must demonstrate progress in team development, applied research, and the application of outputs/results in practice. Applicants should specify quantitative and qualitative indicators
- **Expected outputs and results** – applicants must specify outputs/results only for the first stage of implementation until the end of 2030 (outputs/results after 1 January 2031 will be provided by the applicants during implementation, and thus this fact must not be assessed negatively)
 - Experts will assess the planned outputs/results with regard to the objectives, the focus of the project proposal, and the expertise of the candidate for the position of Industrial Chair. In terms of quality, the outputs/results must demonstrate sufficient ambition and form a logical whole
 - Experts will assess the suitability of the choice of types of results, the correctness of their classification, the description of their parameters (including the check of mandatory annexes), and the applicability, application potential, and ways of utilizing all outputs/results in practice
 - For a type of result O – other results, experts will check that it could not be classified under other defined types of results

*In the event that the applicants have **insufficiently provided the Strategic Plan**, the expert must evaluate this criterion as **not met** and award 0 points. It is particularly necessary to focus on the following shortcomings:*

- *The mandatory annex **does not respect the binding structure**, or some part does not contain relevant information to assess the given fact. If the maximum scope of 20 pages has been exceeded, the expert will disregard the part of the text beyond the specified content, and is thus entitled to evaluate this criterion as not met for this reason if all mandatory parts are not included within the required scope*
- *The mandatory annex Strategic Plan is general and unspecific, or discrepancies appear with another part of the project proposal (including other provided annexes)*

- *The Strategic Plan is focused only on a specific area; e.g., the plan does not address the development of Early-Stage researchers, the scope of operation of the candidate for the position of Industrial Chair is insufficient, or performance objectives and success indicators have not been established*

More detailed information on the mandatory annex **Strategic Plan** is provided in Chapter 3.3 of the Call documentation.

The suitability and choice of main outputs/results must be assessed in accordance with [Methodology 2025+](#) and with the provider's specification in the form of [MET-12 Specification of the Provider's Requirements for R&D Results](#).

Experts must check the **mandatory annexes** according to the requirements specified for the individual types of results in the Call documentation, sections 3.6.1. and 3.6.2. For this call, there are mandatory annexes required for the following types of results:

- **Nmet (NmetS, NmetA and NmetC):** check of the **Form for the Nmet type of result**. Through this form, a state administration body, or a certification or an accreditation body, confirms that it is prepared to approve, accredit, or certify the given result, and that it is authorized to do so
- **P – patent and O – patent application:** check of the **patent search**. The search may be carried out by any patent office (in the Czech Republic, the Industrial Property Office), a patent attorney, or it is possible to use public databases (e.g., Espacenet) and others

If the expert identifies a **fundamental deficiency** in these mandatory annexes, such as if a signature is missing, the confirmation is not on the prescribed form, a mandatory part is missing, or the annex is not in English, they must evaluate this criterion as unfulfilled and award 0 points.

Relevant parts of the project proposal:

Project annexes → Mandatory annexes → Strategic Plan

Substantive part → Impact of the project → Outputs/results

Project annexes → Annexes to outputs/results

3. Application potential
0;7;14;21 points

When evaluating this criterion, the expert shall **select one of the evaluation statements** listed below and award **the exact number of points** indicated for this statement:

- **21 points:** The project proposal demonstrates a high systemic impact and has the potential to transform a broader industrial segment. It involves a strongly collaborating consortium (multiple project partners) or demonstrates an impact on a wide industrial area or a demonstrable cross-sectoral overlap. There is a clear vision of benefit that goes beyond the individual interests of the involved project partners.
- **14 points:** The project proposal has a clearly defined relationship with a project partner, or project partners, for which the joint research is a demonstrable strategic priority. The level of real (financial, material, or capacity-related) involvement of the project partner or partners is significant. However, the impact is limited to a narrower technical segment or a specific industrial field and does not demonstrate a broad multiplier effect

(e.g., transfer to other sectors, impact on supply chains) for the Czech economy as a whole.

- **7 points:** The project proposal includes the mandatory project partner (an enterprise); however, the research is marginal (complementary) for them and lacks strategic importance for their future competitiveness, or its description is general and unspecific. The level of real (financial, material, or capacity-related) involvement of the project partner is low.
- **0 points:** The project proposal lacks a demonstrable application overlap. The project proposal is designed as purely academic with no vision of commercial application, or the involvement of the mandatory project partner (an enterprise) is merely declarative, without a clear definition of its specific role, planned activities, or capacity co-participation in the project implementation. The involvement of the enterprise as a project partner is merely formal (done solely to meet the call requirements).

Relevant parts of the project proposal:

Substantive part → Excellence → Impact of the project → Application potential

Project Annexes → Mandatory annexes → Strategic Plan → section Development of partnerships with enterprises

4. Expertise of the project team, project organisation and technical facilities (risk analysis)

0;5;10;15 points

Evaluate whether:

- the **key members** of the project team have the experience necessary for achieving the planned outputs/results and the objectives stated in the Strategic Plan (under this criterion, the principal investigator – Industrial Chair **is not evaluated**; their excellence is evaluated separately under the scored criterion no. 1)
- the roles and types of involvement among the **team members** (including other investigators) are adequately established
- the project management and the **cooperation** of the applicants is meaningfully described (arrangement of applicants’ roles and responsibilities for sub-tasks)
- the applicants have appropriate technical facilities at their disposal, the pre-existent know-how and other key competencies
- the **risks** are appropriately addressed by the **mitigation strategy** – i.e. the applicants sufficiently identified the possible risks, assessed the likelihood of their occurrence, proposed a way to address them, estimated their severity and described the preventive steps to eliminate or reduce the risks

Experts shall assess the composition and balance of the project team, the professional level of the key investigators, and their core activities performed. Within the project team, the continuity and development of Early-Stage researchers, as well as a plan for their professional growth, should be ensured.

Relevant parts of the project proposal:

Project team

Substantive part → Project management → Organisation and technical support of the project

Substantive part → Project management → Risk analysis and incentive effect → Risk analysis table, Measures to minimize risks

5. Financial plan and incentive effect of funding

0;5;10;15 points

Evaluate whether:

- **individual cost items are appropriate and reasonably justified** with regard to the planned activities and outputs/results, Strategic plan and the ambitiousness of the project proposal
- the **total amount of planned costs is adequate** with regard to the project proposal's benefits
- the **incentive effect** is sufficiently described and justified, i.e., whether the applicants sufficiently justified that the project proposal would not have been carried out without the state aid, or only to a limited extent

*The expert shall assess **the adequacy of each applicant's costs** based on the justification provided for individual cost items.*

*The main applicant may plan for the **accession of a project partner** – an enterprise – during the project implementation. In such a case, the main applicant shall include the estimated costs of the acceding enterprise in its budget and must properly comment on this fact in the Justification of cost items textbox. Given that the accession of a project partner is only anticipated at this stage, the plan for it may be described with a reasonable degree of generality, and a lower level of detail should therefore not in itself be a reason for reducing the score.*

When evaluating personnel costs, it is necessary to consider whether the total sum of FTEs corresponds to the planned activities, objectives, and outputs/results, and subsequently whether the Average personnel costs per FTE are justified. For this budget item, TA CR has set an amount of CZK 1.6 million for the individual years of implementation. Below this set threshold, the justification may be general. Experts must focus primarily on the justifications provided by applicants who exceed this set threshold. Experts may lower the score even if the costs are below the set threshold; however, they must explicitly justify why this budget item does not correspond to the information provided in the substantive part of the project proposal.

*If the expert proposes an **adjustment of the budget** (a reduction of the costs and/or an adjustment of IR/ED ratio), they must not award full points in this scored criterion.*

*If applicants have not sufficiently demonstrated the **incentive effect of funding**, the expert is obligated to consider this criterion not met, i.e., evaluate it by 0 points.*

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Relevant parts of the project proposal:

Applicants → Budget

Substantive part → Project management → Risk analysis and incentive effect → Incentive effect of the state aid

Budget overview → IR/ED ratios per applicant