

## **Call for Applications for Projects funded by SAS Return Project Scheme for Parents Returning to Work after Maternity and/or Parental Leave**

The Presidium of the Slovak Academy of Sciences announces a call for applications for research projects within the SAS Return Project Scheme for parents returning from maternity and/or parental leave (hereinafter referred to as "RPS"); the call was approved at the P SAS meeting on 13 Jun 2024.

### **Basic information:**

Call announcement date: 1 August 2024

Application deadline: 30 September 2024

Evaluation results announced: December 2024

Projects duration: 1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025

Final reports due: 31 January 2026

### **Call Description**

The SAS Return Project Scheme for parents returning to work from maternity and/or parental leave constitutes a tool to facilitate the reintegration of SAS scientists after maternity and/or parental leave (hereinafter referred to as "ML/PL") into research activities of SAS organizations (hereinafter referred to as the "organization" ) in all fields of science and technology.

### **Call conditions and Eligibility Criteria**

The eligible applicant is a researcher with a 3rd level university degree (PhD or equivalent) who has spent at least twelve months on ML/PL.<sup>1</sup> Applications for funding of a scientific project can be submitted within one year after returning from ML/PL. Alternatively, applications can be submitted before returning from ML/PL, if the conditions specified in the Statute of the SAS Return Project Scheme for parents after returning from maternity and/or parental leave (hereinafter referred to as the "RPS Statute") are met.

The application for funding is submitted by the applicant as the sole investigator, the scheme is not intended for research teams. In the call, the applicant can submit only one application to the RPS. The project proposal may be written in Slovak or English. The duration of the project is one year. The maximum project budget is € 5,000. Only common expenses can be planned in the project proposal, no capital funds are allowed for RPS projects.

The application for RPS project support must be submitted in accordance with the call and the RPS Statute.

### **Application Submission**

The application is submitted electronically on the prescribed form to the address: [nps@up.upsav.sk](mailto:nps@up.upsav.sk).

The date of electronic application submission is decisive for the assessment of compliance with the application submission deadline.

The paper version shall also be submitted and mailed to the address: Róbert Karul, Chairman of the SAS Committee for Equal Opportunities, Štefánikova 49, 814 38 Bratislava 1

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<sup>1</sup> For this criterion, the part of the ML/PL during which the applicant had a parallel part-time scientific post is not counted.

The envelope must be labeled "Return project scheme". The paper version must be delivered within 3 working days of submitting the electronic version.

The application must be signed by the applicant and the statutory representative of the research organization.

### **Application Evaluation**

The SAS Committee for Equal Opportunities shall evaluate whether the formal requirements are met, applications that do not meet the requirements will not be assessed further. Applications that proceed to further evaluation will be assessed by an *ad hoc* committee of the SAS science department to which the research organization belongs. The *ad hoc* committees submit the evaluation results to the SAS Committee for equal opportunities, which shall select usually 5 projects. Funding of projects is approved by P SAS, the decision made by P SAS is final. The applicant and the concerned SAS organization will be informed about the result.

### **Project Funding**

P SAS will adjust the amount of funds for goods and services in the institutional financial support (IFS) of the organization by drafting up an amendment to the IFS Agreement in the amount of max. € 5,000 in the financial operation on 1 January 2025. Funds are allocated to the project budget, a maximum of 20 % can be used for indirect costs.

### **Project implementation**

The project is implemented within the timeframe specified in the Basic Information. Within a month after the end of the project, the investigator submits a final report to the SAS Committee for equal opportunities in both electronic and paper versions on the prescribed form

### **Note**

More information on RPS can be found in the RPS Statute.