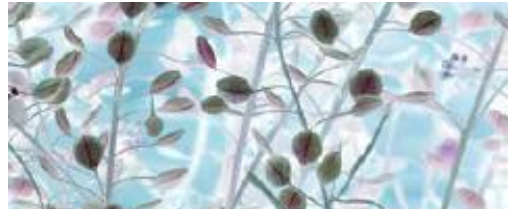


Programme
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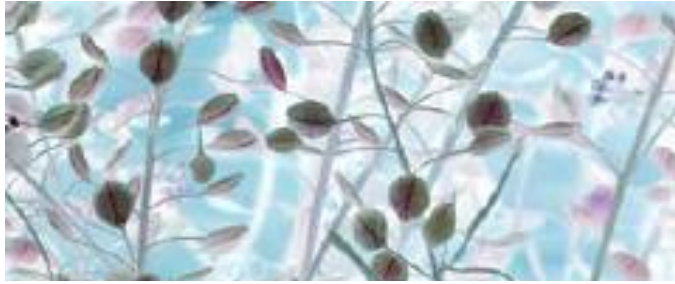
Call for Proposals
(02.05.) "NZZ Installation Grants"



The National Foundation for Science, Higher Education and Technological
Development of the Republic of Croatia

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For details you should read guidelines and procedures provided on the web pages of the NZZ.*

All documents are available at www.nzz.hr



NZZ Installation Grants

The Board of the National Foundation for Science, Higher Education and Technological Development of the Republic of Croatia announces this Call for proposals with the basic aim to foster development of independent research careers of young Croatian and foreign scientists in the Republic of Croatia. The Call has been developed in the cooperation with the National Council for Science on the basis of our experiences gained within the cooperation with the European Network on Research Careers (ENRC) and programme EMBO Installation Grants.

The basic aim of the Call is to stimulate the development of research groups with state-of-the-art and internationally competitive themes whose principle investigators has shown the abilities to generate and develop new ideas.

We expect to encourage young scientists to further develop their research careers in Croatia and not only to contribute to modernisation of the Croatian higher education and research area but also to enhance the competitiveness of our researchers in the European Research Area.

The creation of young and propulsive research group is impossible without maximal support of the host institution. High-quality institutional strategies with clear policies regarding support of young scientists are the prerequisite for the achievement of the basic goals stated in this Call.

Therefore, the institutional strategy and the proofs of its implementation will be one of the key criteria in the evaluation within installation and all other NZZ Grants.

Since tight competition for grants within each research field is expected, the evaluation procedure will include both Croatian and foreign experts with international research experiences.

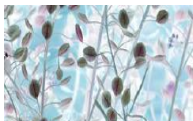
The evaluation will be based on three basic criteria: past results and experiences of the candidate (40%), quality of the installation project (30%) and the quality of the institutional support (30%).

In 2009, the NZZ will fund six three-year-projects within six research fields by young Croatian and foreign scientists with at least two years of postdoctoral Croatian or international research experience.



Who?

- Young researchers under 35 years of age with at least two years of postdoctoral Croatian or international research experience that, at the time of application, are not leading similar state-funded projects (e.g. UKF, EMBO, ESF...)
- Croatian and foreign researchers already employed in Croatia or Croatian and foreign researchers returning or coming to Croatia to take employment and develop research career in Croatia



What?

- Three year funding for installation of independent research in Croatia
- One installation grant within each research field¹



Programme goals

- To enable excellent researchers under 35 years of age with at least two years of Croatian or international research career to start independent research in Croatia
- To stimulate polycentric development of Croatia
To foster development of collaborative research with private sector, especially with small and medium enterprises
- To foster training of Croatian researchers, especially doctoral and postdoctoral students



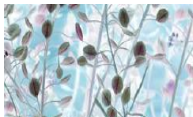
Eligibility criteria

- Candidates with at least two years of independent research career in Croatia or abroad
- Candidates under 35 years of age *
- Detailed project and research plan
- Well planned strategy and policy of the institution with the stressed importance of the

¹ Natural Sciences, Technological Sciences, Biomedicine, Biotechnical, Social Sciences and Humanities

proposed research for the institutional development. The institution has to ensure adequate space and technical support to candidate and his research group

- Institutional financial support in the minimal amount of 20% of the requested funds
- Contract of employment or letter of confirmation signed by the legal authority of the institution at least from the application deadline until the project's termination



Priority

- Candidates that plan to set their research at the institution different from the institution where they obtained their doctorate
- Cooperation with private sector, with medium and small enterprises (SME)– especially in technical professions
- Priority in the evaluation will not be given to the candidates returning from abroad with the respect to the candidates that are in Croatia



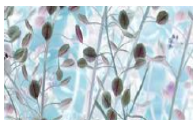
Application

Application must be submitted on the official Application forms in Croatian and in English

In addition further documents have to be sent:

- CV of the Candidate and all project associates
- Description and confirmation of the past research activities of the candidate including the list of tasks and function on the project
- List of publications (with stress on the best professional journals) and impact factors
- Letter of institutional support and the letter of confirmation that the institution will enable candidate to spend at least 75% of his working time on the project submitted to this Call
- List of all projects that the candidate is an associate (including the projects supported by MSES and UKF) with clearly stated workload of the candidate
- Equipment tender
- Work contract or a letter of intent (evidence of a position at a Croatian institution)
- Letters of recommendation (at least three letters in closed original envelopes have to be attached – including a letter of doctoral dissertation mentor, letter of the mentor of postdoctoral training and letter of an experienced researcher according to candidate's choice)
- Confirmation of parental leave or military service

Please find detailed explanation in the Application Guidelines attached to the Application Form.



Funding

Within the Call for Proposals „NZZ Installation Grants“ three-year projects are funded.

Eligible costs:

- Salary- 20% of the support may be spent as salary supplement of the candidate
- Equipment – 80% of the support may be spent on equipment
- Material costs – up to 50% of the support may be spent on laboratory costs, field work costs...
- Relocation costs – up to 2% of the support may be spent for relocation (and up to 5.000 HRK within the territory of the Republic of Croatia)
- Travel costs (conferences, seminars...) – up to 10 of the support
- Associate's Salary - up to 30% of the support within natural, biomedical, biotechnical and technical sciences and up to 50% of the support within social sciences and humanities may be spent on salary for associates
- Institutional support in the amount of at least 20% of the support is obligatory. Financial support of the institution has to be clearly stated and explained in the Application Forms. Overhead costs, Administration Costs, Technical Support Costs will not considered eligible institutional financial support.

Maximal funds per project:

- Natural Sciences – up to 365.000,00 HRK annually (50.000€)
- Biomedicine and Health Sciences - up to 365.000,00 HRK annually (50.000€)
- Biotechnical Sciences - up to 365.000,00 HRK annually (50.000€)
- Technological Sciences - up to 365.000,00 HRK annually (50.000€)
- Social Sciences – up to 220.000 HRK annually (30.000 €)
- Humanities– up to 220.000 HRK annually (30.000 €)

Ineligible costs:

- Technical Support Costs
- Overhead Costs
- Administration Costs



Fund User Obligations

- Public presentation of the project on the beginning and on the end of the project
- Development and maintenance of the project web pages
- Compliance with the project work and financial plan
- Delivery of the periodical financial and descriptive report on regular basis (after every 6 months). Based on its evaluation results the Board brings the decision on further funding.

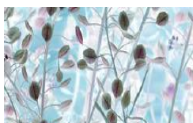
- Delivery of the final financial and descriptive report
- Use of the NZZ logo on every public presentation and publication that are the result of the project
- Final workshop of the project
- Submission of a project to the international programmes the Republic of Croatia financially participates in (FP7, ESF, EMBO, HERA, COST i sl.) after the second project year that should be stated in the work plan and for which the candidate may receive the financial support in the amount of 10% of the total project funds requested from the Foundation



Evaluation Criteria

- **Quality and importance of the candidate** (publications, patents, intellectual and practical skills, cooperation skills and skills of working in international research environment, mobility willingness)
- **Quality and relevance of the project** (quality of the proposed research and work plan, reality and responsibility/accountability in financial planning, cooperation with SME, cooperation with international experts, risk prevision)
- **Institutional support** (institutional strategy regarding the research and research careers development, existing infrastructure and the plan of its development, institutional willingness to prepare the start-up package for the candidate, financial support in the terms of documented investment, support for the autonomous development of the candidate)

Should two applications be evaluated as equal the priority shall be given to the candidate that will set the research at the institution different from the institution the candidate obtained doctoral degree



Evaluation

- The evaluation will be conducted in two rounds
- In the first round, the Evaluation Committee will conduct the evaluation according to the Evaluation form I (one Evaluation Committee consisting of at least three members will be formed within each scientific field) on a separate meeting according to the recommendations and rules described in the official documents that can be found at www.nzz.hr.
- After the first round, the Board will bring the decision on acceptance and up to five best ranked projects in each scientific field will be forwarded to the second round of the evaluation.
- The second round of the evaluation for each proposal consists of peer review and interview and will be conducted by at least three experts out of which at least two international experts. The second round is conducted according to the Evaluation

Form III.

- After the peer review, the Board invites the candidates to interview that will be conducted by the independent Evaluation Committee consisting of Croatian and foreign experts. The Board will form three Evaluation Committees, one for natural sciences and biomedicine, one for technical and biotechnical sciences and one for social sciences and humanities. The Evaluation Committee will rank the candidates according to the peer review and interview results and write recommendations for the Board.
- According to the recommendation and grades delivered by the Evaluation Committee the Board will bring the decision on funding.
- Should the proposals in one scientific field be below the acceptance threshold (below 80% of the total points) the Board may decide to reassign funds from one research field to the other depending on the overall quality of the proposals.

Evaluation Criteria and Guidelines may be find in the Evaluation Forms at the NZZ web pages (www.nzz.hr).

- Funded candidates are obliged to deliver mid-term reports every six months. The reports will be evaluated according to the Evaluation form IV. According to the mid-term report evaluation results the Board shall decide to continue the funding, to amend the Contract on Funding or even to stop the funding.
- Funded candidates are also obliged to deliver Final Report on the official report forms, including the report for publication. The final report will be evaluated according to the Evaluation form IV and published on the NZZ web pages and in the NZZ publications.
- After the first project year, the Board will form the Site Visit Committee with the basic aim to monitor and help the project leader to conduct the project according to the agreed terms and NZZ rules and recommendations.



About the programme

Programme duration: 1 year

Budget:

- **6.500.000 HRK in 2008**
- **6.500.000 HRK in 2009**
- Financial support in the minimal amount of 20% of the funds requested from the Foundation is obligatory. List of equipment, space, funds and people has to be specified in the Application forms.



Application Deadline

- In November 2007 the Board brings the decision on Call announcement.
- The Call is announced in December 2007.
- Application deadline: April 15th 2008
- **Application deadline: April 15th 2009**

- Applications submitted until April 15th 2008 will be evaluated during 2008 and the funding may start at the end of 2008 or beginning of 2009.

- Applications submitted until April 15th 2009 will be evaluated during 2009 and the funding may start at the end of 2009 or beginning of 2010.

Applications that are not in compliance with the details specified in this document, application form or the NZZ guidelines and procedures or are in collision with rules and regulations of the NZZ will not be accepted and will be rejected without review.

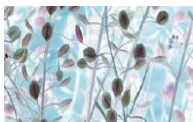
The application should be submitted in electronic version and in hard copy. The electronic application should be sent via NZZ web pages. The hard copy, consisting of one copy marked as "ORIGINAL" and three copies, signed and sealed, should be sent to the NZZ office in Rijeka. Electronic and hard copy applications should be identical – the NZZ will not be held responsible for any discrepancies.



Application address

**The National Foundation for Science, Higher Education
and Technological Development of the Republic of Croatia
Trg braće Mažuranića 10
51000 Rijeka
- application -**

The Board keeps the right to change the conditions of the Call for the proposal for future application deadlines.



Contact

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