



## **CALL FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS FOR COMMON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ON COOPERATION BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS OF ROMANIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA IN YEARS 2014 - 2016**

### **1. LEGAL FRAME**

Based on the Agreement between the Government of Romania and the Government of the Republic of South Africa on Scientific and Technological Cooperation, signed on 15 September 2004 in Bucharest, the Ministry of National Education (MEN) of Romania in cooperation with the Executive Unit for Financing the Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation (UEFISCDI), and the Department for Science and Technology (DST) from the Republic of South Africa, in cooperation with the National Research Foundation (NRF), open the Call for submitting proposals for common research and development projects supporting the collaborating between organizations in Romania and the Republic of South Africa.

The legal framework for submitting of research and development projects in 2013 issues from the Agreement mentioned above and approved by Governmental Decision No. 591/ 2005.

### **2. THEMATIC FIELDS AND OBJECTIVES**

Joint proposals may be submitted in the following research areas:

- ICT,
- Bio economy,
- New Materials and
- Human and Social Sciences.

On the basis of joint R&D activities the proposals the projects will be supported for two years from June 2014 till May 2016.

Cooperating partners from R&D organizations on both sides are invited to submit joint proposals. The projects will be implemented by means of exchange of scientists and information.

The projects of bilateral cooperation are to be aimed at these objectives:

- preparation of joint international projects, to be submitted to EU-Horizon 2020 and other European programs and initiatives,
- preparation of joint publications and other outputs,
- common active participance at conferences as an output from joint R&D activities,
- mutual use of special laboratory equipment and apparatus,

- research materials collection.

### 3. CALL DURATION AND SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL

The Call is open from **March 21, 2014**, the deadline being **May 9, 2014**.

Proposals should be submitted in parallel using the relevant application forms distributed by UEFISCDI and NRF. Submission of proposals by fax or e-mail is not allowed.

The Romanian scientists should submit two (2) hard copies and 1 CD of their proposals to UEFISCDI, using the application forms posted on UEFISCDI website: [www.uefiscdi.ro](http://www.uefiscdi.ro).

The South-African scientists should submit their proposals to NRF, posted on site <http://www.nrf.ac.za>.

After this deadline it is impossible to submit proposals. The proposal must be signed by both participating organizations (signatures of responsible project leaders, statuaries). Signatures of partners from abroad sent by fax will be accepted.

### 4. PROJECT START AND TERMINATION

The projects submitted in the frame of this Call can start at the earliest on **30. 06. 2014**, and must be completed latest on **29. 05. 2016**.

### 5. FINANCING

For this call the financial support offered by Romania is strictly limited to the **participants' mobility** as follows:

- **Maximum 45 (one short visit-15 days, and one long visit-30 days) days/year/project for visits of South-Africa researchers in Romania;**
- **A number of 2 return tickets/year/project for Romanian researchers;**

#### 1. Funds provided by Romanian side

A) for Romanian scientists visiting the Republic of South-Africa:

- International travel costs to the location where joint activities will be carried out.

B) for South-African scientists visiting Romania:

- Daily allowance of 60 RON/day, and separately accommodation, in accordance with the internal laws and regulations.
- Internal travel costs necessary for the implementation of the joint work.

C) **The above amounts shall be entirely paid to the South-African scientists at their arrival in Romania, by the host institution.** MEN will provide the necessary funds for supported projects through its implementing agency, UEFISCDI.

#### 2. Funds provided by the South-Africa side

A) for South-African scientists visiting Romania:

- Medical insurance and international travel costs to the location where joint activities will be carried out.

- B) for Romanian scientists visiting the Republic of South-Africa:
- Per diem and accommodation costs for the Romanian researchers staying in the Republic of South-Africa for short or long visits, in accordance with the internal laws and regulations.
  - Internal travel costs necessary for the implementation of the joint work
- C) **The above amounts shall be entirely paid to the Romanian scientists at their arrival in the Republic of South-Africa by the host institution.** NRF will provide the finance for supported projects.

## 6. PROJECT EVALUATION

The selection of projects has two stages. In the first stage the proposals will be evaluated at national level by each country, the second round will be done by the Joint Committee on S&T Cooperation.

At national level the proposals will be evaluated by using the following criteria:

- Scientific and technical quality and originality of the project (30 pts.).
- Credibility of the work plan of cooperation partners (10 pts.).
- Quality of the Romanian Project Team (20 pts.).
- Effectiveness of the collaboration (40 pts.):
  - Complementarity of both teams and the added value from cooperation (20 pts.),
  - Participation of PhDs, postdoctoral and /or young researchers in the two researcher teams (10 pts.),
  - Future potential of further international cooperation (10 pts.).

Maximum points: 100.

The evaluation in Joint Committee on S&T Cooperation will be done under these conditions:

- single party proposals will be not evaluated,
- proposal with high ranking from both parties will have priority as compared to controversial ones,
- average scores of the evaluations from both parties will be considered in the selection of project proposals,
- discrepancies will be discussed having in mind mutual interest.

An internal evaluation procedure will be followed in each country after the date of 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2014.

**Evaluation results and the final list of financed projects will be announced after Joint Committee meeting, by the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2014.**

## 7. RULES FOR PROPOSERS

Each project must have one responsible person from Romanian and South-Africa participating party, also in a case of a multilateral cooperation of more cooperating organizations from both countries. The proposal must be submitted in parallel using the relevant application forms distributed by UEFISCDI and NRF. The responsible person submits forms filled in Romanian and English or South-African and English, respectively.

## 8. CONTRACTING

The Romanian organizations of the approved projects for funding will sign a Grant Agreement for the financial support with the implementing agency of the Ministry of National Education, UEFISCDI. After the project is completed the director must provide a final report to the MEN and UEFISCDI.

### **Contact:**

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