



1st Joint Call for Proposals of the Higher Education and Science Committee of Armenia – National Agency for Research and Development of Moldova Bilateral Cooperation Projects

1. Preamble

This announcement outlines the rules for submitting, selecting, and implementing bilateral cooperation projects funded under the Joint Call of the **Higher Education and Science Committee of Armenia** – National Agency for Research and Development.

The Higher Education and Science Committee – The HESC of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia, is the main agency responsible for ensuring the regular activities and progressive development of the science sector in the Republic of Armenia. Founded in 2007, the HESC promotes integration into science, education, and production, while ensuring competitiveness, culture, and social progress.

NARD – The National Agency for Research and Development of the Republic of Moldova, is a central administrative authority under the Government of the Republic of Moldova. Established in 2018, NARD's mission is to implement national policy in the fields of research and innovation and ensure excellence in achieving national research and development priorities.

2. The objectives of the call

The objectives of the call are:

1. To support joint academic mobility projects of Armenian and Moldovan research teams.
2. To enhance the visibility of Armenian and Moldovan research on the international stage.
3. To encourage interdisciplinary research and deepen the cooperation between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Moldova in the fields of science and innovation.

2.1 Call topics

The call covers the following fields:

- a) Sustainable agriculture, food security
- b) Biotechnologies and environmental protection
- c) Social Sciences and Humanities
- d) Innovative technologies, sustainable energy
- e) Digitalization

2.2 Joint academic mobility projects / Joint international scientific visits

- a) This call is specifically for academic mobility projects/international scientific visits organized by Armenian and Moldovan research teams.
- b) Project proposals must provide detailed information on the objectives and justification of the planned joint research work, the methodology to be followed, the composition of each research team and the intended time schedule.
- c) The applicants should consult the text of the Call published by the HESC and NARD for eligibility criteria for each side.
- d) The expected outcomes of the project should focus on innovative insights, exploitable research results, and the creation of foundations for a well-founded and sustainable partnership between Armenia and Moldova. The project should also align with the overall objectives of this call, which include supporting joint academic mobility projects, encouraging interdisciplinary research, deepening cooperation, and enhancing the visibility of Armenian and Moldovan research on the international stage.

2.3 Funding Available

- a) As a rule, Armenian partners eligible for funding can receive up to 2 000 000 AMD (around 5000 EUR) in total per project. Moldovan partners that are eligible for funding can receive up to 100 000 MDL (around 5000 EUR) in total per project. The funding will be provided simultaneously by the Higher Education and Science Committee of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Armenia and the National Agency for Research and Development of Moldova in the form of non-repayable project grants.
- b) Five joint projects will be funded during this call.
- c) For the Armenian side – funded costs of each grant will be issued and managed by the HESC in accordance with its funding guidelines and procedures.
- d) For the Moldovan side – funded costs of each grant will be issued and managed by NARD according to its funding guidelines and procedures.
- e) Co-financing is not mandatory, but is foreseen as an advantage.

2.4 Duration of the Projects and Reporting

The duration of the projects will be up to 12 months.

During the implementation period of the projects, the continuation of funding will be decided based on intermediate evaluations with reference to the results proposed in the application form and the funding contracts.

Within one month after completion of the execution period, a Final Report presenting the work carried out and the results obtained, will be prepared in English and the corresponding national language jointly by the two research teams and submitted to the HESC and NARD.

3. Proposal Submission

The call will be opened through 1 August – 30 September 2025.

For the Armenian side:

Armenian applicants will fill-out and submit the forms provided by the HESC and submit them through the online system at grants.hesc.am. Armenian applicants are expected to submit their online applications by 30 September (until 18:00). Failure to meet these deadlines will result in rejection from evaluation, and applicants will not be able to apply to this call in the same call period.

For the Moldovan side:

Moldavian applicants will fill-out and submit the forms provided by NARD and submit them to the email address: international@ancd.gov.md

Note: Applicants may submit their applications at any time during the call period, up until the specified deadline. Applications sent via email after the deadline will not be considered. **All project proposals must be prepared in English and the corresponding national language.**

As a rule, applicants and partners can participate in no more than one project proposal; applicants should check the respective national legislation.

4. Evaluation Procedure

Projects submitted online without the required supporting documents, signed and stamped will not be evaluated and, therefore, will not be considered for funding. Only projects that meet the eligibility criteria for both sides, the HESC and NARD, will be evaluated.

4.1 Evaluation Method

- a) The proposals that are considered eligible will be reviewed by external reviewers selected according to the internal procedures of the HESC and NARD. Only those proposals that are approved by both parties will be supported.
- b) The projects to be recommended for funding will be selected together by the HESC and NARD. The selection of projects to be recommended for funding will be agreed upon bilaterally by the HESC and NARD. On the Armenian side, the final decision about financing the recommended project proposals is made by the HESC, and on the Moldovan side, by NARD.
- c) Any dispute related to the interpretation or implementation of this Call shall be settled through consultations within the HESC and NARD.

4.2 Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation and selection process starts after the deadline of the call for proposal. The project proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Relevance and technical-scientific excellence;
- Sustainability of project results, including prospects for participation in European programs;
- The program for carrying out the activities within the project, the deadlines and the requested costs;
- The excellence of the research team;
- **Other criteria set by each Party aligning with its internal policies.**

4.3 Publication of Results

The publication of results will be done simultaneously by the HESC and NARD in the agreed-upon manner.

5. Call Schedule

Pre-announcement: 16 July

Call opening: 1 August

Application deadline: 30 September

Evaluation: October - November

Results: December

6. Contacts

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