

1st Joint Call for Proposals of SRNSFG - NARD Bilateral Cooperation Projects

1. Preamble

This announcement outlines the rules for submitting, selecting, and implementing bilateral cooperation projects funded under the joint call of SRNSFG – NARD.

SRNSFG - The Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia, is the main agency for funding and managing scientific research in Georgia. Founded in 2010, SRNSFG supports excellence in research, scientific development, and the promotion of young Georgian researchers.

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 international scientific events organized by Georgian and Moldovan research teams.
2. To enhance the visibility of Georgian and Moldovan research on the international stage.
3. To encourage interdisciplinary research and deepen the cooperation between Georgia and the Republic of Moldova in the fields of science.

2.1. Call topics and sub-topics

The call covers the following fields and sub-fields:

a) Natural sciences:

- Mathematics
- Computer and information sciences
- Physical sciences
- Chemical sciences
- Earth and related environmental sciences
- Biological sciences
- Other natural sciences

b) Engineering and technologies:

- Civil engineering
- Electrical engineering, electronic engineering, information engineering
- Mechanical engineering
- Chemical technology
- Material technology

- Medical technology
- Environmental engineering
- Ecological biotechnology
- Industrial biotechnology
- Nanotechnology
- Other engineering technologies

c) Medical and health sciences:

- Fundamental medicine
- Clinical medicine
- Health sciences
- Medical biotechnology
- Other branches of medicine

d) Agricultural sciences:

- Agriculture, forestry and fishing
- Animal husbandry and dairy farming
- Veterinary sciences
- Agricultural biotechnologies
- Other agricultural sciences

e) Social sciences:

- Psychology
- Economy and business
- Educational sciences
- Sociology
- Law
- Political sciences
- Social and economic geography
- Media and communication
- Other social sciences

f) Humanities:

- History and archaeology
- Languages and literature
- Philosophy, ethics and religion
- Art (art, history of art, performing arts, music)
- Other humanities

2.2. Joint international scientific events

- a. This call is specifically for international scientific events organized by Georgian and Moldovan research teams. It is not intended for individual research projects.
- b. Project proposals must provide detailed information on the objectives and justification of the planned joint scientific event, the methodology to be followed, the composition of each research team, the intended schedule, the expected outcomes, and a dissemination strategy.
- c. The expected outcomes of the event should focus on innovative insights, exploitable research results, and the creation of foundations for a well-founded and sustainable partnership between Georgia and Moldova. The event should also align with the overall objectives of this call, which include fostering scientific collaboration, promoting knowledge exchange, and enhancing the visibility of Georgian and Moldovan research on the international stage.

2.3. Funding Available - only 2 projects to be financed

- a) As a rule, Georgian partners eligible for funding can receive up to **200,000 GEL** (around 6600 Eur) in total per project. Moldovan partners that are eligible for funding can receive up to **100 000 lei** (around 5000 Eur) in total per project. The funding will be provided simultaneously by the Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia (SRNSFG) and the National Agency for Research and Development (NARD) in the form of non-repayable project grants.
- b) For the Georgian side – funded costs of each grant will be issued and managed by SRNSFG in accordance with its funding guidelines and procedures.
- c) For the Moldovan side – funded costs of each grant will be issued and managed by NARD according to its funding guidelines and procedures.
- d) Co-financing is not mandatory, but is foreseen as an advantage.
- e) Please liaise closely with prospective partners to ensure that both SRNSFG and NARD-supported elements of the proposal comply with all regulations for both funders.

2.4. Duration of the Projects and Reporting

The duration of the project 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 two months after the completion of the project, a final report presenting the work carried out and the results obtained will be prepared in the national language jointly by each research team and submitted to SRNSFG and NARD.

3. Call Schedule, Eligibility, and Submission

The call will be opened from 26 September 2024 to 25 October 2024 (23:59) for online submission. Georgian and Moldovan applicants will elaborate joint project proposals, which will be submitted through an online system, according to the national regulations.

Applicants and partners can participate in more than one project proposal.

3.1 Obligations

The grant recipient is obliged to create and administer the event online webpage envisaged by the project, on which information about the event will be posted.

The event webpage must contain the following information:

- a) Event name; purpose of the event; event announcement; date, place of the event; registration terms and forms for those wishing to participate in the event, etc.;
- b) After the completion of the project, it is mandatory to upload a collection of conference abstracts and/or reports in English on the conference website as electronic material.

3.2 Call Administration Stages

The main stages of the competition administration are:

- a) Announcement of the competition;
- b) The Georgian partners will first submit the jointly drafted project to NARD electronically (in English) and then to the SRNSFG electronic database (in Georgian and English languages);
- c) Georgian applicants submit an application for participation in the competition to the foundation's chancellor;
- d) Eligibility check of the projects;
- e) Evaluation of projects;
- f) Approval of the projects to be financed based on the agreement between SRNSFG and NARD;
- g) Signing grant agreements.

3.3 Proposal Submission

For the Georgian side:

Georgian applicants are expected to submit their online applications and all required supporting documents by 25 October 2024 (until 17:00). 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:

Moldovan applicants are expected to submit their applications to NARD according to the call text by 25 October 2024 (until 17:00) 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.**

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, SRNSFG 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 SRNSFG 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 SRNSFG and NARD. The selection of projects to be recommended for funding will be agreed upon bilaterally by SRNSFG and NARD. On the Georgian side, the final decision about financing the recommended project proposals is made by SRNSFG, 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 SRNSFG 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:

1. Scientific value:

1.1. Concept - status, goal and objectives of the joint scientific event, target groups;

1.2. Format – sections, topics, plenary speakers;

1.3. Strategy – mechanisms to ensure the visibility of the joint scientific event and the participation of high-level and young scientists;

1.4. Matching of qualifications, competences and experience of key personnel to the implementation of the project objectives.

2. Importance:

2.1. Expected results for the scientific field, the scientific community, the state and the general public;

2.2. Mechanisms for access to and dissemination of materials from the joint scientific event;

2.3. Degree of inter- and intra-institutional cooperation.

3. Management and feasibility:

3.1. Conformity of the implementation time-frame of the joint scientific event project with the objectives of the project;

3.2. Conformity of the budget of the joint scientific event project with the goals and objectives of the project and the budget justification;

3.3. If applicable, the co-financing rate in relation to the amount requested from the Foundation.

4.3. Publication of Results

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

6. Call Schedule

Pre-announcement: September 10, 2024

Call opening: September 26, 2024

Application deadline: 25 October, 2024

Evaluation: November, 2024

Results: Mid-December, 2024

7. Contacts

For Georgian Part:

1. Mrs. Rusudan Jobava, Ph.D.

Head of the International Relations and Fundraising Office
Aleksidze Str. Tbilisi, 0193, Georgia

Tel: +995 32 2 200 220 (ext.4019)

Email: jobava@rustaveli.org.ge

2. Mrs. Tinatin Kuchukhidze

Specialist at the Office of International Relations and Fundraising

Aleksidze Str. Tbilisi, 0193, Georgia

Tel: +995 32 2 200 220 (ext.4019)

Email: t.kuchukhidze@rustaveli.org.ge

For Moldovan part:

1. Mrs. Natalia BOLOCAN Ph.D.

Head of the Department for International Cooperation and Sustainable Development

National Agency for Research and Development (NARD)

180 Stefan cel Mare si Sfânt Ave.

MD-2004, Chişinău, Republic of Moldova

Email: natalia.bolocan@ancd.gov.md

2. Ms. Iana Tihon

Department for International Cooperation and Sustainable Development

National Agency for Research and Development (NARD)

180 Stefan cel Mare si Sfânt Ave.

MD-2004, Chişinău, Republic of Moldova

Phone: (022) 27-27-91

Email: iana.tihon@ancd.gov.md