

**Resolution No. 21/2023. (XII. 04.)  
of the President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences  
on the Lendület “Momentum” Programme**

The President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, by virtue of the authority vested in it by Section 14 of Act XL of 1994 on the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and in the Statutes and Bylaws of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, defines the objective of the Lendület “Momentum” Programme, the characteristics of the call for applications announced in the Programme, the structure and the tasks of the scientific board evaluating the applications and the funded research projects, and the procedure for the evaluation of the applications and funded research projects in accordance with the provisions of these regulations.

**Preamble**

On 14 January 2009, the President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (hereinafter “MTA”) published the Lendület “Momentum” Programme (hereinafter the “Momentum Programme”), for the first time, which is intended for outstanding young researchers and is of paramount importance in the support of basic research projects. The exceptional domestic and international success and dynamism of the Programme is ensured by the excellence of the creative scientists, the carefully designed, predictable funding model and performance which can be easily monitored and measured. MTA has been launching the Programme’s annual call for applications for more than a decade in order to curb the exodus of successful young researchers, to ensure the supply of talent, to expand the opportunities for young researchers to advance and to increase the competitiveness of research centres.

**Section 1**

**The objective of the Momentum Programme**

- (1) The aim of the Momentum Programme is to strengthen the community of young researchers in Hungary by attracting internationally-acclaimed scientists and highly talented young researchers, either by hiring them from abroad or retaining them in Hungary, and at the same time to support young researchers in their efforts to become independent. The mission of the Momentum Programme is to support both excellence and mobility; accordingly, its purpose is to provide funding for research groups to be established at host research institutions to conduct research with the potential for ground-breaking results.
- (2) The level of funding provided by the Momentum Programme, the freedom of research and the longer duration together allow the beneficiaries to build an independent scientific

workshop where they can work on a research project promising a high international impact or equivalent national results in the given scientific field. The Momentum Programme therefore not only has a positive impact on the work of the scientific elite, but also contributes to the quality of university education and corporate innovation performance.

- (3) The aim of MTA is to incorporate its excellence programmes into a national grant system which contributes to the development of an attractive and predictable research career model. To this end, the Secretary-General of MTA launches an annual call for applications in order to establish new research groups within the framework of the Momentum Programme. The announcement of the call for applications is subject to the condition that the budget earmarked for the implementation of the Momentum Programme in the central budget of the year in question is sufficient to fund the Momentum research groups.

## **Section 2**

### **The scope of these regulations**

- (1) Organisational scope:  
The regulations apply to MTA, the Secretariat of MTA and the research entity hosting the research project.
- (2) Personal scope:  
The regulations apply to the Principal Investigators submitting the Momentum application, the members of the Momentum research group employed at the host research entity, the experts invited to evaluate the Momentum applications and the professional reports of the Momentum research groups, and the staff working for the Secretariat of MTA as civil servants or employees.
- (3) Objective scope:  
The regulations apply to the review of Momentum applications, the evaluation and qualification of the professional reports of the Momentum research groups and their process.

## **Section 3**

### **The application**

- (1) The call for applications is launched by the Secretary-General of MTA and is published on MTA's official website. Applications must be submitted in English (in the case of applications in the humanities and social sciences, in Hungarian, if justified).
- (2) The total duration of the grant which can be awarded on the basis of the application may be a minimum of 3 years and a maximum of 5 years. The maximum number of grantees

and the grant amount shall be determined by the Secretary-General of MTA in the call for applications, taking into account the available resources. The actual transfer of the grant amounts to be paid is subject to the condition that the budget earmarked for the implementation of the Momentum Programme in the central budget for the year in question is sufficient for the further funding of the Momentum research groups. The grant is non-repayable. The existence of the grantee's own resources is not required. MTA issues, through the Secretariat of MTA, a grant award document to the research entity hosting the research activities of the successful applicant and his/her research group.

- (3) The documentation to be submitted with the application include:
  - details of the Principal Investigator;
  - key application data;
  - the scientific results and scientific metrics of the Principal Investigator;
  - the project proposal;
  - a budget plan;
  - host declaration signed by the head and the financial manager of the host research entity;
  - applicant's declaration signed by the Principal Investigator.
- (4) A researcher can be a participant or leader of only one funded Momentum research group at the same time.
- (5) The Principal Investigator applying for the Momentum grant undertakes to permanently reside in Hungary during the duration of the Momentum project if the Momentum grant is awarded to them.
- (6) The grant may be used for both personnel and operating expenditures. The research entity shall establish a full-time public employment contract for a definite term with the successful Principal Investigator (if he/she was not previously employed by the host research entity) on the basis of the research entity undertaking stated in the host declaration. The successful Principal Investigator who is employed by the host research entity throughout the duration of the Momentum grant may receive a salary increase at the expense of the grant.
- (7) Further detailed specifications for the application material are included in the relevant call for applications.

#### **Section 4**

##### **Eligibility of the applicants, conditions of participation**

- (i) Researchers with scientific PhD/DLA degrees may apply to head new Momentum research groups in several categories according to their respective age groups and

scientific achievements. The categories and the application conditions are specified by the Secretary-General of MTA in the call for applications published for the given year.

- (2) Within the framework of the Momentum Programme, applications may be submitted for research activities carried out at Hungarian research institutions which conduct scientific research according to their statutes. Further details shall be provided in the relevant call for applications.
- (3) A researcher raising a minor child may, at their request, be granted an extension of the age limit for applicants and of the time limit for obtaining their PhD degree: for women, the extension is 2 years per child or for the period of maternity leave taken after obtaining their PhD degree whichever is longer; for men the extension shall be the period of time of parental leave actually taken.
- (4) The specific research topic must be in strategic alignment with a promising line of research attracting considerable international interest, that is, a line of research whose performance indicator is considered excellent based on international assessment and has been continuously increasing over the last five years.

## **Section 5**

### **Submitting the application**

- (1) The application must be submitted jointly by the head of the host institution – that is, either the head of the institution or the rector of the institution of higher education hosting the research group – and the prospective Principal Investigator of the research group to be established.
- (2) The application must be submitted via the web-based application system developed for this purpose, by filling in the application forms, uploading the application documents and sending the completed and signed version of the documents to the Secretariat of MTA in the manner and by the deadline specified in the call for applications.

## **Section 6**

### **Consideration of the applications**

- (1) The acceptance, control of the format of the application, submission of missing data or documents, rejection and the available legal remedies are governed by the call for applications based on the Public Finances Act and the Government Decree on the implementation of the Public Finances Act.
- (2) The Momentum Committee decides on the awarding of grants to applicants on the basis of the proposal of the scientific evaluation of the Momentum Jury.

- (3) The administrative tasks related to the evaluation of applications are carried out by the Department of Grant Management of the Secretariat of MTA.
- (4) The evaluation criteria are defined in the call for applications.
- (5) The deadline and the means of publication of the call for applications results are specified in the call for applications.
- (6) The Secretariat of MTA shall issue a grant award document to the research entity hosting the successful research groups and shall ensure the transfer of the grant amount on the basis of this document.

## **Section 7**

### **The Momentum Committee**

- (1) The Momentum Committee (hereinafter “the Committee”) is responsible for:
  - preparing the call for applications to be announced by the Secretary-General of MTA (developing the concept of the call for applications);
  - making funding decisions regarding the applications on the basis of the professional excellence ranking established by the Momentum Jury; and
  - making decisions on the evaluation and qualification of the progress reports reviewed by the Momentum Jury.
- (2) The Committee has nine members: the Chair of the Committee, who is the Secretary-General of MTA; the Deputy Secretary-General of MTA; the three Vice-Presidents of MTA; the Chair of the Momentum Jury; and the Chairs of the three Panels of the Momentum Jury.

## **Section 8**

### **The Momentum Jury**

- (1) The task of the Momentum Jury (hereinafter “the Jury”) is to evaluate and rank the applications on the basis of the criteria published in the call for applications and the reviews made by external experts, if necessary, by interviewing the applicants, and to evaluate the progress reports.
- (2) The Jury shall carry out the scientific evaluation work in the scientific Panels divided into the three major disciplines (humanities and social sciences, life sciences, mathematics and natural sciences). The Jury consists of the Chair of the Jury, the Chairs of the three Panels (humanities and social sciences, life sciences, mathematics and natural sciences) and the members of the Panels (who are also members of the Jury). The Jury consists of up to 50 members.

- (3) The Chair of the Jury as well as the Chairs and members of the Panels are invited by the Secretary-General of MTA to perform their duties by considering the proposals of the Scientific Sections of MTA and leaders of MTA. With regard to the invitation of the Chair and the members of the Jury, the importance of ensuring the proportional representation of the scientific fields through the invitation of prestigious experts should be kept in mind.
- (4) The mandate of the Chair and the members of the Jury shall be for a fixed term (three years), which may be extended for a further maximum of three years upon the repeated invitation of the Secretary-General. If a member of the Jury is unable to fulfil the duties associated with the membership of the Jury on a permanent basis, the Secretary-General of MTA shall invite a new member after consultation with the relevant Scientific Section and with the leaders of MTA.
- (5) The Chair and the members of the Jury shall sign a written declaration on conflicts of interest and confidentiality when they accept their mandate.
- (6) The names of the Chair and the members of the Jury shall be made public.
- (7) The Chair and the members of the Jury may receive remuneration for their scientific evaluation work, depending on the decision of the Committee and the funding source of the Momentum Programme.
- (8) The working language of the Jury is Hungarian; however, if the members of the Jury include foreign experts who do not speak Hungarian, the working language of the Jury shall be English.
- (9) The Jury shall be supported in its work by the staff of the Department of Grant Management.

## **Section 9**

### **General procedure for reporting and evaluating research groups receiving funding**

- (1) The Principal Investigator is required to prepare an annual progress report on the work of the Momentum research group. The Committee shall decide on the outcome of the progress reports based on the proposal of the Jury.
- (2) The sections of the evaluation of the five-year grant period are as follows:
  - Report after the first year of research: a brief summary of the work carried out. The progress report should include a description of the specific efforts made by the Principal Investigator and the host research entity to ensure that the personnel, the facilities and the methodology necessary for the successful operation of the research group are in place and that the research is moving in the right direction. The financial report for year 1 must be submitted after the progress report by the deadline specified in the grant award document.

- Report after the second year of research: a brief summary of the research work carried out and a presentation of the results. The financial report for the second year must be submitted after the progress report by the deadline specified in the grant award document.
- Report after the third year of research: a mid-term report containing a detailed summary of the work of the research group carried out over the three years, highlighting the most important results achieved at an international level, supplemented with an oral presentation. On the basis of this progress report, a decision will be taken on the awarding of the grant (full or reduced) for the remaining part of the five-year grant period. The financial report for the third year must be submitted after the progress report by the deadline specified in the grant award document.
- Report after the fourth year of research: a brief summary of the research work carried out. The financial report for the fourth year of the project must be submitted after the progress report by the deadline specified in the grant award document.
- Final report after the fifth year of research: a comprehensive professional summary of the research group's achievements, supplemented with an oral presentation. A financial report for the fifth year must be submitted after the progress report by the deadline specified in the grant award document.

In the case of research projects with a grant period 3 or 4 years, the sections shall be defined accordingly.

- (3) The progress report must be submitted within 30 days of the end of each research year.
- (4) The annual progress reports (first year, second year, fourth year) are reviewed by one member of the Jury. The indicative qualification of the annual reports may be "*successful*" or "*unsuccessful*". The purpose of the first and second year reports is to assess whether the conditions of the research work have been created, whether the research is moving in the planned direction and whether any adjustments are justified.
- (5) The three-year reports and the final reports are evaluated by two Hungarian or foreign experts invited by the Jury. The reports shall be qualified as "*successful*" ("*excellent*", "*good*", "*sufficient*") or "*unsuccessful*". During the five-year period, the three-year and final progress reports are the most important, so in these cases, the Principal Investigators are personally heard by the members of the relevant scientific Panels of the Jury.
- (6) The evaluation criteria, which differ from one scientific field to another, are included in the bylaws governing the activities of the Jury and the Committee, as well as the management of Momentum applications and funded research projects.
- (7) The scientific Panels of the Jury formulate their proposals, based on the progress reports and evaluations, in the case of the three-year reports and final reports also based on the oral presentations, as follows:

- whether it proposes to accept the annual progress report (supplemented with a detailed justification if adjustment is required) with the qualification of “*successful*”;
  - in the case of the three-year and the final progress reports, whether it qualifies the Momentum research group’s performance as “*successful*” (“*excellent*”, “*good*”, “*sufficient*”) or “*unsuccessful*”.
- (8) The Jury puts forward a proposal to the Committee for the approval and the qualification of the reports. The Committee decides on the acceptance and qualification of the reports based on the proposal of the Jury. The PI of the research group and the head of the host research entity shall be notified of this qualification decision.
- (9) If the scientific performance of the research group is qualified as “unsuccessful” on the basis of the three-year progress report, the grant amount intended to cover the period from the date of entry into force of the relevant decision of the Committee up to the end of the fourth year of the project may be used by the research group only to such an extent as to cover the documented costs of the phase-out of the group, that is, the costs of the dissolution of the research group.

## **Section 10**

### **Complaint management**

- (1) The applicant may lodge a complaint, addressed to the Chair of the Committee, if he or she considers that a procedural element of the call procedure or of the decision on the award of a grant or the issuing of the grant award document or the transfer of the state-funded grant amount or the recovery of undue payments has in any way infringed a legal provision or has been contrary to what is provided for in the call for applications. No complaint may be lodged concerning the scientific evaluation of the applications.
- (2) The complaint shall contain the name and address of the applicant lodging the complaint, the specification of the contested act or the failure to act, a description of the relevant facts, the identification of the specific legal provision or provision of the call which was allegedly violated by the contested act or failure to act, and the signature of the applicant lodging the complaint.
- (3) The complaint may be submitted only once within 15 days following the receipt of the notification about the decision containing the contested act or failure to act, via e-mail and at the same time by post. The complaint received shall be reviewed by the Department of Grant Management and, with the approval of the Chair of the scientific Panel concerned, forwarded to the Chair of the Committee for a decision.
- (4) The review shall be limited to the issues specifically contested in the complaint. The complaint shall be decided on within 30 days following its receipt. The Department of Grant management shall notify the applicant about the decision regarding his/her complaint.



- (5) Complaints which are incomplete or which are submitted after the above-mentioned deadline, or complaints concerning the scientific evaluation shall be rejected without further examination, and the applicants shall be notified thereof within 30 days of receipt.

**Section 11**  
**Closing provisions**

- (1) The Momentum Jury and the Momentum Committee define and stipulate their activities and the processing of Momentum applications and supported research projects in the bylaws, which are approved by the Secretary-General of MTA.
- (2) These regulations enter into force on 5 December 2023, and at the same time supersede presidential resolution No. 13/2021. (III. 26.) on the Lendület “Momentum” Programme.
- (3) This Resolution shall be published on the MTA website, under the menu item Applications, on the page Document Library » Repository of resolutions » Presidential resolutions, within the intranet of the Secretariat of MTA, and in the Academic Bulletin.

Budapest, 4 December 2023

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