

“Look at today’s schools, and you can see our future”
Albert Szent-Györgyi

Call for research proposals for the Research Programme for Public Education Development – 2022

The Hungarian Academy of Sciences (henceforth as MTA) announces the third round for calls for research proposals on facilitating the scientific grounding of public education development.

1 Objectives

The Hungarian Academy of Sciences – by virtue of Point j) of Paragraph (1) Section 3 of the Academy Law XL of 1994 (henceforth as MTAtv.), Act CXCV of 2011 on Public Finances (henceforth as Áht.), and Government Decree No. 368/2011 (XII. 31) (henceforth as Ávr.) on the implementation of the Public Finances Act – announces an open call for research proposals to finance research projects for 4 years (between 1 September 2022 – 31 August 2026), which aim to lay the foundations for the development of education and training by providing new scientific findings and to carry out research on how to renew the pedagogical perspectives and methods for knowledge transfer and the transmission of values. Decision 10/2022 (IV. 22.) by the President of the MTA on the Research Programme for Public Education Development is available at the MTA website (www.mta.hu/english, Call for Papers, Research Programme for Public Education Development).

By launching this call, the MTA wishes to support internationally outstanding research projects which are relevant for the solutions of the present problems of Hungarian public education, which

- expand the research capacity of the field;
- accelerate the process of disseminating and applying the latest international research results in Hungary;
- facilitate young researchers’ training and aid them in embarking on their career;
- strengthen the international embeddedness of Hungarian research sites;
- and contributes to the establishment of a social network between educational and research sites.

Concerning excellence, the requirements of MTA and EU’s research proposals are considered, in particular, the publication of articles in leading journals in the field.

In terms of relevance, proposals will be judged on the basis of consistency with the priorities set out in the resolution by the MTA Presidium (57/2019. X. 22.); in particular, in those areas where not a sufficient number of eligible proposals were submitted in the previous call cycle:

- the development work needed in communication skills, reading comprehension, mathematics and science in the first phase of schooling;
- research into school failure and early school leaving, and the development and testing of methods for early prevention;

- the elaboration and testing of methods for identifying shortcomings in public education concerning the development of young people’s historical awareness and artistic culture, and for the solution of these problems;
- development and impact evaluation of programs for the integration of pupils with special needs and of disadvantaged social groups.

Research projects funded in this scheme should strengthen the links between teachers, public schools, researchers and research groups; spread the notion of scientifically grounded development; and facilitate the application of research results. This should primarily be achieved by directly involving the highest possible number of teachers in the research group’s work.

2 Eligible projects

1)

Research proposals for leading a research group can be submitted by instructors or researchers working at least 6 hours per day in higher education, in research centres or research institutes (hereinafter collectively: research sites) who have achieved excellent results in the area presented in the research proposal. The Applicants (research group leaders) must have a PhD degree earned at least 3 years before the submission date of the research proposal.

2) A given researcher may lead only one research group established within the present Programme.

3 Grounds for refusal

Those Applicants will be excluded from funding

1. who supply data or make statements which prove to be incorrect, false or misleading, and could have a material impact on the funding decision;
2. who fail to supply the declarations specified in the present call for proposals or in the applicable public finance legislation as prerequisites for signing the sponsorship agreement, or who fail to submit the required documents, or who withdraw a declaration.

4 Form and amount of support available

This is an open call for proposals; the non-repayable aid may be paid as a lump sum in the form of an advance, or on an annual schedule either as performance-related pay or as pro rata temporis payment. The amount awarded may be used to cover: (i) wages of staff in the funded research project (e.g. young researchers, research assistants); (ii) fees and contributions to external participants (e.g. teachers employed in public education); (iii) material expenses (e.g. fees for Open Access, proofreading, conference participation); (iv) the purchase of equipment; (v) development of ICT equipment; (vi) representation expenses; (vii) running costs. For running costs, a maximum of 10% of the amount awarded may be used, and it need not be accounted for in detail. The use of the awarded amount is to be checked by random sampling.

The total budget of the Programme for 2022 is HUF 100 million, allocated in the Support for Professional Tasks Section of the MTA Chapter XXXIII, Annex 1 of Act XC of 2021 on the Central Budget for 2022 of Hungary.

The annual maximum amount per project is HUF 20 million.

5 Proposal submission

The research proposals must be submitted in English electronically through the online platform of the *Call for research proposals to develop public education* (http://palyazat.mta.hu/kozoktatas_2022). The deadline for submitting full proposals is

4 pm, 15 June 2022.

A copy of the Host Institution's Declaration, downloadable from the application website, should be signed by the director and the chief financial officer of the host research site, and sent by post to the Department of Grant Management at the Secretariat of MTA (address: MTA Titkársága, Köztisztviselői Igazgatóság Stratégiai Osztálya, 1051 Budapest, Nádor utca 7.), together with the *Applicant's declaration* downloadable from the website as well. The letter must be postmarked by the above submission deadline at the latest. Please, write on the outside of the envelope: "Közoktatás-fejlesztési Kutatási Pályázat 2022" (Call for research proposals to develop public education – 2022). The application for this call is free of charge.

If the electronically submitted declarations are authenticated by a document authentication method (AVDH or other, certified personal digital signature) defined by Point 1 (d) of Section 12 of Government Decree 451/2016 (XII. 19.) on the detailed rules of electronic administration, they need not be submitted in a physical copy.

For information regarding the applications, please contact the Strategic Department of the Directorate of MTA's Public Association (Köztisztviselői Igazgatóság Stratégiai Osztálya) at the Secretariat of MTA at oktatásfejlesztés@titkarsag.mta.hu or call +36 1 411 6100/626.

The application website can be accessed using the Academy Database (AAT) ID. The application system copies the data stored in the AAT, so these must and can be modified only in the AAT. In order to ensure that only up-to-date data are used, Applicants are asked to update their data stored in AAT if necessary.

In the lack of an AAT ID, Applicants should register following the instructions in Guide 1. If the Applicant already has an AAT ID (or after a successful registration), Applicants should follow the steps of the Guide from Point 4 to fill in the required data.

Please, refer to Guide 2 for preparing your application in the electronic application system. The Secretariat of MTA performs the administrative tasks related to applications based on Paragraph 1, Section 19 of the MTAtv.

6 Data to be included in applications

The following data are to be uploaded to the electronic application system.

- 1) **Research proposal** (as Annex 1 to the application, maximally 20 pages, broken down to years), which must
 - outline the problem, present a review of the relevant international literature, and justify the need for the research project;
 - present the objectives of the research project, and the research questions;
 - include the description of the research methods (participants, samples, experimental groups, devices);
 - outline the personnel requirements;
 - schedule the planned tasks for the research period;
 - outline the expected scientific results and their application.
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- 2) **Cost plan** for 4 years ([Annex 2](#)), which includes the timetable for implementation and financing, and amount of support requested, including the VAT.
- 3) **The Applicant's** (research group leader's) **professional scientific CV** ([Annex 3](#)).
- 4) **The professional scientific CV of research group members** (max. 2 pages each, [Annex 4](#)).
Original documents must be submitted (either a physical copy should be sent by post, or documents authenticated electronically by AVDH or other qualified electronic signature should be uploaded to the Programme website).
- 5) **Host Institution's Declaration** signed by the director and the chief financial officer of the host research site (downloadable from the application website) ([Annex 5](#)).
- 6) **Applicant's Declaration** signed by the researcher applying for the Programme ([Annex 6](#)).
- 7) **A list of the five most important publications** of the Applicant in the field of education ([Annex 7](#)).

7 Validity of application

Within 7 days after the receipt of the application, the Sponsor informs the Applicant of whether the substantive evaluation of the application has started. If the application is refused without substantive evaluation, the Applicant must be informed about the reason for refusal, and the possibility and procedure of appeal. The Sponsor may make the acceptance of the application conditional upon the submission of declarations and documents required by Paragraphs 2 and 3, Section 5 of the Ávr.

Before the acceptance of the application, it must be checked whether

1. the Applicant fulfills the requirements determined in the call for research proposals;

2. the signed documents containing the required content have been submitted by the submission date;
3. there are any grounds for disqualifying the Applicant;
4. the amount of budget support requested exceeds the maximum amount of the support, or the share of the support exceeds the maximum aid intensity specified in the call for proposals.

The application is rejected without substantive evaluation, if

1. the Applicant does not meet the requirements of the call for proposals;
2. the documents required are submitted after the submission date;
3. the Applicant supplies data which prove to be incorrect, false or misleading, and could have a material impact on the funding decision.

If the application is incorrect or incomplete, the Strategic Department of the Directorate of MTA's Public Association will notify the Applicant to submit the missing documents. Missing documents can be submitted only once, within 5 working days after the reception of the notification. If the missing documents submitted are incorrect or incomplete, or are not received before the deadline, the application will be rejected without further substantive evaluation. The Strategic Department of the Directorate of MTA's Public Association will notify the Applicant of the rejection. The Sponsor must specify the reason for rejection.

8 Evaluation of applications, sponsoring decision

Applications are evaluated and ranked in a professional judging procedure, the main criteria being:

- the scientific soundness of the research proposal;
- whether the aims and the novelty of the tasks in the proposal are consistent with the priorities identified in the call;
- the feasibility of the project, its expected results and usefulness to society;
- the professional/scientific performance of the research group leader;
- the professional/scientific performance of the participants in the proposal.

The President of the MTA passes the sponsoring decision, on the basis of the evaluation and ranking by the Evaluation Panel for the Research Programme for Public Education Development (jury) appointed by him, who take anonymous (Hungarian and/or international) professional reviews into consideration. The applicants will be notified of the decision by e-mail within 10 working days of the decision. The list of winning applicants and the title of their research proposals are published on the official website of the MTA by 31 August 2022 at the latest.

9 Sponsorship agreement, payment of the support, reporting

The awarded amount is to be paid to the research group through the host institution, based on a sponsorship agreement, for a four-year-long research cycle (full duration). The host institution can be a university research site, or research institute or research center certified as an "Excellent MTA Institute" or qualified in another way. The Secretariat of MTA provides

the awarded sum for the host institution either by a transfer of appropriations between chapters or by a direct transfer to the host institution.

If the funds are paid unduly, used unlawfully or improperly, the amount shall be repaid, increased by the interest on late payment as provided for in the specific legislation applicable. The schedule for repayment shall be laid down in a separate agreement.

Each year, the awarded research groups must prepare a performance report and a financial report for the President of the MTA by 30 September; mid-term scientific and financial reports are due on 30 September 2024. Within one month after the termination of the four-year-long support period specified in the sponsorship agreement (i.e. until 30 September 2026), the research group leader must upload the final report electronically to the MTA EPK system, and also present it at a scientific conference. The final report must include the professional and financial reports and, as an annex, the list of publications reflecting the scientific results achieved, and also the documents proving the applicability of results in public education.

The evaluation reports should be submitted according to the following schedule.

- *Annual report at the end of the first year*
The report should summarize the progress of the first year. The professional report must describe in detail what concrete steps were taken by the research group leader and the host institution to ensure the successful work of the research group, concerning personnel, assets and methodological conditions. A list of published articles or publications in progress should also be provided. It should be confirmed that the research progresses in the desired direction. The financial report for the first year should be submitted together with the professional report, within 1 month after the end of the accounting period.
- *Mid-term report at the end of the second year*
This report should provide a detailed summary of the research group's work in the first two years, highlighting the most important, internationally outstanding results (published or prepared for publication). This professional report serves as the basis for the decision on the financing of the second half of the support period (full or reduced). The financial report for the second year should be submitted within 1 month after the end of the second accounting period.
- *Annual report at the end of the third year*
This report should provide a short summary of the research group's work, with a special focus on publications. The financial report for the third year should be submitted together with the professional report, within 1 month after the end of the accounting period.
- *Concluding report at the end of the fourth year*
This report should give a detailed professional summary of the research group's work, highlighting the scientific articles published in excellent international journals. The

financial report for the fourth year should be submitted together with the professional report, within 1 month after the end of the accounting period.

Unused amounts must be repaid at the end of the research cycle, after the submission of the final financial report.

Annual professional reports are evaluated by anonymous experts. The annual reports can be classified as “successful” or “unsuccessful”.

The anonymous reviewers recommend to the Committee the acceptance and the evaluation of the professional reports. The President of the MTA decides on the acceptance and evaluation of the reports, based on the opinions of the anonymous reviewers and the Committee.

10% of the awarded sum not used in the first, second or third year may be used in the following accounting period without an official application, if the professional report was “successful”. If a sum larger than 10% is to be transferred to the following accounting period, an official application must be submitted together with the financial report. Residual sums between 10% and 50% of the annual budget may be utilized in the following accounting period if the professional report proved to be “successful”, based on an official request addressed to the President of the MTA, and submitted to the Strategic Department of the Directorate of MTA’s Public accompanying the financial report. After the evaluation of the professional report, the President of the MTA decides on the request. If the request is accepted, the residual sum can be spent until 31 December of the following calendar year.

Annual reports will be reviewed by a panel of experts appointed by the President of the MTA, on the basis of opinions by anonymous expert reviewers invited by the President of the MTA for each report. The reports will be given a rating “successful” or “unsuccessful”. If the mid-term report (in the second year of the project) is rated “unsuccessful”, further funds must be withdrawn, and the research group must be terminated. From the day when the decision on the termination of the research group by the President of the MTA enters into force, the grantee may only use that part of the sum allocated for the third project year that is justified as necessary for the termination of the research group.

The research group leader should ensure that the data of the publications (in case of a volume of articles, all articles included in it) created in the course of the Programme are uploaded in a digital format to the Hungarian Scientific Bibliography Database (MTMT) run by the Library and Information Centre of the MTA (KIK). The publications themselves should be uploaded in a PDF/A format to the MTA KIK REAL repository, or to an institute repository accredited by the MTMT Repository Accreditation Committee. The uploads must be completed by the submission date of the final professional report. If the publication is published after this date, the upload must be completed within 30 days of the publication date.

10 Legal remedies

No appeal shall lie against the decision on the outcome of the application.

11 Information on objection procedure

A objection may be submitted to the President of the MTA if the procedures concerning the application process, the sponsoring decision, the settling of the sponsorship agreement, the transfer or withdrawal of the support are considered unlawful or contrary to the provisions of the present call for research proposals by the Applicant. The objection may be lodged in writing once, within 10 days of the reception of the decision on the measure or omission concerned, stating the reasons for objection. The objection must explicitly state the grounds on the basis of which the revision of the decision is requested, i.e. the relevant laws or points of the call for proposals. In the absence of reasons or precise references, the objection will be rejected without further evaluation. The evaluation process of the objection only concerns the facts contested in the objection. The decision on the objection is due within 15 days of receipt.

12 Further information on sponsoring

Aid intensity is 100%.

The Sponsor does not require own resources.

13 Further information

The MTA informs the applicants of the following.

a) The Treasury operates a monitoring system for budgetary supports and participates in the coordination of budgetary support uses. If the support decision is not included in the monitoring system, the aid transfer is invalid.

b) For each sponsored project, the Secretariat of MTA shall forward data to the monitoring system in order that the data concerning the research proposal could be published on the relevant website; furthermore, in order that the data concerning facts and circumstances of the sponsoring legal relationship, the provision of the aid, and the reporting process arising due to the use of the aid or established by the MTA could be published on the relevant website. The data managed in the monitoring system may be deleted 5 years from the last day of the calendar year in which the sponsoring decision was taken.

c) The right to informational self-determination defines what constitutes data of public interest.

However, all data that would not be regarded as data of public interest within the present call, are not considered as sensitive data and are managed by people or boards who

- prepare the present call for research proposals,
- publish the present call for research proposals,
- prepare the decision concerning the sponsoring request,

– take the decisions
and which are related to this call for research proposals, to the application process or to the sponsoring decision shall be regarded as public data, due to public interest.

d) The MTA shall monitor the use of the aid as provided for in the Ávr. and the sponsorship agreement, through the Secretariat of MTA.

14 Aim and legal grounds for personal data management in the application process

a) In order to complete the application process, the personal data provided by the Applicant shall be processed by the Department of Grant Management at the Secretariat of MTA within the Consolidated Grant Management Framework of the MTA (EPK).

The same personal data may be accessed by organizational units competent according to the Organizational and Operational Rules of the Secretariat of MTA, and also by the invited reviewers participating in the evaluation of applications, in order to fulfil their statutory tasks. Personal data of winning applicants will be processed by the host institution in order to conclude the employment contract.

b) The processing of personal data is required to fulfil the statutory tasks of the data manager.

c) Any changes in the Applicant's personal data should be reported at oktatasfejlesztes@titkarsag.mta.hu.

d) The guidelines on the data processing policy of the MTA and the Secretariat of MTA are available in Hungarian on the MTA's website under "Hasznos információk" (Useful information) "Adatkezelési tájékoztató" (Data Processing Policy). (<https://mta.hu/hatteranyagok/adatkezelesi-tajekoztato-106870>)

Budapest, 11. May 2022



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