

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA



For strengthening and developing the existing research units in modern and prospective research areas



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CALL FOR PROPOSALS

“CONSOLIDATOR GRANT FOR RESEARCH UNITS — 2024”

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The Call for Proposals

- 1.1. The Call for Proposals “to the Call for Proposals “Consolidator Grant for Research Units — 2024”, (hereinafter ‘**Call for Proposals**’) is carried out in accordance with the Order № 1101-Ս/2 dated June 17, 2024, issued by the Minister of Education, Science, Culture, and Sports of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter ‘**Minister**’).
- 1.2. The **Call for Proposals** is organized by the Higher Education and Science Committee of the Ministry of Science, Education, Culture, and Sports of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter ‘**Committee**’), being guided by the Order for Contractual (Thematic) Funding of Scientific and Technical Activity established by the RA Government Decision №1122 dated November 17, 2001.
- 1.3. The **Call for Proposals** aims to strengthen and develop existing research units (groups, laboratories, divisions, centers, hereinafter collectively referred to as “**Unit**”) in prospective and cutting-edge research areas under the umbrella of the organizations carrying out a program within the framework of basic funding for scientific and technical activities from the state budget of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter ‘**Organization**’).
- 1.4. The **Call for Proposals** covers all research fields of scientific and technical activities (listed in Annex №2.1).
- 1.5. The procedure of the **present Call** implies submitting an application (hereinafter ‘**Application**’), which shall include the description of the scientific project (hereinafter ‘**Project**’) and other supporting documents/data.
- 1.6. The submitted **Project** (Annex №2.2) shall be ambitious, competitive, promising, and feasible.
- 1.7. The publications presented within the current **Call for Proposals** shall be indexed in international scientific databases (“Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE)”, “Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI)”, “Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI)”, “Arts & Humanities Citation Index (AHCI)”), **or** published as a book chapter/paper in a scientific periodical issued by a publisher indexed in the Web of Science Book Citation Index, **or** published in periodicals listed in the portal “SCImago Journal & Country Ranking” with an at

least Q4 index, and an equivalent of an at least Q2 SJR (SCImago Journal Rank) indicator (hereinafter '**International Scientific Database**' or '**ISD**') for conference proceedings. As for the **Monograph/Collective Monograph/ Scientific Work** (hereinafter '**Monograph**'), it shall consist of at least 5 author's sheets and be issued by one of the publishers included in the "Web of Science Book Citation Index".

- 1.8. The terms of the **Call for Proposals** shall define the application procedure, the stages, and criteria of **Application** evaluation, as well as funding and reporting procedures for the selected **Projects**.

2. Purpose

- 2.1. **The purposes of the present Call for Proposals are as follows:**

- Foster domestic and international collaboration;
- Increase the scientific and technical capacity of the respective hosting **Organization**;
- Involve researchers from the Diaspora and overseas;
- Engage young researchers and PhD students;
- Promote the integration of young scientists into the international research area;
- Improve the scientific environment;
- Strengthen the existing competitive and prospective scientific subdivisions;
- Improve competitiveness in science.

3. Timeframes

- 3.1. The **Projects** approved for funding shall be carried out within 60 months.
- 3.2. The submission deadline for the **Call for Proposals** via the Online Application System (grants.hesc.am, hereinafter "**the System**") is **July 26, 2024, 18:00**, Yerevan time (GMT+4).
- 3.3. The deadline for the submission of the paper-based documents to the **Committee** is **August 02, 2024**.
- 3.4. The funding of the selected applications is envisaged to start in November 2024.
- 3.5. **Contracts** shall be signed within 10 days after the announcement of the results of the **Call**.
- 3.6. Implementation **Reports** shall be submitted by the last working day of every 12th month since the commencement of the **Project**.
- 3.7. The **Project** shall commence and be implemented within the timeframes specified in the **Contract**.

4. Group

- 4.1. The **Project** is developed and implemented by a group of 4-7 researchers (hereinafter '**Group**') consisting of a principal investigator from abroad (hereinafter '**PI**') and group members.

- 4.2. The Group shall include:
- At least 5 members (including the PI) – for the fields 1-4 of Annex 2.1
 - At least 4 members (including the PI) – for the fields 5-6 of Annex 2.1
- 4.3. The members of the **Group** can hold any citizenship at the moment of submitting the **Application**.
- 4.4. The **PI** and the members of the **Group** should be either citizens or residents of the Republic of Armenia and reside in Armenia during the whole implementation of the **Project**.
- 4.5. The **Group** shall have a Foreign Partner or Collaborator (hereinafter '**Collaborator**').
- 4.6. The **Group** shall be represented only by the **PI**.

5. The PI

- 5.1. The **Application** shall be submitted by the **PI of the Group**.
- 5.2. The **PI** of the **Group** shall:
- be born after January 1, 1974;
 - have received a scientific degree;
 - have been employed as a Head of **Unit** at least for 6 months by the deadline of submitting the **Application** (i.e. July 26, 2024).
- 5.3. The total workload of the employees of the research **Unit** headed by the PI and functioning under a baseline funding program, who are involved in the **Application**, shall comprise no less than 120 hours per week (3 Full-time Equivalent, FTE) by the deadline of submitting the **Application** (i.e. July 26, 2024).
- 5.4. The **PI** of the **Group** shall have publications in the particular research field published during the last 5 years (2019-2024) which meet the following criteria:

*For research fields #1-5 (NS, ET, MS, AS, and SS) listed in **Annex 2.1**:*

- **4 ISD-indexed** publication.

*For research field #6 (AH) listed in **Annex 2.1**:*

- **2 ISD-indexed** publications;
- or 1 **Monograph**.

For the specialties included in Research Field #6, 1 Monograph is tantamount to 4 ISD-indexed publications.

- 5.5. If any of the submitted publications are included in Beall's list (<https://beallslist.net/>) of predatory and fraud publications or journals, the issue of further admissibility of the **Application** for scientific expertise shall be discussed at the stage of the evaluation of **Applications**.
- 5.6. The **PI** is responsible for the formation of the **Group** and the successful implementation of the **Project**.

6. Group Members

- 6.1. The members of the **Group** can be both citizens of the Republic of Armenia or hold any other citizenship.
- 6.2. The members of the **Group** should be either citizens or residents of the Republic of Armenia, as well as reside in Armenia during the whole implementation of the **Project**.
- 6.3. At least 2 **Group Members** shall be born after January 1, 1989. Undergraduate students who are in their third year or above are eligible.

The age threshold of the **Group Members** can be extended in the following cases:

- in the case of military service - for 2 years;
 - in the case of parental leave - for 1 year for each child.
- 6.4. **Group Members** can be first-year undergraduate students majoring in the fields related to the scientific and technical field of the **Project** and awarded at least a 3rd-level diploma at the republican-level School Subject Olympiad in their 11th and 12th school grade.
 - 6.5. The employees of the research **Unit** headed by the **PI**, who are involved in the application of the **Group** shall have publications in the research field published during the last 5 years (2019-2024) which meet the following criteria:

*For research fields #1-5 (NS, ET, MS, AS, and SS) listed in **Annex 2.1**:*

- **8 ISD-indexed** publication.
- or 2 **Monographs**.

*For research field #6 (AH) listed in **Annex 2.1**:*

- 4 **ISD-indexed** publications;
- or 1 **Monograph**.

For the specialties included in Research Field #6, 1 Monograph is tantamount to 4 ISD-indexed publications.

- 6.6. **Group Members** shall not be involved in more than one **Application** within the present **Call for Proposals**.
- 6.7. **Group Members** shall not be among the stakeholders of the following grants:
 - “Support Program for Advanced Research” (2021);
 - “Incoming Research Fellowship Program (Integration Grant)” (2022, 2023, 2024);
 - “Adjunct Research Professorship Program (Remote Laboratory)” (2022, 2023, 2024);
 - “Starting Grant for Research Groups and Consolidator Grant for Laboratories (Subdivisions) - 2023”;
 - “Promoting the Efficiency of Scientific Research – 2025”.

7. Foreign Partner (Collaborator)

7.1. The **Group** shall have a Foreign partner (**Collaborator**).

7.2. The **Collaborator of the Group** shall:

- hold a scientific degree;
- carry out research activities in any foreign research institution in the **Project-related** field.

7.3. The **Collaborator of the Group** shall have the following h-index (Hirsch):

*For research fields #1-5 (NS, ET, MS, AS, and SS) listed in **Annex 2.1**:*

- an h-index of at least 10 according to the SCOPUS Scientific Database (<https://www.scopus.com/freelookup/form/author.uri>),.

*For research fields #5-6 (AH) listed in **Annex 2.1**:*

- an h-index of at least 3;
- or at least **4 ISD-indexed** publications/1 **Monograph** in the particular research field published during the last 5 years.

7.4. The **Collaborator** shall not be regarded as a member of the **Group**, and no remuneration shall be envisaged for their activities.

7.5. The **Collaborator** shall provide the **PI** of the **Group** with their academic CV and a Confirmation Letter restating their awareness of the **Project** content, the scope of their responsibilities, envisaged joint events (scientific experiments, meetings, and seminars), as well as their consent to their involvement in research activities. The **Collaborator** shall submit the above-mentioned documents via their personal e-mail to grants@hesc.am.

7.6. At least one of the publications published as an output of the **Project** shall list the **Collaborator** as a co-author.

7.7. During the whole period (60 months) of the **Project** implementation, the **Collaborator** must spend a cumulative period of no less than 25 days at the hosting **Organization** in the Republic of Armenia, as well as host **Group Members** in their respective foreign scientific institution for a cumulative period of no less than 25 days.

7.8. The **Collaborator** shall not be involved in more than one **Application** under the present **Call**.

8. Organization Eligibility

8.1. The **Organization** shall be among those implementing the program funded within the basic funding of scientific and technical activities from the state budget of the Republic of Armenia.

8.2. Throughout the implementation of the **Project**, the **Organization** shall provide the **Group members** with access to its infrastructure and equipment.

- 8.3. The **Organization** shall support the implementation of the **Project**.
- 8.4. The **Organization** must provide the **PI** with the scientific board conclusion of the **Organization** (or, in the case of higher education institutions, that of a particular department) regarding the **Project's** relevance, importance, and correspondence to the **Organization's** scope of activities.
- 8.5. By the 36th month of the implementation of the **Project**, the total workload of the employees of the research **Unit** headed by the **PI** and functioning under a baseline funding program, who are involved in the **Application**, shall comprise no less than 200 hours per week (5 Full-time Equivalent, FTE).
- 8.6. The Head of the **Organization** provides the **PI** with a reference letter confirming their awareness of the conditions of the **Call** and expressing their readiness to allocate the financial resources from the basic funding of the **Organization** to comply with the provisions specified in Subparagraph 8.5 of the present **Call**.
- 8.7. The Head of the **Organization** covers the expenses aimed at creating necessary conditions for the implementation of the **Project** and ensuring the functioning of the **Organization** (the scientific sector of the university) at the expense of financial resources envisaged in the "Overhead Costs" subsection of the "Other Expenses" section of the Financial Estimate (hereinafter '**Estimate**').
- 8.8. The equipment, materials, and services necessary for the implementation of the **Project** shall be purchased in the manner prescribed by the RA Law "On Procurements" in conformity with the regulations of public-needs-oriented procurements.
- 8.9. The equipment and devices purchased shall be included in the balance sheet of the **Organization**, and the right of disposal thereof shall belong to the **Organization**, including subsequent use thereof for statutory purposes, i.e., for carrying out research activities.
- 8.10. A **Contract** shall be signed between the **Organization**, the **Committee**, and the **PI** of the **Project** for the use of the amounts of financial assistance provided by the state in the form of a grant for the implementation of contractual projects of scientific and technical activities (hereinafter '**Contract**').

9. Expected Results

- 9.1. In all publications produced as an output of the **Project**, it is necessary to indicate the funding received from the **Committee** as follows:
- *The research was supported by the Higher Education and Science Committee of MESCS RA (Research Project № _____)*
- 9.2. By the 35th month since the commencement of the **Project**, the **Group Members** shall present the following publications with an indication of the **Organization** as the author's affiliation and containing the note stipulated in Subparagraph 9.5. of the **Call**.

- For research fields #1-5 (listed in Annex 2.1):
 - At least 4 **ISD-indexed** publications, at least 2 of which published in periodicals listed in the portal “Scimago Journal & Country Ranking” (SJR) with an at least Q1 or Q2 (<https://www.scimagojr.com/journalrank.php>);
- For research field #6 (listed in Annex 2.1):
 - At least 2 **ISD-indexed** publications;
 - Or 1 **Monograph**.

Attention: Without the relevant indication, the publication shall not be considered as a Project Output and, therefore, shall not be deemed eligible for the report.

- 9.3. In the case of failure to comply with the provisions of Subparagraph 9.2. of the **Call** by the 35th month since the commencement of the **Project**, it may be decided to terminate the funding of the **Project**.
- 9.4. After the completion of the **Project** (for an overall period of 60 months), the **Group Members** shall present the following publications with an indication of the **Organization** as the author's affiliation and containing the funding acknowledgment statement as outlined in Subparagraph 9.5. of the **Call**.
- For research fields #1-5 (listed in Annex 2.1):
 - A minimum of 10 **ISD-indexed** publications, at least 2 of which shall be in Q1 journals and another 2 - in Q2 journals.
 - For research field #6 (listed in Annex 2.1):
 - A minimum of 56 **ISD-indexed** publications, at least 2 of which shall be in Q1 journals and another 2 - in Q2 journals.
 - Or 2 **Monographs**.

For the specialties included in Research Field #6, 1 Monograph is tantamount to 4 ISD-indexed publications.

- 9.5. In at least 5 publications produced as an output of the **Project** for research fields #1-5 listed in Annex 2.1, and at least 3 publications for research field #6 listed in Annex 2.1, the **PI** shall be either the first, the last, or the corresponding author, or credited in any equivalent capacity. At least one of the publications published as an output of the **Project** shall involve the **Collaborator** as a co-author.
- 9.6. As an output of the **Project**, the **Group** is expected to apply for an international grant (at least one submitted grant). The grant budget for research fields #1-5 should amount to at least AMD 25,000,000; for research field #6 - at least AMD 15,000,000.
- 9.7. Within the frames of the **Project's** implementation, all **Group Members** are expected to ensure the creation and dissemination of popular science materials about the **Project** or their particular field of science (interviews, publications in popular science journals,

creation, and distribution of video materials, organization of discussions for general audience, etc.). These dissemination efforts will be taken into account while evaluating and accepting the **Project's** final report.

- 9.8. Both successful compliance and noncompliance with the provisions of Subparagraphs **9.1.**, **9.3.**, **9.4.**, and **9.6.** shall respectively affect the evaluation score of the future applications submitted by the **Group Members** to the upcoming **Call for Proposals** announced by the **Committee**. Particularly, the amount of 5 percent of the final evaluation score shall be subtracted from (in the case of noncompliance) or added to (in the case of compliance) the evaluation score of the applications submitted in the future with the involvement of **PI** (irrespective of their future capacity), and the amount of 1 percent of the final evaluation score - for the future applications with the involvement of each **Group Member**. The score shall be affected by a maximum amount of 5 percent of the total score. The reduction of the final expertise score of future applications submitted by the **Group Members** for subsequent **Calls for Proposals** shall cease to apply once the **Committee** is duly notified about the compliance with the provisions of Subparagraphs **9.1.**, **9.3.**, **9.4.**, and **9.6.**

II. PROCEDURE FOR COMPLETION AND SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

10. Submission of the Application and Supporting Documents

- 10.1. The **Application** shall be filled in and submitted by the **PI** via the Online **Application** System <https://grants.hesc.am/>. The Application deadline for the Call for Proposals is **July 26, 2024, 18:00**, Yerevan time (GMT+4).
- 10.2. The following paper-based documents shall be presented to the **Committee** after online submission:
- Cover sheet and **Estimate** of the **Application** created in the system with the relevant code on it, as well as the application of the **PI** automatically created in the **System**;
 - **Estimate**;
 - the scientific board's conclusion;
 - the reference letter by the Head of the host **Organization** under Subparagraph **8.6.** of the present **Call**;
 - for those **Group Members** who are undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate students, references from their universities are required with an indication of specialty and the year of study;
 - should an increase of age limit be applicable: a copy of the military record book or a copy of the relevant document on childcare leave.
- 10.3. Other documents may be required if necessary.
- 10.4. By August 02, 2024, a representative of the **Organization** (Scientific Secretary or another authorized person) shall submit to the **Committee** all the required paper-based documents

of the **Applications** submitted from their **Organization** in one package, accompanied with a letter by the Head of the host **Organization** under Annex **2.3**. (22 Orbeli Brothers St., 7th floor, 708 room).

- 10.5. Should there be any further inquiries regarding the **Call for Proposals**, please contact the relevant department of the **Committee** at scexpert@hesc.am or by dialing +37410210140/113.

Attention: The Committee shall consider only those applications that are submitted via the online system. The applications that have not been submitted in accordance with the aforementioned procedure or deadlines shall not be considered.

11. Estimate

- 11.1. The **Estimate** consists of two sections: “Remuneration” and “Other Costs”. The “Other Costs” section includes “Equipment, Materials and Services”, “Travels”, “Consolidation of Group/Laboratory”, and “Overhead Costs” subsections.
- 11.2. The maximum amount of funding for the whole duration of the **Project** is as follows: AMD 176,000,000, AMD 153,000,000, AMD 130,000,000, and AMD 107,000,000 for 7-, 6-, 5- and 4-member **Groups**, respectively.
- 11.3. For the “Remuneration” section of the **Estimate**, the advisable average monthly salary of the **Group Members** shall be AMD 300,000 gross.
- 11.4. If the total remuneration is less than the amount mentioned in Subparagraph 11.3., the surplus can be used in the “Other Costs” section of the **Estimate**.
- 11.5. The **Collaborator** shall not be regarded as a member of the **Group**, and no remuneration shall be envisaged for their activities.
- 11.6. For the “Equipment, Materials, and Services”, “Travels”, and “Overhead Costs” subsections of the “Other Costs” section of the **Estimate**, an amount of AMD 35,000,000, AMD 30,000,000, AMD 25,000,000, and AMD 20,000,000 for a total of 60 months shall be considered for 7-, 6-, 5- and 4-member **Groups**, respectively. The amount of funding envisaged for those costs can be increased at the expense of the surplus mentioned in Subparagraph 11.4.
- 11.7. An amount of AMD 15,000,000 may be allocated to the improvement of the laboratory/group infrastructure and other Project-related costs for the first 12 months under the “Consolidation of Group/Laboratory” subsection of the “Other Costs” section of the **Estimate**.
- 11.8. Up to AMD 2,500,000 may be requested within a period of 60 months under the “Overhead Costs” subsection of the “Other Costs” section of the **Estimate**.
- 11.9. The expenses for purchasing scientific equipment, materials, and services necessary for the research may be envisaged under the “Equipment, Materials, and Services” subsection of the “Other Costs” section of the **Estimate**. A contract for services may be signed only with legal entities upon the consent of the **Committee**.

- 11.10. The purchase of scientific equipment shall not be envisaged for the last year of the **Project** implementation.
- 11.11. The costs for the implementation process and presentation of the proceedings of the **Project** at international conferences and mutual visits of the **Collaborator** and the **Group Members** may be envisaged under the “Travel” subsection of the “Other Costs” section of the **Estimate**.
- 11.12. When calculating daily and accommodation costs of the study visits, it is necessary to be guided by the Decree of the Government of the Republic of Armenia №2335-Ն dated December 29, 2005.
- 11.13. All subsections of the **Estimate** shall be justified in the **Budget Estimate Narrative**.
- 11.14. During the process of consideration of the **Application**, the justification and distribution of the **Estimate** may be amended upon the consent of the **PI**.

III. APPLICATION CONSIDERATION AND EVALUATION

12. Conformity of Applications to the Terms of the Call

- 12.1. The **Committee** shall consider the following circumstances:
- Compliance of the submitted **Applications** with the terms of the **Call**;
 - Whether the **Application** contains publications included in Beall's list (<https://beallslist.net/>) of fake and predatory publishers or journals.
- 12.2. The **Application** shall not be considered if:
- it does not contain all the required documentation;
 - it does not meet the **Call's** criteria;
 - its content is identical to one of the research projects funded, currently or previously, from the state budget of the Republic of Armenia.
- 12.3. The results of the examination shall be provided to the Professional Expert Board established for the purpose of evaluation of applications (hereinafter **Board**).
- 12.4. The **Board** shall consider and approve the list of **Applications** subject to Scientific **Expertise**.
- 12.5. The **PIs** of the **Groups** whose Applications do not meet the criteria specified in the **Call** shall be duly notified via <https://grants.hesc.am/> platform.

13. Scientific Expertise

- 13.1. **The Board**, in cooperation with **the Committee**, shall elaborate and approve the evaluation sheets and the procedure for the first and second stages of Scientific Expertise of Applications.

- 13.2. During the 1st Stage of Scientific Expertise, the **Board** shall consider the Extensive Summary (Annex 2.4) of the **Project**.
- 13.3. At the 2nd Stage of Scientific Expertise, the Experts shall evaluate the **Application (Project)** and the **Board** shall conduct an interview with the **PI**.
- 13.4. Pursuant to the provisions of the RA Law “On Scientific and Technical Expertise”, the **Committee**, the **Board**, or the experts shall be prohibited from providing any information regarding the **Applications’** content, Scientific Expertise process, and the results thereof to a third party.

14. The 1st Stage of Scientific Expertise (Extended Summary Evaluation)

- 14.1. During the 1st Stage of Scientific Expertise, the **Board** shall consider the Extensive Summary of the **Project**, the **PI’s** track record, their academic **CVs**, and the **Organization’s** and **Collaborator’s** compatibility with the **Project’s** purposes. Subsequently, based on the **Board** members' consensus, the shortlist of eligible applications for the next stage of Scientific Expertise shall be formed.
- 14.2. The **PIs** of the groups that have not been shortlisted as a result of the 1st Stage of Scientific Expertise shall be duly notified via the <https://grants.hesc.am/> platform.

15. The 2nd Stage of Scientific Expertise (Expert Evaluation)

- 15.1. The Applications shortlisted for the 2nd Stage of Scientific Expertise shall be evaluated by Experts, and an interview will be conducted with each **PIs**.
At this stage, the following aspects of the **Application** shall be evaluated by the Experts: the **Project**, the current state of research on the topic, relevance and prospects, the implementation feasibility at the **Organization**, compatibility with the research trends in the particular area, the validity of the scope and timespan of the **Project**, significance of the international cooperation, the qualifications and professional compliance of the **PI**, the **Collaborator**, and the **Group Members** in terms of the **Project** objectives, the disposal and dissemination of scientific results, **Estimate** justification, as well as other issues related to the peculiarities of the current **Call**.
- 15.2. The **Application** shall be reviewed by at least 2 independent experts. A **Board Member** is also entitled to act as an independent expert.
- 15.3. For each **Application**, the Expert shall fill out the Expert Evaluation Sheet.
- 15.4. The maximum score of the Interview shall not exceed 50% of the maximum evaluation score of the **Application**.
- 15.5. If the scores of two experts differ by 30 percent or more from the maximum evaluation score of scientific expertise, the **Application** shall be subject to further examination by a third expert.

16. The 2nd Stage of Scientific Expertise (Interview)

- 16.1. The **Board** shall conduct interviews with the **PIs of the Groups**.
- 16.2. Each member of the **Board** shall fill out an Interview Evaluation Sheet for each **Application**.
- 16.3. The maximum score for the Interview amounts to 50% of the maximum evaluation score for the **Application**.

17. Evaluations Results

- 17.1. The total score of scientific expertise shall be calculated as the sum of the arithmetic mean of the Evaluation Scores of 2 Experts and the Interview Score by the **Board**. If the **Application** has been evaluated by 3 experts, the final **Application** score shall be calculated as the sum of the arithmetic mean of two of the closest scores submitted by 3 experts (in the case of equal difference between 3 experts' scores – the arithmetic mean of two higher scores) and the arithmetic mean of the Interview scores by the **Board**.
- 17.2. The final score of the **Application** shall be calculated by adding/subtracting an amount of 1-5 percent of the total evaluation score of the 2nd Evaluation Stage based on compliance or noncompliance of each **Group Member** to the requirements of the “Expected Results” envisaged in previous grant programs.
- 17.3. Based on the final evaluation results of the **Applications** shortlisted for the 2nd Stage of Scientific Expertise, the **Committee** shall form the Application Ranking List in descending order and further submit it to the **Board** for consideration.
- 17.4. The **Board** approves the **Application** Ranking List and recommends a threshold score for each research field.
- 17.5. Based on the volume of allocations from the Republic of Armenia's state budget for the contractual (thematic) funding of scientific and technical activities, the **Committee** shall define the threshold score for each of the research fields and shall submit the draft order listing the **Applications** eligible for funding, the **PIs** thereof and the amount of funding of each **Application** to the **Minister's** approval.
- 17.6. The list of **Applications** eligible for funding and the amount of funding thereof shall be approved by the Order of the **Minister**.
- 17.7. The list of **Applications** eligible for funding as a result of the **Call** shall be published on the official website of the **Committee**.
- 17.8. The **Committee** shall duly provide each Head of the **Organization** with the Approved **Applications** List for their respective **Organization**.
- 17.9. The **Committee** shall provide the **PIs** with the Expertise results and the threshold score via the <https://grants.hesc.am/> platform.

IV. OTHER PROVISIONS

18. Contract Signing

- 18.1. The **Committee**, the **Organization**, and the **PI** of the approved **Application** shall sign a **Contract**.
- 18.2. To ensure the monthly remuneration of the **Group Members**, the **Organization** shall sign contracts in the manner prescribed by the RA "Civil Code", and the copies thereof shall be submitted to the **Committee**:
- Between the **Organization** and the **PI**;
 - Between the **Organization**, the **PI** and each **Member** of the **Group**.
- 18.3. The **Contracts** shall be signed within 10 days after the announcement of the results of the present **Call**.
- 18.4. The **Projects** shall commence and be implemented within the timeframes outlined in the **Contract**.

19. Reporting

- 19.1. Throughout the implementation of the Project, Interim and Final reports shall be submitted. They shall be submitted to the **Committee** by the **PI** of the **Group** every 12th month (by the last working day) since the commencement of the **Project** via the <https://grants.hesc.am/> platform. Based on the reports, the **Board** shall issue a conclusion on the continuation of funding of the **Project** or the acceptance of the final report.
- 19.2. By the 35th month (by the last working day) since the commencement of the **Project**, the **PI** of the **Group** shall submit a triennial report to the **Committee**, which shall include the description of Expected intermediate results of the **Project** (as outlined in Subparagraph 9.1). Based on those reports, the **Board** shall decide whether to terminate the **Project's** funding or continue it for another 24 months.
- 19.3. By the 60th month (by the last working day) since the commencement of the **Project**, the **PI** of the **Group** shall submit the Final report to the **Committee**, which shall include the description of Expected results of the **Project** (as outlined in Subparagraph 9.3., 9.4, and 9.6). Based on the latter, the **Board** shall issue a conclusion on the acceptance of the report.
- 19.4. During the implementation of the **Project**, the **Committee** is entitled to initiate interim monitoring of the **Project**, aimed at the evaluation of the efficiency and quality of the activities in the field of science, and present the results thereof to the **Board**.
- 19.5. While deciding on the continuation of funding of the **Project**, the **Board** shall take into consideration the results of the monitoring by the **Committee**.
- 19.6. In case of failure to submit interim reports within the established timeframes, the further funding of the **Project** may be terminated.

19.7. The **Committee** reserves the right to publish the abstracts and reports of the funded **Projects** either in a paper-based or electronic format.

20. Additional Information

20.1. Should the submitted **Project** and the reports based thereon include intellectual property or patent rights objects, the **PI** shall comply with the Laws of the Republic of Armenia “On Copyright and Related Rights” and “On Inventions, Utility Models and Industrial Designs.”

20.2. The **PI** shall be allowed to redistribute the financial means envisaged in the “Other Costs” section of the **Estimate** by submitting an appropriate justification and receiving the **Committee's** written permission thereto. The updated version of the Project Estimate shall be submitted to the Committee in the event of such redistribution.

20.3. In the case of the **PI's** incapability to continue performing their duties, upon the suggestion of the **Head** of the **Organization** and the consent of the scientific board of the **Organization** and the **Group Members**, as well as with the written approval of the **Committee**, it is possible to replace the **PI**. In the case of the **PI's** replacement, an Agreement shall be concluded with the new **PI** of the **Group**, in which they undertake to carry out the **Project** pursuant to the **Contract**, and which shall constitute an integral part thereof.

20.4. The **PI** of the **Group** may apply to the **Committee** with a request to make an equivalent change of the **Collaborator** or a **Group Member**, providing an appropriate justification. In the case of a change in the list of **Group Members**, a copy of the newly signed contract (agreement) with the new member under the grant project shall be submitted to the **Committee**.

20.5. The **PI** may apply to the **Committee** with a request to reduce the number of **Group Members** by one (as long as it complies with the provisions of Subparagraph 4.2. of the present **Call**), providing an appropriate justification. In the case of a reduction in the number of **Group Members**, an Agreement shall be concluded on changing the Contract price, which shall constitute an integral part of the Contract.

20.6. In the case of a **Group Member's** incapability to continue performing their duties, the **PI** may apply to the **Committee** to suspend the remuneration of the **Group Member** for a period of up to 3 months (as long as it complies with the provisions of Subparagraph 4.2. of the present **Call**), presenting the appropriate justification. In the case of failure to reinclude or substitute a **Group Member** within the three-month period, the number of the **Group Members** shall be reduced by one, and an Agreement on the change of the Contract price (including the amount of three months' remuneration) shall be signed.

20.7. During the implementation of the **Project** (no earlier than 12 months after the commencement), the **PI** is entitled to apply to the **Committee** with a proposal to increase the number of the **Group Members** by a maximum of 2 performers under the age of 35 holding a qualification relevant to the **Project**, along with an appropriate justification.

- 20.8. At least one of the **Group Members** involved in the **Project** under Subparagraph 20.7 shall not be employed in any Organization carrying out a program within the framework of basic funding for scientific and technical activities from the state budget of the Republic of Armenia.
- 20.9. In the case of an increase in the number of **Group Members**, the value of the **Contract** shall increase by AMD 1,800,000 gross per each new **Group Member** (for the period of 12 months).
- 20.10. The absence of any **Group Member** from the Republic of Armenia for 2 or more months must be agreed upon in writing with the **Committee**.

21. Termination of the Project Funding

The **Committee** is entitled to terminate the funding of the **Project** in the following cases:

- Interim reports have not been submitted within the established timeframe, or the **Board** has issued a negative conclusion on the acceptance of the report;
- A redistribution of financial means has been made in the “Other Costs” section of the **Estimate** without the **Committee's** written permission thereto;
- A change has been made in the list of the **Group Members** without the **Committee's** written permission thereto,
- The absence of any **Group Member** from the Republic of Armenia for a period of two months or more without the **Committee's** written permission thereto,
- The provisions of Subparagraph 8.8 of the present **Call** failed to be fulfilled. Moreover, such noncompliance shall also affect further **Applications** from the **Organization** in the amount determined in the conclusion of the **Board** at the next **Calls for Proposals**.

RESEARCH FIELDS BY CLASSIFIERS

<p>1. Natural Sciences</p> <p>1.1. Mathematics 1.2. Computer and Information Sciences 1.3. Physical and Astronomical Sciences 1.4. Chemical Sciences 1.5. Earth and Related Environmental Sciences 1.6. Biological Sciences</p> <p>2. Engineering and Technology</p> <p>2.1. Civil Engineering and Architecture 2.2. Electrical Engineering, Electronic Engineering, Energy Engineering, Computing and Information Technologies 2.3. Mechanics 2.4. Mechanical Science and Mechanical Engineering 2.5. Chemical Technologies 2.6. Material Studies 2.7. Medical Engineering 2.8. Environmental Studies 2.9. Biotechnology 2.10. Nanotechnology</p> <p>3. Medical and Health Sciences</p> <p>3.1. Basic Medicine 3.2. Clinical Medicine 3.3. Medical Biotechnology</p>	<p>4. Agricultural Sciences</p> <p>4.1. Animal Agriculture and Veterinary Science 4.2. Crop Science 4.3. Soil Science, Agrochemistry, Plant Protection 4.4. Agricultural Biotechnology</p> <p>5. Social Sciences</p> <p>5.1. Psychology 5.2. Economics and Business Administration 5.3. Education 5.4. Sociology 5.5. Law 5.6. Political Science 5.7. Social and Economic Geography 5.8. Media and Communications</p> <p>6. Armenian Studies and Humanities</p> <p>6.1. History and Archaeology 6.2. Languages and Literature Studies 6.3. Philosophy and Ethics 6.4. Theology and Religious Studies 6.5. Arts</p>
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Project

To be filled out in English¹, on up to 12 pages, including graphs, tables, images, and references.

1. Annotation

2. Review of the Current State of Research on the Topic

3. Project Aims and Objectives

4. Research Project

5. Available Material and Technical Resources, and the Scientific Methods

6. Calendar Plan (by quarters or Gantt Chart)

7. Group Members' Achievements in the Mentioned Field, Expediency and Feasibility of the Foreign Partner's Involvement in Terms of the Project's Objectives

8. Research Group Development Prospects (risks and opportunities)

9. Quantitative and Qualitative Indicators for the Expected Results (publications, conference proceedings, use of innovative methods, such as technological investment, demonstration, sample, prototype, etc., management of intellectual property (patent, copyright, etc., fostering international cooperation, prospects for collaboration)

10. References

¹ Optionally, the Project may be submitted both in English and in Armenian

N _____

«____» _____ 2024

TO THE ATTENTION OF
MR. SARGIS HAYOTSYAN
CHAIRMAN OF THE RA HIGHER EDUCATION
AND SCIENCE COMMITTEE

Application Letter

Kindly find enclosed herewith the Applications submitted by the
_____ (name of the Organization) entitled

_____ for consideration under the Call for Proposals
“Consolidator Grant for Research Units”.

Head of the Organization _____ (_____)
(Signature) (Name, Surname)

«____» _____ 2024

² The letter template specified in Annex 2.3. is recommended to be submitted on the official form of the Organization.

Project Title

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Extensive Summary

The Extensive Summary is evaluated at the 1st Stage of Scientific Expertise. It should be written in English and in Armeniann (maximum 2 pages).

*The Extensive Summary should concisely describe the **Project**, outlining the relevance and expediency of the research.*

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