

**DECISION DOCUMENT**  
**of the Steering Committee of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia (MESS) and the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA) on co-funding joint projects 2021–2023**

Due to measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic the 16<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia (MESS) and the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA), that should take place in Ljubljana, was not organised. The two sides agreed to conduct the selection procedure via correspondence.

**Selection of projects for the period 2021–2023**

In the joint call for projects for the period 2021-2023, both sides received 16 proposals for joint research projects. The two sides agreed to approve 5 projects for funding as listed in the Annex. Projects were selected based on priority lists, provided by both sides.

The project No 5 *“New inelastic scattering nuclear reactions for epithermal neutron dosimetry”* was selected despite significant mismatch in evaluation, since research of such innovative dosimeters remains crucial to develop the capacity of nuclear technologies and further designs. The proposed topic is highly relevant and has the potential for noticeable impact in the international context. This project is assessed to lead to forefront scientific publications and to the enrichment of nuclear databases of international organizations International Atomic Energy Agency and Nuclear Energy Agency (of OECD).

The projects will run for two years from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023.

The total funding by the Slovenian Research Agency is 475.000 EUR for the period 2021-2022. In CEA funding is provided by the own budget of the unit concerned for the total amount of 447.500 EUR. As mutually agreed at the 15<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting and as stipulated in the call for proposals, the budgets have been capped with maximum amount of 100.000 EUR for each project for each side. If CEA's side engagements exceed 100.000 EUR, they will be capped at this maximal level funding, as well.

The results of the joint call for projects for the period 2021–2022 will be published on both sides in the week between 25 and 29 January 2021.

**Review of on-going projects**

The Steering Committee took note that during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 the implementation of a number of projects was significantly affected, therefore the two sides decided to extend the funding period for the on-going projects which asked for extension as follows.

Funding for projects that should end on 30 March 2021 is extended to 30 March 2022:

- *“Contribution to the improvement of nuclear data for highly reliable reactor shielding calculations”*
- *“Absolute radiation measurements at very high neutron flux levels in reactor pulse mode”*

Funding for projects that should end on 28 February 2022 is extended to 28 February 2023:

- *“Advanced in Thermal Scattering Law Analysis”*
- *“Experimental Benchmark for validation of the modelling of neutron and gamma instrumentation”*

### **Next call for proposals**

The next call for the period 2022–2024 is planned to be published in June 2021.

The Steering Committee decided to put a limit of the maximum amount proposed by each project at 100.000 EUR for each side for the duration of the project.

Sides agreed to strive to support early-career stage project leaders (up to 5 years from their first PhD) as at least 20 % of selected projects. Additionally, sides agreed to set young project leaders (up to 10 years from their first PhD) as a favorable element in the final project selection process done by the Steering Committee. For the next call for proposals, sides also agreed to avoid overlapping of project funding for projects, submitted by same partners with similar topic and selected in the last call.

The 16<sup>th</sup> meeting should take place in Slovenia in January 2022. MESS will take the initiative to propose the dates to French partners. The status of current projects will be reviewed and the projects for the period 2022–2024 will be selected during that meeting.

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Mr Bertrand Bouchet  
Director for European Affairs  
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Date:

Date: