

**DECISION DOCUMENT**  
**on co-funding Slovenian – Japanese joint projects**  
**in FY 2026 (April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2028)**

Based on Memorandum of Understanding on Scientific Cooperation between the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) signed in April 2001, and on the Call for proposals for joint research projects, published by the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency (ARIS) and the JSPS respectively in 2025, the two sides realize that:

ARIS received 26 (twenty-six) proposals for joint research projects, of which 2 (two) project proposals were not submitted to JSPS. JSPS received 24 (twenty-four) proposals for joint research projects, among which 13 (thirteen) project proposals were not recommended for joint selection. Both sides agreed to qualify 11 (eleven) corresponding proposals for joint selection.

Through the comparison of peer review screening results concluded respectively and based on the discussion by the email correspondence between the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation and the JSPS, the two sides decided to jointly fund the following 4 (four) projects in FY 2026 in the period from April 1, 2026 until March 31, 2028.

No.	Institution in Slovenia	PI in Slovenia	Institution in Japan	PI in Japan	Title of project	Duration
1.	University of Ljubljana	BOHINC Klemen	Kyushu University	HIGUCHI Yuji	Understanding the dynamical structure of water molecules mediating interactions between zwitterions towards the design of biocompatible materials	April 1 2026 – March 31, 2028
2.	University of Ljubljana & Institute for Mathematics, Physics and Mechanics (IMFM)	BAUER Andrej	Nagoya University	KIHARA Takayuki	Lavwere-Tierney modal operators in computability theory	April 1 2026 – March 31, 2028
3.	University of Ljubljana	ARISTOVNIK Aleksander	Meiji University	KIKUCHI Masao	Disruptive Technology Capabilities in Local Public Administration: A comparison between Slovenia and Japan	April 1 2026 – March 31, 2028
4.	Research Center of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC-SAZU)	LOGAR Erik	Ritsumeikan University	TERATOKO Yukio	Geographical Indications in Slovenia and Japan: A Comparative Network Analysis through the Lens of Social Capital Theory	April 1 2026 – March 31, 2028

In Slovenia each of selected projects may use up to 6.000,00 EUR in 12 months (up to 12.000,00 EUR in 24 months).

In Japan each of selected projects may use up to JPY 2,000,000 per fiscal year (up to JPY 4,000,000 in two years).

ARIS will cover the costs of the Slovenian team, and JSPS will cover the costs of the Japanese team.

The two sides decided to publish the new call for proposals in June 2026 with deadline for submission of applications not later than September 2026. The funding period will be from April 1, 2027 to March 31, 2029. In Slovenia priority will be given to research exchange proposals submitted by young PIs, who have been conferred a doctor's degree within less than 5 years.

Done in Ljubljana and Tokyo, respectively, in January 2026.



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