

1st INTERNAL CALL FOR FUNDING PROJECTS WITHIN THE 1st SEED SAIGE RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM

Belgrade, April 15, 2024

Aim of the Call

The aim of the first Call for funding projects within the **SEED RESEARCH GRANT Program** is (1) to boost research activities in the Institute of Social Sciences IDN (2) to create interest in and experience with research among young, less experienced researchers at the IDN; and (3) to help build a robust pipeline of research projects with the potential for offering significant added value to the IDN.

The Program will offer up to 50,000 Euros during 2024. In this first call there will be offered 8,000 Euros per project for maximum two projects to support research initiatives that closely align with the strategic directions of IDN.

Eligibility for Participation in the Call

Young researchers, defined as individuals within the first 6 years of their professional career, and PhD students actively engaged in the IDN, all of whom are no older than 35 years of age, are eligible to apply for the Call.

The project proposal can involve either an individual researcher or a team of researchers. Individual(s) will submit a short project proposal (using the template provided below) outlining their plans to engage in specific research activities including engaging in specific research training (e.g., project management, proposal writing, etc.).

Selection Process

An internal Selection Committee will be established within the IDN, consisting of the IDN' Director, the Head of the Science Council, and the expert of the Knowledge Transfer Unit (KTU). The IDN's National Institutional Consultant (NIC) and the SAIGE PIU Manager will serve as Observers on the Selection Committee, responsible for ensuring compliance with the Program's design and requirements. The Selection Committee will assess the proposals competitively and choose the top-quality proposals from young researchers, who will be granted Program funding of up to 8,000 Euros. If required, a mentor may be assigned to each selected project to offer guidance and oversee research activities. The mentor, when assigned, will be chosen from the IDN staff by the Head of the Science Council and Head of the Sector for fundamental research.

Selection Criteria

The Selection Committee will employ the following criteria for the evaluation:

- Research-related training activity that will substantially improve the research capabilities of the researcher.
- Researcher with strong potential for future growth and development.
- Project duration of no more than 4 months (in exceptional cases duration could be up to 6 months).

- Research activity with the potential for delivering value to both the researcher and to IDN, (the research activity could lead, for example, to the development of new early-stage services that would be suitable for IP protection/PoC funding within the SAIGE Project).
- The maximum number of points that the Application carries is 40. Funding is approved for the Application with the highest number of points. The minimum number of points qualifying the Application for funding is 30 (thirty points), with the requirement to achieve at least 75% of the points for each evaluation factor:
 1. General impression (max 20 points)
 2. Impact on the career (max 12 points)
 3. Improvement of work organization (max 8 points).

Use of Funds

Funds can be used for the following purposes:

- Research-related costs (materials, consumables, external expert service/advice).
- Appropriate training costs related to the execution of the selected project (excluding any travel costs).
- Publication fees for publishing in highly impacted journals.
- Conference fees (without travel and accommodation expenses)

Approved funds shall be used in compliance with IDN's internal procedures. Funds may not be used to pay staff labor.

Time frame of the Call

- The call is announced on April 15, 2024.
- The deadline for submitting project proposals is April 29, 2024.
- The deadline for evaluation is May 15, 2024.
- Project kick-off is May 22, 2024

It is necessary to submit the completed Project Proposal Form to knowledgetransferunit@idn.org.rs indicating "INTERNAL CALL FOR FUNDING PROJECTS WITHIN THE SEED RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM" within the specified deadline.

For any additional information, you can contact via email at knowledgetransferunit@idn.org.rs.