



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
Ministry of Science, Education and Sports
Science and Technology Project
Loan Nr. 7320-HR

Unity through Knowledge Fund

announces

Call for Proposals

RESEARCH COOPERABILITY PROGRAM Crossing Borders Grant (1B)

1. INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Croatia received funds through the World Bank for the Science and Technology Project (World Bank Loan Nr. 7320-HR). The Ministry of Science, Education and Sports has an ultimate objective to improve business infrastructural environment for science & technology through the Project. Within this framework, the Ministry has established the Unity through Knowledge Fund (UKF) for promotion of professional exchanges and contacts and joint projects between Croatian scientists and researchers working abroad with their Croatian colleagues.

2. ABOUT UNITY THROUGH KNOWLEDGE FUND

Under the motto Connectivity – Cooperability – Creativity, the Unity through knowledge Fund has mission to unite scientific and professional potential in Croatia and Diaspora in the development of the knowledge based society.

In order to achieve this task, UKF strives towards the following goals: fostering internationally competitive research, fostering research that provides new values to Croatian economy and supporting projects that develop research infrastructure.

This *Call for Proposals* together with *Research Cooperability Program - Application Form 2009*, *Research Cooperability Program– Curriculum Vitae Form 2009*, *Research Cooperability Program – Instructions for Applicants 2009* and the last *UKF Guidelines and Procedures* (www.ukf.hr), sets out the terms and conditions on which the Grant shall be awarded.

3. ABOUT RESEARCH COOPERABILITY PROGRAM

Research Cooperability Program is a research support program that finances medium-scale collaborative research projects in Croatia that fulfil the conditions outlined in the Fund's goals, with involvement of Croatian scientific and professional Diaspora.

The program goal is to attract promising research projects to Croatian companies and institutions together with their international/private financing, their accompanying knowledge, technology and potential research results. Total amount foreseen for call for proposals ("Homeward" Grant and "Crossing Borders" Grant) within this program for 2009 is 6.500.000 HRK.

ABOUT "CROSSING BORDERS" GRANT

The aims of the "Crossing Borders" Grant are to support outstanding Croatian scientists and professionals working and living abroad (Diaspora) in establishing scientific cooperation with local scientists, as well as to foster Croatian institutions and enterprises to use potentials of Croatian scientific and professional Diaspora.



The grant should enable transfer of knowledge and attract investments to Croatian organization through cooperation between Diaspora and local scientists. Eventually, it should facilitate the return of Croatian scientists and professionals from abroad through networking with scientific colleagues from Croatia.

4. INSTRUMENTS THAT CAN BE FINANCED AND DURATION OF THE PROJECTS

The grant may include application of the following instruments (see the enclosed *UKF Guidelines and Procedures 2007*):

- research project's costs (consumables and other costs)
- early-stage researchers and post-doc researchers (salaries and remunerations)
- long-term visits (travel costs and allowances)
- short-term visits and conferences (travel costs and allowances)
- specific equipment (durables)
- supporting consulting and expertise
- overhead costs

Proposed research projects are to last for a minimum period of 12 months and a maximum of 24 months.

5. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

WHO CAN APPLY?

- a. The outstanding experienced researchers and experts from Croatia who want to initiate and establish cooperation with an outstanding researcher of Croatian nationality or origin who has built career and works abroad.
- b. The outstanding experienced researchers and experts of Croatian nationality or origin living abroad, who want to initiate and establish cooperation with the partners from Croatia.

The Grant is intended for researchers from both industrial and academic sectors. Main applicants and co-applicants should have previous experience as research project leaders and should demonstrate the ability to lead research and team.

WHICH RESEARCH AREAS ARE ELIGIBLE? Proposed research in all scientific disciplines, social sciences and humanities is eligible. Proposed research project should clearly demonstrate the benefit to Croatian science, economy, environment and/or society.

WHICH LEGAL ENTITY SHOULD BE INVOLVED? The grant will be awarded to a Leading organization (legal entity with the head office in the Republic of Croatia), which is responsible of receiving and managing financial means. Eligible organizations are all public and private institutes, universities, small and medium enterprises. The project proposal should contain following letters of commitment:

1. Commitment of Leading organization to administer the proposed research project, what includes: administration of funds, project employees and facilities, engagement of their current employees, providing other support according to proposed plan. The Leading organizations should accept all responsibilities originating from and connected to the proposed research project. The main applicant and co-applicant are responsible for proposing and agreeing suitable arrangements with a Leading organization.
2. Commitment of a Partner organization (other legal entity involved in project than the Leading Organization) to support the proposed research project including hosting and supporting the Croatian researchers according to the project plan. The involved organizations should accept



all responsibilities originating from and connected to the proposed research project. The main applicant and the co-applicant are responsible for proposing and agreeing suitable arrangements with the all participating organization.

3. Commitment of the main applicant's employing organization (in the case it is different than a Leading organization) to support his/her engagement on the proposed project in Croatia. Additionally, the main applicant that is employee of Partner organization is responsible for agreements of terms of his/hers engagement at a Leading organization.

WHAT ARE BUDGET REQUIREMENTS?

At the time of application, matching funding has to be secured and shall amount to at least 20% of the amount requested from the UKF. At least 5% of matching funding of the amount requested from UKF shall be in form of financial contributions (cash contributions). Any existing or planned financial support from the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports is not eligible as matching funding for this Grant. Other 15% of matching funding of the amount requested from UKF may be in form of in kind contributions (goods or services) needed for research. Please note that salaries of researchers employed at the Leading organization are not an allowable in-kind contribution. The total Fund's subsidy for a project requested over total period cannot be lower than 735.000 HRK or higher than 1.470.000 HRK.

7. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

All proposals are evaluated against the fixed set of criteria stated bellow. The proposal should address the points stated in these criteria with measurable and provable information. Anonymous, internationally recognized and independent experts nominated by the Steering Committee will evaluate all eligible proposals. The Steering Committee will assure that evaluators are in neither direct nor in indirect conflict of interest. At the end of the evaluation procedure, the Steering Committee will review evaluations of the experts and propose the projects for financing. The Approval Committee will finally accept or rejects the recommendations of the Steering Committee. The evaluation procedure is described in detail in the enclosed *UKF Procedures and Guidelines*.

The scientific excellence is a prerequisite for awarding the grant. The contribution to the Fund's goals – international competitiveness and potential to provide a new value to Croatian society – is a cornerstone of the assessment.

Specific assessment criteria for this Grant are described below and they are to be assed by independent experts. The relative importance of the each criterion is under the authority of the Steering Committee.

- i. SCIENTIFIC/TECHNOLOGICAL QUALITY OF THE PROJECT ASSESSED BY ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:
 - a. Significance and originality of the research proposed
 - b. Clarity and measurability of the goals and prospect for achieving them
 - c. Feasibility of the project and suitability of the methods – including work plan, time plan and budget
- ii. IMPORTANCE OF THE PROJECT IN CREATING ADDED VALUES FOR CROATIAN SOCIETY AND ECONOMY ASSESSED BY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
 - a. Potential for creating research result important for Croatian science, economy, environment and society
 - b. Prospective innovations, patents, commercial applications, new or improved products or processes or environmental benefit
 - c. Potential of strengthening Croatian research capability
- iii. RESEARCH/MANAGERIAL QUALITY OF THE PROJECT LEADER (AND THE CO-APPLICANT),



INCLUDING THEIR LEADERSHIP ABILITY TO UNDERTAKE GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH, ASSESSED BY ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

- a. necessary expertise, previous success and overall career development
 - b. key publications
 - c. personal letters of recommendations
- iv. PROJECT'S FUTURE POTENTIAL TO ACHIEVE FURTHER CO-FINANCING AND GAIN FUTURE SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSED BY ONE OF FOLLOWING:
- a. prospect for attaining additional co-financing from EU/international funds
 - b. prospect for attaining additional co-financing from non-public and private sources

8. GUIDELINES FOR PROJECT PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Proposal shall be submitted on the official forms: *Research Cooperability Program - Application Form 2009* and *Research Cooperability Program – Curriculum Vitae Form 2009*, which are available on the Fund's website or on request. Proposal should contain all details and annexes as described there and in accompanying *Research Cooperability Program – Instructions for Applicants 2009*. The proposal must be written in English and signed by project applicant (and co-applicant, if relevant) and the responsible persons of all legal entities involved.

The proposal with scanned signatures must be submitted together with the relevant annexes as an electronic version using the UKF web application (<http://www.ukf.hr/default.aspx?id=39>) The proposal must be electronically submitted no later than **Tuesday, 15 December 2009 until midnight**. The applicants will receive a notice on successful submittal of proposal by e-mail.

9. FURTHER INFORMATION

Letters rejecting or accepting proposals, with statements of opinion, will be sent to all applicants within three months after the application deadline (excluding the periods from 15 July and 31 August and from 20 December and 7 January, according to law). Evaluation results will be made available within your accounts at the UKF web site. The accepted proposals are subject of further negotiations and final approval, according to the *UKF Guidelines and Procedures 2007*. Letters with final decisions and contracts on financing will be sent to the applicants. The summaries of successful proposals will be published on the UKF's website, www.ukf.hr. Note that the submission of project proposal does not establish any form of legal claim or responsibility of Ministry of Science, Education and Sports. All decisions of the UKF Committees are final and are not subject to further claims or revisions.

Any inquiries should be addressed to the contact persons at the Unity through Knowledge Fund: ; e-mail: office@ukf.hr; phone: +385 1 23 52 685; address: UKF, Planinska 1, HR-10000 Zagreb, Croatia.