

The Statute

SAS Return Project Scheme

for Parents Returning to Work after Maternity or/and Parental Leave

Preamble

In accordance with the SAS Gender Equality Plan and with the aim to support the reconciliation of work and private life, the Presidium of SAS (hereinafter referred to as "P SAS") constitutes a tool to facilitate the reintegration of female scientists¹ after termination of maternity and/or parental leave (hereinafter referred to as "ML/PL").

Article I

Essential Rules

1. The rightful female applicant (hereinafter referred to as the "applicant") for support from the SAS Return Project Scheme for parents after returning from maternity and/or parental leave (hereinafter referred to as the "return project scheme") is a female researcher having a third-level university education who spent time at the ML/PL for at least 12 months. It is possible to apply for funding a scientific project within one year after returning from ML/PL.
2. The applicant can submit a scientific project (hereinafter referred to as the "project") even before returning from ML/PL under the condition that the applicant and the SAS organization (hereinafter referred to as the "organization") guarantee the beginning of the project work from the funding start date according to a call for filing the project proposals and at the same time guarantee the fulfillment of the requirement from paragraph 1 of this article, that ML/PL will last min. 12 months.

Article II

The Call

The call for filing the project proposals is being published twice a year, the 1st August having a deadline of the 30th September of a common year and the beginning of financing on the 1st January the following year, and the 1st February with a deadline of the 31st March and the start of financing on the 1st July of common year.

Article III

Project Evaluation

1 In the Statute of the SAS Return Project Scheme for parents after returning from maternity and/or parental leave, for the sake of simplicity, only the feminine form of some nouns is used (e.g. Female worker, female applicant, female solver, etc.). However, whenever such a noun is used, the term includes both female and male persons.

Projects are being evaluated by *ad hoc* committees, which are formed by Vice Presidents of SAS individual science departments (hereinafter referred to as SD), or by members of the P SAS assigned by Vice Presidents of individual SDs. As a rule, the *ad hoc* committee is composed of members of P SAS and other experts depending on the focus of the filed projects. Ad hoc committees submit evaluation results to the SAS Committee for Equal Opportunities (hereinafter referred to as the Committee).

Article IV Preference of Project

Projects for financing are selected by the SAS Committee for Equal Opportunities being as an advisory body of the P SAS , which is composed of representatives of all three SDs, and selects projects according to the quality and priorities of the SAS. The results of the selection are submitted by the Committee to the P SAS for approval. The Committee will select a maximum of 5 proposed projects in each call.

Article V Scientific Project Proposal

1. The female applicant is the sole solver of the project, the scheme is not intended for solver collectives.
2. The length of the project solution is 1 year.
3. The proposal may be written in Slovak or English.
4. The applicant fills out the project proposal on the prescribed form and will send it to the electronic address indicated in the call and at the same time by post to the address of the chairperson of the SAS Committee for Equal Opportunities, Štefánikova 49, 814 38 Bratislava.
5. The required data and documents are precisely specified in the call and the form. The form requires the following information:
 - 5.1. female applicant's name and surname
 - 5.2. name of SAS organization
 - 5.3. a list of most prestigious publications in the last 5 years (the period is being extended by the time spent on ML/PL).
 - 5.4. list of responses to publications in point 5.3.
 - 5.5. participation in domestic and foreign projects
 - 5.6. list of patents and patent applications
 - 5.7. project proposal in the range of max. two pages of A4 format

The project proposal must include the following:

- project name
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- project annotation (max. 1024 characters with spaces, both language versions must be inserted)
 - the current state of knowledge of the issue
 - research objectives and benefits
 - main methodological approaches
 - schedule of activities
 - project budget in the structure: travel costs, material, services, indirect costs
6. The maximum amount of the project budget is €5,000.
7. The proposal of the scientific project is submitted by the applicant with a statement made by the SAS organization management.
8. Project proposals that, after the closing date, do not contain all the requirements determined by this Statute of the return project scheme and the call, will not be included in the evaluation.

Article VI Financial Terms and Conditions

1. P SAS will adjust the amount of current funds (KTG 630) of the IFP organization by drafting an amendment to the IFP Agreement in the amount of max. €5,000 in deadlines according to the call (€5,000 in one financial operation from the 1st January or €5,000 in two operations of €2,500 each from the 1st July of a common year and from the 1st January of the following year) to those organizations whose projects have been approved by P SAS. Funds are allocated to the project budget purposefully, a maximum of 20% can be used for indirect costs.
2. If it is not possible to start solving the project at the planned start (1st January and the 1st July according to the call), the organization shall immediately inform the Committee and the Economic and Technical Department of the SAS Office (hereinafter also ETO). The implementation of the project is postponed by a half of year if there is a probability of starting the project solution as of this date. If there is no probability that the project can be started with a six-month delay, the grant of funding will be cancelled. If the solution of the project does not start even by the postponed date, the grant of funding will be cancelled. The organization's budget will be reduced by the total allocated amount, and P SAS will adjust the amount of IFP organization by drafting up an amendment to the IFP Agreement.
3. If the solution of the project is terminated during the financial drawing of support for any reason, the organization is obliged to report this fact with no postponement to the Committee and the ETO, which will adjust the amount of the IFP to the organization by drafting up an amendment to the IFP Agreement.
4. In case of failure to comply with the obligation to notify changes according to par. 2 and 3 of this article, the organization is obliged to return unjustifiably used funds.

Article VII

Concurrence with Other Projects

In the course of solving a project from the Return Project Scheme, the female solver can enter into other projects within the SAS organization.

Article VIII

Final Report

Within one month after the end of drawing financial support from the Return Project Scheme, female researcher shall submit a final report about the project solution results. The final report will be assessed by the SAS Committee for Equal Opportunities, possibly in cooperation with P SAS members for individual SDs, especially from the point of view of their scientific contribution and compliance with the original project intent. The Committee informs the researcher and the organization about the assessment.

Article IX

Final Stipulations

The Statute of the return project scheme was approved by the P SAS at the meeting on 15 Dec 2022. It comes into force the following day after the day it is published on the SAS website.

Bratislava 15 Dec 2022

prof. RNDr. Pavol Šajgalík, DrSc.
President of SAS