HARIDUS- JA
TEADUSMINISTEERIUM

REGULATION

02.02.2026 No 1.1-1/26/6

Specific conditions of and procedure for applying for and evaluating the application for national research funding and allocating and reclaiming the funding

This Regulation is enacted on the basis of subsection 22 (4) of the Organisation of Research and Development and Innovation Act.

Chapter 1
General provisions

§ 1. Scope of the Regulation

This Regulation prescribes the conditions and procedure for application for national research funding (hereinafter research funding), the evaluation of applications, the allocation of funding, and the reclamation of funding.

§ 2. Mobility support

For the purposes of this Regulation, 'mobility support' means support allocated by the Estonian Research Council, the implementing agency for research and development policy (hereinafter the implementing agency), on the basis of a regulation established on the basis of subsection 23 (2) of the Organisation of Research and Development and Innovation Act.

§ 3. Incoming postdoctoral grant

For the purposes of this Regulation, 'incoming postdoctoral grant' means a regulation established by the implementing agency on the basis of subsection 23 (2) of the Organisation of Research and Development and Innovation Act and Decree No 291 of the Minister for Education and Research of 26 October 2023 'Establishment of the conditions for granting the funding for the activity 'Supporting the internationalisation of research and development: Connecting to the International Knowledge Market''.

§ 4. Returning researcher grant

For the purposes of this Regulation, 'returning researcher grant' means a grant awarded by an implementing agency between 2016 and 2023, the purpose of which was to support the return to Estonia of researchers who are Estonian citizens or residents and who have worked outside of Estonia.

§ 5. Types of research funding

Research funding are:
1) postdoctoral grant;
2) starting grant;
3) team grant.

§ 6. Objective of allocating research funding

(1) The objective of a postdoctoral grant is to support a person who has obtained a doctoral degree in Estonia in order to gain research and development experience at a foreign research institution, an international research organisation, or a research-intensive undertaking (hereinafter Collaborating Institution*)* in order to contribute to the start of their independent research career.

(2) The objective of the starting grant is to support a researcher who has started an independent research career in carrying out a research and development project, creating their own research team and promoting the next generation of researchers at a research and development institution, university or an evaluated professional higher education institution.

(3) The objective of the team grant is to support the researcher and the research team led by them in implementing a high-level research and development project and promoting the next generation of researchers in a research and development institution, university or an evaluated professional higher education institution.

§ 7. Research fields of funding

Research funding shall be awarded in the following fields of research:
1) exact sciences;
2) bio- and environmental sciences;
3) engineering and technology;
4) medical and health sciences;
5) agricultural sciences and veterinary sciences;
6) social sciences;
7) humanities and the arts.

§ 8. Organisation of issue of research funding

The evaluation guidelines and the application and reporting forms for research funding applications and reports shall be established by the implementing agency, taking into account the conditions of this Regulation.

Chapter 2
Supported activities, amount, and period of research funding

§ 9. Supported activities

(1) Research funding shall be allocated for the following activities contributing to the achievement of the objectives specified in § 6 of this Regulation:
1) the conducting of basic and applied research;
2) the acquisition, maintenance, and modernisation of equipment and infrastructure necessary for research and development;
3) the use of research infrastructure, including research infrastructure located in foreign states;
4) national and international cooperation related to the project, including participation in

professional associations and organisations directly related to the project;
5) presentation and dissemination of the results of research and development;
6) increasing the mobility and competence of the persons involved in the project.

(2) Research funding cannot be used to cover the self-financing of another support measure, activity or project.

§ 10. Rates of research funding

(1) The rate of funding for a postdoctoral grant is EUR 6,333 per calendar month and EUR 76,000 per year.

(2) The rates of funding for a starting grant are:
1) EUR 6,333 per calendar month and EUR 76,000 per year;
2) EUR 9,750 per calendar month and EUR 117,000 per year.

(3) The rate for the starting grant specified in clause (2) 2) of this section may be applied for if the condition specified in subsection 15 (9) of this Regulation is met.

(4) The rates of funding for the team grant are:
1) EUR 16,033 per month and EUR 192,400 per year;
2) EUR 22,500 per month and EUR 270,000 per year.

(5) The rates for the team grant specified in clause (4) 2) of this section may be applied for if the condition specified in subsection 15 (11) of this Regulation is met.

(6) Research funding may be applied for in an amount lower than the rate provided for in subsections (1), (2) and (4) of this section.

(7) The minimum reference period for the amount of research funding shall be one (1) month.

(8) The rate of funding for the postdoctoral grant specified in subsection (1) of this section shall include the direct personnel and research costs as well as indirect costs. The amount of indirect costs shall be 5% of the amount of direct costs and shall be additional to the direct costs.

(9) The rate of funding for the starting grant and team grant specified in subsections (2) and (4) of this section shall include the direct personnel and research cost as well as indirect costs. The amount of indirect costs shall be 25% of the amount of direct costs and shall be additional to the direct costs.

§ 11. Period of research funding

(1) The postdoctoral grant period is a minimum of 12 months and a maximum of 36 months.

(2) The starting grant and team grant period is a minimum of 36 months and a maximum of 60 months.

(3) The postdoctoral grant period begins in the year following the year of application at the time requested by the recipient of the funding, but not later than on 1 July of the same year.

(4) The starting grant and team grant period starts on 1 January of the year following the year of application.

(5) The recipient of the funding and the implementing agency may agree on a start date later than the date provided for in subsections (3) and (4) of this section, but not later than 1 December of the year following the year of application.

(6) If the start date of the period of the research funding is later than that provided for in subsections (3) and (4) of this section, the end date of the project shall not be extended and the amount of funding shall decrease to the extent corresponding to the month(s) started later.

Chapter 3
Applying for research funding and requirements for applications, applicants, research teams and persons participating in the project

§ 12. Applying for research funding

(1) An application round for research funding shall be announced by the implementing agency on its website.

(2) Applying for research funding and the processing of applications takes place in the Estonian Research Information System (hereinafter ETIS).

§ 13. Requirements for the application

(1) The application shall be prepared in English, with a summary in Estonian.

(2) The application shall contain at least the following information:
1) the title of the project in Estonian and English;
2) data concerning the applicant, including general data, employment data, data concerning the research degree, data concerning publications and industrial property rights, and data concerning involvement in projects;
3) information concerning the research and development institution, university or evaluated institution of professional higher education (hereinafter Institution) where the recipient of the funding plans to work during the period of the project, including the legal name, legal form, contact details, data concerning the evaluation, and data on the contact person;
4) information on other legal persons and bodies involved in the project, including the legal name, legal form, contact details, data on evaluation, and data on the contact person;
5) information on the senior staff members and other staff members involved in the project, if applicable, including the general data of the person, employment data, data concerning the research degree, data concerning publications and industrial property rights, and data concerning the involvement in the projects;
6) the rate of funding applied for and the period of funding;
7) description of the scientific content of the project;
8) a description of the impact and presentation of the results of the project;
9) overview of research ethics and data management related to the project.

(3) When applying for a postdoctoral grant, the application shall, in addition to the information specified in subsection (2) of this section, also include information concerning the Collaborating Institution and the supervisor, including the general data of the supervisor, employment data, data concerning the research degree, data concerning publications and industrial property rights, information concerning supervision and data concerning involvement in projects, and a letter of approval from the Collaborating Institution.

(4) A project is a scientific research project that clearly identifies a research problem and the underlying basic research and/or applied research proposed to address it.

(5) The implementing agency has the right to request additional data and documents from the applicant and the Institution in order to prove the information contained in the application.

(6) The application for research funding shall be approved by the Institution. By confirming the application, the Institution consents to the submission of the application and to the performance of the obligations of the Institution.

§ 14. Requirements for applicant

(1) A postdoctoral grant can be applied for by a person who:
1) holds a doctoral degree or who is defending a doctoral level degree during the calendar year in which the application round takes place;
2) by 1 January of the year of application, has not had more than five years pass since their last doctoral level degree was awarded in Estonia;
3) has resided, worked or studied in Estonia for at least 12 consecutive months immediately before the deadline for the application round;
4) has not previously been a recipient of a postdoctoral grant;
5) has not been listed as a member of a research team in another application for research funding or mobility support during an overlapping period.

(2) A starting grant can be applied for by a person who:
1) holds a doctoral degree or a corresponding qualification;
2) by 1 January of the year of the planned commencement of the project, completed their last doctoral degree at least two years ago, but not more than 10 years have passed since the awarding of their last doctoral degree;
3) has not previously been a recipient of a starting grant or team grant;
4) has not been listed as a member of a research team in another application for research funding during an overlapping period.

(3) If an applicant for a postdoctoral grant or a starting grant has been away from research for compelling reasons or has been doing research with a workload of less than 0.5 after obtaining their last doctoral degree or the corresponding qualification and within the 10 years preceding the start year of the project, the term specified in clause (1) 2) and clause (2) 2) of this section shall be extended by that period in full months rounded up to the nearest whole number of months.

(4) A team grant can be applied for by a person who:
1) holds a doctoral degree or a corresponding qualification;
2) has not been listed as a member of a research team in another application for research funding during an overlapping period;
3) does not participate in another research funding project as a member of the research team during the period overlapping with the participation in the project described in the application and is not a recipient of the returning researcher grant or mobility support.

(5) Research funding cannot be applied for by a person:
1) whose application for research funding was below the qualification threshold in at least one of the evaluation criteria in two previous consecutive application rounds or below the qualification threshold in at least two evaluation criteria in the previous application round;
2) who has failed to submit the report of the project financed by the implementing agency within

the term of three years preceding the application for research funding without compelling reason or whose report has not been approved by the implementing agency;
3) whose previous application submitted to the implementing agency or within the activities carried out under a project financed by the implementing agency has established a material violation of the requirements, submission of false information, plagiarism or fraud, and less than three years have passed from the establishment of the violation by 1 January of the year of application.

(6) Applicant may only apply for one research funding at a time.

(7) The applicant is the Principal Investigator of the project for which the research funding is requested.

§ 15. Requirements for research team and persons participating in the project

(1) The postdoctoral grant project must involve a supervisor who:
1) holds a doctoral degree or a corresponding qualification and is employed in a Collaborating Institution on the basis of an employment contract;
2) has not been a (co-)supervisor of the applicant's doctoral thesis.

(2) A research team is a team formed to carry out a starting grant or team grant project, consisting of the recipient of funding, senior staff member(s) and other staff member(s).

(3) The senior staff member is:
1) a person conducting research and development who belongs to the research team, holds a doctoral degree or a corresponding qualification and works in a research and development institution, university or evaluated institution of professional higher education on the basis of an employment contract during the period of participation in the project;
2) a doctoral student involved in a starting grant project, who is studying at a university during the period of participation in the project.

(4) The monthly salary of the senior staff member must be covered at least in part from the project funds during the period of participation in the project, unless the senior staff member is a doctoral student whose salary or scholarship may be covered from the project funds.

(5) During the interval overlapping with the period of participation in the project, the senior staff member may not participate in another research funding, returning researcher grant, mobility support, incoming postdoctoral grant project as the recipient of the funding or senior or other staff member, nor be listed in the research funding application, except in the case provided for in subsection (6) of this section.

(6) A doctoral student may simultaneously be the senior staff member of a starting grant project and the other staff member of a team grant project if their doctoral thesis supervisor is either a recipient of the funding or a senior research staff member of one of these projects, and the doctoral thesis is related to the project.

(7) An other staff member is a person belonging to the research team whose work is related to the project and who, during the period of participation in the project, works on the basis of an employment contract or studies at a research and development institution, university or evaluated institution of professional higher education, who does not have a doctoral level degree or corresponding qualification, and who does not meet the requirements set for the senior staff member.

(8) The salary or scholarship of the other staff member may be covered by project funds.

(9) Upon application for the starting grant rate specified in clause 10 (2) 2) of this Regulation and implementation of the project, a research team must be formed which includes, in addition to the recipient of the funding, at least one senior staff member who works at a research and development institution, university or evaluated institution of professional higher education with at least 0.2 workload throughout the project.

(10) In order to apply for a team grant and implement a project, a research team of at least three (3) members must be formed, which includes at least one (1) senior staff member in addition to the recipient of the funding throughout the project.

(11) Upon application for the team grant rate specified in clause 10 (4) 2) of this Regulation and implementation of the project, a research team must be formed which includes, in addition to the recipient of the funding, at least three (3) senior staff members who work at a research and development institution, university or evaluated institution of professional higher education with at least a 0.5 workload throughout the project.

(12) A person who is not a member of the research team may be involved in a project as an external partner. The salary paid under the partner's employment contract cannot be covered from the research funding budget.

Chapter 4
Processing and evaluation of application and the awarding of a grant

§ 16. Verification of the compliance of the application

(1) The verification of the compliance of the application with the requirements shall be carried out by the implementing agency by assessing the compliance of the applicant, the application, the Institution, the research team and the persons involved in the project with the conditions of this Regulation and the compliance of the application with the requirements of the application form.

(2) In the event of formal deficiencies in the application, the implementing agency shall set a deadline of up to 10 days for their rectification.

(3) The implementing agency may refuse to review an application as a result of the verification of compliance if:
1) the applicant, application, Institution, research team or persons involved in the project do not comply with the requirements provided for in this Regulation and the non-compliance cannot be eliminated without substantially altering the application;
2) the applicant fails to eliminate the non-compliance by the term determined by the implementing agency.

(4) The implementing agency shall make a decision to reject the application if, as a result of the verification of compliance, the applicant makes changes to the application which are not related to the elimination of the formal deficiency specified by the implementing agency.

(5) The applicant and the Institution are required to notify the implementing agency immediately if circumstances affecting the compliance of the applicant or the application with the requirements become evident during the processing of the application.

§ 17. Evaluation criteria and evaluation methodology

(1) An application for a postdoctoral grant will be evaluated on the basis of the following evaluation criteria:
1) the scientific justification and feasibility of the project;
2) the competence of the applicant;
3) the competence of the supervisor;
4) the importance of the project, including the importance for Estonia.

(2) The grade of the evaluation criterion specified in clause (1) 3) of this section shall be taken into account in the overall score of the postdoctoral grant application with a coefficient of 0.8.

(3) An application for a starting grant will be evaluated on the basis of the following evaluation criteria:
1) the scientific justification for the project;
2) the feasibility of the project;
3) the competence of the applicant;
4) the importance and potential impact of the project.

(4) Upon evaluation of an application for a starting grant, the grade of the evaluation criterion specified in clause (3) 4) of this section shall be taken into account in the overall score of the application with a coefficient of 0.8.

(5) The team grant application will be evaluated on the basis of the following evaluation criteria:
1) the scientific justification for the project;
2) the feasibility of the project;
3) the competence of the applicant;
4) the strength and potential of the research team;
5) the importance and potential impact of the project.

(6) Upon evaluation of an application for a team grant, the grade of the evaluation criterion specified in clause (5) 4) of this section shall be taken into account in the overall score of the application with a coefficient of 0.6.

(7) Applications shall be evaluated on the basis of the evaluation criteria specified in subsections (1), (3) and (5) of this section on a scale from 1 (unsatisfactory) to 5 (outstanding). Grades are awarded in increments of 0.5 points.

(8) The qualification threshold for the evaluation criteria specified in subsections (1), (3) and (5) of this section is 3 points.

(9) The exceeding of the qualification threshold shall be assessed before applying the coefficients provided for in subsections (2), (4) and (6) of this section.

(10) The overall score for applications shall be calculated as the sum of the grades of the evaluation criteria after applying the coefficients provided for in subsections (2), (4) and (6) of this section.

(11) An application shall be dismissed if:
1) the application does not exceed the qualification threshold in at least one of the evaluation criteria;

2) the overall score of the application is lower than 80 per cent of the possible maximum score.

§ 18. Evaluation of the application

(1) For the evaluation of applications, the implementing agency shall form Expert Panels on the basis of a proposal from the Evaluation Committee

(2) The composition of the Expert Panels shall be made public one (1) year after their establishment.

(3) The Evaluation Committee shall determine the Expert Panel within which the application is to be evaluated.

(4) On the proposal of a member of the Evaluation Committee or Expert Panel, the implementing agency has the right to involve external experts in the evaluation of the application for research funding.

(5) The Expert Panel prepares a preliminary evaluation of the application and establishes the ranking of its evaluated applications by types of research funding or research fields of funding.

(6) The names of the experts who evaluated the application shall not be disclosed to the applicant or the Institution.

(7) The implementing agency shall make the preliminary evaluation of the application and its place in the ranking available to the applicant and the Institution, and shall set a deadline for the hearing.

(8) The applicant and the Institution shall have the right to provide a written opinion on the Expert Panel's evaluation in the context of the hearing.

(9) The Evaluation Committee approves the final evaluation of the application and the ranking of applications by Expert Panels and the types of research funding or research fields of funding as a result of the Expert Panel's evaluation and the hearing procedure.

§ 19. Proposal for funding

(1) In dividing the research funding budget between the types of research funding and the research fields of funding, the implementing agency shall follow the following principles:
1) the budget for the postdoctoral grant allows for at least one postdoctoral grant to be awarded in each research field of funding;
2) the budget for the starting grant and the team grant allows for at least one starting grant and one team grant to be awarded in each research field of funding;
3) in the division of the budget between the research fields of funding, the funds allocated for research grants, the funds released in the research field of funding, and the proportions of the budget for previous years in the research field of funding shall be taken into account.

(2) The implementing agency shall continuously analyse the relevance and timeliness of the division of the research funding budget between the research fields of funding and, if necessary, amend the division of the research funding budget determined on the basis of clause (1) 3) of this section between the types of research funding and the research fields of funding.

(3) When making a funding proposal, the Evaluation Committee shall take into account the

amount of funds allocated for the application round and the distribution of funds determined by the implementing agency between the types of research funding and the research fields of funding.

(4) The Evaluation Committee shall base its funding proposal on the principle that at least one postdoctoral grant, starting grant and team grant will be awarded in each research field of funding if there is at least one application above the relevant qualification threshold of the respective type in the respective research field of funding with an overall score of at least 80 per cent of the maximum score.

(5) The Evaluation Committee shall base its funding proposal on the ranking of applications.

(6) Where there are several rankings in one research field of funding, the Evaluation Committee shall first propose funding for the first application for each ranking.

(7) If the funds available for the application round are not sufficient to fund all first applications in the funding field rankings, or if the Evaluation Committee is required to propose funding for the following applications, the Evaluation Committee shall follow the following principles of equal weight:
1) promote the diversity of projects across fields;
2) promote the representation of different institutions;
3) promote gender balance among recipients of funding;
4) promote the age balance of recipients of funding.

(8) Upon exhaustion of the principles specified in subsection (7) of this section, the Evaluation Committee has the right to compare applications upon making a funding proposal on the basis of the final evaluations and the amount of the research funding applied for.

(9) The Evaluation Committee has the right to decide on the reallocation of budgetary resources between research fields of funding if, after funding proposals have been made, the amount remaining in a research field of funding is insufficient to award a grant. The Evaluation Committee may redirect the balance to another research field of funding where this allows to award a grant.

(10) Taking into account the principles set out in subsections (3)-(9) of this section, the Evaluation Committee shall make a proposal to the implementing agency to:
1) approve the application;
2) approve the application with the conditions prescribed by the Evaluation Committee;
3) place the application on a waiting list;
4) reject the application.

(11) The Evaluation Committee shall make a funding proposal for an application on the waiting list, if funds become available during the application round or the budget of the application round increases.

(12) The assessment of the research ethics and data management aspects of the applications specified in clauses (10) 1)–3) of this section shall be organised by the implementing agency. As regards the assessment of aspects of research ethics and data management, the implementing agency shall have the right to set conditions for the approval of the application.

(13) The implementing agency shall notify the applicant and the Institution of the proposal to approve the application.

(14) If additional conditions have been prescribed on a proposal to approve an application, the applicant and the Institution must grant consent for compliance therewith.

§ 20. Procedure for approving and rejecting applications

(1) The implementing agency shall decide, on the basis of a proposal from the Evaluation Committee:
1) to approve the application;
2) to approve the application with the conditions prescribed by the Evaluation Committee or the implementing agency;
3) to reject the application.

(2) The implementing agency shall decide to reject the application if:
1) the application did not exceed the qualification threshold in at least one of the evaluation criteria pursuant to clause 17 (11) 1) of this Regulation;
2) the overall score of the application is less than 80 per cent of the maximum possible overall score pursuant to clause 17 (11) 2) of this Regulation;
3) the applicant and the Institution did not agree with the conditions prescribed on the proposal for funding of the application;
4) the Evaluation Committee did not make a proposal to approve the application with regard to the application placed on the waiting list;
5) the Evaluation Committee has made a corresponding proposal;
6) the use of false information, plagiarism, and fraud is identified in the application or if it becomes evident that the applicant, application, Institution, research team or persons involved in the project no longer comply with the requirements provided for in this Regulation.

Chapter 5
Allocation of research funding, implementation of the project, making changes in the project, temporary suspension and extension of the project

§ 21. Allocation of research funding

(1) In order to allocate research funding, a tripartite agreement shall be entered into between the recipient of the funding, the Institution, and the implementing agency after the decision specified in clauses 20 (1) 1) and 2) of this Regulation has been made.

(2) In the case of a multi-year project, a new contract shall be entered into each year for the allocation of funding, except in the case provided for in subsection (3) of this section.

(3) The implementing agency shall have the right to conclude a contract for two consecutive calendar years, provided that the duration of the contract does not exceed 18 months.

(4) Upon entry into a contract, the implementing agency has the right to set conditions for ensuring the sustainability of the project or compliance with the requirements established for the implementation of the project, which the recipient of the funding and the Institution are required to comply with in order to continue the allocation of research funding.

§ 22. Conditions for implementation of research funding for the recipient

(1) The recipient of the funding will not be able during the period overlapping with the project:
1) to participate in the implementation of another starting grant or team grant as a member of

the research team;
2) to be a recipient of a postdoctoral grant, incoming postdoctoral grant returning researcher grant or mobility support.

(2) The recipient of a postdoctoral grant must work full-time in an Institution during the implementation of the project and carry out the project at a Collaborating Institution. In justified cases, a postdoctoral project may be carried out in Estonia to the extent of up to 50%.

(3) The recipient of a starting grant must work in the Institution with at least a 0.8 workload during the implementation of the project, the work location must be in Estonia, and their salary will be covered at least in part from the project funds.

(4) The recipient of a team grant must work in the Institution with at least a 0.8 workload during the implementation of the project, and the work location must be in Estonia.

(5) The recipient of a postdoctoral grant or starting grant cannot be replaced during the period of implementation of the research funding project.

(6) The recipient of a team grant may be replaced during the period of implementation of the research funding project by a senior staff member of the same project in accordance with the conditions provided for in § 23 of this Regulation.

§ 23. Making changes in the project

(1) In order to make a substantial change to the project, the recipient of the funding shall submit a reasoned application to the implementing agency, which is approved by the Institution.

(2) The following shall constitute substantial changes to the project:
1) reduction of the workload of a starting grant or team grant recipient to less than 0.8;
2) replacement of the recipient of the team grant funding;
3) change in the Institution;
4) change in the Collaborating Institution and/or supervisor of the postdoctoral grant project;
5) change in the activities and work plan of the project if these affect the achievement of the objectives of the project;
6) change in the total budget of the project to the extent of more than 20 per cent;
7) reduction of the amount of funding.

(3) As regards the change specified in clauses (2) 1)-5) of this section the Evaluation Committee shall assess its justification and impact on the achievement of the objectives of the project and the compliance of the change with the conditions provided for in this Regulation and make a proposal to the implementing agency to:
1) approve the application;
2) reject the application.

(4) As regards the change specified in clauses (2) 6) and 7) of this section the implementing agency shall assess its justification and impact on the achievement of the objectives of the project and the compliance of the change with the conditions provided for in this Regulation, consulting, if necessary, the Evaluation Committee.

(5) On the basis of the result of the assessment provided for in subsections (3) and (4) of this section, the implementing agency shall make a decision to:
1) approve the application;

2) reject the application.

(6) If the implementing agency approves the request for change in the project, the implementing agency shall, if necessary, conclude a new contract for implementation of the project.

§ 24. Temporary suspension and extension of the project

(1) The recipient of the funding has the right to apply for temporary suspension of the project in case of parental leave, maternity leave, paternity leave, military service, serious illness or other exceptional circumstances due to which the implementation of the project proves impossible or is significantly complicated.

(2) The temporary suspension of a project may be requested for a total period of up to three (3) years.

(3) The recipient of the funding has the right to apply for an extension of the period of research funding for up to 12 (twelve) months with compelling reason by submitting an application to the implementing agency at least two (2) months before the end date of the project.

(4) The implementing agency shall assess the justification of the application for suspension or extension of the period of research funding and approve or reject the application.

(5) If the implementing agency accepts the request for temporary suspension of the project, the contract will be suspended and the end date of the project will be postponed by the duration of suspended period.

(6) The amount of research funding will not change upon the temporary suspension or extension of a project.

Chapter 6
Reporting on the use of the grant and making the results of the project public

§ 25. Reporting on the use of the grant

(1) The recipient of the funding shall submit to ETIS the following reports approved by the Institution:
1) interim report;
2) final report.

(2) The interim report specified in clause (1) 1) of this section shall be submitted if the duration of the research funding project is at least four (4) years.

(3) The report on the use of the grant shall be submitted in Estonian or English.

(4) If the recipient of the funding fails to submit the report specified in subsection (1) of this section by the deadline set by the implementing agency, the report shall be submitted by the Institution.

(5) The project report shall be evaluated by the Evaluation Committee.

(6) The implementing agency has the right to request additional information about the use of the grant from the recipient of the funding and the Institution.

§ 26. Interim report

(1) The interim report shall be submitted in the third year of the project by the deadline set by the implementing agency.

(2) The interim report shall contain at least the following information:
1) an overview of the results of the research and information on the activities that required the assessment of the relevant ethics committee;
2) the full texts of publications published as a result of the implementation of the project and industrial property rights, which include references to research funding;
3) an overview of the activities introducing the project to the public;
4) an overview of the changes to the project, including information on changes in the senior or other staff member(s) included in the project;
5) the justification of the sustainability of the project;
6) an overview of the management of the research data of the project;
7) compliance with the conditions prescribed for the allocation of research funding, if applicable.

(3) The implementing agency shall decide, on the basis of a proposal from the Evaluation Committee, to:
1) approve the interim report and continue financing the project to the amount requested;
2) approve the interim report and continue financing the project to the amount requested with additional conditions;
3) approve the interim report and continue financing the project to a reduced amount if this is caused by changes in the membership of the research team or in the activities of the project;
4) refuse to approve the interim report and initiate the premature termination of the project pursuant to clause 29 (1) 6) of this Regulation.

(4) If the implementing agency decides to continue financing the project with additional conditions or in a reduced amount, the recipient of the funding and the Institution must grant consent for compliance therewith.

§ 27. Final report

(1) The final report shall be submitted after the end of the project by the deadline set by the implementing agency.

(2) The final report shall contain at least the following information:
1) an overview of the results of the project and a short popular science summary in Estonian and English;
2) the full texts of publications published as a result of the implementation of the project and industrial property rights which include references to research funding;
3) a description of the scientific and societal impact of the results obtained, including the applicability and relevance of the results to culture, society or the economy and the intended directions of continuation, where appropriate;
4) public outreach activities;
5) a financial report which is in accordance with the accounting data of the Institution;
6) an overview of the management of the research data of the project;
7) a description of compliance with the conditions prescribed for the allocation of funding, if applicable;
8) an explanation of the implementation of due diligence under the Nagoya Protocol, where

relevant.

(3) The implementing agency shall decide, on the basis of a proposal from the Evaluation Committee, to:
1) approve the final report;
2) reject the final report.

(4) If the implementing agency does not approve the final report of the project, the recipient of the funding cannot apply for research funding within the following three (3) years in accordance with the provisions of clause 14 (5) 2) of this Regulation.

(5) A short summary of the main results of the final report of the project in Estonian and English will be made publicly available by the implementing agency.

§ 28. Publication of project results

(1) The results of the research funding project and, where possible, the data collected in the framework of the project shall be made publicly available, unless disclosure is limited by other legislation or by the need to protect intellectual property.

(2) When publishing the results of a project, it must be indicated from which research funding project the activity has been financed.

(3) Reference to the research funding project is mandatory in category 1–3 publications according to the ETIS classification.

(4) The full texts of publications published as a result of the project and referring to the research funding will be made available to the public by the Institution through ETIS, unless this is restricted by other legislation.

(5) If a publisher restricts access to publications for a certain period of time, the Institution shall make the full texts of the publications available to the public via ETIS after the restriction has ended.

Chapter 7
Premature termination and reclamation of a grant

§ 29. Premature termination of the research funding project

(1) The implementing agency shall have the right to terminate the allocation of funding prematurely if:
1) the recipient of the funding or the Institution has submitted a corresponding application;
2) the recipient of the funding, supervisor of a postdoctoral student, research team and/or Institution proves to be non-compliant with the requirements provided for in this Regulation during the implementation of the project;
3) the recipient of the funding, senior or other staff member, supervisor of the postdoctoral grant or Institution has violated the requirements provided for in legislation in connection with the implementation of the project;
4) the recipient of the funding is unable to manage the project; in the case of a team grant project, the recipient of the funding is not replaced;
5) the supervisor of the postdoctoral research project is not able to supervise the postdoctoral researcher and the supervisor is not replaced;

6) the recipient of the funding has failed to submit the interim report for the project by the deadline without compelling reason or the implementing agency does not approve the interim report of the project;
7) the recipient of the funding and the Institution do not agree to the fulfilment of the conditions prescribed for the continuation of the financing of the project or to the financing in a reduced amount;
8) the recipient or Institution has failed to comply with the conditions prescribed for the allocation of research funding by the deadline;
9) the implementing agency does not satisfy the application for substantial change or temporary suspension of the project and it is not possible to implement the project in the manner described in the application;
10) the assessment of the relevant ethics committee necessary for the implementation of the project has not been submitted, at the latest, by the beginning of the human or animal research ;
11) the recipient of the funding or the institution has intentionally submitted false information or plagiarism or fraud has become evident in the activities related to the project;
12) it becomes evident that the recipient of the funding has not carried out the activities of the project in accordance with the work plan and the project is not sustainable or the recipient of the funding has changed the activities of the project to the extent that it affects the achievement of the objectives of the project and the change in the project has not been applied for in accordance with the procedure provided for in § 23 of this Regulation.

(2) Before making the decision specified in subsection (1) of this section, the implementing agency shall enable the recipient of the funding and the Institution to submit a joint written opinion concerning the premature termination of the project within the term set by the implementing agency.

(3) Upon premature termination of the research funding, the institution is obliged to transfer the unused part of the funding together with a proportional share of the indirect costs back to the implementing agency no later than within seven (7) calendar days from the date of receipt of the reclamation.

(4) Upon premature termination of the research funding, the recipient of the funding shall submit the final report in accordance with §§ 25 and 27 of this Regulation.

§ 30. Conditions and procedure for reclamation of the grant

(1) The Institution is required to enable the implementing agency or a person authorised by the implementing agency to carry out an inspection of the use of research funding, and to provide all necessary assistance for this, including submitting all the required documents.

(2) The implementing agency shall have the right to decide on the reclamation, in whole or in part, of research funding if:
1) the recipient of the funding has received support on the basis of knowingly submitted false information or the recipient of the funding has knowingly submitted false information in the project report;
2) the recipient of the funding and the Institution have not used the support for the intended purpose for the implementation of the project described in the application for research funding;
3) the recipient of the funding and the Institution have used the support for economic activities;
4) the project has been carried out in violation of generally accepted standards of research ethics or the principles of good research practice.

(3) Upon reclamation of the grant, the implementing agency has the right to reclaim the grant together with a proportional share of the indirect cost.

(4) The reclamation of unlawful state aid and misused state aid is carried out in accordance with § 42 of the Competition Act.

(5) If the implementing agency has taken a decision to reclaim all or part of the research funding, the institution must repay the funding specified in the decision within 60 (sixty) calendar days of the date on which the decision takes effect.

(6) Reimbursable support may be deferred on the basis of a reasoned request from the institution if the payment at the same time would cause the institution to experience significant payment difficulties.

Chapter 8
Implementing provision

§ 31. Mobility support and incoming postdoctoral grant awarded before 2026

The funding specified in § 2 and 3 of this Regulation also includes the mobility support and the incoming postdoctoral grant awarded on the basis of subsection 16 (1) (1) of the Organisation of Research and Development Act by the implementing agency.

(signed digitally)
Kristina Kallas
Minister

(signed digitally)
Triin Laas-Õige
Chancellor