CALL OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE STATE AGENCY SPANISH NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (CSIC) BY WHICH CSIC OPENS THE PROGRAMME I-LINK+2018 FOR THE PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION BETWEEN CSIC AND FOREIGN INSTITUTIONS

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1. PURPOSE OF THE CALL

The i-LINK + Programme has the general objective of stimulating, through its own resources, the collaboration of the CSIC research groups with international research groups of the utmost importance. There are not any geographical or thematic restrictions, but there must be a common and complementary research theme among the partners for whose development they have adequate financing independently in their respective centres.
The main aim of this programme is:

- to create and to consolidate international excellence consortiums to compete in future calls for international R&D projects.

The promoted activities are meetings, seminars and other internationalization activities among the participating research groups. It also includes short visits between the participating groups.

The expected impact of the Programme is the improvement of the internationalization of the CSIC through the consolidation of stable links of scientific cooperation between CSIC teams and foreign scientific institutions of excellence.

As part of the internationalization strategy of the CSIC promoted by the Vice Presidency for International Affairs (VRI), this call will prioritize those applications that include entities from the following territories: Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Poland, Singapore, South Korea, Special Administrative Region of China Hong Kong, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and USA. Proposals that include entities from countries receiving Official Development Assistance (ODA) will not be considered eligible. Those proposals are eligible to receive funds through the I-COOP call.

2. TERMS OF THE CALL

In this call, a maximum of 20 grants will be awarded for a maximum amount of € 24,000 each with a duration of up to 20 months to be executed from the notification to the end of 2020 (financial closure). A maximum of 10 grants will be awarded for actions of Modality B described in section 2.1.3.

2.1. Eligible Actions

2.1.1. The eligible actions will be all those aimed at the creation of stable links of international collaboration with research groups belonging to foreign scientific institutions and international companies.

2.1.2. The call is open to any thematic area that is developed in the CSIC.
2.1.3. There are two modalities of actions:

- **Modality A:** for the creation of international research networks in order to establish stable links with foreign research groups. The eligible actions will be those that have not previously been beneficiaries of any project of the i-Link or i-Link + call with the same consortium.

- **Modality B:** for the consolidation of international research networks in order to strengthen links with foreign research groups. The eligible consortiums will be those that having received a positive evaluation in an EC competitive call between 2016 and 2018, and being led by CSIC, were not financed.

2.2. Participants

2.2.1. All proposals must have at least one **CSIC research group**, which will act as coordinator of the network, and **one or more groups of one or more foreign institutions** without geographical restriction (ODA countries are excluded). Each foreign participant team must be led by a principal investigator (foreign PI).

2.2.2. All participants must be linked to their institution at the time of submitting the application. The principal investigator and the other members of the CSIC research team must maintain their employment relationship with CSIC during the duration of the action. Exceptionally, team members can participate as long as they maintain their employment relationship with CSIC until they have completed the actions in which they participate in the i-link + 2018 action. During the validity of the grants, each member of the foreign institutions will remain under the exclusive direction and dependence of their home institution.

2.2.3. Foreign institutions may be Universities, Research or Technological Centres or companies, both Spanish and foreign, in the case of the companies only if they contribute with their own funds to finance the implementation of the activities in which they participate in the framework of the project.

2.2.4. The participating research groups must have adequate financing, facilities and equipment to carry out the scientific research related to the proposed actions in their respective centres.
2.3. Eligibility criteria for CSIC research groups

2.3.1. CSIC Principal Investigator (PI) must be a CSIC researcher and his/her employment status shall comply with the instructions set out in the Human Resources Management Guide.

2.3.2. The members of CSIC team can only be part of an i-Link + 2018 proposal regardless of whether they participate as a PI or as a member of the team.

2.3.3. The PI and the rest of the members must be CSIC employees and have a contract compatible with the participation in internationalization networks. Personnel from Joint Research Units and Associated Units can participate as team members.

2.3.4. The Vice Presidency for International Affairs (VRI) will be responsible for authorizing any addition or removal of the team members after the request of the PI. The authorization will be granted, whenever appropriate, and in any case the communication by the PI will be at least one month in advance regarding the planned activities.

2.4. Eligible Expenses

2.4.1. Transport, subsistence and accommodation costs for CSIC team travelling to the foreign institution, and exceptionally to Brussels.

These grants will be governed by the regulations set out in this its call, and as to the amounts by the Royal Decree 462/2002, of May 24, on compensation for the service, and will be processed through the application 233.00.201 according to the twenty-second provision of the Resolution of February 16, 2018, or subsequent updates, by the President of the Spanish National Research Council MP, approving the Operating Budgets of the Institutes, Centres and Units, the granting of project loans, the management of the Operational Treasury (DTO) and Payroll System to be justified, and certain criteria for economic management and administrative contracting during 2018.

With regard to the transportation costs these must be managed from the Institute, Center or Unit, hereinafter ICU, respecting the contract of provision of travel that is applicable to the CSIC. The amount of the expenses corresponding to the management of visas and / or vaccines not covered by the National Health System will be included within the amount of the transport aid, when they are obligatory for entry into the country of destination.
The expenses derived from medical insurance or travel assistance for CSIC researchers traveling to countries without reciprocal agreement will be processed from application 162.05.201.

2.4.2. Living and accommodation expenses for the members of the foreign team to the centre of CSIC to carry out activities related to the action. These cost will be processed through application 233.00.201 in accordance with the aforementioned Resolution of February 16, 2018 and its amount will be that established in the Resolution of January 2, 2013 of the President of the AE CSIC by the one that establishes the amount according to its duration for the calls of VRI, whose breakdown is the following one:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Cost in Euros</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>During the first 15 days</td>
<td>100,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From day 16 to day 30</td>
<td>70,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From day 31 until the end of the stay.</td>
<td>50,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXAMPLE: 15 days</td>
<td>1.500,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXAMPLE: 30 days</td>
<td>2.550,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXAMPLE: 45 days</td>
<td>3.300,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXAMPLE: 90 days</td>
<td>5.550,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXAMPLE: 180 days</td>
<td>10.050,00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It will be understood as the first and last day of stay the day of departure and return of the trip, from and to the municipality in which the participant has his official residence, taking into account the provisions for this concept in RD 462/2002. No transport expenses of the members of the foreign team will be considered eligible.
2.4.3. Costs related to the organization of meetings, workshops, seminars and other internationalization activities that take place in Spain or in the country of the foreign participant team, and exceptionally in Brussels. The expenses destined to the rental of rooms and audio-visual means will be financed, and they will be processed through the applications 226.06.201 / 226.15.201, depending if they take place in Spain or abroad.

2.4.4. Companies must participate in the project with their own funds and may not under any circumstances receive financing from any of the sections included in point 2.4 of this call.

2.4.5. All expenses must be adequately detailed in the work plan and be consistent with the proposed activities.

2.5. Duration and execution of the action

2.5.1. The selected proposals will have a maximum duration of 20 months. For the execution of the expenses included in the action, the financial closure must be taken into account (established in the corresponding instruction of the closing CSIC for the years 2019 and 2020).

2.5.2. All expenses must be executed in accordance with the rules of the call and following the work plan established in the proposal.

2.5.3. The VRI will authorize the full financial allocation for the first annuity after the publication of the Resolution during the first quarter of 2019 to the ICUs of the CSIC. The Management Offices at the ICUS will be responsible for the execution and control of the expenses. The financial allocation corresponding to the second annularity is subject to the approval of the intermediate report.
3. PROCEDURES AND DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS

3.1. The proposal and the required documentation will be presented in a single application by CSIC and project coordinator, through the application available at: http://siw.csic.es/icv/

3.2. Applications will be written in English or Spanish if all participating teams belong to Spanish-speaking countries.

3.3. The following standardized documents will be used exclusively for the call:

3.3.1. Internationalization network proposal, including, as indicated in the templates and with a maximum size of 5MB:

A) Internationalization activities (maximum 3 pages):
   - Summary of the proposal (objectives, scope, international relevance, etc.).
   - List of keywords (in Spanish and English).
   - Composition of the consortium:
     ▪ Background and current status of the collaboration
     ▪ Description of the participating teams and their experience
   - Implementation: work plan that includes the internationalization actions proposed and a chronogram.
   - Expected impact: for the research group, ICU and CSIC.

B) Detailed budget related to the proposed activity schedule (maximum 3 pages).

C) CV of the PI of the CSIC in the last 5 years (maximum 2 pages)

D) CV of the foreign PI(s) in the last 5 years (maximum 2 pages)

E) Acceptance/commitment letters from foreign institutions that engage the participating teams. These letters must include the acceptance of the foreign PI for the participation of the foreign team in the project, committing to carry out the activities foreseen in the scientific-technical proposal presented and its corresponding financing.

In addition, for the proposals of modality B the following documentation will be presented:

F) Proposal submitted to the international call together with the official evaluation report that includes the score obtained.
3.3.2. **The application** that will be validated electronically by the Director of the ICU from CSIC to which the applicant belongs before the call deadline.

3.4. The submission of applications will be available from **January 15, 2019 to February 10, 2019**. The reception of applications will end at 24 h of the closing date of the call. Incomplete applications or those that do not meet the requirements established in this call at the closing date will be automatically rejected.

3.5. Once the application submission period has ended, a provisional list of admitted and excluded will be published on the CSIC intranet. There will be no error or correction deadline.

3.6. The personal data collected in the application will be subject to protection established by current regulations on the protection of personal data.

**4. EVALUATION**

4.1. The evaluation of the proposals will be carried out in a single phase.

4.2. The proposals will be evaluated by a technical evaluation committee designated by VRI. The following criteria will be taken into account:

- **Composition of the consortium** (up to 10 points)
  
  **Modality A**
  - More than two foreign research institutions or two foreign institutions from different countries (4 points)
  - Prioritized countries in this call: (6 points)

  **Modality B**
  - More than three foreign research institutions or companies (2 points)
  - Qualification obtained in its international evaluation and the success rate of the call (8 points)
• **Implementation (up to 10 points)**
  - feasibility of the proposed activities (5 points).
  - relevance of the proposed activities and their relationship with the Sustainable Development Goals (5 points).

• **Expected impact of the project in relation to the objectives of the call (up to 10 points)**
  - creation and consolidation of international excellence consortiums to compete in future calls for international R&I projects with explicit indication of the call.

5. INFORMATION ON THE CALLS RESULT

5.1. The result of the selection process will be decided by Resolution of the Presidency of the CSIC, which will be published in BO-CSIC and the INTRANET of the CSIC in the first quarter of the year 2019 and will be communicated by email to the principal investigators of the proposals.

5.2. Within the terms established by the Resolution, the coordinators of the selected proposals must upload the original of the compliance form (formulario de conformidad) signed by both the Principal Investigator and the Director of the Centre.

5.3. The grants for proposals that do not comply with the previous section will be automatically cancelled.

5.4. The Presidential Resolution will be unappeasable.
6. REPORTING

6.1. The beneficiaries of this program will submit reports annually with information on the activities and expenses executed.

The intermediate report will be submitted before December 10, 2019 and the final report before January 31, 2021. The following information will be included:

- **Scientific-technical report**: activities carried out, results obtained, and degree of compliance with the proposed objectives.

- **Financial report**: expenditure executed taking into account the call and the approved schedule. An extract of the movements of the internal ICU project account during that year must be included.

The reports will be sent only in electronic format to the address i-link@csic.es.

6.2. Any reference to the project in any medium of diffusion must include reference to the fact that it has been financed by the CSIC through the i-LINK internationalization call.

6.3. Eventually, the principal investigators of the participating teams may be required to present these results in a public act before a committee of experts.

7. PENALTY REGIME

The lack of adequacy in the use of the aids granted, the non-compliance with the rules for the execution of the expense and payment, the lack of execution of the budget granted or the lack of compliance with the scientific-technical objectives of the project may be subject to sanctions from VRI. These sanctions could include the ineligibility of the PI for the request of any VRI call for a period of up to five years, as well as the reimbursement of the expenses unduly justified.

8. CONTACT

i-link@csic.es