

Call for Proposals: 2026 Korea-EU Joint Research Program

The Ministry of Science and ICT hereby announces the call for proposals under the “2026 Korea-EU Joint Research Program”. Interested researchers are encouraged to apply.

August 24, 2026

Kyung-Hoon Bae

Minister of Science and ICT

Won-Hwa Hong

President of the National Research Foundation of Korea

** This English translation is provided for reference only. The original Korean call text will take precedence in case of any differences.*

1. Objective

By supporting Korean researchers who have been confirmed to participate in the Horizon Europe consortium, the largest multilateral research and innovation program in Europe, the program aims to secure key foundational technologies and build multilateral international cooperation networks.

2. Program Details

- Support Areas: Horizon Europe program Pillar I and Pillar III
- ※ Personnel exchanges are eligible to apply only if they have been selected under the ‘Staff Exchanges’ sub-program of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) within Pillar I of the Horizon Europe personnel exchange support program.
- Support Period and Program Type: 2 to 4 years / Personnel Exchange, Joint Research
- ※ Support is provided for the remaining research period under the relevant Horizon Europe program; the remaining research period must exceed a minimum of 2 years, and the total support period will not exceed 4 years.

3. Funding Amount

- ※ The support budget size may vary depending on the budget situation.
- ※ Joint research projects are subject to the '3-for-5' rule limiting the number of simultaneous R&D projects. However, personnel exchanges related to small-scale joint research projects (under 60million KRW per year) are excluded from this rule.
- ※ Personnel exchanges are eligible for application if selected under the 'Staff Exchanges' sub program of Pillar I, MSCA (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions), which is part of the Horizon Europe personnel exchange support program.

Project Type		[Type 1] Personnel Exchange	[Type 2] Joint Research
Project Selection		4 Projects in total	
Research Funding per Project		150million KRW Per year (12 months)	150million KRW Per year (12 months)
Research Duration (based on 3 years)	Total	36 months (2026.10.1.~ 2029.9.30.)	
	Year 1	3 months (2026.10.1.~ 2026.12.31.)	
	Year 2	12 months (2027.1.1.~ 2027.12.31.)	
	Year 3	12 months (2028.1.1.~ 2028.12.31.)	
	Year 4	9 months (2029.1.1.~ 2029.9.30.)	
Indirect Costs		Up to 5% of direct costs	Indirect cost ration applied according to the official rate

4. Eligibility and Restrictions for Application

A. Eligibility for Application

- **R&D Institution** : 「National Research and Development Innovation Act」 Institutions under the Article 2 (3)
- **Principal Investigator** : Researchers who meet the qualifications described in Articles 6 and 7 of the National Research and Development Innovation Act and are affiliated with the R&D institutions mentioned above.
- ※ This program is subject to the 「Enforcement Decree of the National Research and Development Innovation Act」 Article 64 (Limitation on the number of research and development projects)
- Researchers who are affiliated with institutions and organizations specified in Article 2, Paragraph 3 of the National Research and Development Innovation Act and who are officially confirmed as partners in the Horizon Europe consortium are eligible to apply.
- ※ The researcher must be officially listed as a partner in documents such as the Horizon Europe proposal (DoA or DoW), Grant Agreement (GA), or Consortium Agreement (CA).
- ※ Researchers who have been selected after the evaluation of the EU project proposal and are in the process of negotiating the agreement may also apply, but must submit the final participation confirmation letter to the National Research Foundation of Korea.

B. Restriction on Participation

- Researchers restricted from participating in national research and development activities are not allowed to apply.
- Applicants are discouraged from submitting proposals similar to ongoing or previously conducted projects.
- ※ If the proposal is found to be a duplicate of existing national R&D projects, it will be excluded from selection.
- Only one application and participation is allowed per individual in this program.

5. How to apply and what documents to submit.

A. Recruitment Announcement Period: August 24th (Mon.) 2026 ~ September 23th (Wed.) 2026

B. Application Submission Period

Category	Details
PI Application Period	August 24th (Mon.) 2026 ~ September 23th (Wed.) 2026
R&D Institution Approval Period	August 31st (Mon.) 2026 ~ September 23th (Wed.) 2026

- Application Procedure: Proposal Submission by PI → Approval of R&D Institution application → complete
- ※ Approval from their host institutions **on IRIS by 6 p.m.**
(Applications will only be accepted for projects that obtain approval from their host institutions within the application period, and **will be closed at 6 p.m. of the deadline automatically**)
- ※ Date/Time is based on Korea Local Time (UTC/GMT +9 hours)
- No exceptions will be made for applications that are not submitted(completed) by the deadline. Applicants are strongly encouraged to upload their proposals at least 5 working days before the deadline.

C. How to apply: Online

- Integrated R&D Information System(IRIS, <https://www.iris.go.kr>)
- Log in to the IRIS → Fill out required information and upload application documents → Obtain approval from the R&D Institution

D. Documents To Be Submitted

Necessary Documents When Applying
- One copy of the Research and Development Plan in Korean (refer to [Attachment 1]) - One copy each of the relevant documents (PDF) submitted to the EU, including the final proposal and agreements: • A copy of the Grant Agreement signed between the EU and the Coordinator • A copy of the Consortium Agreement • The Horizon Europe Proposal (DoA) including budget, timeline, and the role of the Korean side • Other EU evaluation results (may be submitted if necessary) - Other supporting documents (refer to [Attachment 2]) - One copy of the Current Status of Other Ongoing Projects as of the application date (refer to [Attachment 3])

6. Others

Contact	
Program	Horizon Europe Multilateral Cooperation Team Program National Research Foundation of Korea(NRF) ☎ 02-3460-5731 / E-mail: joo6808@nrf.re.kr ※ If the line is busy, please send us your inquiries via email
Online System	Regarding online application system(IRIS) ☎ 1877-2041 Research Advisory Center (Call Center) National Research Foundation of Korea ☎ 1544-6118

- ※ This guideline is a translated summary of the original Korean research documents and may be subject to change without prior notice.
- ※ If there is any conflict between the Korean original and this English version, the Korean original takes precedence.