



National Scientific Program “Petar Beron i NIE” (P. Beron)

Guide for applicants – specific conditions for the program

Addition to the General Guidelines for the National Research Programs “Peter Beron i NIE” and “Vihren”

Contents

1. BUDGET, TIMETABLE, AND HOW TO SUBMIT.....	2
1.1. INDICATIVE BUDGET.....	3
1.2. INDICATIVE TIMETABLE.....	3
1.3. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION.....	3
2. PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS.....	4
2.1. BENEFICIARY.....	4
2.2. OBLIGATIONS OF BENEFICIARIES - HOST ORGANIZATIONS.....	4
3. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS.....	4
4. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON DURATION OF FELLOWSHIPS, MOBILITY AND SECONDMENTS.....	5
4.1. DURATION OF FELLOWSHIPS.....	5
4.2. MOBILITY.....	5
4.3. OPTIONAL SECONDMENTS.....	6
5. FINANCIAL ASPECTS.....	7
6. THE EVALUATION PROCESS.....	8
6.1. GENERAL.....	8
6.2. ELIGIBILITY AND ADMISSIBILITY CHECK.....	9
6.3. EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS.....	10
7. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORMS (PART A OF THE PROPOSAL).....	13
8. PART B OF THE PROPOSAL.....	14
8.1. GENERAL INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS.....	14
Annex 1 – Overview of the action.....	16
Annex 2 – Further information and help.....	17

Specific definitions

“**Petar Beron i NIE**” (**P. Beron**) **Action** refers to the individual research project proposed for funding.

The **Beneficiary** is the legal entity that signs the Grant Agreement and has the complete responsibility for the proper implementation of the action. It contributes directly to the implementation of the research, transfer of knowledge and training activities by recruiting, supervising, hosting or training a funded researcher. The eligibility conditions for beneficiaries are outlined in the General Guide for the National Research Programs.

The **Experienced Researcher** must be, at the date of the call deadline, in possession of a doctoral degree or has at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience.

Full-Time Equivalent Research Experience is measured from the date when a researcher obtained the degree entitling him/her to embark on a doctorate, either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country in which the researcher is recruited, even if a doctorate was never started or envisaged.

The **Supervisor** is the scientist appointed at the beneficiary to supervise the researcher throughout the whole duration of the action.

1. BUDGET, TIMETABLE, AND HOW TO SUBMIT

General goal of the program

The overall objective of the program is to accelerate reintegration and career development in Bulgarian higher schools and research organizations of experienced researchers with internationally recognized scientific results (Experienced researchers). The program will stimulate the development of the research potential in Bulgaria as a necessary fundamental step for the creation of a sustainable scientific and innovation environment and for the development of a competitive high-tech economy in Bulgaria.

Specific goals

- a) attracting in Bulgaria prospective scientists with internationally recognized scientific results and supporting their rapid reintegration into Bulgarian higher schools and scientific organizations;
- (b) promoting and supporting researchers' intensive research on original and competitive topics, without limiting themes and research-based bottom-up approaches;
- c) supporting the rapid building of a critical mass of perspective scientists in a given field, with internationally recognized scientific results, allowing the development of modern competitive scientific fields in Bulgaria;
- d) enhancing the quality of higher education in Bulgaria by transferring modern scientific fields, knowledge, skills and technologies to the training process and contributing to the discovery of new talents in Bulgaria;

(e) the transfer of knowledge and skills to the host organization.

1.1. INDICATIVE BUDGET

The **indicative budget for funding projects for the call 2019** is BGN 1 235 000. It is distributed among the 8 panels proportionally to the share of submitted eligible proposals for the corresponding panel.

The budget per proposal depends on the duration of the project and is calculated as up to BGN 5 000 per month.

1.2. INDICATIVE TIMETABLE

Publication of call	<i>till 31.07.2019</i>
Opening of call	<i>05.08.2019</i>
Deadline for submission of proposals	<i>20.09.2019</i>
Eligibility check	<i>1.10.2019</i>
Evaluation of proposals	<i>20.11.2019</i>
Information on the outcome of the evaluation	<i>25.11.2019</i>
Indicative date for the signature of Contract	<i>1.12-10.12.2019</i>
Indicative dates for transfer of the grant	<i>1.12-10.12.2019</i>
Possible start date of the Action	<i>2.01-2.05.2020</i>

1.3. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Proposals must be submitted electronically. The originally signed documents, specified in the General Guide for the National Research Programs (Appendix 1 and Appendix 2), have to be received in the Bulgarian Science Fund from the beneficiary host organization not later than the call deadline.

The proposal should be prepared in English by the researcher in cooperation with the applicant organization, which is represented by the main supervisor in the framework of the proposal. The experienced researcher and the supervisor must be two different people. The administrative forms have to be submitted also in Bulgarian.

The submission of the proposal (and other actions that follow this procedure such as withdrawal) falls under the final responsibility of the applicant organization as represented by the main supervisor. In order to be eligible for the call, the electronically submitted proposal have to signed electronically by the official representative of the applicant organization and submitted not

later than 17:00 o'clock (Sofia time) on the date of the deadline for submission. To avoid missing the deadline, you should submit your proposal as soon as possible.

Only one proposal per researcher may be submitted to this call.

2. PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

2.1. BENEFICIARY

The beneficiary is a host organization located in Bulgaria and satisfies the conditions outlined in the General Guide for the National Research Programs that recruits the experienced researcher and, through appointment of a supervisor ensures for provision of the necessary training of the researcher. The beneficiary signs the Contract, receives funding, claims costs, and takes complete responsibility for the proper implementation of the action.

2.2. OBLIGATIONS OF BENEFICIARIES - HOST ORGANIZATIONS

Beneficiaries are required to ensure certain working conditions for the researcher, which should be in line with the principles set out in the European Charter for Researchers and in the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers (Charter and Code).

The principles of the European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers (Charter and Code) promoting open recruitment and attractive working and employment conditions and all beneficiaries must take all measures to implement them.

3. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

Proposals for National Research Program **P. Beron** involve a *single* beneficiary located in Bulgaria.

The **P. Beron** Fellowships provide financial support to individual researchers undertaking international mobility in eight scientific areas. Applicants have to indicate at submission stage in which of the eight scientific areas their research topic fits best:

- Chemistry (CHE)
- Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC)
- Economic Sciences (ECO)
- Information Science and Engineering (ENG)
- Environment and Geosciences (ENV)
- Life Sciences (LIF)
- Mathematics (MAT)

- Physics (PHY)

The proposals will be evaluated in the selected scientific area.

1. The researcher must be an **experienced researcher**. Periods of inactivity in research (e.g. unemployment, periods of employment outside research, parental or sick leave) do not count towards the time of research experience.
2. The researcher may be of **any nationality**. No age restrictions apply.
3. The researcher must move or have moved from any country to Bulgaria where the beneficiary is located.

The researcher cannot have resided or carried out his/her main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Bulgaria for more than 12 months in the three years immediately before the call deadline. Compulsory national service, short stays such as holidays and time spent as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status (under the 1951 Geneva Convention and the 1967 Protocol) are not taken into account.

Short stays are characterised by the type of activity rather than by a specific number of days. A period can only be considered as a short stay if the researcher did not reside or did not have their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country during that period (such as holidays).

The beneficiary must check the information regarding the experienced researcher's eligibility before the call deadline (i.e. diploma, research experience, residency, mobility, etc.).

In case of doubts about the researcher's eligibility, the submission of documentary evidence may be requested by the Funding Agency after the call deadline.

4. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON DURATION OF FELLOWSHIPS, MOBILITY AND SECONDMENTS

4.1. DURATION OF FELLOWSHIPS

The duration of **P. Beron** Fellowships is between 12 and 24 months.

4.2. MOBILITY

The Funding Agency considers mobility between organizations to be asset for the personal and career development of researchers. Such mobility strengthens intersectoral collaboration, and promotes the acquisition of new skills and knowledge thereby contributing to increased research creativity, efficacy and performance.

The mobility of the researcher from another country to Bulgaria is an eligibility criterion for receiving **P. Beron** Fellowship.

The mobility rule do not necessarily relate to the location(s) stated in the current or previous employment contract(s) of the researcher. It is the actual location(s) of residence that is taken into account, not the country(ies) of legal residence. **The two determining elements are the actual place of residence and the place of main activity.** Supporting documents may be requested to confirm the place of residence and the place of main activity, such as employment contracts, work permits, rental contracts, residence certificates etc.

4.3. OPTIONAL SECONDMENTS

During the implementation of the action the experienced researcher may be seconded outside their host organization to another organization in Bulgaria. The organization in which the secondment is envisaged have to satisfy the same eligibility conditions as the beneficiary/host organization, which have to be confirmed by the relevant documents, outlined in the General guide. Such organization is not considered partner in the project and cannot obtain financial support from it. Secondments of the researcher should be relevant, feasible, and beneficial for the researcher and in line with the project objectives. Applicants should therefore consider carefully whether the research would be advanced by a secondment.

Any secondment must be clearly specified in Section 5 of Part B of the proposal and justified where relevant in the other sections of Part B. Letter of commitment from the secondment organization is required. If the organization where the secondment takes place is not identified at the proposal stage, it is essential that Part B of the proposal contains as much information as possible on the sector, place, timing and duration, and its overall purpose.

The maximum duration of secondments is defined according to the total duration of the fellowship: 3 months for fellowships of 18 months or less, 6 months for fellowships longer than 18 months.

The secondment phase can be a single period or can be divided into shorter mobility periods. It can take place at one or more organizations. A secondment is allowed during any phase of the project. Entities with a capital or legal link with the host organization cannot host secondments.

The quality and degree of involvement of the organizations and the impact of the secondments will be assessed by the expert evaluators according to the evaluation criteria. In all cases **the secondment must be meaningful and appropriate to the type of fellowship and research field.**

It is essential for the applicants to clearly **distinguish "secondments" from short visits** (for example for field work) since they have a different nature and pursue different objectives.

- Secondments are planned in advance, and are an integral part of the research proposal.
- Secondments imply mobility to another organization with specific supervision arrangements. Short visits imply mobility to another location outside the physical premises of the beneficiary. However, the work done is supervised directly by the beneficiary.
- Short visits can only represent a small part of the action.

Any secondments not complying with the above criteria will be disregarded by the evaluators.

5. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

The financial support for **P. Beron** takes the form of a grant covering 100% of the action's eligible costs. These are calculated based on unit costs and the fixed amounts set out in the National Research Program **P. Beron**.

What types of monthly expenses are covered?

The fellowship contribution and rates under this action are set out in Part IV of the National Research Program **P. Beron** and cover:

- Payment to the researcher (including social security and all other payments due by the beneficiary organization): 3 800 BGN/month
- Expenses related to research activities and research management: 650 BGN/month
- Administrative management and institutional costs: 550 BGN/month

Payment to the researcher and employment contract

The payment to the researcher is the gross salary of the researcher and amounts to BGN 3800 **per month**. *The net salary results from deducting all compulsory (employer/employee) social security and medical insurance contributions as well as direct taxes (e.g. income tax) from the gross amounts. The rate indicated above is for researchers devoting themselves to the action on a full-time basis.*

Beneficiaries are committed to ensuring that within the working time of funded employment relationships, researchers will not work on scientific research that is not fundamental. This circumstance is subject to review by the national Science Fund as part of the ongoing monitoring of the program and according to the rules adopted by the Executive Board of the Fund.

The beneficiary must appoint the experienced researcher, holding the fellowship, under an **employment contract**, including social security coverage, for the duration of the action on a full time basis. The contract should also cover the periods for **secondments**, if applicable.

Expenses related to research activities and research management

This amounts to **BGN 650 per month** and is managed by the beneficiary to contribute to expenses related to:

- costs for training and networking activities that contribute directly to the researcher's career development (e.g. participation in conferences, trips related to the work of the action, training, language courses, seminars, lab material, books, library records, publication costs)
- costs for research expenses

- costs for visa-related fees and travel expenses
- additional costs arising from secondments (e.g. travel costs, etc.)

Those costs should be used for the research, training and networking activities outlined in Part B of the proposal, but unused amounts may be used for other action-related purposes (e.g. to organise additional training activities).

Administrative management and institutional costs

This amounts to **BGN 550 per month**, which is to be used for the administrative management of the project by the supervisor (BGN 300 per month) and indirect costs of the host organization (BGN 250 per month).

Total budget

The total budget of the fellowship will be calculated from the duration of the action in months based on the rate given in the National Research Program **P. Beron**, up to BGN 5 000 per month.

Progress report

By the end of the month 12th a Progress report for the first 11th months of project implementation has to be submitted by the experienced researcher to the Funding agency. The report has to be complemented by a statement by the supervisor on the progress of the work.

6. THE EVALUATION PROCESS

6.1. GENERAL

Proposals are submitted in a single stage and evaluated in one step. The evaluation of proposals is carried out by the Funding agency with the assistance of independent foreign experts who meet the requirements for MSCA-IF evaluators.

Experts perform evaluations on a personal basis, not as representatives of their employer, their country or any other entity. They are required to be independent, impartial and objective, and to behave throughout in a professional manner. They sign an expert contract, including a declaration of confidentiality and absence of conflict of interest, before beginning their work. Confidentiality rules must be adhered to at all times before, during and after the evaluation.

In each of the eight scientific areas (panels) a **Chairperson ("Chair")** will assist funding agency staff with the management of the evaluation. Chairs are distinguished members of the scientific community who do not evaluate proposals. Their tasks include the following: finalising the assignment of three experts to each proposal, providing guidance to evaluators, checking the

quality and consistency of the experts' reports, attending the panel review meetings to endorse the final ranked lists of proposals for funding.

Under the terms of their contract, all experts must declare beforehand any known **conflicts of interest**, and must immediately inform the responsible funding agency if they detect a conflict of interest during the course of the evaluation. The expert contract also requires experts to maintain **strict confidentiality** with respect to the whole evaluation process. They must follow any instruction given by the funding agency to ensure this. Under no circumstance may an expert attempt to contact an applicant on his/her own account, either during the evaluation or afterwards.

6.2. ELIGIBILITY AND ADMISSIBILITY CHECK

All proposals submitted through the electronic submission system before the time and date specified in the Indicative timetable will be registered in a database. Any proposal received via any other means or after the time or date specified above will not be taken into account.

Admissibility and eligibility criteria for each proposal are checked by funding agency staff with assistance of external experts. Proposals which do not fulfil these criteria will not be evaluated or financed. Applicants will be informed by the time specified in the Indicative timetable about the outcome of the admissibility and eligibility check. Note that a proposal may be declared ineligible or inadmissible at any stage.

To be considered admissible, a proposal must be:

(a) submitted in the electronic submission system before the deadline given in the call conditions;

(b) readable, accessible and printable;

(c) complete and include the requested administrative data, the proposal description, and any obligatory supporting documents specified in the call;

(d) include a draft plan for the exploitation and dissemination of the results in Part B-1 Section 2.

(e) official documents from the beneficiary organization, described in the General guidelines, must be deposited in the funding agency.

Applicants should follow the template and instructions for drafting the Part B included in this guide.

The mobility rule for Type 1 proposals is applied to the deadline of the respective MSCA-IF Call and not to the deadline for the **P. Beron** Call.

A proposal will only be considered eligible if its content corresponds to the topics and funding scheme, including the specific eligibility conditions set out in the relevant parts of the General guidelines for the National research programs and Specific guide for applications for this program, and if it fulfils all the eligibility criteria.

6.3. EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

- **Proposals Type 1**

Proposals Type 1 are those submitted to the H2020 MSCA Individual Fellowships -Standard European Fellowships Calls: MSCA-IF-EF-ST-2016, MSCA-IF-EF-ST-2017, MSCA-IF-EF-ST-2018 with Bulgarian host organization (higher education or research institution), which received evaluation score of 80% and more but have not received grant by the EC. If such proposal is submitted to the present call and satisfies admissibility and eligibility criteria during the procedure described in Section 6.2, the proposal will be included in the ranking of the corresponding panel with the score obtained in the MSCA evaluation. After publication of the call, the Funding agency will ask the MSCA office for proposals that satisfy the above requirement and will inform all applicants for the possibility to submit their proposals to the present call. They can choose whether to use either the evaluation obtained in the MSCA assessment or to submit a new project proposal under the Type 2 Proposals.

- **Proposals Type 2**

Proposals Type 2 are those submitted in response to the present call directly and do not fall into Proposals Type 1. Those proposals are evaluated within the frame of the call by specific scientific panel.

Each proposal will be assessed independently **by three experts**. For each proposal one expert will be designated as the "rapporteur" and will assume additional responsibilities in the evaluation phase (drafting of Consensus report, moderation of the remote consensus, implementation of comments from the Chairs).

Operational capacity

The **operational capacity** of the beneficiary relates to whether an applicant organization has, or will have in due time, the operational resources and capacity to implement the action. This is the purpose of the table in Section 5 of Part B. A proposal may be rejected on the grounds that it lacks operational capacity.

Award criteria

The proposals will be evaluated against the evaluation criteria of the present call adopted from MSCA-IF award criteria applying weighting factors, described below. Proposals are evaluated remotely. Evaluation scores will be awarded for each of the three criteria (see table below). All of the separate elements of each criterion will be considered by the experts in their assessment.

<u>P. Beron Fellowships</u>		
1. Excellence	2. Impact	3. Quality and efficiency of the implementation

Quality and credibility of the research project; level of novelty, appropriate consideration of inter/multidisciplinary and gender aspects	Enhancing the future career prospects of the researcher after the fellowship	Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources
Quality and appropriateness of the training and of the two way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host	Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results	Appropriateness of the management structure and procedures, including risk management
Quality of the supervision and of the integration in the team/institution	Quality of the proposed measures to communicate the project activities to different target audiences	Appropriateness of the institutional environment (infrastructure)
Potential of the researcher to reach or re-enforce professional maturity/independence during the fellowship		
Weighing		
50%	30%	20%
In case of equal total score, the priority will be given to proposals with highest scores on criterion 1, followed by the criterion 2.		
NB: An overall threshold of 70% will be applied to the total weighted score.		

Scoring

Each criterion will be scored out of 5. Decimal points may be given.

The scores indicate the following with respect to the criterion under examination:

0. – *Proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.*
1. – *Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.*
2. – *Fair. Proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.*
3. – *Good. Proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.*
4. – *Very Good. Proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.*
5. – *Excellent. Proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.*

A weighed total score of the scores of the three individual criteria will be calculated and converted into a percentage of the maximum score.

Overview of the evaluation process

In order to conduct the evaluation of all eligible proposals submitted to the **P. Beron** call, the following actors support the funding agency (under a contract covering confidentiality and remuneration).

Actor	Role
Chairs	Support staff in remote monitoring of the evaluation process and perform quality control
Evaluators	Remote evaluation of the proposals
Ethics experts	Ethics review of the proposals likely to be funded

The evaluation process follows the following steps in chronological order:

Evaluation step	Output	Actor
Eligibility - Admissibility checks	Ineligible and inadmissible proposals are removed from the evaluation process. Applicants will be notified in case of their ineligibility/inadmissibility. However, a proposal may be declared ineligible or inadmissible at any time during the process.	Funding agency staff
Request for Review	Applicants may file a complaint about their ineligibility or inadmissibility. If grounded, the evaluation will resume. Any information not present in the submitted proposal will be discarded.	Funding agency staff
Assignment of evaluators to eligible proposals	A first draft assignment is done by matching the keywords of the proposals with the expertise of the evaluators. Chairs carefully check each assignment against the proposal and evaluators' expertise in order to obtain the best match.	Chairs
Individual Evaluation	Each proposal is remotely evaluated by three evaluators in an individual and independent manner.	Evaluator chairs (support)

Consensus discussion	The consensus phase will start as soon as all three Individual Evaluation Reports for a given proposal are received, the goal being to reach a final set of comments that all three experts can agree on. Each proposal is remotely discussed by the three evaluators and the Evaluation Summary Report is agreed on unanimously (comments + scores).	Evaluators Chairs (quality check)
Ranking List	The consensus score determines the ranking list. The Chairs rank proposals having obtained the same score in each criterion and discuss proposals where full consensus could not be reached. Report is submitted to the Funding agency.	Chairs
Ethics screening	Proposals likely to be funded are subject to an ethics screening and an "Ethics Summary Report" informs the applicants about the potential ethics requirements to be fulfilled.	Ethics experts
Decision for funding	On the base of the reports with ranking from the Chairs the Executive Board will take decisions for financing proposals with highest scores within the limit of the budget and its distribution between the scientific panels.	Funding agency
Feedback to applicants	All applicants receive the Evaluation Summary Report of their proposal.	Funding agency
Request for Review	Applicants may contest the procedural aspects of the evaluation (not the scientific or technical judgement of the evaluators).	Funding agency

Scientific Misconduct and Research Integrity

Issues of scientific misconduct and research integrity are taken very seriously. Appropriate action such as termination of the Contract Preparation phase or, if the Contract has been signed, the implementation of liquidated damages and financial penalties, suspension of payments, recoveries and termination of the Contract, will be taken against any applicants/beneficiaries found to have misrepresented, fabricated or plagiarised any part of their proposal. The applicants will also be required to make a "Declaration on Honour" in Part A of the proposal.

7. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORMS (PART A OF THE PROPOSAL)

The instructions for preparation and submission of the proposals are provided in a separate document.

The applicant must fill in the administrative forms (Part A) for the proposal, which will be

used in the evaluation and further processing of the proposal. Part A is an integral part of the proposal, and has a number of mandatory fields (such as the name of the supervisor(s), researcher, etc.) which, if not completed, will prevent the submission of the proposal. Details of the work intended to be carried out will be described in Part B (see next section).

Any data provided in the Proposal Submission Forms (Part A) should correspond to the Part B (CV section). This information will be used to verify eligibility.

Specific attention should be given to the **choice of the scientific area and descriptors** (keywords) since this will guide the Funding agency in the selection of the most appropriate experts for the proposal evaluation. A full list of descriptors can be found in a separate document, adopted from MSCA document. Please select in order of importance the descriptors (minimum 3, maximum 5), the first being the most important and most relevant for the proposal.

8. PART B OF THE PROPOSAL

8.1. GENERAL INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

*The **Part B is the core part** of the proposal; it contains the details of the proposed research and training activities along with the practical arrangements planned to implement them. The document will be used by the independent experts **to undertake their assessment**. Therefore, please address each of the award criteria as outlined in the following sections. The explanatory notes below serve to explain the award criteria without being exhaustive.*

Applicants shall use the template of Part B, available (as a Word version) as part of the call documentation, in order to ensure that:

- the experts assess the proposal within a familiar structure
- all core information of Part B is present
- the 10-page limit is respected (*excess pages above this limit will not be taken into consideration by the experts*).

Proposals must respect the following minimum standards:

- a minimum font size of 11 points, except for the Gantt chart and tables where the minimum font size is 8 points
- single line spacing
- A4 page size
- margins (top, bottom, left, right) of at least 15 mm (not including any footers or headers)
- a clearly readable font (e.g. Arial or Times New Roman)

Tables are for illustrating the core text of the proposal. They cannot be used to contain the core text itself.

The page formatting will be systematically checked. Should a proposal not comply,
14 of 17

applicants will be asked to reformat their proposal. This can lead to excess pages which will subsequently be disregarded.

Footnotes are to be used exclusively for **literature references**. Their minimum font size is 8. They will count towards the page limit. Any other information included in a footnote will be disregarded.

Please make sure that the Part B of your proposal carries on **each page**, as a **header**, the **proposal acronym**. All pages should be numbered in a single series on the footer of the page to prevent errors during handling. It is recommended to use the numbering format "Part B - Page X of Y".

Applicants must submit **two separate PDF documents** in the Participant Portal as Part B of their proposal:

Part B-1:

The **maximum** total length for this document is **10 pages**. It should be composed as follows (detailed description below):

- Section 1: Excellence
- Section 2: Impact
- Section 3: Implementation

Of the **maximum 10 pages** applied to sections 1, 2 and 3, applicants are free to decide on the allocation of pages between the sections. However, the overall page limit will be strictly applied: **excess pages will not be taken into consideration by the experts**.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to verify that the submitted PDF documents are readable and are within the page limit. PDF documents can contain colours.

Part B-2:

Part B-2 must contain sections 4-7 as described below. **No overall page limit** will be applied to this document, but applicants should respect the instructions given per section (e.g. in section 5, a maximum of one page should be used per beneficiary and one page per partner organization).

- Section 4: CV of the experienced researcher (maximum length: 5 pages)
- Section 5: Capacities of the participating organizations (1 page for the overview and 1 page for each participating organization)
- Section 6: Ethical aspects
- Section 7: Letter of commitment from organization for secondment (if applicable)

Applicants will not be able to submit their proposal in the submission system unless **both** Parts 1 and 2 are provided **in PDF format** (Adobe version 3 or higher, with embedded fonts).

Annex 1 – Overview of the action

Experienced researcher:

Nationality: Any

Mobility: from any country to Bulgaria

Requirement: to have spent in Bulgaria \leq 12 months in the last 3 years prior to the date of the Call deadline

Beneficiary (host organization):

Bulgarian university/research organization satisfying eligibility requirements, outlined in the General rules for the national research programs

Secondment organization:

Bulgarian university/research organization satisfying eligibility requirements, outlined in the General rules for the national research programs

Duration of the projects supported by P. Beron program

From 12 to 24 months

Scientific areas:

CHE, ECO, ENG, ENV, LIF, MAT, PHY, SOC

Annex 2 – Further information and help

The call page contains links to other sources that you may find useful in preparing and submitting your proposal. Direct links are also given where applicable.

Call Information

See the information at the Bulgarian Science Fund web site: fni.bg

Specialised and Technical Assistance

e-mail to: s.momchilova@mon.bg

Other Useful Reference Documents

[Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union](#)

[European Convention on Human Rights and its Supplementary Protocols](#)

[UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(UN CRPD\)](#)

[The European Charter for Researchers](#)