Rules for applications to support excellent teams at FLD in 2027 and 2028

Article 1

Introductory provisions

(1) This Regulation is valid for the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences, Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague (hereinafter "FLD") and establishes the rules of applications to support excellent teams at FLD in 2027 and 2028.

Article 2

Tender documentation for application within a call to support excellent teams in 2027 and 2028

On 16th November 2026, the FLD Dean announced a call to support excellent teams in 2027 and 2028. **An application in PDF format must be submitted by the main researcher** via UIS **by 10st January 2027**.

The call objective is to support excellent science mainly with regard to Methodology for the evaluation of research organizations and evaluation of targeted support programmes for research, development and innovation (hereinafter "M25+"), especially the following:

- Significantly increase the number of FLD publications in selected top journals on Web of Science (WoS). The support is mainly directed at articles registered in the Nature index, articles in the top 10% and 1st quartile of journals according to the division of the OECD branch structure: Fields of Research and Development (FORD) and according to Article Influence Score (AIS);
- Significantly increase the number of high-quality outputs for society and practice within the M25+ Module 1;
- Significantly increase FLD involvement in major international projects, and thus raise the attractiveness of FLD in the international environment;
- Support interdepartmental and interdisciplinary cooperation;
- Support and motivate perspective scientific teams;
- Support and motivate young scientists;
- Support cooperation with practice;
- Support integration of research outputs into FLD pedagogical activities.

Period of research:

- II/2027 – XII/2028

Application for support must contain:

- Team name
- Research team members (team leader and other members)
- Brief professional CV (including the most significant outputs) of the team leader (the team leader must be an FLD employee on at least 0.5 contract and must be active at FLD
- A detailed description of objectives and a team development strategy for 2027 and 2028
- Planned outputs of the team (see below)
- Budget / financial balance sheet with justification (it is necessary to fill in Appendix No. 1 "Project budget")

The team **does not have to focus and specialize on all required basic points** in the design of its activities, i.e.:

a. publishing in the most prestigious scientific journals;
b. creation of high quality outputs intended for practice and society;
c. the creation of new consortia at the FLD as part of involvement in major international research projects.

The team's goals should aim at excellence in at least one of the above-mentioned points; however, it is ideal and recommended in at least two of these points. Depending on the choice, the application must contain the corresponding point from the following:

- **a detailed publication plan of the team** focusing on articles registered in Nature index (NI), articles in the top 10% and 1st quartile of journals according to FORD and AIS, or other significant scientific outputs in the field for 2027–2028 and the framework strategy and vision of the team in these activities for the period 2029–2030;
- **expected outputs intended for society and practice** for 2027–2028 according to M25+ and the framework strategy and vision of the team in these activities for 2029–2030;
- **a detailed plan of the team for the creation of new consortia at FLD** within involvement in major international research projects in 2027 or 2028 (and a framework overall plan of these activities for 2029–2030).

The following must be clear from the application: (I) specific overall goals of the team for 2027–2028 and vision until 2030; (II) specific focus, outputs, and activities (basic points) planned in this period (2027–2028); (III) manner, procedure, and activities to achieve the goals; (IV) specific roles and responsibilities of each team member; and (V) the rationale for the proposed budget.
It must therefore be clear and demonstrable from the application that it is a team with sufficient creative potential to fulfil the chosen areas of support.

The team's focus and choice of one or more of the above areas of support will be taken into account when evaluating a team application for support.

A team arbitrarily composed of scientific-research and pedagogical employees, postdocs, or PhD students from FLD can apply.

Support budget:

In total, one team can apply for a maximum support of 2,000,000 CZK for the total project time (2027 and 2028). It is necessary to submit a separate budget for each year of the project, i.e. 2027 and 2028.

In the event that the team plans to employ a new postdoc at FLD, it is recommended to plan their gross salary up to 55,000 CZK / month within the budget of this programme. The support can be used to pay rewards and scholarships for science-research and teaching staff in the team, who are also regular FLD employees. However, the total amount of these remunerations may be a maximum of 5% of the total amount of the support budget. Rewards for excellent outputs or acquired international projects can be applied for separately within the framework of the Dean's Regulation No. 18/2026 "Rules for rewards for excellent research activities at FLD in 2027". It is advisable to draw the support mainly for activities related to the acquisition of input data, field work, services, establishing and deepening international contacts and activities (travel expenses, compensation per diems, external experts in the form of DPČ, DPP contracts, contract for work (smlouva o dílo) etc.), new postdocs, etc.

The planned **outputs of the team and all its planned activities must have an international dimension**. In accordance with the long-term FLD strategy of integrating project outputs into teaching, the application must state how and in which particular subjects taught at FLD **the outputs will be integrated into the pedagogical activities of FLD**.

The maximum length of an application is 5 pages of A4 format, including a brief structured CV of the team leader (maximum 1 page of A4 format). An application to support excellent teams at FLD in 2027 and 2028 must be submitted **in English only.**

According to the Definition of Types of Results for M25+, outputs for society and practice within Module 1 of M25+ are all outputs except for publications in journals on the WoS and SCOPUS. These are, for example, professional books, chapters in professional books, software, patents, utility models, methodologies, specialized maps with professional content, research reports, and audio-visual output. These must be outputs that FLD can use within the framework (M25+) in the so-called Collection of Quality Outputs (Module 1 M25+). According to M25+, these must be either:
a) outputs with a contribution to knowledge (especially for the results of basic research): world-leading results in terms of originality, importance and difficulty of obtaining,
b) outputs important for social relevance (especially for applied research): world-leading results,
the practical application of which brings or has the potential to bring about a fundamental change with a significant economic impact at the international level or an extraordinary positive impact on society on an international scale.
An international research project is a project that the applicant obtains in international public procurements, where the fund provider comes either from outside the Czech Republic, or it is a Czech provider that only co-finances the given research programme for researchers from the Czech Republic, but the evaluation of submitted applications takes place at the international level. These are mainly (but not exclusively) projects in the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon Europe (with a significant emphasis on ERC grants).

In the case of support of the team by FLD and its financing, an interim report must be written (1-2 A4 pages) by 1 December 2027 at the latest, including a description of an excellent team's activity, and the overall benefit of the team for FLD. At the beginning of 2028, this interim report will be evaluated by a Committee appointed by the FLD Dean. The Committee will give its opinion on the work of the team, on the fulfilling of the objectives in 2027, and on a prerequisite for fulfilling the objectives within the allocated support in 2028. The Committee will prepare an opinion for the FLD Dean which will include a brief comment and recommendations in the following form:

(I) continue the research without cutting the budget; (II) continue the project with a reduced budget; (III) end financial support for the team. The Dean decides on the continuation of the project and the amount of support for 2028.

Article 3

Procedure for evaluating an application to support excellent teams

(1) The application is evaluated by an expert Committee appointed by the Dean.

(2) The Committee will assess the team's ambition, vision, planned outputs and activities, the relevance in meeting the objectives, and compliance with this Regulation. The Committee will categorize the application as follows: A) support the team to the full proposed amount; B) support the team with a reduced budget; C) not supporting the team.

(3) The Committee may also recommend flat reduction of funding in the case of a large number of assigned supports.

Article 4

Final provisions

(1) This call according to this Regulation is primarily announced as one-round. Taking into account the applications submitted and evaluated in that year, the FLDS Dean can announce a further round of the call by a separate amendment to this Regulation.

(2) There is no entitlement to receive support according to this Regulation.

(3) This regulation comes into force and effect on the day of the FLD Dean's signature.

Prague, 16 November 2026

prof. Ing. Róbert Marušák, PhD.
Dean FLD