

The following is a translation from Estonian. In case of disputes, the Estonian text shall prevail.

Conditions and Procedure for Start-Up Grants

Chapter 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Scope of Application

- 1.1. This directive establishes the conditions and procedure for applying for, evaluating, awarding, allocating, and reporting on start-up grants (hereinafter also *grant*).
- 1.2. The Estonian Research Council (hereinafter *Council*) is entitled to make well-considered decisions and consult experts where necessary in relation to matters not covered by this directive.

2. Goal

- 2.1. A start-up grant is aimed at supporting researchers with initial research experience to launch their independent research career at an Estonian research and development (R&D) institution, which has been regularly positively evaluated in at least one research field, to set up their research team, and to contribute to educating the next generation of researchers (incl. doctoral students).
- 2.2. A start-up grant is awarded for the implementation of an independent research project and its purpose is not funding self-financed research projects.
- 2.3. In awarding the grants, the Council is entitled to prioritise R&D fields for each year.

3. Start-Up Project

A start-up project (hereinafter also *project*) is a description of a scientific study with a clearly defined research problem and a plan for conducting fundamental or applied research to address this problem.

4. Applicant of a Start-Up Grant

- 4.1. A person (hereinafter also *applicant*) can apply for funding upon receiving consent from a positively evaluated Estonian R&D institution (hereinafter *institution*). The institution will give the consent for submitting the application and for fulfilling its obligations by confirming the application.
- 4.2. A person can apply for funding if he/she:
 - 4.2.1. has obtained his/her first doctoral degree or equivalent qualification in the R&D field in which the application is to be processed no less than two and no more than seven years prior to the 1st of January of the year the project is scheduled to begin. The date of awarding a doctoral degree or equivalent qualification is the date in the respective document issued by the awarding body. The Evaluation Committee may, where justified, consider eligible a person who has been awarded his/her first doctoral degree or

- equivalent qualification more than seven years prior to the 1st of January of the year the project is scheduled to begin. If the applicant has been on pregnancy, maternity or parental leave, or in compulsory military service after obtaining his/her first doctoral degree or equivalent qualification in the R&D field in which the application is to be processed, the period of qualification is extended by the corresponding period in full months and is rounded up to the higher number of months;
- 4.2.2. has acquired research experience (e.g., as a postdoctoral fellow, researcher at an R&D institution, etc., preferably in a foreign country) after obtaining his/her doctoral degree or equivalent qualification;
 - 4.2.3. has not previously been the Principal Investigator of a start-up, exploratory, or team project or the Principal Investigator of an institutional research funding topic.
- 4.3. The restrictions stipulated in clauses 4.2.1. and 4.2.3. do not apply to those applicants whose application was partially approved in the previous call.
 - 4.4. An applicant can simultaneously apply for one postdoctoral, start-up, or team grant. The applicant cannot simultaneously be listed as a member of the senior research staff in a start-up or team grant application.
 - 4.5. A person cannot apply for the grant if:
 - 4.5.1. his/her postdoctoral, start-up, and/or team grant applications submitted during the two previous consecutive calls did not pass the qualification threshold set by the Council in at least one evaluation criterion;
 - 4.5.2. his/her postdoctoral, start-up, and/or team grant application submitted during the previous call did not pass the qualification threshold set by the Council in at least two evaluation criteria;
 - 4.5.3. he/she has, during the three years before applying for the grant, failed to submit the report on a previous project funded by the Council by the deadline without a valid reason or the report has not been accepted by the Council;
 - 4.5.4. a serious breach of contract, intentional false information, plagiarism, or fraudulent activities have become evident in the previous project led by him/her which was funded by the Council and if less than three years have passed since the discovery of the breach of contract by 1 January of the year of the call.
 - 4.6. The applicant must be the Principal Investigator of the project for which the grant is applied for.

5. Processing Grant Applications

- 5.1. The Council is responsible for processing grant applications.
- 5.2. The application process takes place in the Estonian Research Information System (hereinafter *ETIS*). The submission of the application and the communication with the applicant is conducted via ETIS. The decisions made during the stages of the application process, incl. the decision to approve or not to approve the application, will be announced via ETIS. The applicant is required to monitor the messages sent via ETIS regularly and keep the contact information up to date.

Chapter 2

CONDITIONS FOR APPLYING FOR A GRANT

6. Applying for a Start-Up Grant

- 6.1. The period of the annual call for applications is established and announced by the Council.
- 6.2. The applicant is to submit the application, which has been approved by the institution, to the Council via ETIS.
- 6.3. The application must be written in English.
- 6.4. The application shall specify the following:
 - 6.4.1. the applicant;
 - 6.4.2. the title of the project in Estonian and in English;
 - 6.4.3. a summary of the project in Estonian and in English;
 - 6.4.4. the requested grant period;
 - 6.4.5. the scientific background of the project, incl. the interdisciplinarity and intersectorality of the project (if applicable);
 - 6.4.6. the main objectives of the project, hypotheses (excl. justified exceptional cases), methods, and the work plan together with risk reduction measures and a back-up plan, incl. tentative annual work plans and the availability of the infrastructure necessary for achieving the objectives of the project;
 - 6.4.7. the expected results, their potential scientific impact, possible directions for future research, and societal impact, incl. the potential applicability of the results and their importance for Estonian research, culture, society, and/or economy;
 - 6.4.8. an explanation about how the results of the project will be disseminated to the wider public;
 - 6.4.9. an explanation about how the compliance with ethical issues will be secured during the implementation of the project and a comment on whether the project requires a licence from a specific ethics committee or the licence has already been obtained, and if the project necessitates compliance with the Nagoya Protocol, an explanation about which genetic resources will be used and whether the project requires the due diligence declaration or the due diligence declaration has already been submitted;
 - 6.4.10. a summary, which is optional, of a project on the same subject matter that has been submitted during the previous call(s) describing the changes made compared to the previous application(s) and explaining if the changes stem from the feedback given by the reviewers;
 - 6.4.11. an explanation about which data will be generated during the implementation of the project and how the data will be managed;
 - 6.4.12. the grant type and amount applied for pursuant to the fixed amounts set out in the “Guidelines for Budgeting Grant Applications” (hereinafter *budget guidelines*) as well as the justification for the budget, incl. the distribution of direct costs;

- 6.4.13. a description of the applicant's previous R&D activities indicating his/her contribution to the publications, industrial property item(s), and to the projects of great relevance for the implementation of the proposed project that have been linked to the application as well as the supervision experience of students;
 - 6.4.14. the three most noteworthy results, including the references to the relevant publications, of the previous projects carried out with the research or mobility funding awarded by the Council (if applicable);
 - 6.4.15. information on the involvement of partners and experts as well as on the R&D cooperation necessary for the implementation of the project;
 - 6.4.16. the role of the (senior) research staff involved in the project and the distribution of their tasks. A member of the senior research staff cannot simultaneously be listed as a member of the senior research staff in another team or start-up grant application, or in a start-up, exploratory, or team project that will continue during the year following the call;
 - 6.4.17. if necessary, additional documents, incl. applications for making the exceptions stipulated in clauses 4.2.1., 7.1., and 10, and a confirmation letter detailing that the institution will enter into an employment contract with the applicant and/or the member of the senior research staff for implementing the project if such a contractual relationship does not already exist at the time of submitting the application;
 - 6.4.18. a confirmation that the principles of research ethics and good research practice will be adhered to during the conception and implementation of the project.
- 6.5. The Council is entitled to demand additional information and documents from the applicant and the institution.

7. Principal Investigator of a Start-Up Project

- 7.1. The Principal Investigator of a start-up project may be an applicant who is employed full-time at the institution and has a place of work in Estonia at the time of implementing the project and who shall fully or partially be remunerated from the grant. In exceptional cases, the Evaluation Committee may consider eligible the Principal Investigator of a start-up project who is not employed full-time at the institution if he/she simultaneously works part-time for another employer in Estonia to achieve the objectives of the project (e.g., working simultaneously as a healthcare practitioner and a researcher).
- 7.2. During the grant period, the Principal Investigator of a start-up project cannot be any of the following:
 - 7.2.1. the recipient of the postdoctoral grant awarded by the Council;
 - 7.2.2. the Principal Investigator or a member of the senior research staff of a start-up or exploratory project;
 - 7.2.3. the Principal Investigator or a member of the senior research staff of another start-up project;
 - 7.2.4. a member of the senior research staff of the same start-up project.
- 7.3. The Principal Investigator of a start-up project cannot be replaced after the submission of the

application or during the grant period. In case of the suspension or termination of the grant contract with the institution, the rights and obligations of the Principal Investigator will not be transferred to the other members of the project.

8. Participants of a Start-Up Project

- 8.1. In addition to the Principal Investigator of the start-up project, the following people may participate in the implementation of the project:
 - 8.1.1. members of the senior research staff who are employed at the institution during the implementation of the project, have necessary qualifications for carrying out the research tasks foreseen in the project, and who shall fully or partially be remunerated from the grant;
 - 8.1.2. other members of the research staff (i.e., students, academic, and non-academic staff without a doctoral degree or equivalent qualification) whose work is related to the topic of the project.
- 8.2. During the grant period, a member of the senior research staff cannot be any of the following:
 - 8.2.1. the Principal Investigator or one of the other members of the research staff of the same project;
 - 8.2.2. the recipient of the postdoctoral grant awarded by the Council, or the Principal Investigator or a member of the senior research staff of an exploratory or team project, or of another start-up project.

9. Amount of a Start-Up Grant

- 9.1. A start-up grant contains costs directly related to the implementation of the project and overhead costs. Direct costs consist of staff costs and research costs:
 - 9.1.1. Staff costs consist of the salary along with any and all state taxes, contributions, benefits, compensation arising from law, and scholarships for students;
 - 9.1.2. Research costs are travel costs, acquisition costs of fixed assets directly related to the implementation of the project (in accordance with the definition established by the institution), subcontracting costs, incl. the costs related to authorisation agreements and contracts for services, costs related to the publication and popularisation of the R&D results obtained during the implementation of the project, costs related to the protection of intellectual property, and other direct costs that are necessary for conducting research and stem from the characteristics of the project;
 - 9.1.3. Overhead costs are ongoing operational costs incurred by the institution that are related to the management of the grant by the institution and are aimed at providing a high-quality research environment for the participants of the project.
- 9.2. Depending on the specifics of the research field, specific research methods (incl. experimental methods), and the number of the people participating in the project, start-up grants are divided into fixed-amount grant types.
- 9.3. Each year, the Council establishes fixed amounts for the grants in the budget guidelines. The Council

may also establish the maximum amounts for various types of costs.

9.4. The applicant is entitled to request a smaller amount than the fixed amount.

10. Funding Period of a Start-Up Grant

The funding period of a start-up grant is up to four years. As a rule, the grant period begins on 1 January following the year of the call. In justified cases, it is possible to request a later start date of the project, but in this case the end date of the project will not be extended.

Chapter 3

EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS AND AWARD OF GRANTS

11. Checking the Technical Details of the Applications

11.1. The Council is responsible for checking the technical details of the applications.

11.2. When checking the technical details of the applications, it will be determined if the application, the applicant, and the institution meet all the necessary requirements.

11.3. The content of the applications will not be evaluated.

11.4. In case formal inaccuracies which can be corrected without changing the content of the application are present, the Council will set a deadline of up to ten working days for correcting the mistakes.

11.5. The Council will reject the application without processing it if:

11.5.1. the applicant, the institution, or the application does not meet the requirements and it has been impossible to correct the inaccuracies stipulated in clause 11.4.;

11.5.2. the applicant did not correct the inaccuracies within the time limit established by the Council;

11.5.3. the applicant has made changes to the application that are unrelated to the correction of formal inaccuracies specified by the Council.

12. Evaluation of Applications

12.1. The evaluation of grant applications is organised by the Council.

12.2. The applications are evaluated by the Evaluation Committee on the basis of the Regulation No. 74 "The Procedure for the Formation and the Rules of Procedure of the Evaluation Committee of the Estonian Research Council" issued by the Minister of Education and Research on 27 December 2011 and on the "Guidelines for Evaluating Start-Up Grant Applications" (hereinafter *evaluation guidelines*) approved by the Council.

12.3. The Council may set qualification and quality thresholds in the evaluation guidelines for evaluating the applications. The grant will not be awarded if the application does not pass the threshold in at least one evaluation criterion.

12.4. The initial evaluation of the applications is carried out by field-specific Expert Panels that have been convened by the Evaluation Committee. The Evaluation Committee is entitled to decide

which Expert Panel will process which application.

- 12.5. Each application will be given justified evaluations and scores by at least two independent reviewers. At least one of the reviewers must be from a foreign country.
- 12.6. Although non-binding, the Expert Panels shall rely on the evaluations and scores of the reviewers. The Expert Panels will submit the combined evaluations given to each application belonging to their field of expertise to the Evaluation Committee.
- 12.7. The Evaluation Committee is responsible for giving each application its final evaluation and score. Although non-binding, the Evaluation Committee shall rely on the combined evaluations given by the Expert Panels when forming the consolidated evaluation.
- 12.8. Based on the final evaluations and scores, the Evaluation Committee will compile field-specific ranking lists for all applications. The applications of equal standing will be ranked by the Evaluation Committee according to the principles described in the evaluation guidelines.
- 12.9. In the final evaluation, the Evaluation Committee may prescribe certain conditions that the Principal Investigator of a start-up project and the institution are required to fulfil upon receiving the grant.
- 12.10. The Council will make the evaluations and scores stipulated in clause 12.5. and 12.7., the initial financing proposal (hereinafter *proposal*) of the Evaluation Committee, and the position of the applicant in the field-specific ranking list of start-up grant applications known to the applicant and to the institution.
- 12.11. The applicant and the institution are entitled to submit a written joint opinion and make objections regarding the proposal within the time limit established by the Council (hearing). At the hearing, attention will primarily be paid to the assessment of the adherence to procedural rules and to the correction of possible factual errors. The scientific evaluation given by the reviewers or by the Evaluation Committee will not be re-evaluated. If the Evaluation Committee has prescribed certain conditions in the final evaluation that must be fulfilled in order to receive the grant, the applicant and the institution have to submit a consent to secure the compliance with these conditions.
- 12.12. The Council is entitled to reject the application if intentional false information, plagiarism, or fraudulent activities become evident.

13. Award of a Start-Up Grant

- 13.1. Considering the final evaluation, the results of the hearing, and the position of the applicant in the field-specific ranking list of start-up grants, the Evaluation Committee will submit a justified and impartial proposal to the Board of the Council:
 - 13.1.1. to approve the application and award the grant;
 - 13.1.2. to approve the application partially and award the grant for one year;
 - 13.1.3. not to approve the application.
- 13.2. The decision to approve or not to approve the application is concluded by a directive of the Board of the Council. In case of approval, the directive shall indicate the grant period and the annual amount of the grant.

- 13.3. If an applicant whose application was to be approved by the Board of the Council based on the proposal made by the Evaluation Committee or who has been awarded a start-up grant by the Board of the Council waives the grant before the beginning of the new call, then the grant will be awarded to the next applicant in the same field-specific ranking list of start-up grants. In justified cases, the Evaluation Committee may propose to award the grant to the next applicant in the same field-specific ranking list of team grants or to the next applicant in the ranking list of start-up or team grants in another research field.

Chapter 4

ALLOCATION OF GRANTS AND CONTINUATION OF FUNDING

14. Allocation of a Start-Up Grant

- 14.1. The grant is allocated to the institution based on a tripartite contract (hereinafter *grant contract*) entered into by the Council, the institution, and the Principal Investigator of the start-up project that is signed annually for each budget year via ETIS. The grant contract entails the rights, obligations, and responsibilities of the parties.
- 14.2. The grant contract shall be entered into no later than one month after the decision stipulated in clause 13.2. has been made. In case of multi-annual projects, a new grant contract is concluded each year no later than one month after the decision stipulated in clause 15.7. has been made.
- 14.3. The institution shall enter into an employment contract with the Principal Investigator and the member(s) of the senior research staff of the start-up project, if such a contractual relationship did not already exist at the time of awarding the grant, within one month after signing the grant contract.
- 14.4. During the first six months of the project, the Principal Investigator of a start-up project shall submit the data management plan to the Council.

15. Continuation of Funding and Changing the Amount of a Grant

- 15.1. In order to continue receiving funding, the Principal Investigator of the start-up project has to submit the following information, after having been approved by the institution, via ETIS within the time limit established by the Council:
 - 15.1.1. changes in the composition of the members of the senior research staff;
 - 15.1.2. a summary of the results of the previous contractual period and significant changes in the research plan, compared to what has been initially envisaged;
 - 15.1.3. the distribution of the direct costs financed with the grant money;
 - 15.1.4. the fulfilment of the conditions stipulated in clauses 12.9. or 15.5. in case such conditions were prescribed.
- 15.2. The Principal Investigator of a start-up project lasting for four years shall prepare an interim report during the third year on the preceding period of the project either in Estonian or in English. The interim report, after having been approved by the institution, has to be submitted to the Council

via ETIS no later than by 28 February. The interim report shall include the following:

- 15.2.1. a summary of the results of the project;
 - 15.2.2. an overview of the public outreach activities undertaken to introduce the research to the wider public;
 - 15.2.3. information on significant changes in the project, incl. changes in the composition of the members of the senior research staff and other members of the research staff, significant changes in the research plan, compared to what has been initially envisaged, and explanations concerning the sustainability of the project;
 - 15.2.4. the fulfilment of the conditions stipulated in clauses 12.9. or 15.5. in case such conditions were prescribed.
- 15.3. The Council is entitled to demand additional information from the Principal Investigator of the start-up project and from the institution.
- 15.4. Based on the information stipulated in clause 15.1. and on the interim report stipulated in clause 15.2., the Evaluation Committee will submit a justified proposal to the Board of the Council:
- 15.4.1. to continue funding at the requested rate, but no more than at the rate of the fixed amount of this grant type, if there are no significant changes concerning the sustainability of the project or the fulfilment of the conditions established by this directive;
 - 15.4.2. to continue funding at a lower rate than requested if the appropriations from the annual Estonian state budget precipitate it;
 - 15.4.3. not to continue funding if:
 - 15.4.3.1. the conditions stipulated in clauses 12.9. or 15.5. have not been fulfilled;
 - 15.4.3.2. the sustainability of implementing the project has significantly decreased or is insufficient;
 - 15.4.3.3. the Principal Investigator of the start-up project and the institution have not submitted the information stipulated in clause 15.1. or the interim report stipulated in clause 15.2. within the prescribed time limit;
 - 15.4.3.4. there are other adverse and justified circumstances.
- 15.5. The Evaluation Committee may prescribe certain conditions in the proposal stipulated in clauses 15.4.1. or 15.4.2. that the Principal Investigator of the start-up project and the institution are required to fulfil to continue receiving funding. If so, the Principal Investigator of the start-up project and the institution have to submit a consent and an action plan to secure the compliance with these conditions.
- 15.6. In the case referred to in clause 15.4.3., the Principal Investigator of the start-up project and the institution are entitled to submit a written joint opinion and make objections regarding the proposal within the time limit established by the Council.
- 15.7. The decision to continue or not to continue funding is concluded by a directive of the Board of the Council. In case of continuation, the directive shall indicate the grant period and the amount of the grant.

16. Changing the Institution

- 16.1. The Principal Investigator of the start-up project is entitled to change the institution. In order to do that, the Principal Investigator of the start-up project shall submit a request to the Council along with the consent of the new institution and a letter of confirmation stating that the previous institution has been informed.
- 16.2. The Evaluation Committee shall evaluate the quality and sufficiency of the research environment and infrastructure necessary for achieving the objectives of the project, and if members of the senior research staff are involved in the project, the sustainability of the project. In case of
 - 16.2.1. approval, the Council shall enter into a new grant contract with the Principal Investigator of the start-up project and the new institution that has to enter into an employment contract with the Principal Investigator of the start-up project within one month, and terminate the grant contract entered into with the Principal Investigator of the start-up project and the previous institution;
 - 16.2.2. disapproval, a new grant contract will not be entered into.
- 16.3. The new grant contract shall be entered into no later than three months. Until the new grant contract is concluded, the Council shall suspend the payments.
- 16.4. After the termination of the grant contract, the institution is required to refund the unused grant money along with a proportional fee of overhead expenses to the Council's bank account no later than seven calendar days upon receiving the corresponding claim for refund from the Council.

Chapter 5

TEMPORARY SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION OF A PROJECT

17. Temporary Suspension of a Start-Up Project

- 17.1. The Principal Investigator of the start-up project can request may request a temporary suspension of the project in case of pregnancy, maternity or parental leave, compulsory military service, serious illness, or other exceptional circumstances, due to which the implementation of the project will become impossible or significantly more difficult.
- 17.2. The application for a temporary suspension of the project has to be submitted prior to the beginning of the suspension period in agreement with the institution to the Board of the Council.
- 17.3. The Principal Investigator of the start-up project may request a temporary suspension of the project for up to three years. The end date of the project will be extended by the period of suspension.
- 17.4. The grant contract will be suspended for the temporary suspension period of the project.

18. Termination of a Start-Up Project

- 18.1. The project will end on the end date of the grant period.
- 18.2. All the costs of the activities financed with the grant money must be paid by the end date of the project. As a rule, all the activities financed with the grant money have to be carried out by the

end date of the project, with the exception of carrying out public outreach activities, which is allowed until the submission of the final report.

- 18.3. The institution is required to refund the unused grant money along with a proportional fee of overhead costs to the Council's bank account no later than seven calendar days upon receiving the corresponding claim for refund from the Council. The Principal Investigator of the start-up project and the institution are required to submit the final report of the project pursuant to clause 19.

19. Submission of the Final Report

- 19.1. The Principal Investigator of the start-up project shall prepare the final report of the project either in Estonian or in English. The final report, after having been approved by the institution, has to be submitted to the Council via ETIS no later than three months after the end date of the project.
- 19.2. The final report shall include the following:
 - 19.2.1. the results (incl. the main results of the project in the form of a popular science summary both in Estonian and in English, the full texts of the articles that have been published as a result of implementing the project and also contain a reference to the grant as well as the industrial property rights) in accordance with the objectives set in the application. Pursuant to clause 20.1., publications that do not contain a reference to the grant must not be included in the final report;
 - 19.2.2. the potential scientific and societal impact of the results, incl. potential applicability and importance for Estonian research, culture, society, and/or economy as well as possible directions for future research (if applicable);
 - 19.2.3. public outreach activities;
 - 19.2.4. a report on the usage of the grant in accordance with the accounting data of the institution;
 - 19.2.5. the realisation of the data management plan;
 - 19.2.6. the fulfilment of the conditions stipulated in clauses 12.9. or 15.5. in case such conditions were prescribed;
 - 19.2.7. if the project necessitated compliance with the Nagoya Protocol, the due diligence declaration;
 - 19.2.8. additional information directly related to the project that the Principal Investigator of the start-up project and the institution deem relevant;
 - 19.2.9. other materials necessary for introducing the project requested by the Council in the ETIS form.
- 19.3. If the Principal Investigator of the start-up project fails to submit the final report by the deadline, the final report shall be prepared and submitted by the institution.
- 19.4. The Council will either approve or not approve the final report. The Council will not approve the report if the report does not meet the requirements established by this directive and the inaccuracies have not been corrected within the time limit established by the Council. Neither will the final report be approved if the requirements for the use of the grant have been violated,

incl. the circumstances described in clauses 21.1.3., 21.1.4., or 21.1.6. The decision and its justification will be made available to the Principal Investigator of the start-up project and to the institution via ETIS.

20. Making the Results of the Start-Up Project Public

- 20.1. Upon the publication of the results of the project, a reference to the grant that was used for funding the project must be included.
- 20.2. The full texts of the articles that have been published as a result of implementing the project and also contain a reference to the grant will be made freely available by the institution via ETIS, unless limited by publishing restrictions, copyright, or intellectual property laws.
- 20.3. If a publishing house restricts access to the articles temporarily, the institution will make the full texts of the articles published as a result of implementing the project freely available via ETIS once the restriction has expired.
- 20.4. The main results of the project in the form of a popular science summary both in Estonian and in English will be made available to the public by the Council via ETIS.

Chapter 6

PREMATURE TERMINATION OF THE GRANT CONTRACT AND RECLAMATION OF A GRANT

21. Premature Termination of the Grant Contract

- 21.1. The Council is entitled to revoke the decision of awarding the grant or the decision to continue funding and terminate the grant contract if:
 - 21.1.1. the Principal Investigator of the start-up project or the institution have submitted a request to terminate the grant contract;
 - 21.1.2. the Principal Investigator of the start-up project does not meet the requirements stipulated in clauses 7.1. or 7.2.;
 - 21.1.3. the Principal Investigator of the start-up project is unable to continue with the project (the death of the postdoctoral fellow, serious illness, transitioning to other employment, moving to another country, or other substantial and justified circumstances);
 - 21.1.4. the Principal Investigator of the start-up project, the participant(s) of the project, or the institution have fundamentally violated the requirements stipulated in this directive or by the legislation;
 - 21.1.5. the licence from a specific ethics committee has not been submitted prior to the beginning of human or animal experiments or it has become evident the due diligence declaration stemming from the Nagoya Protocol has been disregarded;
 - 21.1.6. the Principal Investigator of the start-up project has failed to submit the data management plan on time;
 - 21.1.7. the Principal Investigator of the start-up project or the institution have intentionally presented false information, or plagiarism or fraudulent activities have become evident

in the project-related activities of the Principal Investigator;

21.1.8. there are other adverse and justified circumstances.

- 21.2. After the revocation of the decision to award the grant or to continue funding the project and after the premature termination of the grant contract, the institution is required to refund the unused grant money along with a proportional fee of overhead costs to the Council's bank account no later than seven calendar days upon receiving the corresponding claim for refund from the Council. The Principal Investigator of the start-up project and the institution are required to submit the final report pursuant to clause 19.
- 21.3. If the decision of awarding the grant or the decision to continue funding is repealed retrospectively, the Council may reclaim the grant from the institution.

22. Audit and Reclamation of a Grant

- 22.1. The institution is required to allow the Council or a person authorised by the Council to audit the use of the grant and provide necessary assistance, including allowing access to the premises and the territory of the institution and submitting all the requested documents for the purpose of verifying the correctness of the information provided.
- 22.2. A grant not used for the intended purpose may be reclaimed by the Council from the institution along with a proportional fee of overhead costs.