

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

Conditions for Extending the Grant Period

1. Scope of Application

1.1. This directive establishes the conditions and procedure for requesting the extension of the grant period of starting grant projects lasting for four years together with additional funding as well as requesting the exceptional extension of the grant period of postdoctoral (going abroad from Estonia), starting grant, and team projects without additional funding.

2. Purpose of Extending the Grant Period of Starting Grant Projects Lasting for Four Years

The purpose of extending the grant period of starting grant projects is to offer more time and resources to the projects which at the time of submitting the starting grant application could last for up to four years for conducting additional R&D activities that arise from and are related to the project, for example, conducting an important additional study based on the data collected during the project, implementing or analysing (unexpected) research outcomes, testing the applicability of the research outcomes, or making preparations for the follow-up (experimental development) project.

3. Conditions for the Extension

3.1. It is possible to request the extension of the grant period of starting grant projects for up to one year if all the following requirements have been met:

3.1.1. the funding period of the starting grant project is four years;

3.1.2. the starting grant project has begun before 2023;

3.1.3. the third year of the starting grant project is currently ongoing.

3.2. The application requesting the extension of the grant period has to be submitted during the same year when the interim report is to be submitted.

4. Application Process

4.1. In order to request the extension of the grant period, the Principal Investigator of the starting grant project has to, together with the interim report to be submitted during the third year of the project, submit the respective application that has been approved by the institution and that includes the following information:

4.1.1. an updated version of the work plan;

4.1.2. the justification for the grant amount applied for (the grant amount cannot exceed the fixed grant amount established in the budget guidelines of the year when the application requesting the extension is submitted);

4.1.3. the names of the team members who will continue participating in the project.

4.2. In 2022, the application requesting the extension of the grant period can be submitted after the submission of the interim report in accordance with the requirements and within the time limit established by the Estonian Research Council.

5. Decision on the Extension

5.1. The decision to approve the application requesting the extension of the grant period will be made by the Management of the Estonian Research Council based on the proposal made by the Evaluation Committee.

5.1.1. The application will not be approved

5.1.1.1. if, based on the interim report, it will be decided not to continue funding the project or if certain conditions are prescribed in order to continue funding the project, or

5.1.1.2. if, given the objectives of extending the grant period, the work plan, the budget, or the composition of the research team for the fifth year is not sufficiently justified.

6. Continuation of Funding

Funding starting grant projects with an extended grant period will take place in accordance with the conditions and procedure for the continuation of funding starting grant projects that are in force in the respective year.

7. Exceptional Extension of the Grant Period without Additional Funding

7.1. During the final year of the grant period and no later than two months prior to the end of the project, the Principal Investigator of an ongoing postdoctoral, starting grant, or team project is entitled to request the extension of the grant period for up to twelve months, if it has been impossible to carry out the planned activities and studies for reasons beyond the control of him/her or the research team, such as supply shortages, war, or direct consequences of the COVID-19 epidemic.

7.2. The grant amount will not be increased as a result of extending the grant period.

7.3. The Principal Investigator has to submit the following information:

7.3.1. the requested time period of the extension (six or twelve months);

7.3.2. a description of the circumstances that have hindered the implementation of the project that are supported by the respective proofs;

7.3.3. a work plan describing how the extended period will allow to carry out the planned activities.

7.4. The decision to approve the request for extending the grant period will be made by the Estonian Research Council.

7.5. The final report of the project with an extended period has to be submitted within two months after the end of the project.