

Types of grants

UNIKO provides funding to support projects under 6 distinct grand categories. Each grant category is intended for a specific purpose and involves relevant procedures and facilities. All types of grands are subject to standard rules and regulations providing the legal framework governing the grant-award process at UNIKO. These grants include:

- a. **University research projects** – Awarded for original, comprehensive, well defined proposals, with clear objectives, leading to results of potential significance, generating new knowledge, impacting the teaching process and contributing to scientific advancement.
- b. **Priority research projects** – Aimed at addressing key issues of priority significance, strategic to Albanian environment, industry and society. Such issues are periodically identified through faculty reports defining their areas of priority research.
- c. **National Research Projects** – These grands advocate research in areas of national significance through well defined proposals, strategic to national, social and community concern and made public by NASRI.
- d. **General Facility Projects** – Earmarked for developing UNIKO research infrastructure, labs and resources, GF grants are aimed at creating a climate for qualitative research at UNIKO. Such grants are meant for strengthening faculties resources, establishing model labs and facilities, equipped with hi-tech instruments, advanced equipment, enabling faculties to implement and accomplish experimental, analytical and didactic studies.
- e. **External research projects** – these grands promote collaborative research, pursued in partnership with external institutions through multi-disciplinary studies that require national and international collaboration, expertise and resources. Such projects involve interinstitutional agreements for jointly addressing outstanding scientific issues and challenges that need scientifically driven solutions through collaborative input, shared expertise, resources and scientific exchange.
- f. **Graduate research projects** – are primarily meant for developing undergraduate and graduate studies through the provision of research grants awarded to Master and PhD students, and a potential reservoir of national scientific talent.

2. Financed Units

All university units, including academic, administrative and graduate ones are eligible to apply for only one of the grant categories based on the criteria specified in the call.

3. Proposal processing

The processing procedures are aimed at ascertaining two critical elements in rendering research support. These include firstly, compliance to university regulations, and secondly, upholding values of quality assurance and scientific merit of proposed research. These elements predominate the application of processing procedures to a research proposal, critically involving three procedural stages:

- a. **Review process.** All research support applications undergo standard review procedures undertaken by the Coordinating Research Units at faculty level and the Evaluating Project proposal Commission at management university level. The review process ensures research quality (in terms of originality, relevancy, and expected output), scientific merit,

and the proposed research project's ability in contributing to scientific advancement, resolutions of problems, capacity building and its potential benefit to the region.

- b. *Implementation process.* Standard procedures and guidelines are in place to facilitate researchers in implementing their research. The implementation process involves critical research – related resources and requirements, essentially needed by researches to pursue the goals of their projects. These concerns project budget equipment, running cost and other services.
- c. *Research reports.* It is mandatory for the researchers to submit Progress Report of their ongoing projects, and/or a comprehensive Final Report on its completion. Without Final Report, no project is considered complete. Both reports are submitted to a standard referring process to assess the project implementation.

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