

**Minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting  
of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation of the Republic of Slovenia and  
the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA)**

**13 November 2024, Remote**

**Location:** Visio conference

**Participants:**

**Slovenian delegation:**

- **Ms. Tina Vuga**, head of the EU and international Cooperation Office, MHESI
- **Mag. Peter Volasko**, Science Division, Science and Innovation Directorate, MHESI
- **Ms. Petra Kodra**, European Affairs and International Cooperation Office, MHESI

**French delegation:**

- **Ms Julie Oddou**, Managing Director for European Affairs, CEA
- **Mr Alexandre Barret**, European Affairs Office, CEA

**Observers:**

- **Ms. Blanka Mekinda Vidmar**, head of the Department of International Cooperation, Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency (ARIS)
- **Ms Sarah Trudelle**, Scientific and academic officer, French Institute in Ljubljana

**I. 18<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting**

The 18<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation of Slovenia and the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA) took place on 13 November 2024 remotely (due to agenda constraints, it was decided by both parties to organise this steering committee remotely).

**Selection of projects for the period 2025-2026**

In the joint call for projects for the period 2025-2026, the Slovenian side received 6 applications. The French side received 6 applications as well. The 6 joint project proposals were discussed for joint selection during the Steering Committee Meeting.

The Steering Committee approved 5 projects for funding. The projects were selected based on the priority lists of both sides. The projects will be funded according to the table given in Annex. The projects will run for two years from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2026.

The total funding by the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency is up to 500.000 EUR for the period 2025-2026. In CEA funding is provided by the own budget of the unit concerned for the total amount up to 500.000 EUR.

4 out of the 5 projects received a maximum of €100,000. However, one project requested a lower amount, and was awarded only the requested amount (i.e. 100 000€ for the Slovenian partner and 50 000€ for the French partner), with no additional funds allocated beyond this request.

The results of the joint call will be published on both sides in the week of 2 to 6 December 2024.



### **Review of on-going projects in the period 2023-2025**

A short review of the on-going projects had been made by ARIS and MHESI during the Steering Committee. The 5 on-going projects (2024 – 2026) are on track. The on-going projects for the period 2023 – 2025 were not reviewed.

A global review of all the on-going projects will take place in March 2025. The Steering Committee members will be informed of the outputs of this global overview of the on-going projects.

### **Next call for proposals**

The next call for the period 2026-2027 is planned to be published in February 2025 (the precise date will be decided by email in February 2025). The Steering Committee decided to put a limit of the maximum amount proposed by each project at 100.000 EUR for each side for the duration of the project.

Sides agreed to strive to support early-career stage project leaders (up to 5 years from their first PhD). Additionally, sides agreed to set young project leaders (up to 10 years from their first PhD) as a favourable element in the final project selection process done by the Steering Committee.

For the next call for proposals, sides also agreed to avoid overlapping of project funding for projects, submitted by same partners with similar topic and selected in the last call.

The next meeting should take place in France in November 2025. CEA will take the initiative to propose the dates to Slovenian partners. The status of current projects will be reviewed and the projects for the period 2026-2027 will be selected during that meeting.

### **General information from both sides**

Sides informed each other about their latest developments of the past year.

#### **Ms Tina Vuga**

Head of the EU and international Cooperation Office,  
Ministry of Higher Education, Science  
and Innovation (MHESI)

#### **Ms Julie Oddou**

Managing Director for European Affairs  
CEA



Slovenian partner	Slovenian Project investigator	Project title	French partner	French project investigator	ARIS Grant	CEA Grant	Total Amount
ZAG - The Slovenian National Building and Civil Engineering Institute	Miha Hren	New alternative cementitious materials with high Al content: chemistry and steel corrosion	CEA Paris-Saclay	Muzeau Benoit	100 000	50 000	150 000
National Institute of Biology - NIB	Barbara Breznik	Targeting glioblastoma cells in tumour microenvironment combining irradiation with selective metalloprotease inhibitors	Institut Joliot/DMTS/SIMoS CEA-CE-Saclay	Laurent Devel	100 000	100 000	200 000
Jožef Stefan Institute	Matej Tekavčič	Experimental investigation and modelling of bubble dynamics in convective boiling	CEA	Nop Raksmy	100 000	100 000	200 000
Jožef Stefan Institute	Luka Snoj	VERONICA - Versatile European Reactor fOr Neutron Irradiation and nuClear reseArch	Centre CEA de Cadarache	Bignan Gilles	100 000	100 000	200 000
University of Ljubljana	Jernej Kovačič	Heat loads on tokamak divertors	Institut de recherches sur la fusion magnetique IRFM - CEA Cadarache	James P. Gunn	100 000	100 000	200 000