MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY
RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES SUPPORT PROGRAM (ADEP)
2027 CALL FOR PROPOSALS
APPLICATION GUIDE

BAP Coordination Office | November 2026

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 Purpose

This guide has been prepared to explain the application, evaluation, selection and monitoring processes for projects to be supported with the 2027 allocation to Middle East Technical University under the Research Universities Support Program (ADEP) of the Council of Higher Education (YÖK), conducted within the Research-Oriented Mission Differentiation and Specialization Program.

1.2 About ADEP and Legal Basis

Under ADEP, support allocated to the state universities included in the Research-Oriented Mission Differentiation and Specialization Program is determined annually and on a performance basis. The allocated funds are used within the framework of BAP regulations, taking into account the priorities of the Twelfth Development Plan and the competences of the universities. In the 2022–2026 period, a total of 3.15 billion TL was allocated to 20 state universities; in 2026, 548 projects were supported with 1.4 billion TL.

The call will be conducted within the framework of the Regulation on Scientific Research Projects of Higher Education Institutions, the University's Scientific Research Projects (BAP) implementation principles, and the ADEP project types and application, evaluation and monitoring principles set by YÖK.

1.3 The New-Period Approach of ADEP

YÖK has restructured ADEP as a holistic program extending from resource allocation to the generation of research impact. The four principles of the new period are as follows:

Principle	Description
Strategic focus	Resources should grow not only the number of projects but the strategic capacity of research universities
Impact orientation	Monitoring impact beyond publications, including human resources, collaboration, new funding, commercialization and intellectual property
Comparability	Evaluating applications within a common framework and making decisions more consistent
Accountability	Clear criteria, a traceable process and a performance-based approach in the use of public funds

Within this framework, the application, evaluation and monitoring processes have been transformed under four headings:

1. **Digital application:** Submission of complete and standardized application documents via the ADEP System integrated into YÖKSİS, with trackable processes
2. **New application form:** Applications made through a new structured application form
3. **Evaluation:** In addition to the evaluation by BAP Commissions, projects are evaluated by panelists selected by YÖK for each project topic, using a structured panelist form
4. **Monitoring system:** Establishment of a digital system to which interim and final reports of accepted projects are uploaded and through which their outputs can be monitored

1.4 Structure of the Call: General Call and International ADEP Special Call

The ADEP 2027 call consists of two parts: the General Call, open to all eligible academic staff, and the International ADEP Special Call, opened for projects with partners from the Top 350 Universities. Project types, budget and duration ranges, expected outputs, evaluation criteria and the timeline are the same for both parts. The differences between the two parts are summarized below.

Aspect	General Call	International ADEP Special Call
Who can apply	METU researchers meeting the principal investigator conditions of the BAP regulations and whose BAP project quota allows a new project; an ADEP project counts as 4 quota points, and a principal investigator may hold at most 8 BAP quota points at the same time	Same conditions; in addition, academic staff members who already lead an ADEP project or whose BAP project quota is full
Partnership requirement	None; collaboration with industry or universities in Türkiye is optional. The minimum number of researchers and disciplines required for the project type (Section 4.2) must be met	At least one partner researcher from the Top 350 Universities is required; the partner researcher coordinates at least one work package
BAP project quota	Counts towards the quota; the BAP project quota continues to apply	Does not count towards the quota (additional quota)
Collaboration bonus	Industry +6, other universities +4	Abroad (Top 350) +5; Research Triangle with co-advising +9
Mobility	Within the project budget and BAP regulations	The mobility rules in Section 5.4 apply
Application form and documents	Application form (except D.2), Annex 1 for external researchers, pro forma invoices	Application form (including D.2), Annex 1 for the partner researcher, Top 350 document, pro forma invoices
Evaluation	Sections 8 and 9	Sections 8 and 9 (same criteria and ranking)

Section 5 of this guide contains only the conditions specific to the International ADEP Special Call; the other sections set out the rules common to both parts.

2. CALL TIMELINE

The call will be conducted in two stages. Stage 1 will take place within the University via BAPSİS, and Stage 2 via the YÖKSİS ADEP System.

Stage	Step	Date
Stage 1	Opening of applications (BAPSİS)	**2 November 2026**
Stage 1	Application deadline (BAPSİS)	**20 December 2026**
Stage 1	Preliminary check and external review	**December 2026–mid-February 2027**
Stage 1	Ranking based on scores	After completion of the evaluation
Stage 2	Notification of the YÖK budget ceiling	Depending on the YÖK schedule
Stage 2	Identification of projects passing Stage 1 and budget revision	After notification of the budget ceiling
Stage 2	Application via the YÖKSİS ADEP System	Dates to be announced by YÖK
Stage 2	YÖK panelist evaluation and announcement of acceptances	After the YÖK decision

3. PROJECT TYPES, BUDGET AND DURATION

3.1 Project Types

ADEP projects are no longer of a single type. Applications will be made to one of the four project types below; the requested budget and duration must be within the range of the selected type.

Code	Project type	Budget range (TL)	Duration (months)	General character
ADEP-I	Starting / Pilot Research Project	1,000,000–3,000,000	12–18	Preliminary work, method development, data generation, pilot research
ADEP-II	Standard Research Project	3,000,000–5,000,000	12–24	Interdisciplinary research, qualified publications, preparation of external projects
ADEP-III	Large-Scale Research Project	5,000,000–10,000,000	24–36	High impact, intellectual/industrial property or equivalent output
ADEP-IV	Strategic / Mission-Oriented Research Project	Above 10,000,000	24–36	Strong output in the University's focus areas

3.2 Budget Items

1. The project budget will consist of items permitted under BAP regulations, such as equipment, consumables, services, travel and project personnel costs.
2. Project personnel costs (scholarship holders, student researchers and research personnel to be employed within the project) may be included in the project budget. Amounts and durations will be planned in accordance with BAP regulations and University implementation principles, specifying the number of persons, the level of personnel to be employed and their period of involvement. Personnel salaries must be planned on the basis of the current salary scale and cost calculation table of the BAP Coordination Office: https://bap.metu.edu.tr/tr/belgeler-0 (for part-time staff costs, please contact the Project Personnel Office).
3. The budget must be proportionate to and meaningful for the project scope; each item must be linked to the relevant work package, and high-cost items must be justified in detail.

3.3 Budget Revision

The ranking at the end of Stage 1 does not constitute a funding commitment. In line with the budget ceiling notified by YÖK, the Commission may request a budget revision from the principal investigator, provided it remains within the range of the project type.

4. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

4.1 General Conditions

1. The principal investigator must meet the conditions set for principal investigators in the Regulation on Scientific Research Projects of Higher Education Institutions and the University's BAP implementation principles. Under these regulations, a principal investigator is a faculty member, or a researcher of the University who has completed a doctorate, medical specialization or proficiency in arts, who proposes the project and is responsible for its preparation and implementation.
2. An academic staff member may be principal investigator of at most one project in the ADEP 2027 call, but may participate as a researcher in more than one project.
3. The BAP project quota continues to apply in the General Call; an ADEP project counts as 4 quota points, and a principal investigator may hold at most 8 BAP quota points at the same time (METU BAP Coordination Office 2026 Implementation Principles; https://bap.metu.edu.tr and https://bapsis.metu.edu.tr). An academic staff member who is principal investigator of an ongoing ADEP project or whose BAP project quota is full may not

apply to the ADEP 2027 general call as principal investigator. Such academic staff members may apply under the International ADEP Special Call (see Section 5.2).

4. The project topic must be linked to the priority sectors and areas of the Twelfth Development Plan. The call has no University-specific thematic priority areas; applications from all fields are welcome.

4.2 Team Structure and Scholarship Holder / Young Researcher Requirement

Training young researchers is an important dimension of ADEP projects. Applications must meet the following minimum team structure and human resource expectation according to the project type.

Project type	Minimum team structure	Human resource expectation
ADEP-I	PI + at least 2 researchers	At least 1 scholarship holder or student researcher
ADEP-II	At least 3 researchers including the PI	At least 2 scholarship holders or student researchers
ADEP-III	At least 5 researchers including the PI	At least 2 scholarship holders + a postdoctoral researcher or international researcher contribution
ADEP-IV	At least 7 researchers including the PI; at least 3 disciplines	At least 2 scholarship holders + a postdoctoral researcher or international researcher contribution

In addition to scholarship holders and student researchers, the employment of research personnel from the project budget may also be planned. In that case, the level of the personnel to be employed (postdoctoral researcher, researcher with a PhD, researcher with an MSc, researcher with a BSc or technical staff), their number, role in the project and period of employment must be stated in Section B.1 of the application form. Employment will be in accordance with BAP regulations and University implementation principles. Employed personnel do not replace the minimum scholarship holder / student researcher requirement above. Personnel salaries must be planned on the basis of the current salary scale and cost calculation table of the BAP Coordination Office: https://bap.metu.edu.tr/tr/belgeler-0 (for part-time staff costs, please contact the Project Personnel Office).

Under BAP regulations, at most two scholarship holders may be assigned to a project. Scholarship holders must reside in Türkiye, be under forty years of age, not be employed by any institution or workplace, not receive any scholarship or salary under YÖK and/or TÜBİTAK support in the same period and not be a scholarship holder in another project in the same period. In ADEP-III and ADEP-IV projects the number of scholarship holders is therefore limited to two; additional young researchers may join the project as student researchers or through personnel employment. Scholarship holders are insured under Article 5(1)(b) of Social Security Law No. 5510, and the premiums are covered within the scholarship amount. The number of scholarship holders cannot be increased after the project enters into force; a departing scholarship holder may be replaced under the same conditions.

In addition to BAP scholarship holders, undergraduate students may also join ADEP projects under the TÜBİTAK 2247-C Intern Researcher Scholarship Programme (STAR). Principal investigators of ADEP-funded projects may request STAR scholarship holders for their projects during TÜBİTAK's STAR calls for principal investigators.

4.3 Collaboration and Work Package Coordination

1. The coordinator, institution and duration of each work package will be indicated in the work package table of the application form (A.6); budget items will be linked to the relevant work packages in Section A.12. The work package coordinator is responsible for carrying out the relevant work package.
2. Collaborations with industrial organizations, higher education institutions abroad or other universities are supported with bonus points in the evaluation (see 8.2 and 9.2).
3. **Where there is collaboration, at least one of the project's work packages must be coordinated by an external stakeholder. This will be shown in table A.6 and documented with the Researcher Commitment Form (Annex 1).**
4. **All researchers from outside METU (national and international) participating in the project must complete and sign the Researcher Commitment Form (Annex 1) and state their contribution to the project in the form. If there is more than one external researcher, the form must be duplicated and completed separately for each researcher. The form is provided in Turkish and English.**

5. **To benefit from the bonus for collaboration with a higher education institution abroad, the partner institution must be one of the Top 350 Universities (top 350 in the THE or QS overall or subject rankings). Projects with the Top 350 Universities will be submitted under the International ADEP Special Call (see Section 5). The ranking of the partner institution must be documented based on the current list on the application date.**
6. Applications not meeting these conditions will not receive collaboration bonus points.

5. INTERNATIONAL ADEP SPECIAL CALL

5.1 Scope

The International ADEP Special Call has been opened for projects conducted jointly with researchers from the Top 350 Universities (higher education institutions abroad ranked in the top 350 in at least one of the latest overall lists or relevant subject rankings of the THE or QS world university rankings). The special call aims at joint research, mutual researcher mobility and the training of doctoral students together with international partners. Projects conducted with the Research Triangle Universities in North Carolina, USA (Duke University, UNC-Chapel Hill and NC State), with which METU plans to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU), will receive a higher bonus within this call (see Section 5.3).

Projects collaborating with institutions abroad outside the Top 350 Universities do not fall under the International ADEP Special Call. Such projects may apply under the General Call; however, they will not benefit from the quota exemption in Section 5.2.

5.2 Additional Quota and Quota Exemption

1. The International ADEP Special Call is an additional quota. Projects submitted under this call will not count towards the BAP project quota; academic staff members who already lead an ongoing ADEP project or whose BAP project quota is full may also apply as principal investigator under this call.
2. Special call applications will be evaluated through the same external review process and criteria as other applications (Section 8).

5.3 Eligibility Conditions

1. At least one faculty member from the Top 350 Universities must be included in the project team as a partner researcher. It must be documented in Section D.2 of the application form that the partner institution is one of the Top 350 Universities, by stating the ranking (THE or QS, overall or subject), its year and the position, and by attaching the link to and a screenshot of the relevant ranking page. Applications without this documentation will not be considered under the special call.
2. In line with the condition set by YÖK for the international collaboration bonus, the partner researcher must coordinate at least one work package (application form A.6). This must be documented with the Researcher Commitment Form (Annex 1) signed by the partner researcher.
3. The international collaboration bonus (+5) will be applied to projects meeting these conditions. Considering the ongoing preparation of the MoU, the ease of reaching faculty members at the Research Triangle Universities and the aim of finalizing the collaboration initiated with these universities, the international collaboration bonus will be applied as +9 instead of +5 for projects whose partner researcher is from the Research Triangle Universities and who also commits to co-advising the METU doctoral students working on the project (see Section 8.2).
4. The special call and the partner university must be indicated in the project information section of the application form; the Top 350 documentation, the partnership and mobility plan and, where applicable, the co-advising plan must be given in detail in Section D.2.
5. Researchers who cannot reach a contact person at the university they wish to work with (including the Research Triangle Universities) may write to akkol@metu.edu.tr.
6. Researchers who wish to contact a faculty member at Duke University must write to johann.guilleminot@duke.edu together with their project idea.

5.4 Mobility and Funding

Mobility	Scope	Source of funding
Research visits of METU students	Research at the partner university by doctoral and master's students working on the project, up to 3 months per student	ADEP project budget
Visits of the principal investigator and researchers	Visits of the principal investigator and METU researchers to the partner university, up to 1 month in total	ADEP project budget
Visits of partner university researchers to Türkiye	Visits of partner researchers to METU for joint work, seminars and student advising, up to 1 month	ADEP project budget

All travel and accommodation costs of METU and partner university researchers will be covered by the METU ADEP project budget in accordance with BAP regulations. Consumables and analytical services for the work carried out at the partner university are expected to be covered by the partner institution.

5.5 Co-advising

For projects with a partner researcher from the Research Triangle Universities, co-advising is required for the +9 bonus; for projects with other Top 350 Universities, co-advising is encouraged. Where there is co-advising, the partner researcher will serve as co-advisor in the thesis work of the METU doctoral students working on the project, in accordance with the relevant regulations. The co-advising commitment must be marked in the Researcher Commitment Form (Annex 1), and the co-advising plan must be given in Section D.2 of the application form.

6. EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND CONCRETE OUTPUT COMMITMENTS

6.1 Minimum Expected Outputs by Project Type

In this guide, a qualified publication means a scientific publication in a WoS- or Scopus-indexed journal, preferably in the Q1–Q2 quartiles.

Project type	Minimum expected outputs
ADEP-I	At least 1 qualified academic output or a verifiable applied output appropriate to the field; a plan to turn the project results into a larger externally funded project application
ADEP-II	At least 2 qualified academic outputs; or 1 qualified academic output and 1 externally funded project application; or, depending on the field, 1 qualified academic output and 1 equivalent applied output
ADEP-III	At least 2 qualified publications; at least 1 equivalent output such as a patent, utility model, registration, externally funded project application, national dataset, guideline, policy document or model
ADEP-IV	At least 2 qualified publications; at least 1 intellectual/industrial property right or field-equivalent output; at least 1 externally funded national or international project application; a broader impact and sustainability plan

6.2 Concrete Output Commitment Table

At the time of application, a commitment will be required that the concrete outputs below will be achieved during the project and/or within at most 2 years after its completion. The principal investigator will mark "Yes" or "No" for each row in the table in Section E.1 of the application form. The commitments must meet the minimum expected outputs of the selected project type.

Concrete output indicator
Human resource indicators in the project
Undergraduate and graduate students working on the project as scholarship holders or researchers
Providing students with internship / field experience opportunities
Students' employment (university, public, private sector) and academic career development potential
Providing students with international mobility and research experience abroad
International researcher participation in the project
Presence of international researcher(s) in the project
Conversion of the project into qualified scientific publications
Publication in the top 10% by citations
Publication in the top 50% (Q1+Q2, all indexes)
University–university collaborative publication
University–industry collaborative publication
International collaborative publication
Generating new national and international projects as a continuation of the proposal
New national project related to the project topic
New international project related to the project topic
Commercialization and intellectual property output
Commercialization of goods and services produced within the project
University–industry collaboration within the project
Establishment of a spin-off company related to the project
Utility model / design registration
National patent registration
International patent registration

> Committed outputs will be monitored via the YÖKSİS ADEP System (see Section 10). ADEP support and the project number must be acknowledged in publications and other outputs produced within the project.

7. APPLICATION PROCESS

7.1 Stage 1: Internal Application

1. Applications will be received via **BAPSİS** between **2 November 2026** and **20 December 2026**.
2. The ADEP 2027 application form will be available on BAPSİS. Applications will be made only using this form.
3. The application form must be prepared in Times New Roman 10 pt and must not exceed 25 pages in total excluding references.
4. Stage 1 applications are prepared in Turkish. Projects involving international collaboration and projects whose principal investigator is an academic staff member of foreign nationality may also be submitted in English in Stage 1. However, the Stage 2 application via the YÖKSİS ADEP System must be submitted in Turkish.

5. The application form is organized according to the evaluation headings of the YÖK ADEP panelist form: A. Project Proposal, B. Human Resources, C. International Researcher Participation, D. Collaboration, E. Outputs and Impact.
6. Applications submitted after the deadline, with missing documents, or not meeting the conditions in Section 4 of this guide will not be evaluated.

7.2 Stage 2: YÖKSİS ADEP Application

1. Following the Stage 1 ranking, **projects falling within the budget ceiling notified by YÖK will be deemed to have passed Stage 1.**
2. Principal investigators of projects passing Stage 1 will submit their Stage 2 applications via the **YÖKSİS ADEP System**, using the form and timeline set by YÖK.
3. The Stage 2 application must be prepared in Turkish. Principal investigators who submitted their project in English in Stage 1 will submit the Stage 2 application in Turkish.
4. The Stage 2 application must be consistent in content and scope with the project evaluated in Stage 1; any revised budget will be used.

7.3 Application Checklist

Before completing the Stage 1 application, please check that the following are met:

- ☐ Project type selected; budget and duration within the range of the selected type
- ☐ Work package table (application form A.6) completed; coordinator and institution of each work package indicated
- ☐ Budget items (A.12) linked to the relevant work packages; high-cost items justified in detail
- ☐ Minimum team structure and scholarship holder/young researcher plan appropriate to the project type (at most two scholarship holders per project); if personnel employment is planned, the level, number and period of the personnel stated in B.1
- ☐ If there is collaboration, coordination of at least one work package assigned to an external stakeholder, and a signed Researcher Commitment Form (Annex 1) attached for each external researcher (national and international)
- ☐ Minimum outputs planned and the concrete output commitment table (E.1) completed
- ☐ Project topic linked to the priority sectors and areas of the Twelfth Development Plan
- ☐ If applying to the International ADEP Special Call, indicated in the project information section, Top 350 documentation of the partner institution attached and Section D.2 of the application form completed; for Research Triangle projects, the co-advising box ticked in Annex 1

7.4 Application Documents

The following documents will be uploaded via BAPSİS with the Stage 1 application:

Document	Description
Application Form	For all applications; the form is available on BAPSİS.
Researcher Commitment Form (Annex 1)	Completed and signed separately by each researcher from outside METU (national and international) participating in the project; in Turkish or English.
Document showing the university ranking	For International ADEP Special Call applications, a screenshot of and link to the ranking page showing that the partner institution ranks in the top 350 of the THE or QS (overall or subject) rankings.
Pro forma invoices	Current pro forma invoices for the equipment, consumables and service items requested in the budget; the cost basis of high-cost items will be shown with these documents.

8. STAGE 1 EVALUATION (METU)

8.1 External Review and Scoring

Applications passing the preliminary check will be evaluated through **an external review process coordinated by the BAP Commission**. Each application will be evaluated by at least 2 external reviewers on the basis of the Project Proposal and Human Resources headings and sub-criteria of the YÖK ADEP panelist form. Reviewers will score each sub-criterion on a 6-point scale (6–5 Good, 4–3 Can be improved, 2–1 Insufficient); the total score will be calculated out of 100 using the percentage weights of the sub-criteria below, which depend on the project type. The weight of the budget appropriateness and justification criterion increases with the project budget, but in no project type does it exceed the weight of the originality and methodology criteria. Strategic / mission-oriented ADEP-IV projects will additionally be evaluated under "S. Strategic and Mission-Oriented Value"; for these projects, the relation to the Twelfth Development Plan will be addressed under heading S.

Criterion	Form section	ADEP-I / ADEP-II	ADEP-III	ADEP-IV
A. Project Proposal		**85%**	**85%**	**75%**
Originality of the project	A.4	18%	17%	15%
Design of the methodology	A.5	18%	17%	15%
Project management (work packages, timeline, success criteria, risk management; where applicable, planning of the collaboration and of external stakeholder roles)	A.6–A.7	14%	13%	10%
Interdisciplinary / multidisciplinary character of the project	A.8	5%	5%	5%
Competence of the project team in the project topic	A.9	10%	10%	10%
Adequacy of the institution's research facilities for the project	A.10	5%	5%	5%
Adequacy of the requested project duration	A.11	5%	5%	5%
Appropriateness and justification of the requested budget	A.12	5%	8%	10%
Relation of the project topic to the priority sectors and areas of the Twelfth Development Plan	A.13	5%	5%	Under S
B. Human Resource Indicators		**15%**	**15%**	**15%**
Number of students in the project	B.1	3%	3%	3%
Internship / field experience opportunities for students	B.2	3%	3%	3%
Students' employment and career development potential	B.2	3%	3%	3%
Students' potential to pursue graduate education	B.2	3%	3%	3%
International mobility and research experience abroad	B.2	3%	3%	3%
S. Strategic and Mission-Oriented Value (ADEP-IV only)		**-**	**-**	**10%**
Strategic alignment and mission definition (University focus areas, Twelfth Development Plan and national priorities)	A.14	-	-	5%
Institutional capacity, broader impact and sustainability	A.14	-	-	5%
TOTAL		**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

- The requested budget must be proportionate to and meaningful for the project scope; high-cost items must be justified in detail (A.12). In particular, for ADEP-III projects above 5,000,000 TL and ADEP-IV projects above 10,000,000 TL, the link of each high-cost item to the work package, its necessity and its cost basis (pro forma invoice) must be explained in detail; the adequacy of the budget justification will be decisive in the evaluation of these projects. The Commission will request a budget revision from projects whose average reviewer score on the budget criterion is 3 or below.
- Since international collaboration is supported through bonus points (see 8.2), international researcher participation (C.1) is not scored separately in Stage 1; this information will be evaluated by YÖK panelists in Stage 2.

8.2 Collaboration Bonus Points

The YÖK ADEP evaluation principles allocate bonus points for collaboration. The same bonus points will be applied in Stage 1. Bonus points are outside reviewer scoring; they will be awarded by the Commission, based on the documents in the application, to projects meeting the conditions in Section 4.3, and added to the reviewer average. For projects with more than one type of collaboration, only the highest bonus will be applied in Stage 1. In line with the condition set by YÖK, the international collaboration bonus will be applied only if the partner researcher coordinates at least one work package and the partner institution is one of the Top 350 Universities. For International ADEP Special Call projects conducted with the Research Triangle Universities and meeting the conditions in Section 5.3, the international collaboration bonus will be applied as +9. To ensure that collaborations make a real contribution to the project, reviewers will additionally assess, for all projects involving collaboration, the added value of the collaboration to the project and the realism of the external stakeholder's role in work package coordination and in the project as "Strong / Adequate / Weak", and will give reasons for any assessment other than "Strong". If the majority of reviewers rate either of these two aspects as "Weak", the collaboration bonus will not be applied.

Type of collaboration	Bonus points
Industry collaboration	**+6**
Research Triangle Universities (International ADEP Special Call, Section 5.3)	**+9**
Higher education institution abroad (Top 350 Universities)	**+5**
Other universities	**+4**

8.3 Ranking and Progression to Stage 2

1. After completion of the external review, **the BAP Commission will rank the projects by total score, consisting of the reviewer average and collaboration bonus points.**
2. The minimum score threshold will be applied to the reviewer average excluding bonus points; projects below the threshold set by the Commission will not be ranked.
3. In case of equal total scores, the project with the higher reviewer average excluding bonus points will be ranked higher. If there are marked differences between reviewer scores, the Commission may seek an additional review.
4. The budget ceiling notified by YÖK will be applied to the ranking; projects within the budget ceiling in order of score will be deemed to have passed Stage 1 and will apply via the YÖKSİS ADEP System in Stage 2.
5. Projects outside the budget ceiling that pass the minimum score threshold will be placed on the reserve list.

9. STAGE 2 EVALUATION (YÖK)

9.1 YÖKSİS ADEP Application

Principal investigators of projects passing Stage 1 will apply via the YÖKSİS ADEP System using the structured application form of YÖK. The application must be consistent with the project evaluated in Stage 1.

9.2 YÖK Panelist Evaluation

In addition to the Commission evaluation, Stage 2 applications will be evaluated by panelists selected by YÖK for each project topic using the ADEP Project Proposal Evaluation Form (Panelist Form), and the results will be submitted to the Commission. Panelists will score each criterion on a 6-point scale (6–5 Good, 4–3 Can be improved, 2–1 Insufficient). Collaboration bonus points (industry +6, higher education institution abroad +5, other universities +4) will also be applied in the YÖK evaluation in accordance with YÖK principles, provided that at least one work package is coordinated by an external stakeholder. The +9 bonus for Research Triangle collaborations applies only to the Stage 1 (METU) evaluation.

The Stage 2 evaluation is carried out through YÖK's own panel system. In this stage, the selection of panelists, the evaluation and the acceptance decisions are made by YÖK and are outside METU's control; a project ranked highly in Stage 1 may still not be accepted in the YÖK evaluation.

Panelist form criterion	Evaluation
A. Evaluation of the project proposal	
Originality of the project	6–1
Design of the methodology	6–1
Project management	6–1
Interdisciplinary / multidisciplinary character of the project	6–1
Competence of the project team in the project topic	6–1
Adequacy of the institution's research facilities for the project	6–1
Adequacy of the requested project duration	6–1
Appropriateness of the requested project budget	Appropriate / Not appropriate
Relation of the project topic to the priority sectors and areas linked to the Twelfth Development Plan	6–1
B. Evaluation of human resource indicators in the project	
Number of students in the project	6–1
Internship / field experience opportunities for students	6–1
Students' employment and career development potential	6–1
Students' potential to pursue graduate education	6–1
International mobility and research experience abroad offered to students	6–1
C. Evaluation of international researcher participation in the project	
Presence of international researcher(s) in the project	6–1

9.3 Acceptance, Announcement and Contract

1. Projects accepted by YÖK will be announced by the University; projects will start once BAP contracts are signed with the principal investigators.
2. If a project is not accepted by YÖK, the next project on the reserve list will be considered, subject to available budget.
3. Applicants not supported will receive the aspects to be improved compiled from the evaluation results.

10. MONITORING AND REPORTING

Interim and final reports of accepted projects will be uploaded to the YÖKSİS ADEP digital monitoring system. Projects will be monitored with measurable performance indicators from application to closure. The impact of ADEP projects will be tracked in the following dimensions:

Monitoring dimension	Indicators to be monitored
1. Human resources	Number of students in projects; internship and field experience; employment and career status; continuation to graduate education; international mobility
2. International researcher participation	Country and institution of international researchers; their roles and contributions in the project
3. Scientific outputs	WoS/Scopus-indexed publications; Q1–Q2 publications; university–university, university–industry and international collaborative publications; citation performance
4. New projects and collaborations	New projects developed from ADEP outputs; national and international funding; collaboration agreements; new research partnerships
5. Technology, commercialization and intellectual property	Commercialized products and services; licence agreements; spin-off companies; intellectual property outputs; the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) reached by the project
6. Societal contribution	Contribution to solving societal and economic problems; value added to regional development

1. Timely submission of reports and achievement of the committed outputs (Section 6.2) are the responsibility of the principal investigator.
2. In matters not covered by this guide, BAP regulations, the principles set by YÖK for ADEP and Commission decisions will apply.

11. CONTACT

For questions about the call, please contact the METU Research Coordination Office: **gokcem@metu.edu.tr**

Questions about the call may also be submitted through the WhatsApp support line: https://chat.whatsapp.com/FeFOkJsAeDV8mItyynA25I