

Frequently asked questions about the Panellist and Sub-panellist roles at the Slovak Periodic Evaluation VER 2026

General information

Place of work:	Remotely - all meetings are held online via MS Teams.
Type of contract:	Mandate contract with the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic.
Timeframe:	Evaluation phase requiring the Panellists' and Sub-panellists' involvement runs from 1 October 2025 until 31 March 2026 . Introductory training session will be provided to all Panellists and Sub-panellists throughout August and September 2025.
Remuneration:	<p>EUR 17,000.00 per Panel / Sub-panel member or</p> <p>EUR 18,000.00 per Panel / Sub-panel chair</p> <p>This sum will be transferred to evaluators by end of June 2026 in form of a single payment.</p> <p>Evaluators commit to comply with the legal regulations of their home country in relation to the received payment, especially with regard to taxation and obligation of social and health insurance contributions.</p>

Role description and responsibilities

What is the Periodic Evaluation VER 2026 in Slovakia?

The Periodic Evaluation of Research, Development, Artistic and Other Creative Activities, or Verification of Excellence in Research (abbreviated as VER), is a **peer-review evaluation of the publishing and other creative activities of Slovak public universities and public research institutions**. Each institution will submit applications for evaluation in one or more of the 28 research areas.

VER 2026 will include the assessment of **quality of creative outputs, assessment of research impact and research environment**. Hence, each application for the Periodic Evaluation VER 2026 will consist of three parts:

- Creative (scientific / artistic) outputs
- Societal impact of creative (scientific / artistic) activities
- Creative (scientific / artistic) environment

In the first module, each application will contain a **maximum of 25 outputs**. In the second and third module, applicants for the Periodic Evaluation will submit **case studies** to assess the societal impact of creative activities and creative environment.

For more information, please refer to the Ministry's website [Periodic Evaluation of Research, Development, Artistic and Other Creative Activities - VER 2026](#).

What is the difference between Evaluator, Panellist and Sub-panellist?

The term 'Evaluator' may be used to refer to any member of the Panels or Sub-panels. However, nature of the work will depend on whether one is selected as an Evaluator within a Panel or a Sub-panel.

What is the difference between Panel and Sub-panel and which Panels and Sub-panels are there?

The Panel oversees its Sub-panels' evaluation process and the application of the qualitative evaluation criteria. In contrast with the Sub-panel, the Panel does not assess the outputs or case studies submitted for evaluation by the research institutions and universities. There are 7 Panels based on the main research groups and 28 Sub-panels based on the research areas.

The table below presents all Panels and their respective Sub-panels:

Panels	Sub-panels
Natural Sciences	Physical Sciences
	Chemical Sciences
	Mathematics
	Biological Sciences
	Earth Sciences
	Environmental and Ecological Sciences
Technical Sciences	Civil Engineering, Architecture, Transport
	Metallurgy and Materials Science
	Mechanical Engineering
	Electrical Engineering
	Computer and Information Sciences
Medicine	Basic Medicine
	Clinical Medicine
	Health Sciences
Agricultural, Forestry and Veterinary Sciences	Agricultural, Forestry and Veterinary Sciences
Social Sciences	Political Science
	Media and Communications
	Sociology and Social Anthropology
	Psychology and Cognitive Sciences
	Education
	Social Work
	Law
	Economics and Business
Humanities	Philosophy and Theology
	Languages and Literature
	History and Archaeology
Art and Theory of Art	Performing Arts and Related Art Fields
	Visual Arts and Related Art Fields

What is expected of a Panel and its members within the evaluation process?

Selected **members of Panel** will mostly work on coordination and supervision of the work of evaluators within Sub-panels which fall under your Panel. Also, they will be expected to integrate the necessary (required) procedures, and make decisions regarding the interdisciplinarity of evaluated scientific, artistic and other creative outputs.

They will not evaluate individual outputs or case studies. Panel members will have the responsibility to oversee the very process of evaluation carried out by the respective Sub-panels. If there is a huge discrepancy in grading between Sub-panellists, they may ask for your input as the Panel members.

On behalf of the Panel, appointed **chair of Panel** will have an additional role in managing the delivery of evaluation results and all the necessary deliberations required by the Ministry, as set forth in the contract.

What is expected of Sub-panel evaluators?

Selected **members of Sub-panel** will work on evaluation of scientific, artistic and other creative outputs and case studies on research impact and research environments of Slovak universities and research institutions. They are not expected to write individual reviews for each evaluated output or case study, because the process of evaluation will be based on marking of their quality.

On behalf of the Sub-panel, appointed **chair of Sub-panel** will have an additional role in managing the delivery of evaluation results and all the necessary deliberations required by the Ministry, as set forth in the contract.

Each Sub-panel will choose their methodology of evaluation (this can differ across the Sub-panels; but not within the individual Sub-panels, i. e. once the Sub-panels members determine their methodology, they all have to stick with it and follow it during the course of the evaluation process).

How many members will the Panels and Sub-panels have?

The Panels and Sub-panels will have around 3-9 members including chairs. The Panels and Sub-panels will be composed of international researchers and academic professionals from diverse backgrounds.

The table on the following page presents the **proposed number of members** per each Panel and Sub-panel, **including chairs**.

Panels	Number of members	Sub-panels	Number of members
Natural Sciences	3	Physical Sciences	5
		Chemical Sciences	5
		Mathematics	5
		Biological Sciences	7
		Earth Sciences	5
		Environmental and Ecological Sciences	5
Technical Sciences	3	Civil Engineering, Architecture, Transport	5
		Metallurgy and Materials Science	3
		Mechanical Engineering	5
		Electrical Engineering	3
		Computer and Information Sciences	7
Medicine	3	Basic Medicine	5
		Clinical Medicine	3
		Health Sciences	5
Agricultural, Forestry and Veterinary Sciences	1	Agricultural, Forestry and Veterinary Sciences	5
Social Sciences	7	Political Science	5
		Media and Communications	3
		Sociology and Social Anthropology	3
		Psychology and Cognitive Sciences	5
		Education	11
		Social Work	5
		Law	9
		Economics and Business	3
Humanities	3	Philosophy and Theology	7
		Languages and Literature	9
		History and Archaeology	7
Art and Theory of Art	3	Performing Arts and Related Art Fields	3
		Visual Arts and Related Art Fields	3

What is the expected amount of material to be reviewed by a Sub-panel?

The amount of material varies across Sub-panels. There are Sub-panels in which there is higher number of applications for the Periodic Evaluation from Slovak higher education and research institutions, and Sub-panels which cover fields of study with less applications. However, please note that not every Sub-panel consists of same number of evaluators who share the workload.

When deciding about the number of evaluators in particular Sub-panels *Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic* had considered the expected quantity of applications for Periodic Evaluation for each Sub-panel (study field). Hence, there will be no notable differences in the required amount of review work between evaluators from particular Sub-panels. Additionally, the amount of workload for each individual evaluator is expected to be decided on Panel/Sub-panel meetings consensually.

Total of 308 applications for periodic evaluation was assessed during the pilot 2022 Periodic Evaluation in Slovakia. However, this number is indicative only and the number of applications in VER 2026 may change.

How are Panels and Sub-panels expected to work and when (and how often) are they expected to meet?

Once the Panels and Sub-panels are formed, they will hold initial meetings to agree on the internal Panel/Sub-panel functioning, assessment criteria, assessment process, online meeting frequency and other relevant details.

The contract will specify a minimum of 4 required meetings during the evaluation period per Panel/Sub-panel. The Panels and Sub-panels will be expected to schedule its meetings and organize the particular work tasks consensually – thus, as a group, while reflecting on time constraints and scientific orientations of evaluators. It means that the allocation of particular workload for each evaluator is expected to be decided in a discussion within the respective Panel/Sub-panel, and that the schedule of meetings of Panels and Sub-panels is expected to be decided in same way.

How much time will the Sub-panels have to complete the evaluations of respective applications?

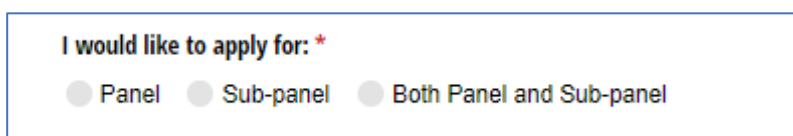
The evaluation will be completed in 6 months, running **from 1 October 2025 until 31 March 2026**. The Ministry should receive all reports of the final quality profiles by the end of March 2026.

Application process

How can I apply for the position of a Panellist or Sub-panellist at the Periodic evaluation VER 2026 in Slovakia?

You can submit the application for either role [via this form](#).

In the form, you will have an option to choose whether you would like to apply for a position in a Panel, Sub-panel or both, as shown in the screenshot below.

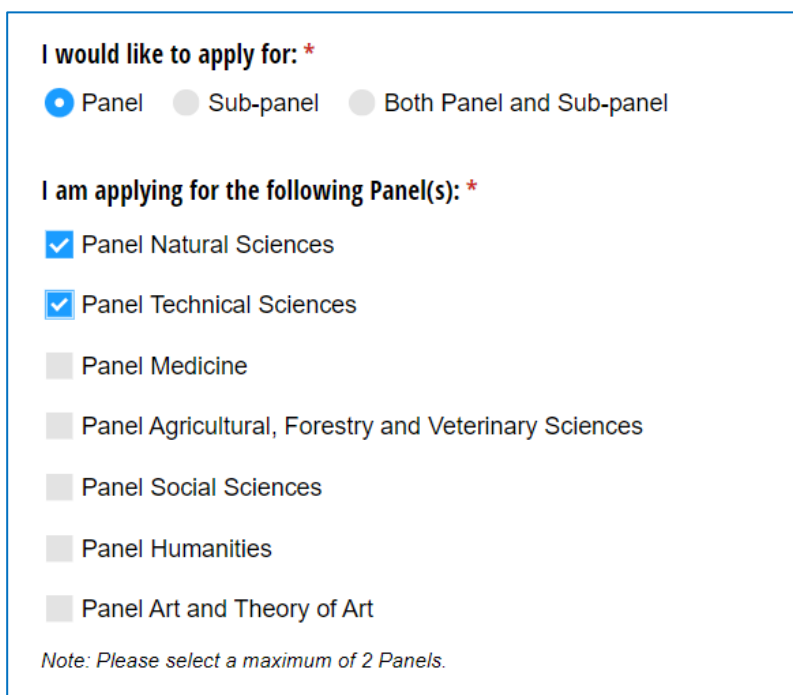


I would like to apply for: *

☐ Panel ☐ Sub-panel ☐ Both Panel and Sub-panel

Are there any restrictions when selecting the specific Panel(s) I am interested in?

You can select a maximum of two Panels you would like to apply for. For example:



I would like to apply for: *

☒ Panel ☐ Sub-panel ☐ Both Panel and Sub-panel

I am applying for the following Panel(s): *

☒ Panel Natural Sciences

☒ Panel Technical Sciences

☐ Panel Medicine

☐ Panel Agricultural, Forestry and Veterinary Sciences

☐ Panel Social Sciences

☐ Panel Humanities

☐ Panel Art and Theory of Art

Note: Please select a maximum of 2 Panels.

If you mark more than two Panels, an error notification will appear (see screenshot on the next page).

I would like to apply for: *

☒ Panel ☐ Sub-panel ☐ Both Panel and Sub-panel

I am applying for the following Panel(s): *

- ☒ Panel Natural Sciences
- ☒ Panel Technical Sciences
- ☒ Panel Medicine
- ☐ Panel Agricultural, Forestry and Veterinary Sciences
- ☐ Panel Social Sciences
- ☐ Panel Humanities
- ☐ Panel Art and Theory of Art

Note: Please select a maximum of 2 Panels.

select a maximum of two panels

Are there any restrictions when selecting the specific Sub-panel(s) I am interested in?

To apply for a Sub-panel, you will firstly be asked to indicate the Panel type the Sub-panel belongs to. This step is required **to open a list of respective Sub-panels, as shown in the screenshot below**. [The table on pages 2-3](#) presents all Panels and their Sub-panels.

I would like to apply for: *

☐ Panel ☒ Sub-panel ☐ Both Panel and Sub-panel

To open a list of Sub-panels, please pick their Panel type first:

- ☐ Natural Sciences
- ☐ Technical Sciences
- ☒ Medicine
- ☐ Agricultural, Forestry and Veterinary Sciences
- ☐ Social Sciences
- ☐ Humanities
- ☐ Art and Theory of Art

Note: Please select a Panel first to open a list of its Sub-panels below. You can mark a maximum of 2 Panels. You can select any number of Sub-panels from the selected Panel(s).

Example 1: From Panel types, I marked 2 Panels: Social Sciences and Humanities. Next, I selected some of their Sub-panels: Psychology and Cognitive Sciences, Sociology and Social Anthropology, Social Work, Philosophy and Theology.

Example 2: From Panel types, I marked 1 Panel: Medicine. Next, I selected all of its Sub-panels: Basic Medicine, Clinical Medicine, Health Sciences.

I am applying for the following Sub-panel(s): *

- ☐ (Medicine) Basic Medicine
- ☐ (Medicine) Clinical Medicine
- ☐ (Medicine) Health Sciences

Answer is required as long as Panel type Medicine is selected.

You can mark a maximum of 2 Panels and you can select any number of Sub-panels from the selected Panel(s).

Please refer to the examples on the next pages.

Example 1: From Panel types, I selected 2 Panels: Social Sciences and Humanities. Next, under question *I am applying for the following Sub-panel(s)*, I selected some of their Sub-panels: Psychology and Cognitive Sciences, Sociology and Social Anthropology, Social Work, Philosophy and Theology (see screenshot below).

I would like to apply for: *

☐ Panel ☒ Sub-panel ☐ Both Panel and Sub-panel

To open a list of Sub-panels, please pick their Panel type first:

☐ Natural Sciences

☐ Technical Sciences

☐ Medicine

☐ Agricultural, Forestry and Veterinary Sciences

☒ Social Sciences

☒ Humanities

☐ Art and Theory of Art

Note: Please select a Panel first to open a list of its Sub-panels below. You can mark a maximum of 2 Panels. You can select any number of Sub-panels from the selected Panel(s).

Example 1: From Panel types, I marked 2 Panels: Social Sciences and Humanities. Next, I selected some of their Sub-panels: Psychology and Cognitive Sciences, Sociology and Social Anthropology, Social Work, Philosophy and Theology.

Example 2: From Panel types, I marked 1 Panel: Medicine. Next, I selected all of its Sub-panels: Basic Medicine, Clinical Medicine, Health Sciences.

I am applying for the following Sub-panel(s): *

☐ (Social Sciences) Media and Communications

☐ (Social Sciences) Political Science

☒ (Social Sciences) Sociology and Social Anthropology

☒ (Social Sciences) Psychology and Cognitive Sciences

☐ (Social Sciences) Education

☒ (Social Sciences) Social Work

☐ (Social Sciences) Law

☐ (Social Sciences) Economics and Business

Answer is required as long as Panel type Social Sciences is selected.

I am applying for the following Sub-panel(s): *

☒ (Humanities) Philosophy and Theology

☐ (Humanities) Languages and Literature

☐ (Humanities) History and Archaeology

Answer is required as long as Panel type Humanities is selected.

Example 2: From Panel types, I selected 1 Panel: Medicine. Next, under question *I am applying for the following Sub-panel(s)*, I selected all of its Sub-panels: Basic Medicine, Clinical Medicine, Health Sciences (see screenshot below).

The screenshot shows a web form with the following sections:

- I would like to apply for: ***
 - ☐ Panel
 - ☒ Sub-panel
 - ☐ Both Panel and Sub-panel
- To open a list of Sub-panels, please pick their Panel type first:**
 - ☐ Natural Sciences
 - ☐ Technical Sciences
 - ☒ Medicine
 - ☐ Agricultural, Forestry and Veterinary Sciences
 - ☐ Social Sciences
 - ☐ Humanities
 - ☐ Art and Theory of Art
- Note: Please select a Panel first to open a list of its Sub-panels below. You can mark a maximum of 2 Panels. You can select any number of Sub-panels from the selected Panel(s).
- Example 1: From Panel types, I marked 2 Panels: Social Sciences and Humanities. Next, I selected some of their Sub-panels: Psychology and Cognitive Sciences, Sociology and Social Anthropology, Social Work, Philosophy and Theology.
- Example 2: From Panel types, I marked 1 Panel: Medicine. Next, I selected all of its Sub-panels: Basic Medicine, Clinical Medicine, Health Sciences.
- I am applying for the following Sub-panel(s): ***
 - ☒ (Medicine) Basic Medicine
 - ☒ (Medicine) Clinical Medicine
 - ☒ (Medicine) Health Sciences
- Answer is required as long as Panel type Medicine is selected.

Are there any restrictions when applying for Both Panel and Sub-panel?

The same restrictions apply for the selection of Panels and the selection of Sub-Panels as described for each individually above.

Why do I need to mark the Panel(s) twice when applying for Both Panel and Sub-panel?

The item ***To open a list of Sub-panels, please pick their Panel type first*** is used as a middle step required to open the list of respective Sub-panels. Please mark the Panel here as well.

Example: The screenshot on the next page shows an application for the position of a Panellist in the Panel Humanities and for the position of a Sub-panellist in two Sub-panel(s): Philosophy and Theology, Languages and Literature.

I would like to apply for: *

☐ Panel ☐ Sub-panel ☒ Both Panel and Sub-panel

I am applying for the following Panel(s): *

- ☐ Panel Natural Sciences
- ☐ Panel Technical Sciences
- ☐ Panel Medicine
- ☐ Panel Agricultural, Forestry and Veterinary Sciences
- ☐ Panel Social Sciences
- ☒ Panel Humanities
- ☐ Panel Art and Theory of Art

Note: Please select a maximum of 2 Panels.

To open a list of Sub-panels, please pick their Panel type first:

- ☐ Natural Sciences
- ☐ Technical Sciences
- ☐ Medicine
- ☐ Agricultural, Forestry and Veterinary Sciences
- ☐ Social Sciences
- ☒ Humanities
- ☐ Art and Theory of Art

Note: Please select a Panel first to open a list of its Sub-panels below. You can mark a maximum of 2 Panels. You can select any number of Sub-panels from the selected Panel(s).

Example 1: From Panel types, I marked 2 Panels: Social Sciences and Humanities. Next, I selected some of their Sub-panels: Psychology and Cognitive Sciences, Sociology and Social Anthropology, Social Work, Philosophy and Theology.

Example 2: From Panel types, I marked 1 Panel: Medicine. Next, I selected all of its Sub-panels: Basic Medicine, Clinical Medicine, Health Sciences.

I am applying for the following Sub-panel(s): *

- ☒ (Humanities) Philosophy and Theology
- ☒ (Humanities) Languages and Literature
- ☐ (Humanities) History and Archaeology

Answer is required as long as Panel type Humanities is selected.

I would like to change my answer from Panel to Sub-panel, or vice versa, but I keep getting an error notification shown in the screenshot below. What might be wrong?

I would like to apply for: *

☐ Panel ☒ Sub-panel ☐ Both Panel and Sub-panel

at least one of the checkbox items is still marked. To change your answer from Panel to Sub-panel or vice versa, please unmark your previous selection of items or choose „Both Panel and Sub-panel“ option.

In case you initially answered that you would like to apply for a Panel but wish to change your answer to Sub-panel, please make sure to unmark any of the selected checkboxes, clearing your selection under option Panel. The same applies when changing from Sub-panel to option Panel. Please make sure to unmark any previous selection of Sub-panels first.

Why do I keep getting the following error notification when applying for a Sub-panel?

Select a maximum of two Panel types. In case you wish to deselect a Panel type, please unmark your selection of its Sub-panels first.

Either you have selected more than two Panel types to open the lists of their Sub-panels, or you have deselected a Panel type, but not its Sub-panels. When deselecting a Panel, please make sure to unmark any of the selected checkboxes for its Sub-panels first.

In case it appears when you deselected all options, please continue with new selection or feel free to switch to applying for a Panel.

When is the deadline for the application submission?

Please submit your application before **15 January 2025**.

When will I hear from the Ministry about the status of my application?

Following the closure of the application period, the Panels and Sub-panels will be formed by the Ministry. The Panel and Sub-panel chairs will also be appointed from among the nominees. Appointed candidates will be contacted via email no later than **30 April 2025**.