

Council  
of the National Science Centre  
KR.0003.82.2018

**RESOLUTION NO 82/2018**  
**OF THE COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE**

of 6 September 2018

**on the terms and Regulations on awarding funding for the implementation, by Polish research teams, of research tasks funded by the National Science Centre under the BEETHOVEN CLASSIC 3 call for proposals for Polish-German research projects**

Pursuant to Article 18 (4), in conjunction with Article 20 (1) (1) (b) and Article 20 (4) and Article 21 of the Act on the National Science Centre (Journal of Laws of 2018, item 947), and pursuant to the Memorandum of Cooperation between the National Science Centre (NCN) and Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), concluded on 2 June 2016, the Council of the National Science Centre lays down **the terms and Regulations on awarding funding for the implementation, by Polish research teams, of research tasks funded by the National Science Centre under the BEETHOVEN CLASSIC 3 call for proposals for Polish-German research projects in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and selected disciplines in Physical Sciences and Engineering.**

## **1. General provisions**

- 1.1. Under the BEETHOVEN CLASSIC 3 call funding will be awarded to research projects carried out jointly by Polish and German research teams, in which international cooperation is a key element.
- 1.2. The terms of awarding funding for the implementation of research tasks by German research teams under the BEETHOVEN CLASSIC 3 call are laid down by the DFG.

## **2. Call beneficiaries**

The call is addressed to Polish research teams,<sup>1</sup> which, jointly with German research teams, will submit a proposal of a research project to be funded. The Polish part of the research project, funded by the NCN, is led by the principal investigator in the Polish research team, hereinafter referred to as the “principal investigator.” The German part of the research project, funded by the DFG, is led by the principal investigator in the German research team.

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<sup>1</sup> The research team is to be understood as the principal investigator and members of the research team if indicated in the proposal.



### 3. Eligible applicants

Proposals for funding of the Polish part of the research project may be submitted by the entities referred to in Article 10 (1)-(3), (5)-(6) and (8) of the Act on the principles of funding science of 30 April 2010 (Journal of Laws of 2018, item 87), hereinafter referred to as the "applicants," for whom the funding in the project will not constitute state aid, i.e.:

- 1) academic or research organisations;
- 2) research consortia;
- 3) scientific networks and units within higher education (HE) institutions that are not their basic administrative units;
- 4) research centres of the Polish Academy of Sciences;
- 5) academic research centres;
- 6) research libraries;
- 7) organisational units with legal personality and registered office in Poland.

### 4. Submission of proposals

The call is open to proposals:

- 1) which provide for the implementation of basic research within the meaning of Article 2 (3) (a) of the Act on the principles of funding science of 30 April 2010;
- 2) which only cover research projects in arts, humanities and social sciences and selected disciplines in physical sciences and engineering as indicated in **annex 1** to this Resolution;
- 3) in which the duration of the research tasks is 24 or 36 months;
- 4) in which the sum of the funding requested for the entire duration of the Polish part of the research project is no less than PLN 150,000;
- 5) which conform to the terms set out in **annex 2** to this Regulation concerning costs in research projects funded under the BEETHOVEN CLASSIC 3 call;
- 6) in which the person named as principal investigator holds at least a doctorate.

### 5. Terms of entry for proposals requesting NCN's funding for the Polish part of the research project under the BEETHOVEN CLASSIC 3 call

- 5.1 Principal investigator cannot represent the applicant in the proposal.
- 5.2 Under NCN calls with deadline for submissions expiring on the same date one may act as principal investigator only to one proposal.
- 5.3 The person named as principal investigator in the proposal submitted to the BEETHOVEN CLASSIC 3 call may act in that capacity regardless of the number of other on-going NCN-funded research projects in which they act as principal investigator.

- 5.4 A proposal stating research tasks overlapping with the ones stated in the BEETHOVEN CLASSIC 3 call may not be submitted to other NCN calls with deadline for submissions expiring on the same date as the BEETHOVEN CLASSIC 3 call.
- 5.5 A proposal stating research tasks overlapping with the ones stated in the proposal submitted to an earlier NCN call may only be submitted when the evaluation process of the earlier proposal has ended.
- 5.6 A proposal stating research tasks overlapping with the ones stated in a proposal submitted to an earlier NCN call which is subject to an appeal procedure may be submitted to the NCN only once the appeal procedure has been concluded to the effect other than granting funding/a commitment to grant funding.

## 6. Submission of proposals

- 6.1 Proposals under the BEETHOVEN CLASSIC 3 are submitted in two electronic submission systems: ZSUN/OSF (Zintegrowany System Usług dla Nauki Obsługa Strumieni Finansowania), for proposals submitted to the NCN and ELAN (*DFG Electronic Proposal Processing System*) for proposals submitted to the DFG.
- 6.2 Polish applicants submit proposals with the NCN requesting the NCN's funding of the Polish part of the research project, together with required attachments by **17 December 2018**. The proposal must be submitted by means of the ZSUN/OSF system, through the website [www.osf.opi.org.pl](http://www.osf.opi.org.pl). Information required in the proposal and attachments is laid down in **annex 3** to this Resolution.
- 6.3 Proposals requesting NCN's funding of the Polish part of the research project submitted in the ZSUN/OSF system must be supported with:
- Joint Project Description (JPD), prepared according to the template given in **annex 4** to this Resolution;
  - CVs with a list of publications for both principal investigators and members of Polish and German research teams; in the case of work accepted for publication, the applicant must provide acceptance letters from publishers confirming that the work has been accepted for publication or quote the DOI (Digital Object Identifier);
  - in the case of applicants that do not receive any operating support grant from the budget for science – information concerning research conducted over the period of 2 years before submitting the proposal, together with a list of publications affiliated with the host institution as well as information about research equipment and other instrumentation/facilities crucial to scientific research;
  - in the case of applicants with the status of joint entities: a joint entity agreement;
  - confirmation of submitting the proposal.
- 6.4 A joint project description submitted under the BEETHOVEN CLASSIC 3 call can be attached to no more than one proposal requesting NCN's funding of the Polish part of the research project submitted in the ZSUN/OSF system.

6.5 German applicants must submit a complete set of documents required by the DFG in the DFG ELAN submission system through the website <http://elan.dfg.de> by **17 December 2018**.

## 7. Evaluation of proposals

7.1. Proposals submitted to the call are subject to an eligibility check and merit-based evaluation.

7.2. Eligibility check of proposals submitted to the DFG is subject to the DFG regulations.

7.3. The eligibility check at the NCN is carried out by NCN Scientific Coordinators.

7.4. Proposals may be rejected as ineligible also at a later stage of the evaluation procedure.

7.5. Eligibility check of proposals consists in:

- 1) verification of the proposal's completeness;
- 2) verification whether the proposal meets all terms set out in the call announcement;
- 3) verification whether the expenditures conform to the principles set out in **annex 2** to this Resolution;
- 4) verification whether the information included in the joint project description comply with the information included in the proposal requesting NCN's funding of the Polish part of the research project submitted in the ZSUN/OSF system.

7.6. The merit-based evaluation is open only to proposals evaluated positively at the stage of the eligibility check by both the NCN and the DFG.

7.7. Subject to the merit-based evaluation are joint Polish-German funding proposals, including the joint project descriptions (described in section 6(3)(a)) as well as CVs with lists of publications submitted by principal investigators and members of Polish and German research teams (described in section 6(3)(b)).

7.8. The merit-based evaluation of proposals is carried out by external reviewers who are not members of Expert Teams and Expert Teams whose members are jointly recommended by NCN and DFG and appointed according to the procedure laid down in section 8 of this Resolution.

7.9. Reviewers evaluating the proposals under the BEETHOVEN CLASSIC 3 call must comply with the rules laid down in the Code of Conduct of the Members of the Council and Experts of the National Science Centre [*Zasady etyczne członków Rady i ekspertów Narodowego Centrum Nauki*], set out in annex to NCN Council Resolution No 22/2017 of 9 February 2017 and Guidelines for Avoiding Conflict of Interests applicable to reviewers evaluating the proposals in the DFG calls. If one of the two documents sets out more stringent provisions, the reviewers must comply with that document.

7.10. The merit-based evaluation of proposals at the NCN is carried out in two stages:

- a) first stage – evaluation performed on the basis of information included in the joint Polish-German funding proposal submitted by at least two external reviewers identified by NCN and DFG who are not members of the Expert Team,



- b) second stage – evaluation performed during the meeting of the Expert Team consisting of members identified by NCN and DFG.
- 7.11. The evaluation of proposals takes the following into account:
- 1) fulfilling the criterion of basic research within the meaning of Article 2 (3)(a) of the Act of on the Principles of Funding Science of 30 April 2010;
  - 2) the research track record of the principal investigators and members of the Polish and German research teams, including publications in reputable academic journals;
  - 3) evaluation of the results of research projects conducted by the principal investigator and members of the Polish research team, funded from the budget for science and evaluation of the results of research projects conducted by the principal investigator and members of the German research team;
  - 4) quality of the planned research or project tasks;
  - 5) innovative nature of the research problem addressed;
  - 6) project's impact on the advancement of the scientific discipline;
  - 7) significance of international cooperation for the completion of the research project;
  - 8) relevance of the planned costs to the subject and scope of the research;
  - 9) feasibility of the project's completion.
- 7.12. Evaluation of proposals by the Expert Teams shall be guided by the following principles:
- 1) budget for the Polish part of the research project may not be modified;
  - 2) the proposal is evaluated pursuant to the criteria laid down in **annex 5** to this Resolution;
  - 3) the proposal is given a score, the function of which is advisory and constitutes a point of departure for a discussion of the final score;
  - 4) the decision of the Expert Team on the final score of a given proposal is based on its analysis and discussion of the legitimacy of funding the proposal against other proposals reviewed under the call;
  - 5) the final score of the proposal is its position on a ranking list established by the Expert Team;
  - 6) a proposal which, by a consulted decision of the Expert Team, has been given the score of zero or "no" in any one evaluation criterion may not be recommended for funding;
  - 7) a proposal which, by a consulted decision of the Expert Team, has been found to fail in any of the requirements set out in the call announcement may not be qualified for funding.
- 7.13. The Expert Team recommends for funding by the NCN proposals for which the sum of requested resources does not exceed the allocation set by the NCN Council for a call under particular disciplines or groups of disciplines.
- 7.14. The Expert Team may conditionally recommend for funding in a given call one proposal which is only partially within the limit of resources allocated for the



same call under particular disciplines or groups of disciplines. In such cases the final decision is made by the NCN Director.

## 8. Selection of the Expert Team

- 8.1. Pursuant to art. 18 (7) of the Act on the National Science Centre of 30 April 2010, the NCN Council selects the members of the Expert Teams to carry out the evaluation of the funding proposals for Polish-German research projects submitted under the BEETHOVEN CLASSIC 3 call.
- 8.2. In the selection process, the NCN Council shall be guided by the following principles:
  - 1) candidates shall be selected from amongst eminent researchers at home and abroad, including former awardees of the National Science Centre's calls, with regard to their research achievements and experience in evaluating research projects at home and abroad as well as experience in implementation of research projects funded on a competitive basis at home and abroad;
  - 2) evaluation of candidates shall be based on the information included in available bibliometric sources for tracking researchers' achievements, predominantly the Web of Science as well as Scopus and other sources specific to the nature of the respective research domains, as well as in available listings of individuals granted financial resources in concluded calls for research proposals at home and abroad.
- 8.3. The members of the Expert Teams are selected in accordance with rules set out in the document "National Science Centre Expert Teams – establishing and operating procedures" [*Zespoły Ekspertów Narodowego Centrum Nauki – zasady tworzenia i powoływania*] which constitutes an annex to NCN Council Resolution No 26/2018 of 8 March 2018, and in the "Code of Conduct of the Members of the Council and Experts of the National Science Centre" [*Zasady etyczne członków Rady i ekspertów Narodowego Centrum Nauki*] which forms an annex to NCN Council Resolution No 22/2017 of 9 February 2017.

## 9. Funding decision

- 9.1 The call will be concluded and its results published by the end of October 2019.
- 9.2 The call results will be available in the ZSUN/OSF system and will also be communicated by an electronically delivered decision of the NCN Director.
- 9.3 If the decision is not collected in the electronic form, the decision of the NCN Director is considered to have been delivered within 14 days of the date of being made available.
- 9.4 In the event of a breach of the call procedure or other formal infringements with regard to any activities conducted at the NCN, the applicant may appeal the decision of the Director of the National Science Centre to the Committee of Appeals of the Council of the National Science Centre within 14 days of the decision's delivery.

- 9.5 The Committee of Appeals of the Council of the National Science Centre passes judgement in the case of the appeal no later than 3 months from lodging the appeal.
- 9.6 Should the Committee of Appeals of the National Science Centre consider an appeal as legitimate, the decision on awarding funding for the implementation of a research project carried out by a Polish research team may be passed on the condition that the DFG award funding for the implementation of the research project carried out by the peer German research team.
- 9.7 The decision referred to in point 9.6 has no legal or financial consequences for the other applicants whose proposals have been qualified for funding in the call, even if the sum of resources available for the call had been previously depleted.

## 10. Mode of funding

- 10.1 The research project carried out by a Polish research team must begin on 15 January 2020 at the earliest and on 31 August 2020 at the latest.
- 10.2 The funding allocated for Polish research teams to carry out projects approved for funding following conclusion of the call is awarded pursuant to a decision of the NCN Director. Financial resources for the completion of the research tasks carried out by German research teams approved for funding are granted by the DFG Grant Committee.
- 10.3. The funding is transferred to the applicant pursuant to a funding agreement, concluded between the NCN Director, the applicant and the project's principal investigator.

## 11. Call budget

The Council of the National Science Centre establishes the amount of financial resources allocated for the completion of the tasks carried out by Polish research teams under the BEETHOVEN CLASSIC 3 call for proposals as **PLN 30 million**.

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Chairman of the Council  
of the National Science Centre