

“BEETHOVEN CLASSIC 3”: Polish-German Funding Initiative

Call for proposals 2018-2019

1. Introduction

In order to strengthen international academic co-operation, wishing to fund high quality scientific research within their own countries, and conscious that some of the best research can be delivered by working with the best researchers internationally, NCN and DFG are announcing the third call for proposals within the joint funding scheme “Beethoven”. The initiative’s aims are to provide funding for integrated Polish-German research projects of outstanding scientific quality. It was launched in 2014, covering the Humanities and Social Sciences first and extended in 2016 to cover Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics (including Astronomy) and Materials Science. “Beethoven CLASSIC 3” is a continuation of that successful funding initiative.

The joint projects must be collaborative and conducted jointly by Polish and German teams, each led by a respective Principal Investigator. Projects must have, therefore, well-defined joint working programmes demonstrating clearly the added value of international collaboration. It is expected that each partner contributes substantially to the common project; this includes taking organisational responsibilities. The division of responsibilities should also be reflected in the amount of funds requested by each partner. Only proposals involving [basic research](#)¹ (knowledge-oriented research) may be submitted. The partner agencies will conduct a joint peer review and selection process. Funding will be distributed according to the funding rules of each individual agency.

Parallel to the “Beethoven CLASSIC 3”, a call for joint Polish-German proposals in Life Science entitled “Beethoven LIFE 1” is announced (for more information please refer to [NCN](#) and [DFG](#) websites). For transdisciplinary projects, the applicants need to decide which call matches their proposal best. As a general rule the proposals submitted to “Beethoven CLASSIC 3” cannot be shifted to “Beethoven LIFE 1” and vice versa. Applicants who are uncertain of whether their proposal would be eligible should contact the relevant agency for clarification.

¹ Basic research (knowledge oriented research) is defined as experimental or theoretical endeavours undertaken to gain new knowledge of the foundations of phenomena and observable facts, without any direct commercial use.

2. Disciplines covered

Researchers are invited to submit proposals in the following disciplines:

- All Humanities disciplines
- All Social Sciences disciplines

as well as most subjects that fall under the following disciplines:

- Chemistry
- Mathematics
- Physics (including Astronomy)
- Materials Science.

DFG: Proposals are accepted in the subjects 101-113, 301-312, 406 (please refer to [DFG's subject classification](#)). Proposals in the subjects 317-02, 410-01 are accepted if they have a clear humanities or social sciences focus. Applicants who wish to pursue a project which has a clear focus in the Social Sciences, Humanities, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics (including Astronomy) or Materials Science but falls in a different section of [DFG's subject classification](#) are advised to contact DFG well before the deadline.

NCN: Proposals are accepted in the subjects covered by the panels HS1, HS2, HS3, HS4, HS5, HS6 and ST1.1-1.14, ST1.16-1.17, ST2.1-2.9, ST2.11-2.12, ST2.14-2.18, ST3.1-3.18, ST4.1-4.17, ST5.1-5.24 and ST9.1.-9.18 (please refer to [NCN's panel list](#)).

3. Eligibility

- All projects must focus on **substantive basic research and feature an integrated work programme**. Scientific infrastructure or networking activities can only be funded within projects with a substantive research focus. Purchase of the infrastructure and research equipment cannot be the main aim of the project. As stand-alone projects, infrastructure or networking projects are not eligible for funding and will be rejected.
- **Joint proposals, including all budget items must conform to the respective national rules** relevant for each applicant. Applicants must note that NCN and DFG retain the right to reject proposals which fail to comply with the requirements set out in the guidelines published by both agencies. If a proposal is deemed ineligible by one national agency, the joint project

will also be rejected by the other agency. **No changes will be accepted after the deadline for submission.**

- Grants that are considered state aid will not be offered.
- If an **application has been submitted to any other call** or funding scheme of NCN, DFG or any other funding agency, this must be clearly stated in the proposal. Please also check the respective national agency's rules regarding submission of a project to more than one scheme.
- Joint proposals (consisting of Joint Project Description and CVs of the Principal Investigators and Co-Investigators together with publication lists) must be **written in English**.
- Joint Polish-German research projects may be funded **for a period of either 24 or 36 months**.
- Research teams that are carrying or have carried out a research project in "Beethoven 1" or "Beethoven 2" can apply for funding within Beethoven CLASSIC 3.

4. Applicants

Each joint research project must involve a Polish and a German research team. Each team must be led by one Principal Investigator (PI).

- The **DFG's eligibility rules** can be found in the 'Guidelines Research Grants Programme' (DFG form 50.01):

http://www.dfg.de/formulare/50_01/50_01_en.pdf

Cooperation with non-university research institutes: In the "Beethoven CLASSIC 3" funding scheme, research cooperation with the industrial sector is ruled out. German researchers from non-university research institutions who have to fulfil their duty to cooperate (Kooperationspflicht) may only submit proposals in cooperation with a partner from a German university. Your duty to cooperate is not considered fulfilled if you only cooperate with a Polish university partner. Please see the 'Guidelines on the Duty to Cooperate' (DFG form 55.01):

http://www.dfg.de/formulare/55_01/55_01_en.pdf

- The NCN's eligibility rules can be found in the the resolution No 82/2018 of Council of NCN of 06/09/2018.

The Polish PI must have at least a PhD degree when submitting a proposal.

Eligible Host Institutions in Poland: academic or research organisations, research consortia, research networks and units within institutions of higher education that do not constitute their basic administrative units, research centres of the Polish Academy of Sciences, academic research centres shared by higher education institutions, scientific libraries, other legal entities established in the territory of the Republic of Poland.

5. Budget and eligible costs

General requirements:

- All costs must be eligible according to the national eligibility requirements.
- The EUR budgets of the German and Polish teams, together with a detailed justification of all requested costs, must be included in the Joint Project Description (for this purpose, German applicants should fill out the sections: V.1 and V.3. of the JPD and Polish applicants: sections V.2. and V.3. of the JPD).
- Please note that since the Polish part of the project budget cannot be negotiated at any point after the submission of the proposal, an oversized budget may lead to the proposal's rejection.

Country specific requirements – Poland:

- Additionally, Polish applicants must provide the PLN budget in the ZSUN/OSF system.
- Expenses and the EUR costs of the project implemented by the Polish applicants provided in the Joint Project Description must equal the budget provided in the breakdown of project's costs in the ZSUN/OSF. Severe discrepancies between the EUR budgets in JPD and PLN budgets in ZSUN/OSF may lead to the rejection of the joint proposal.
- The EUR costs in the JPD must be calculated based on the EUR exchange rate as in the Annex no. 3 to the resolution No 82/2018 of Council of NCN of 06/09/2018 (namely: 1 EUR = 4,3218 PLN).
- The PLN costs in the ZSUN/OSF must be rounded down to total values and EUR costs in the JPD must be rounded down to two decimal places.

- The budget for the Polish part of the project must be at least 150,000 PLN; there is no maximum limit for the Polish part of the project.
- For detailed information please see “Information for Applicants”, which is available [here](#).

6. Submission of proposals

The joint proposals (consisting of the Joint Project Descriptions and the CVs together with publication lists) must be submitted online to both agencies’ respective submission systems, together with all necessary documents conforming to the formal requirements of the respective funding organisation set out in the call documentation.

Joint proposals submitted to both agencies must be identical; a project may be rejected if they differ.

The deadline for online submission in both submission systems is 17 December 2018, 23:59 CET. Proposals received after the deadline will not be eligible.

For German applicants:

- **DFG’s submission system ELAN can be found at <http://elan.dfg.de>.** Please select the appropriate call in the ELAN system, depending on the subject of your proposal:
 - “NCN - DFG 2019 Natural Sciences”: proposals in Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics and Material Sciences
 - “NCN - DFG 2019 Humanities and Social Sciences”: proposals in Humanities and Social Sciences
- **German applicants** are responsible for ensuring that they have an active ELAN account before the submission deadline. Please note that it takes up to five working days to set up an ELAN account.

For Polish applicants:

- NCN’s submission system ZSUN/OSF can be found at <https://osf.opi.org.pl>
- Information required in the proposal and the attachments to the application are set out in the Annex no. 3 to the Resolution No. 82/2018 of the Council of the NCN of 06/09/2018.
- Data included in the ZSUN/OSF system should be consistent with information included in the joint proposal.

7. Evaluation procedure

- 1) The applicants' and projects' eligibility will be checked by both NCN and DFG for the Polish and German sides, respectively. The merit-based evaluation is open only to proposals approved as eligible by both agencies.
- 2) As a general rule, in the first review stage, each proposal will be assessed by at least two external referees.
- 3) In the second review stage, each proposal will be evaluated by a joint expert panel. There will be separate panels for Humanities and Social Sciences and for Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics (including Astronomy) and Materials Science. The panels will consist of internationally recognised researchers from the relevant disciplines who are familiar with the two agencies' decision-making procedures.
- 4) The funding recommendations of the expert panels will be subject to approval by the agencies.

8. Evaluation criteria

All project proposals will be assessed against three sets of criteria: 1) qualification of the research team members; 2) academic merits of the research project; and 3) feasibility of the project.

1) Qualification of the research team members (40%)

- Research portfolio of the research team
- Relevant preliminary work
- Previous international cooperation

2) Academic merits of the research project (50%)

- Innovative nature of the project
- Impact of the research project on the academic discipline and international cooperation
- Scientific level of objectives and work programme
- Integrated approach of the project
- Added value of bilateral cooperation

3) Feasibility of the project (budget, research facilities and infrastructure) (10%)

- Feasibility of the project
- Appropriateness of project's budget

9. Tentative Timeline

14 September 2018	Launch of the call for proposals
17 December 2018	Submission deadline
December 2018-January 2019	Eligibility check
February-July 2019	Peer-review
Beginning of October 2019	Announcement of the results
From January 2020 on	Start of joint research projects

10. Call documents

- 1) *Call Text (this document)*
- 2) *Joint Project Description Template*
- 3) *Information for Applicants*
- 4) *Evaluation Sheet for Reviewers*

For Polish applicants only: call documentation for Polish applicants available [here](#)

For German applicants only: call documentation for German applicants available here:

- [Beethoven CLASSIC 3 Call Text](#) (this document)
- [Beethoven CLASSIC 3 Joint Project Description Template](#)
- [Beethoven CLASSIC 3 Information for Applicants](#)
- [Beethoven CLASSIC 3 Reviewer Evaluation Sheet](#)

11. Contact

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