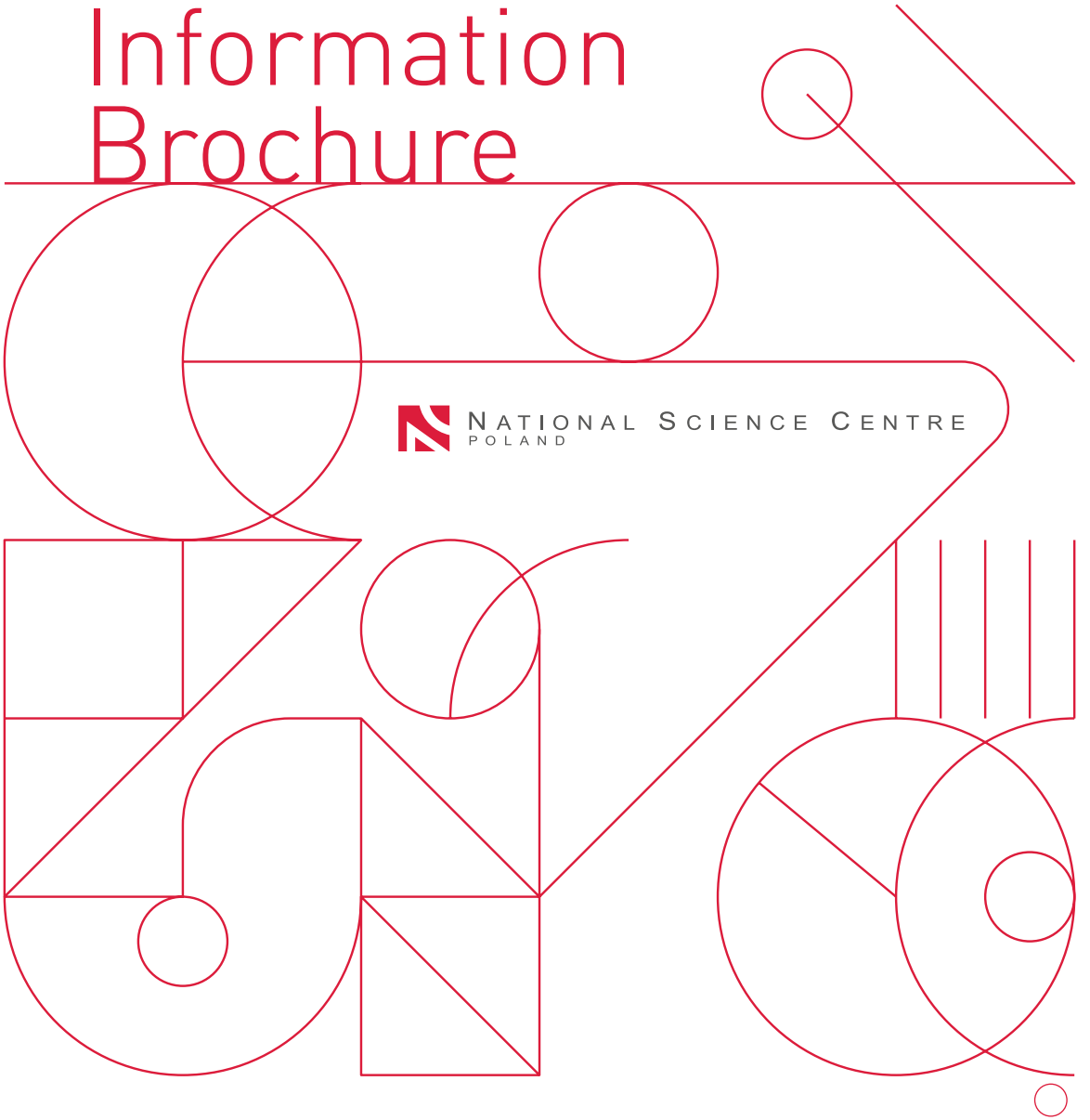
Information Brochure



NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE
POLAND

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National Science Centre

The National Science Centre (NCN) is a government executive agency established to support basic research, i.e. experimental or theoretical work undertaken primarily to acquire new knowledge of the underlying foundations of phenomena and observable facts, without any direct commercial application or use in view. The mission of the NCN is to boost the quality and efficiency of Polish research thanks to a competitive grant system and to promote its growing importance on the international stage. Thus, the NCN publishes regular calls for research projects and research activities. For 2025, it has a budget of almost PLN 1.7 billion slated to fund basic research.

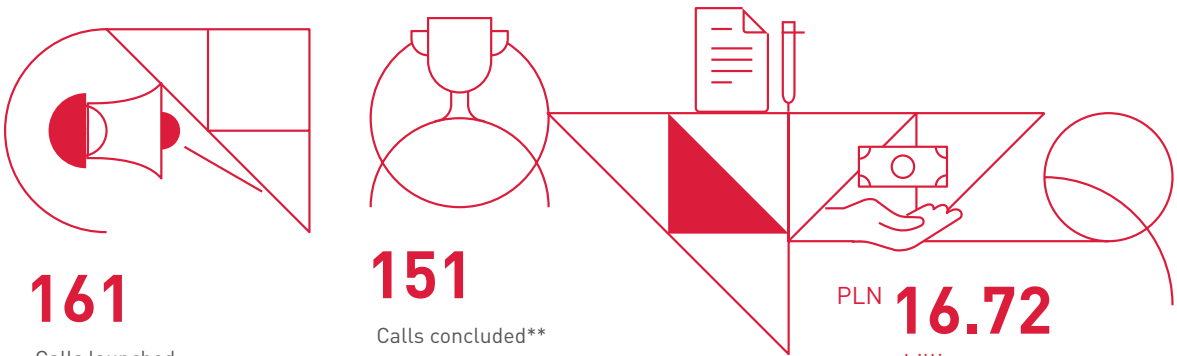
The Act on the National Science Centre of 30 April 2010 came into force on 1 October 2010. The NCN officially started to operate on 4 March 2011, and the first calls were announced within the next three weeks. The NCN is supervised by the Minister of Science and the calls are designed by a Council composed of twenty-four distinguished researchers. The Office of the NCN is managed by the Director.

Furthermore, the National Science Centre funds basic research proposals submitted in cooperation with foreign institutions that support science, coordinates the European Partnership on Social Transformations and Resilience which is being formed within the framework of the EU R&I programme, the QuantERA and CHANSE networks with the support of the EU funds under Horizon 2020, and the European Biodiversity Partnership (Biodiversa+) co-funded by the European Commission. Furthermore, the NCN operates the "Research" programme within the framework of the EEA and Norway Grants.

NCN in Figures

March 2011 – December 2024

Domestic Calls*



161

Calls launched

151

Calls concluded**

31,131

Number of grants awarded

PLN **16.72**

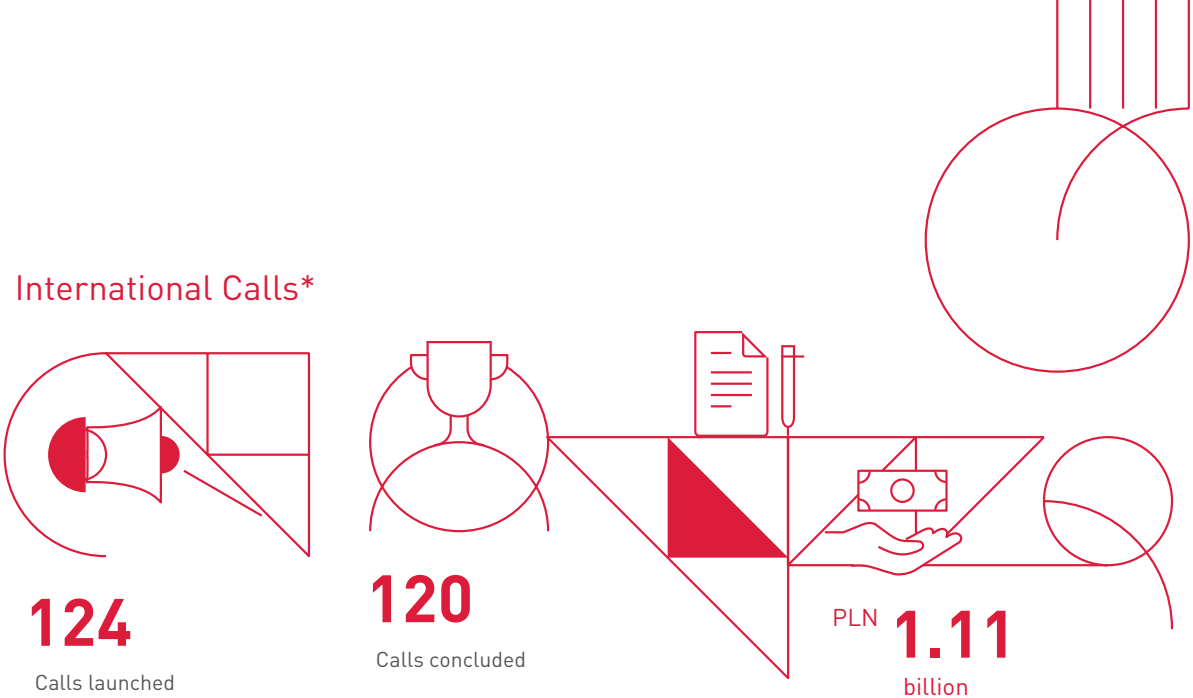
billion

Funds awarded

* Information on domestic calls currently offered, suspended, the express call to fund research into COVID-19, the special scheme for Ukrainian researchers and the LAP track in OPUS call for proposals. The number and amount of funds includes grants awarded following an appeal, according to the state of affairs as at the end of 2024.

** The figure does not include the TANGO calls concluded by the National Centre for Research and Development.

International Calls*



124
Calls launched

120
Calls concluded

997
Number of grants awarded

PLN **1.11** billion
Funds awarded**

* The data corresponds to bilateral and multilateral calls organised within the framework of international cooperation, the POLONEZ and POLONEZ BIS calls co-funded within the Horizon 2020 EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation under the "Marie Skłodowska-Curie" grant agreements No 665778 and No 945339, calls within the framework of the EEA and Norway Grants including the special scheme for Ukrainian researchers, calls launched jointly with the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA), Dioscuri and ARTIQ call. Weave-UNISONO and IMPRESS-U are carried out on an ongoing basis and as such are not included in the number of concluded calls, although grants awarded thereunder are reflected in the total number of awarded grants and total amount of allocated funding.

** The figure includes the contribution of the NCN, the funds provided by the European Commission and grants awarded under the Dioscuri call. The figure includes funding awarded pursuant to the decision, without withdrawals and appeals.

Organisational Structure

NCN Director

The Director manages the National Science Centre, supervises its tasks and financial management and represents it to the outside world.

NCN MANAGEMENT

NCN Council

The Council of the National Science Centre is made up of twenty-four scholars from various disciplines, who define the priority areas of basic research in accordance with the state's development strategy, lay down the terms and conditions for calls for research proposals, allocate funding and publish calls for doctoral scholarships and postdoctoral fellowships. Furthermore, the Council appoints members of Expert Teams that evaluate research proposals.

NCN COUNCIL MEMBERS

NCN Coordinators

Coordinators organise the efforts of Expert Teams and conduct calls for research proposals and single research activities, making sure that the peer review process is correct, impartial and fair. They must be at least PhD holders and are selected in open calls. Coordinators work in three research areas: Humanities, Social Sciences and Art Sciences, Physical Sciences and Engineering, and Life Sciences.

NCN
COORDINATORS

NCN Office

Made up of several divisions and more than ten teams, the NCN Office is the administrative core of the Centre, responsible for delivering information to applicants, providing ongoing support for current calls and organising Expert Team meetings. The Office staff is also the first line of support to grant recipients who carry out the projects. It handles the process of signing grant agreements, oversees their implementation and initiates international funding cooperation.

CONTACT
NCN OFFICERS

NCN Calls

The National Science Centre supports basic research conducted within the framework of research projects and research activities selected in a competitive procedure. Calls for proposals are open to all, Polish and foreign researchers irrespective of their age or experience. The call documents are always available in English and only certain parts of the proposal form must be completed in Polish.

The call portfolio includes domestic calls, as well as international calls launched by the NCN in bilateral or multilateral cooperation with foreign research funding agencies and a number of multilateral programmes launched by the international consortia, partnerships and networks (e.g., ERA-NET) that include the National Science Centre as its member.

Proposals may be submitted in three research areas:

Humanities, Social Sciences and Art Sciences

Physical Sciences and Engineering

Life Sciences

Researchers may submit proposals on behalf of their employing organisations (e.g., universities, institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences, research institutes) or may apply individually. Most funding schemes provide resources for the purchase of research equipment, with the exception of large research infrastructure. Proposals must be drafted in accordance with the call guidelines and submitted to the NCN electronically via the OSF submission system before the submission deadline.

Funding is awarded to the best basic research projects conducted by principal investigators capable of demonstrating required research experience and skills.

Domestic

REGULAR

NCN-funded calls for research proposals and research activities, launched in accordance with the call schedule once or twice per year, targeted at various groups of researchers:

MINIATURA

SONATA BIS

PRELUDIUM

OPUS

SONATINA

MAESTRO

SONATA

IN COOPERATION WITH THE POLISH NATIONAL AGENCY FOR ACADEMIC EXCHANGE NAWA

- NAWA POLISH RETURNS

International

BILATERAL

Calls launched in cooperation with foreign research funding institutions and organisations

SHENG

DAINA

WEAVE PROGRAMME

Calls for international research projects in all academic disciplines, launched by the NCN in collaboration with foreign research funding agencies pursuant to the Lead Agency Procedure (LAP):

- WEAVE-UNISONO
- OPUS + LAP/Weave

MULTILATERAL

Calls for international research projects, funded from the EU Framework Programme, launched by the NCN in cooperation with the foreign research funding agencies (e.g., ERA-NET Co-fund financed from the "Horizon 2020" EU Framework Programme).

Domestic Calls

The terms and conditions of each programme may vary between different editions. The latest information on the calls is published on www.ncn.gov.pl.

PRELUDIUM

A call for research projects carried out by researchers without a PhD degree. Projects funded under the PRELUDIUM scheme may take anywhere between one and three years to complete and are supervised by thesis supervisors or academic tutors. The subject of research does not have to be related to the applicant's doctoral dissertation.

SONATINA

A call targeted at researchers who earned their PhD within 3 years prior to the proposal submission date. The grant includes full-time employment as a researcher and provides funds for the completion of a research project at the host institution, as well as a 3-6 month fellowship at a foreign research institution.

SONATA

A call for research projects carried out by researchers with a PhD degree. The objective of the call is to support principal investigators in innovative basic research, including the use of cutting-edge research equipment and/or methodology. The call is open to researchers who earned their PhD between 2 and 7 years prior to the proposal submission date.

SONATA BIS

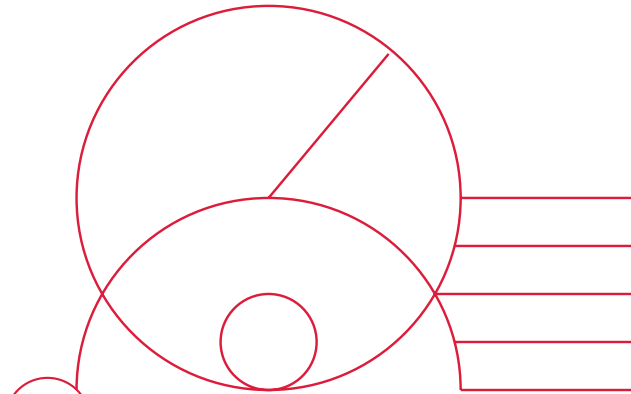
A call for research projects that aim to establish a new research team, carried out by researchers with a PhD or higher degree, who earned their PhD between 5 and 12 years prior to the proposal submission date. The call is open to outstanding early-stage researchers intending to establish their own research teams to conduct particularly innovative research projects.

MINIATURA

A call for research activities (carried out in the form of preliminary studies, library and archive searches or research visits) aimed at supporting researchers in applying for funding of their research projects to the NCN. The call is open to researchers with a PhD degree conferred within 12 years prior to the proposal submission date, who have not acted as the principal investigator in any research project and are not winning applicants of any NCN-funded call for doctoral scholarships or fellowships. Researchers applying for funding must be employed by the applicant pursuant to an employment contract on the proposal submission date. Proposals may cover NCN mentoring, whereby NCN mentors provide their guidance on drafting funding proposals submitted to NCN calls.

MAESTRO

A call targeted at experienced researchers intending to conduct pioneering research projects, often with an interdisciplinary perspective, which are essential for scientific progress, expand the current state of knowledge and may likely lead to significant scientific discoveries. The call is open to researchers with a PhD degree or higher, who have published at least 5 papers in renowned academic press/journals and coordinated at least two research projects selected in a call for proposals within 10 years prior to the proposal submission date.



OPUS

A call for research proposals open to all researchers irrespective of research experience. The projects may be carried out by the principal investigator alone or by research teams including an adequate number of assistant researchers.

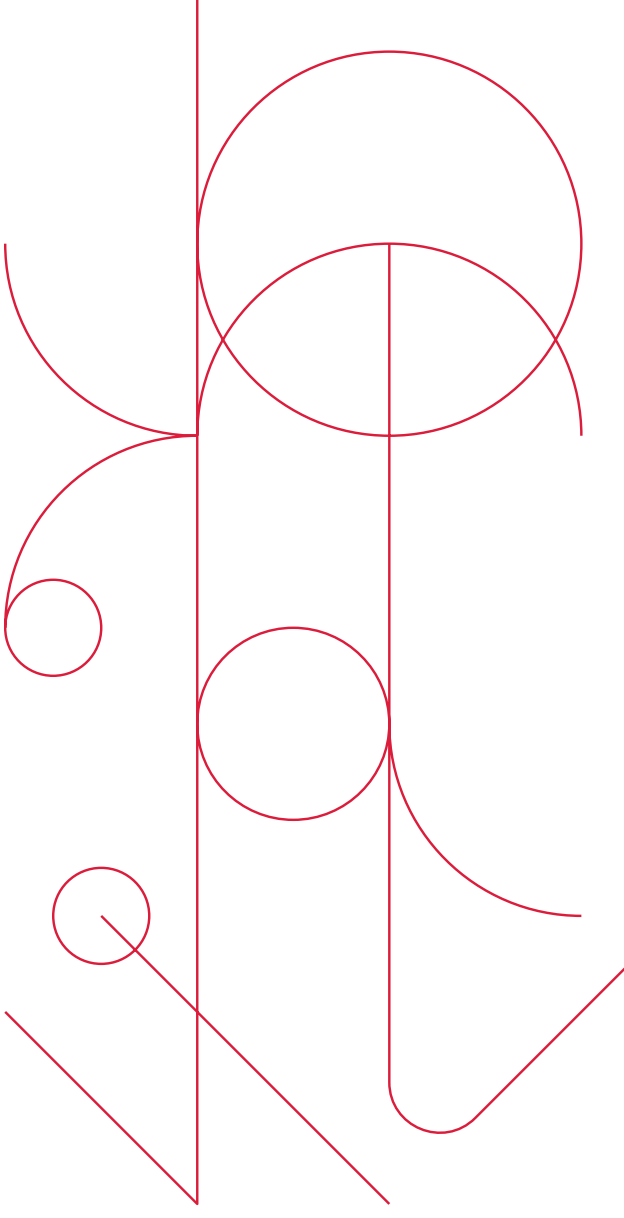
In September 2025, we are launching the so-called OPUS + LAP/Weave call for research projects carried out by research teams from Poland in cooperation with their partners from the Czech Republic, Austria, Slovenia, Switzerland, Germany, Luxembourg and Belgium-Flanders, whose tasks are funded by the partner agencies of the National Science Centre based on the recommendations of the latter in its capacity as Lead Agency in charge of the merit-based evaluation of proposals.

CALLS LAUNCHED IN COOPERATION WITH THE POLISH NATIONAL AGENCY FOR ACADEMIC EXCHANGE

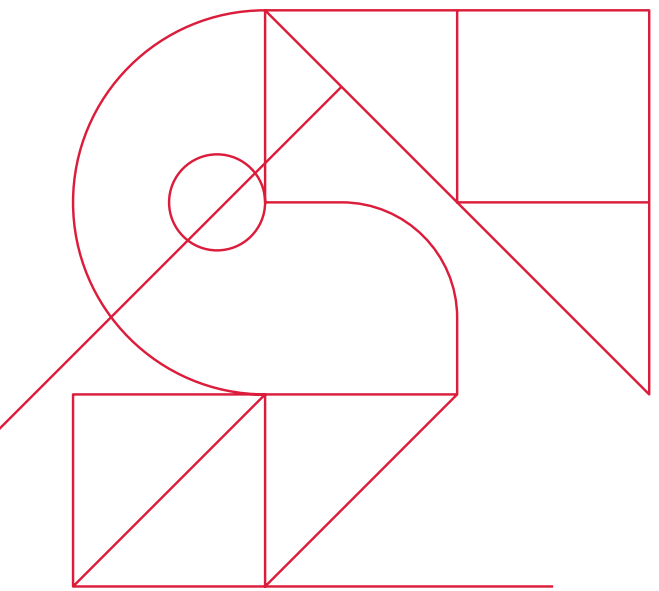
The National Science Centre organises programmes in cooperation with Polish research funding institutions.

The NCN cooperates with the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA) within the framework of the NAWA Polish Returns call targeted at Polish researchers working abroad, who wish to return to Poland and work in Polish research centres.

Under the schemes, the NAWA covers the costs of employment of researchers and project team members, their adaptation, workplace organisation and relocation to Poland. The NCN funds the so-called research components carried out in the first 18 months following the project's start date. The funding covers basic research that can be continued within the framework of larger research projects.



International Collaboration



Ever since its inception, the National Science Centre has collaborated with foreign research funding organisations to launch joint calls for international proposals. The National Science Centre also cooperates with other agencies, with the aim of developing European research policy by participating in the operations of Science Europe or Coordination and Support Actions.

Each year, the National Science Centre launches multilateral calls carried out jointly with foreign research funding agencies under multilateral networks to support particular academic disciplines. The National Science Centre is a programme coordinator of QuantERA in the field of Quantum Technologies and CHANSE in the field of Humanities and Social Sciences. The NCN also operates the POLONEZ BIS scheme to support incoming researchers with the support of Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions COFUND (MSCA).

International Networks Engaging the National Science Centre

Name	Number of Organisations	Number of Countries	Research Area Supported by the Network
Biodiversa+	83	41	Conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity
OHAMR	50	28	Antimicrobial resistance
M-ERA.NET	49	35	Materials science and engineering, low carbon energy technologies and materials for future batteries technologies supporting the European Green Deal
QuantERA	41	31	Quantum technologies
Trans-Atlantic Platform (T-AP)	16	12	Humanities and Social Sciences
LUKE	20	13	Unlocking and strengthening Ukrainian research capacity
WEAVE	12 (NCN – cooperation with 7 agencies)	12 (NCN – cooperation with 6 countries)	All research areas
NSF-CEUS	6	6	Mathematical sciences

International Networks Coordinated by the National Science Centre

The QuantERA programme associates research--funding agencies from 30 countries, creating one of the largest networks supporting the development of quantum technologies in Europe and beyond. QuantERA is highly regarded by its partners, the European Commission and scientific environment, which is why it has already been launched three times.

The network organises calls for research projects launched every two years (since 2017) and carried out by international research consortia. In the four QuantERA calls organised to date, 101 research projects have been implemented by 541 research teams, including 38 teams from Poland.

The Collaboration of Humanities and Social Sciences in Europe (CHANSE) is an ERA-Net Co-fund programme which was created as a result of cooperation between the HERA and NORFACE networks to support research in humanities and social sciences.

CHANSE's goal is to finance high-quality international research projects and inspire collaboration between researchers and various stakeholder groups, e.g., NGOs, cultural institutions, legislators, policymakers, schools, etc. The programme explores new opportunities for international research cooperation and delivers a broad range of academic, societal and economic impacts within, across and beyond the partner countries.

In three CHANSE calls, funding has been awarded to 46 projects, including 18 projects involving Polish researchers. 225 research teams from various countries have participated in the CHANSE-funded research projects.

QuantERA and CHANSE are funded by the European Commission under the EU Framework Programme Horizon 2020.

Other International Programmes

The NCN is the national coordinator of the European Biodiversity Partnership: Rescuing Biodiversity to Safeguard Life on Earth (Biodiversa+). It is a European platform for national and regional research and innovation programmes aimed at protecting and enhancing biodiversity.

Biodiversa+ aims to connect science, policy and practice for transformative changes and is a part of the European Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. The Biodiversa+ partnership has launched 4 calls for international research projects in which funding has been awarded to 103 projects, including 14 with Polish participation.

Biodiversa+ was funded by the European Commission under Horizon Europe – EU's funding programme for research and innovation.

The National Science Centre participates in programmes carried out pursuant to the Lead Agency Procedure (LAP) based on domestic calls launched by each participating institution in order to evaluate international research projects. Funding proposals for bilateral or trilateral research projects in all academic disciplines are subject to merit-based evaluation by the Lead Agency, i.e. the agency selected in the call and competent for one of the research teams participating in the call. Proposals are evaluated alongside other proposals submitted to the call, including domestic ones.

Under the Weave programme, the National Science Centre cooperates with the partner agencies from Austria (Austrian Science Fund, FWF), the Czech Republic (Czech Science Foundation, GACR), Slovenia (Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency, ARIS), Switzerland (Swiss National Science Foundation, SNSF), Germany (German Research Foundation, DFG), Luxembourg (*Luxembourg National Research Fund*, FNR) and Belgium-Flanders (Research Foundation – Flanders, FWO). The Weave programme was created with the support of Science Europe.

Bilateral or trilateral proposals in all academic disciplines can be submitted to the NCN under two calls within the framework of the Weave Programme, depending on the institution in the capacity of the Lead Agency (foreign partner institution or NCN):

- Weave-UNISONO for NCN proposals, for which joint proposals will be submitted to and evaluated by the foreign partner institutions acting as the Lead Agency (FWF, GACR, ARIS, SNSF, DFG, FNR or FWO); the call was announced on 4 January 2021;
- OPUS, launched in the autumn, for proposals for research projects carried out within the Weave cooperation and evaluated by the NCN as the Lead Agency.

COLLABORATION WITH THE US NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION UNDER THE NSF-CEUS CALL

Mathematicians can take part in a new call launched in 2025 carried out in collaboration with the National Science Foundation (NSF) and research funding agencies associated in the Central European Science Partnership (CEUS), including agencies from Poland (NCN), Austria (FWF), Czechia (GAČR), Slovenia (ARIS) and Hungary (MTA). The call is open to bilateral and trilateral proposals that undergo a merit-based evaluation by the National Science Foundation as the Lead Agency.

BILATERAL COOPERATION

The National Science Centre launches regular calls for bilateral cooperation with the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and the Research Council of Lithuania (LMT).

4 Polish-Chinese SHENG calls for proposals have been launched since 2018, when the first one was organised. Every two years, a call is announced for selected panels in physical sciences and engineering as well as economic and related sciences, followed by a call for other panels of physical sciences, life sciences and selected panels of psychology and social sciences. Proposals undergo a merit-based evaluation performed by the NCN and the NSFC acting independently, and successful proposals are recommended for funding.

Calls for proposals under the Polish-Lithuanian DAINA programme are open to proposals covering all research domains. 3 calls for proposals have been launched by the NCN and the LMT since 2017.

EEA AND NORWAY GRANTS 2021-2028

In the fourth edition of the EEA and Norway Grants 2021-2028, the NCN is the operator of the Basic Research Programme which supports basic research in all research domains, structured around three overreaching priorities: green transition, democracy, rule of law and human rights, and social inclusion and resilience. The programme supports research in social sciences and humanities, polar research as well as interdisciplinary and cross-domain cooperation. A major emphasis is also placed on the development of research cooperation with entities from Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein.

The future calls and initiatives:

- **GRIEG BIS Call** for bilateral or multilateral research projects in all research domains covered by the NCN panels;
- **SYMFONIA BIS Call** for interdisciplinary research projects carried out in bilateral or multilateral collaboration. Funding will be awarded to projects combining humanities and social sciences with life sciences and physical sciences and engineering, including projects to apply modern AI big data analytics tools;
- **Pre-Defined Polar Research Project**
- **Scholarship Programme for Early-Career Researchers** targeted at scientists working at the Polish academic institutions or intending to relocate to Poland.

Under GRIEG BIS and SYMFONIA BIS, the NCN will support actions aimed to strengthen the synergy with the EU framework programmes and research initiatives carried out in other beneficiary countries of EEA and Norway Funds.

FULBRIGHT SENIOR AWARD – RESEARCH COMPONENT

The Fulbright Senior Award is organised by the Polish-American Fulbright Committee. Fulbright Senior Award fellows can continue cooperation with US researchers upon their return to Poland, owing to the NCN funding. Applicants submitting basic research projects to the Fulbright Senior Award can request funding of the so-called "research component" once they finish their Fulbright fellowship and return to their home institutions. In performing a research component, scientists can continue cooperation with their US partners in the form of joint visits, visits to the partner institutions, hosting their representatives, promoting projects and their results, etc.

DIOSCURI

DIOSCURI is a programme devised by the Max Planck Society and the National Science Centre to establish and monitor Centres of Scientific Excellence in Poland. The programme promotes balanced distribution of scientific excellence in the European Economic Area.

In the four calls completed to date, eight Dioscuri Centres have been established at the Polish host institutions with different specialisation. Each Centre cooperates with the German research partner and is financed by the National Science Centre through funding provided by Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. Leaders of the Dioscuri Centres of Scientific Excellence establish new competitive research teams in the host institutions and secure research funding within their Centres.

EUROPEAN OPEN SCIENCE CLOUD PARTNERSHIP

The EOSC Partnership has been established under Horizon Europe and aims to develop and implement the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC). The Partnership involves cooperation between the European Commission and research entities, research funding agencies and organisations involved in research infrastructure and data represented by the EOSC Association. In Poland, the EOSC Partnership is coordinated by the National Science Centre as the Polish mandated organisation in the EOSC. The NCN coordinates the Polish EOSC-related operations, including involvement of stakeholders and implementation of projects fostering open science. Furthermore, Polish representatives participate in the work of the EOSC Steering Board comprising experts from the European Commission that coordinates open science efforts across the governments of the Member States.

The key objectives of the EOSC Partnerhsip:

- setting up a federation of research data infrastructures across Europe;
- setting up a 'web of FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) data and services';
- supporting open science by developing tools and services for resarchers; and
- making coherent policies to manage and reuse data.

EOSC FOCUS

EOSC Focus is a project fostering the EOSC Partnership in delivering its mission of establishing Open Science as the "new normal." The project funded under the Horizon Europe programme was performed between 1 June 2022 and 31 May 2025 to support the development and coordination of activities of the EOSC Partnership and EOSC Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda. Under EOSC Focus, the NCN monitors progress, identifies strategic gaps and develops resourcing models for a sustainable EOSC. The project also offers implementation of participation rules and cooperation with other international initiatives. The Project Consortium, coordinated by the EOSC Association, comprises institutions from Belgium, Austria, Poland, the Netherlands, Spain and Finland. The NCN is the leader in charge of monitoring and evaluation of EOSC activities, as well as coordination of collaboration under the regional EOSC-hub including Central and Eastern European Countries.

In 2024, the NCN received funding for EOSC Gravity to support the transition of the EOSC into its new governance and funding network. The project will enable activities initiated under EOSC Focus to be continued and will create new possibilities to involve EOSC stakeholders.

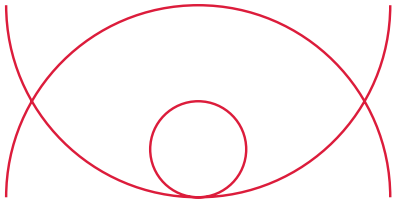
Social Transformations and Resilience Partnership

In 2025, the National Science Centre was appointed coordinator of the European Partnership on Social Transformations and Resilience (STR). The purpose of the STR Partnership is to address critical societal challenges, including climate change, demography shifts, digitalisation and unexpected shocks, development of knowledge and tools to address contemporary social challenges in a collaborative, inter- and trans-disciplinary and systematic way. The STR Partnership will foster evidence-based policy in four impact areas:

- supporting the modernisation of social protection systems and essential services,
- shaping the future of work,
- fostering education and skills development, and
- contributing to a fair transition to climate neutrality.

The STR Partnership will launch calls for international research projects in its four impact areas, and will prepare, test and apply tools and policies strengthening countries' resilience to disasters and social challenges.

NCN Experts



NCN experts specialise in their respective fields and are engaged in reliable, comprehensive and impartial evaluation of proposals submitted to NCN calls and reports on the implementation of NCN grants pursuant to the applicable rules and regulations adopted by the NCN Council. NCN experts must use their skills, experience and knowledge in any actions and evaluations they carry out.

Funding proposals submitted to the NCN are evaluated by Polish and foreign experts' reviewers who are appointed based on their scientific excellence and no conflict of interest.

Experts invited to evaluate proposals and projects funded by the National Science Centre:

1. **Expert Team Members**, i.e., a group of experts selected by the NCN Council from among prominent researchers and appointed by the NCN Director to evaluate proposals in a given discipline or groups of disciplines. They evaluate proposals at the first stage of evaluation, discuss their joint reviews of each proposal at meetings and jointly decide on the future of the proposals, e.g. whether or not a proposal will be recommended for funding;
2. **External Experts**, i.e., experts performing individual reviews at the second stage of evaluation;
3. **Members who are not Team Members**, i.e. experts evaluating the reports on the implementation of grants awarded by the NCN.

NCN experts must be driven by actions aimed at promoting the development of Polish science and support research that deserves promotion and financial support within their competencies. They perform their tasks in compliance with strict confidentiality provisions as regards the evaluation procedure, evaluation alone as well as evaluators. They must adhere to the ethical rules adopted by the NCN Council.

In 2024

2,132

Expert Team members were appointed

1 STAGE

who reviewed a total number of almost

10.3 thousand

proposals at the first stage of evaluation

2 STAGE

almost

6.7 thousand

external experts participated in the second stage of evaluation

delivering over

8.6 thousand

reviews

The percentage of foreign reviews was over

99%

Proposal Evaluation Procedure

The objective of the National Science Centre is to grant funding to top research projects selected through a two-stage peer review process. The NCN Council generally reviews, in carefully considered proportion, both the quality of the project as such, and the achievements of the researchers involved.

The review procedure begins with an eligibility check performed by NCN Coordinators, which involves checking the completeness and correctness of the submission. The proposals then undergo a two-stage merit-based evaluation by dedicated Expert Teams.

STAGE 1

The proposals are first reviewed by experts working independently. Individual reviews serve as a point of departure for debate during the first panel session. The decision to reject or approve the proposal is taken collectively by the team as a whole. Subsequently, the members prepare a shortlist of projects admitted to stage two or a list of projects recommended for funding in MINIATURA call (a single stage merit-based evaluation).

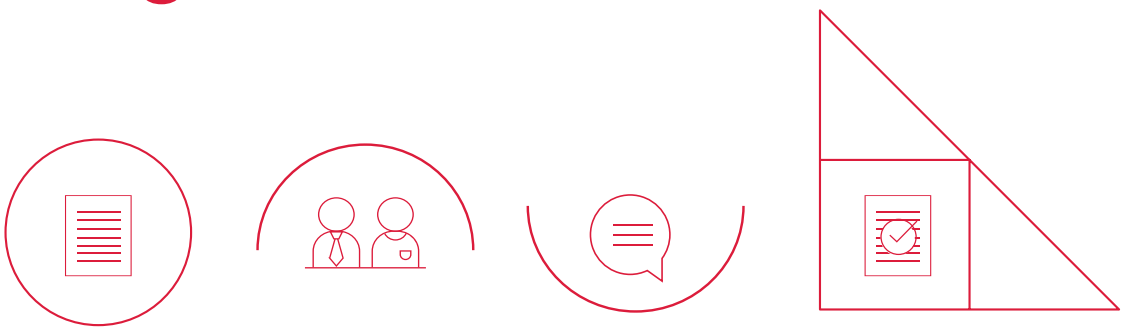
STAGE 2

Stage two may be conducted in one of two ways, depending on the type of call. Proposals submitted to the OPUS, PRELUDIUM, SONATINA, SONATA, SONATA BIS and MAESTRO calls are reviewed by at least two, often foreign, experts (reviewers), working independently, whose reviews are later discussed by the Expert Team during the second panel session. Reviewers are nominated by NCN coordinators, based on the recommendations of team members. The second stage of the review process in the SONATINA, SONATA BIS and MAESTRO also calls includes an interview with the principal investigator.

Expert Teams decide on the evaluation of proposals and compile ranking lists specifying proposals recommended for funding.

The procedure scheme presented on the following pages applies to most domestic calls from the NCN portfolio. Proposals in international calls are assessed based on separate principles described in dedicated call documents.

Proposal Evaluation Diagram



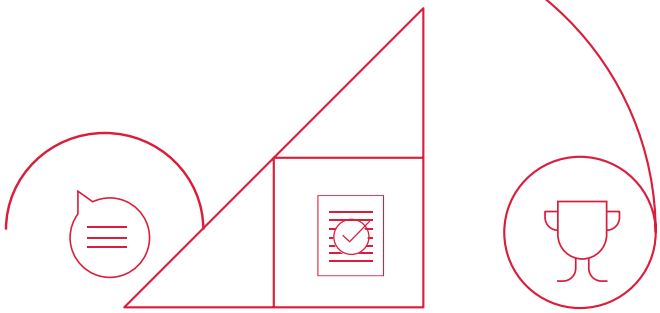
Eligibility check → Individual evaluations by members of the Expert Team → Recommendations agreed by the Expert Team → Proposals recommended for the second stage

MINIATURA

Proposals recommended for funding → Announcement of results

Proposals not recommended for the second stage → Refusals

STAGE I



SONATINA, SONATA BIS, MAESTRO
Evaluation by reviewers and interview with the principal investigator

OPUS, PRELUDIUM, SONATA
Evaluation by reviewers

Recommendations agreed by the Expert Team → Projects recommended for funding → Announcement of results

Proposals not recommended for funding → Refusals

STAGE 2

Timeline
of NCN Calls

Timeline of domestic calls: bilateral and based on the Lead Agency Procedure

Timeline of multilateral calls

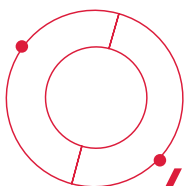
Equal Access
of Men and Women to Research Funding

The National Science Centre has prioritised equal access to research funding. The Gender Equality Plan was adopted in 2022, and information on gender participation in the grant system is published on a regular basis.

An analysis of gender participation in the grant system shows that female and male researchers submit funding proposals to the NCN with equal frequency. Between 2011 and 2024, over 29,600 female researchers and over 29,000 male researchers applied for NCN funding.

However, a slight difference in the success rate of grant applications (40% male researchers and 37% female researchers) might indicate that female researchers experience difficulties in accessing funding. We monitor any signals and provide support, where necessary.

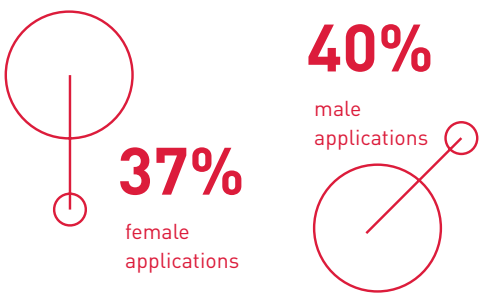
GRANT APPLICATIONS



50.5%
of applications
(29,600 female
applications)

49.5%
of applications
(29,000 male
applications)

SUCCESS RATE OF GRANT APPLICATIONS



37%
female
applications

40%
male
applications

Early-Stage Researchers

One of the priorities of the National Science Centre is to support the growth of early-stage researchers who have not yet earned their PhD, or have done so within the last 7 years. The PRELUDIUM, SONATINA, SONATA calls, under which they do not need to compete against more experienced researchers, are specifically designed for this group. In 2011-2024, a total of 70 calls addressed to early-stage researchers were announced.

NCN supports the development of early-stage researchers by funding their research projects. In NCN calls* concluded in 2024:

34% of the total funding awarded went to projects led by early--stage researchers,

51% of all proposals were proposals submitted to calls addressed to early-stage researchers and to other NCN calls where principal investigators met the definition of an early-stage researcher,

57% of projects recommended for funding were coordinated by early-stage researchers.

* Due to lack of data, the estimate does not include the TANGO call, calls launched with the NAWA, the EXPRESS CALL TO FUND RESEARCH ON COVID-19 as well as the special scheme for Ukrainian researchers.

2024 NCN Award

The NCN Award is a distinction for researchers with a PhD degree conferred within the past 12 years and significant research achievements evidenced by publications affiliated with Polish research institutions.

The award was founded by the Council of the National Science Centre in February 2013 and is bestowed by the NCN Director and Council in three research areas:

The NCN Award has been awarded twelve times. The 2024 NCN Award ceremony was held on 9 October 2024 in the Manggha Museum of Japanese Art and Technology.

Physical Sciences and Engineering

Humanities, Social Sciences and Art Sciences

Life Sciences

2024 NCN Award Winners

Wiktor Lewandowski
Winner in Physical Sciences and Engineering

Award-Winning Scientific Achievement:
breakthrough technique for the production of chiral photonic nanomaterials

Błażej Skrzypulec
Winner in Humanities, Social Sciences and Art Sciences

Award-Winning Scientific Achievement: research on the structural aspects of perceptual experience

Marcin Magierowski
Winner in Life Sciences

Award-Winning Scientific Achievement: carbon monoxide and hydrogen sulphide as key signal transducers in the pathogenesis and pharmacology of gastrointestinal lesions

Examples of Funded Projects

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Principal Investigator:

Marcin Poręba
Wrocław University of Science and Technology

Project Title: Dissecting Cancer Activome to Develop New Generation of Antibody-drug Conjugates

NCN Panel: NZ5

Call for Proposals: OPUS 20 launched on 15 September 2020

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Principal Investigator:

Karolina Zielińska-Dąbkowska
Gdańsk University of Technology

Project Title: Identification and Evaluation of Measurable Parameters of Visual and Non-visual Effects of Light

NCN Panel: NZ7

Call for Proposals: MINIATURA 4 launched on 1 June 2020

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Principal Investigator:

Marcin Brocki
Jagiellonian University

Project Title: Digital Aestheticization in/of Fragile Environments

NCN Panel: HS3

Call for Proposals: CHANSE launched on 9 March 2021

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Principal Investigator:

Marta Smolińska
Magdalena Abakanowicz University of the Arts Poznan

Project Title: The Borderland as Transition Space. Artistic and Curatorial Strategies on the Polish-German Border in the Context of Foreign Cultural Policies and Border Art (1989-2019)

NCN Panel: HS2

Call for Proposals: OPUS 16 launched on 14 September 2018

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Principal Investigator:

Paweł Ziółkowski
Gdańsk University of Technology

Project Title: Shape and Displacement Optimalization of Gold Nanorods in the Killing Chamber in Order to Phototermoablation Processes

NCN Panel: ST8

Call for Proposals: SONATA 17 launched on 15 September 2021

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Principal Investigator:

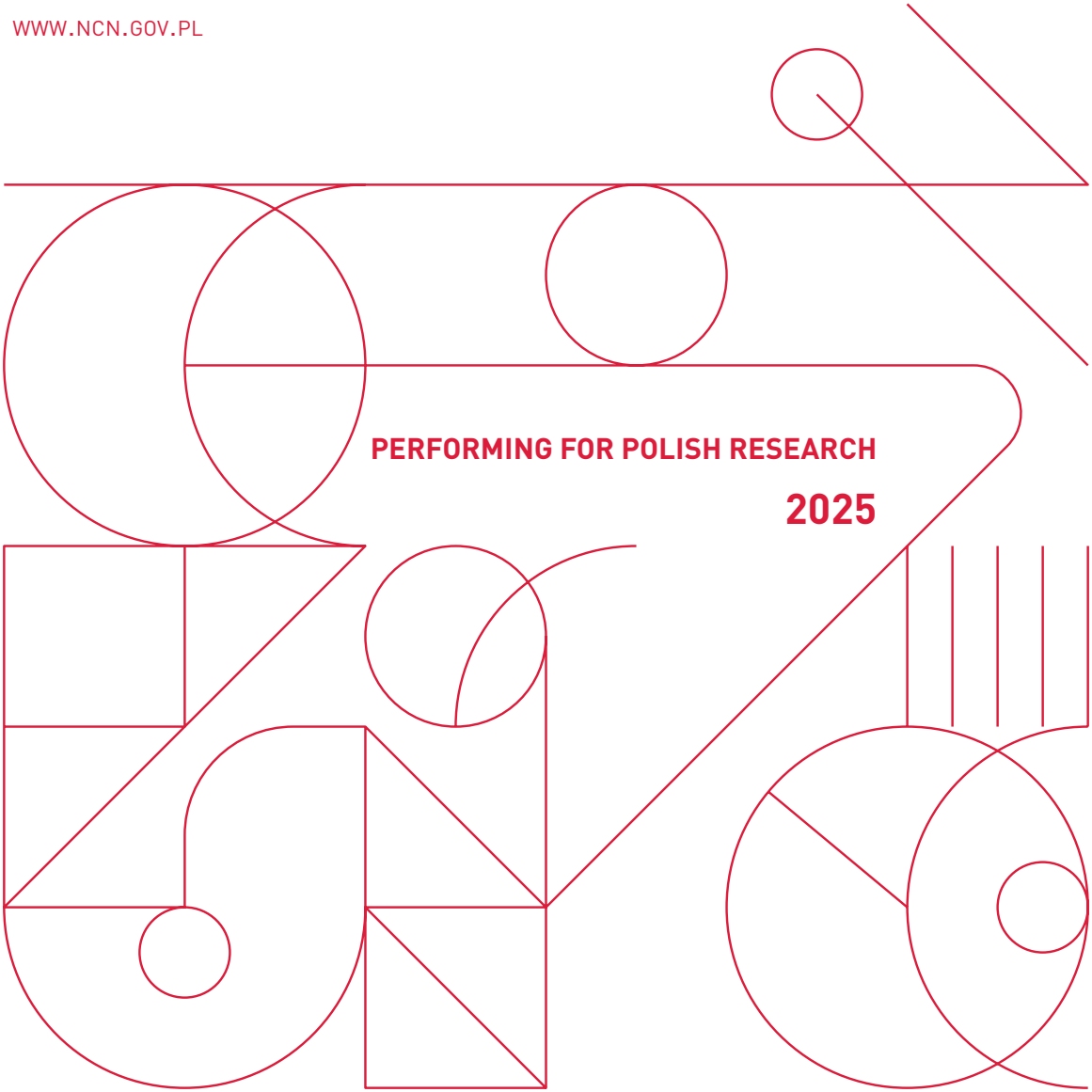
Agnieszka Janiuk
Centre for Theoretical Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences

Project Title: Dynamics of Processes Around Compact Stars

NCN Panel: ST9

Call for Proposals: MAESTRO 15 launched on 23 February 2024

WWW.NCN.GOV.PL



PERFORMING FOR POLISH RESEARCH

2025