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NARODOWE CENTRUM NAUKI

DAINA 3: Polish-Lithuanian Funding Initiative

2023 Call for Proposals

1. Introduction

The National Science Centre (NCN) and the Research Council of Lithuania (RCL) are launching the third call for proposals within the joint funding initiative DAINA. The purpose of DAINA is to provide funding for integrated Polish-Lithuanian research projects of outstanding scientific quality **in all research fields**.

The evaluation procedure comprises an eligibility check and merit based evaluation performed by the NCN and RCL acting jointly.

Funding will be distributed according to the funding rules of each agency.

The joint projects must be collaborative and conducted jointly by Polish and Lithuanian teams. Only [basic research](#)¹ proposals may be submitted.

2. Disciplines covered

Researchers are invited to submit proposals [in all research fields](#) covered by 26 NCN Review Panels.

3. Eligibility

- All projects must focus on **basic research and feature an integrated Polish-Lithuanian work programme**. Scientific infrastructure or networking activities can only be funded within projects with a substantive research focus. As stand-alone projects, projects involving the purchase or manufacturing of research infrastructure or networking projects will not be eligible.
- **Joint Polish-Lithuanian funding proposals, including all budget items must conform to the national rules**. The NCN and RCL may reject proposals that fail to comply with the eligibility criteria of one national agency. If a proposal is deemed ineligible by one national agency, it

¹ Basic 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.

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

- Grants that are considered state aid will not be offered.
- If a **proposal has been submitted to any other call** or programme funded by a research funding agency (including the NCN, RCL), this must be clearly stated in the proposal submitted to DAINA 3. Please also check the respective national agency's rules for submission of proposals to more than one scheme.
- A PI may submit only one proposal under the same call.
- Joint Polish-Lithuanian research projects may be carried out **for a period of 36 months**.
- It is recommended that Polish and Lithuanian projects start at the same time, within 2 months of the announcement of the call results.
- Research teams that (have) carried out a research project under DAINA 1 and DAINA 2 can also apply for funding under DAINA 3.

4. Applicants

A joint Polish-Lithuanian research project will be carried out by research teams from Poland and Lithuania. Each team will be led by the Polish and Lithuanian principal investigators, respectively and will be hosted by an eligible host institution in Poland or in Lithuania.

NCN proposals may be submitted to the OSF submission system by the entities specified in Article 27 (1) (1) – (2), (1) (4) – (5) and (1) (7) – (8) of the Act on the National Science Centre of 30 April 2010 (Journal of Laws of 2023, item 153).

Eligible participating entities in Lithuania include Lithuanian research and higher education institutions included in the Register of Education and Research Institutions (to be found at <https://www.aikos.smm.lt/en/Pages/Default.aspx> under "Registers" in the "Education Providers" category).

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

5. Budget and eligible costs

General requirements:

- All costs must be eligible according to the domestic eligibility criteria of both agencies.
- A proposal submitted to the OSF submission system must contain a budget table listing project costs. The budget table must include the cost of the Lithuanian research team according to the respective rules of the RCL.

- If the costs in the budget table are not justified, the proposal may be rejected.
- Once the budget table in Excel is completed, save the file in PDF format and make sure that all contents of the cells in Excel are displayed (in particular the justification of the costs).
- The budget table does not need to be signed.

Country specific requirements – Poland:

- The budget of the Polish part of the project must not exceed 1 000 000 PLN.
- Polish research teams must provide the budget together with a detailed justification via the OSF submission system.
- The EUR costs must be calculated based on the EUR exchange rate as in the NCN Council Resolution No 114/2023 of 7th December 2023 (1 EUR = 4.3334 PLN).
- The PLN and EUR costs in the OSF submission system must be rounded down to the nearest integer.
- For more information, please read the NCN call documents.

Once the proposal is submitted, the budget cannot be modified the budget must not be modified.

Country specific requirements – Lithuania:

- The budget of the Lithuanian part of the project must not exceed 150 000 EUR.
- The workload of the Lithuanian PI and each co-investigator within the project may not be less than 20 hours multiplied by the project duration in months.

6.Submission of proposals

Joint Polish-Lithuanian funding proposals must be submitted to the OSF submission system, together with the required documents specified in the call documents of both agencies.

Polish applicants submit their proposals to the NCN via the OSF submission system, **by 15 March 2024, 16:00 CET**. Once the proposal has been submitted to the OSF submission system, it is possible to generate a complete proposal in PDF format.

Proposals submitted after the abovementioned deadlines will not be eligible.

For Polish applicants:

- NCN's OSF submission system: <https://osf.opi.org.pl/>.

- Information required in the proposal and annexes thereto are specified in the call documents of the NCN.

For Lithuanian applicants:

- Information required in the proposal and annexes thereto are specified in the call documents of the RCL.

7. Evaluation procedure

1. Proposals are subject to an eligibility check performed by both the NCN and RCL according to their respective requirements. Only proposals approved as eligible by both agencies are subject to a merit-based evaluation.

Eligible proposals are subject to a merit-based evaluation performed in two stages:

Stage I: An evaluation is performed by the Expert Team, based on the data included in the proposal and annexes thereto, with the exception of the full project description. Each proposal is evaluated by two members of the Expert Team acting independently. In the case of a proposal which is assigned an auxiliary NCN review panel specifying disciplines covered by NCN review panels other than the one to which the proposal was submitted, the chair of the Expert Team may decide to seek an auxiliary review from a member of another Expert Team (the so-called interdisciplinary proposals).

After the desk review, the experts meet at the first Expert Team meeting. Based on the review of the proposals and discussions, a list of proposals recommended for stage II of evaluation is compiled by the Expert Team.

Stage II: Proposals are addressed to at least two reviewers who draft individual reviews based on the data included in the proposal and annexes thereto, with the exception of the short project description. Based on the reviews drafted by the reviewers and discussions at the second meeting, a ranking list of proposals recommended for funding is compiled by the Expert Team.

8. Evaluation criteria

The proposals are assessed against the following sets of criteria:

- 1) the quality and innovative nature of the research;
- 2) the impact of the research project on the advancement of the scientific discipline;
- 3) feasibility of the research
- 4) well-balanced and complementary contribution from all research teams involved in the project;
- 5) the scientific achievements of the principal investigators;
- 6) the relevance of the costs to be incurred with regards to the subject and scope of the research.

9. Tentative Timeline

15 December 2023	Launch of the call for proposals
15 March 2024, 16:00 CET	Submission deadline for proposals
April/ July 2024	Peer-review
November 2024	Announcement of the call results
January 2025	Start of research projects

10. Budget:

16 000 000 PLN for Polish teams.

1 500 000 EUR for Lithuanian teams.

11. Call documents

For Polish applicants: all relevant documents can be found on the NCN website.

For Lithuanian applicants: all relevant documents can be found on the RCL website.

- Call Text (this document)
- [Evaluation sheet for experts](#)

Personal data included in DAINA 3 proposals (submitted to the NCN and RCL, respectively) will be processed by the NCN and the RCL according to the rules and regulations available under the following links:

- NCN: <https://ncn.gov.pl/dane-osobowe?language=en>
- RCL: <https://www.lmt.lt/en/administrative-information/the-reform-of-personal-data-protection/3061>

12. Contact details

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