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Call for proposals

GRIEG BIS

bilateral research projects

Basic Research Programme

EEA Grants 2021-2028 Poland

The purpose of this call

The GRIEG BIS call will support basic research projects carried out in cooperation between Polish research organisations and partners from the Donor States (Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein).

The call aims to strengthen scientific excellence, internationalisation and interdisciplinary collaboration across all research fields, while ensuring that funded projects address at least one of the following key priorities: the European green transition; democracy, the rule of law and human rights; or social inclusion and resilience.

By promoting curiosity-driven research, supporting early-stage and female researchers and encouraging the integration of Open Science and FAIR data principles, the GRIEG BIS call aims to enhance the competitiveness of Polish science, build sustainable international research partnerships, and increase the societal relevance and long-term impact of basic research outcomes.

Basic information

Programme Operator	National Science Centre		
Announcement of call	17 June 2026		
Start date for submission of applications	17 June 2026, 14:00, UTC+02:00 (CEST)		
Deadline for submission of applications	30 September 2026, 14:00, UTC+02:00 (CEST)		
Eligible applicants	Research organisations established as a legal person in Poland.		
Eligible partners	Any entity, public or private, commercial or non-commercial, as well as non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person in Poland, Iceland, Liechtenstein or Norway.		
Total amount available	EUR 50 000 000 (PLN 212 130 000)		
Minimum grant amount	EUR 800 000 (PLN 3 394 080)		
Maximum grant amount	EUR 1 500 000 (PLN 6 363 900)		
Maximum grant rate	Public sector 100 %	Non-governmental 100 %	Private entities 100 %

Minimum co-financing requirement	Public sector 0 %	Non-governmental 0 %	Private entities 0 %
Duration of projects	Minimum 36 months	Maximum 36 months	

Specific objectives and expected results

Objective of the EEA Grants

The EEA Grants contribute to reducing economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area and to strengthening bilateral relations between Poland and Donor States (Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein).

The EEA Grants are based on the common values and principles of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and the respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. The implementation is guided by the core values of transparency, accountability, and cost efficiency, alongside good governance, strong partnerships, multi-level governance, sustainable development, gender equality, and non-discrimination.

Objective of the programme

The main objective of the programme is to enhance excellence in research and research-based innovation, thereby strengthening the foundations for the green and digital transitions, democracy, the rule of law, human rights, social inclusion, and resilience in Poland, in line with the objectives of the EEA Grants.

Objective and focus of this call

This call will support basic research initiatives that demonstrate high scientific quality and originality, foster effective bilateral cooperation between Polish research organisations and partners from the Donor States and promote interdisciplinary and international research collaboration. Supported initiatives are expected to integrate the principles of open science, research integrity, gender equality (including gender sensitive evaluation), and FAIR data management, while actively engaging early-stage researchers and addressing barriers to career progression.

The call addresses the three key priorities of the EEA Grants: the European green transition; democracy, the rule of law, human rights; and social inclusion, and resilience by supporting curiosity-driven research. Additionally, Applicants are encouraged to apply for projects that enhance the societal relevance, uptake, and long-term impact of basic research outcomes. The call also supports projects addressing challenges experienced in Poland as a result of the invasion of Ukraine.

Expected results

GRIEG BIS projects are expected to deliver:

• high-quality international research outputs, including joint publications and other results disseminated in accordance with open science and open access principles,

• active involvement of early-stage researchers and women in research supporting their career development through participation in interdisciplinary and international project teams: as work package or task leaders, carrying out the research needed for their PhD or further career steps, etc.,

• sustainable bilateral partnerships between Poland and Donor State organisations, increasing their capacity to jointly address societal challenges and to successfully cooperate in future international research and innovation programmes, including Horizon Europe,

• effective knowledge transfer and valorisation[1] of research results, contributing to the creation of social and economic value, evidence-based policymaking and informed public dialogue.

Eligible applicants and partners

Eligible applicants	Research organisations defined by Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty and established as a legal person in Poland. The Article 27 section 1 of the Act on the National Science Centre of 30 April 2010 indicates the eligible entities' catalogue, which may apply in the calls launched by NCN.
Eligible partners from Poland	The eligible project partners may be any public or private entity, commercial or non-commercial as well as non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person in Poland.
Eligible partners from Donor States	Projects must have at least one Norwegian and/or Icelandic and/or Liechtenstein partner approved as a research organisation by the Research Council of Norway (RCN) and/or the Icelandic Centre for Research (Rannis). The eligible project partners may be any entity, public or private, commercial or non-commercial, as well as non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person in Iceland, Liechtenstein or Norway.
Eligible partners from other eligible countries, international organisations	Entities established in third countries can participate, but they cannot receive funding from the project grant.

Partnership

Who is a Project Promoter?	A Project Promoter (Applicant) is an entity eligible to submit the bilateral proposal under the Basic Research Programme. A Project Promoter (Applicant) shall employ the Principal Investigator - a researcher responsible for the scientific lead and coordination of a project submitted under the Programme.
Who is a partner?	A partner is an entity actively involved in, and effectively contributing to, the implementation of a project. It shares with the project promoter a common economic or social goal which is to be realised through the implementation of that project. Non-academic entities are welcome to participate in partnerships. A consultant, contractor, supplier or service provider is not considered a partner.
Partnership with Donor State entities	Partnership with a partner from the Donor State(s) is **mandatory** under this call. The applicant and the potential partner/s are expected to plan and agree on their responsibilities, including costs and schedule of their contributions. Budgeted eligible costs of Donor project partners shall not exceed approximately 40% of the total eligible costs of the project. The partner(s) shall submit a signed **Letter of Intent** (see Annex 4) with the project application. A partnership agreement (see Annex 3) shall be drawn up and signed between the partners and submitted prior to signing a project contract.

[1] Research valorisation is understood as the process of creating social and economic value from knowledge by linking different areas and sectors, transforming data, know-how, and research results into sustainable products, services, solutions, and knowledge-based policies that benefit society (source: https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/research-area/industrial-research-and-innovation/eu-valorisation-policy_en)

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Eligible activities

Thematic scope of activities	The programme aims to support basic research activities concentrated on generating new scientific knowledge without immediate commercial application addressing at least one of the three key priorities of the EEA Grants: the European green transition; Democracy, rule of law, and human rights; Social inclusion and resilience.
Geographic scope of activities	The geographic scope of activities should be determined by the specific research objectives and planned scientific tasks. However, it shall strictly adhere to the guidelines issued by the National Science Centre (NCN) regarding the restrictions of cooperation with the Russian Federation[2].
Activities eligible for support	All activities that align with the programme's objectives and comply with the cost catalogue specified in the GRIEG BIS call documentation that contribute to achieving the project objectives.
Activities not eligible for support	All activities carried out in the cooperation with the Russian Federation entities.

Eligible expenditure and forms of grant

Start and final dates of eligibility of expenditure

The first and final dates for eligibility of expenditures will be specified in the project contract. Any expenditures incurred after 30 April 2031 (the final date of cost eligibility under the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021- 2028) shall not be eligible.

Eligible expenditure

The eligible project costs are direct expenditures and indirect costs (overheads).
The category of direct expenditures includes:

- Cost of staff assigned to the project;
- Travel and subsistence allowances (for staff and participants in the project);
- Cost of new or second-hand equipment;
- Consumables and supplies;
- Costs entailed by other contracts;
- Costs arising directly from requirements imposed by the project contract for each project;

The description of the categories of costs listed above can be found in Guide for Applicants and Evaluators – GRIEG BIS call. Costs are eligible if they are justified, necessary and appropriate, and directly related to the project.

Limits on certain categories of expenditure

Category of expenditure	Limits (max. % of project eligible expenditure)
Cost of staff assigned to the project (Polish partners)	As specified in the Guide for Applicants and Evaluators

[2] Resolution no 136/2022 of 8 December 2022 by NCN Council on collaboration with the Russian Federation within the framework of NCN-funded grants https://ncn.gov.pl/sites/default/files/pliki/uchwaly-rady/2022/uchwala136_2022_ang.pdf

Cost of new or second-hand equipment	max. PLN 500 000
Indirect costs	25%
Indirect costs (for entities applying for state aid)	Max. 20%

Non-eligible expenditure

Cost for the purchase of land and/or real estate

Forms of grant

Apart from the expenditure based on the eligible costs actually incurred, the following forms of grant will be applicable to the below categories of expenditure.

Specific provisions on establishing the amounts to be used via flat rates, unit costs and lump sums shall be determined in the Partnership Agreement.

For further information, please consult the Guideline for Applicants and Evaluators (Annex 2).

Category of expenditure	**Form of grant**	**Method of calculation**
Personnel costs for Norwegian research institutes	Unit cost	Norwegian research institutes which report personnel rates to the Research Council of Norway and have those personnel rates calculated and approved by the RCN, may use those as SCOs (ref. Regulation art. 8.3.2.b). This means they should use the same rates as in applications to RCN calls.
Norwegian universities and university colleges: Personnel costs and indirect costs covering cost staff assigned to the project and indirect cost excluding indirect costs connected to the use of RIR	Unit cost	In accordance with the Norwegian Full Cost Model (TDI-model)

Norwegian universities and university colleges: Costs attributable to the use of Research infrastructure resources (RIR) covering Cost of new and second hand equipment connected to the RIR, cost of consumables and supplies connected to the use of the RIR, cost arising from other contracts connected to the use of the RIR and indirect cost connected to the RIR	Unit cost	In accordance with the Norwegian Full Cost Model (TDI-model)
Indirect costs	Flat rate	Indirect costs (overheads) shall be determined by applying a flat rate of 25% of the total direct eligible costs, excluding direct eligible costs of subcontracting and the costs of resources made available by third parties which are not used on the premises of the project promoter or a project partner, as well as financial support to third parties.

Financing conditions and reporting

Forms of payment

Payment of the project grant shall take the form of advance payments, interim payments (understood as annual tranches) and a final payment (understood as the last tranche).

The advance payment will be made following the signature of the project contract.

Further payments shall be transferred to the project in accordance with an individual, pre-defined schedule of payments based on the project budget, as stipulated in the project contract. The payments shall be made once a year, each corresponding to the planned annual project budget. The interim payments may be made when at least 70% of the previous payment has been reported as incurred, in the form of a declaration of expenditure of funds received for the project.

Reporting

Project Promoters shall report on the progress of their project in a midterm scientific/technical report (interim report) and a final report upon the completion of the project. Additionally, the Program Operator shall conduct the midterm review based on the interim report. Reporting deadlines shall be set in the project contract.

State aid

State aid regime applied for the call

If funding for a research project by the National Science Centre will constitute State aid for the applicant and/or project partners, State aid will be granted under conditions regulated by the Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 9 September 2015 on the terms and mode of granting State aid via the National Science Centre (Journal of Laws of 2015, item 1381).

	The Regulation is in accordance with the Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty.
Information requested related to state aid	All documents concerning proposals for State aid must be signed with a qualified electronic signature in the PAdES format. Detailed information can be found in the section State aid.

Submission of applications

Form and content of project applications	Project applications shall be prepared in English by the Principal Investigators on behalf of Project Promoters by filling in the application form, the budget, and providing further information, including the disclosure of any consultant involved in the preparation of the project application available on the NCN website (see documents in the Annex 1). Please carefully consult the Guideline for Applicants and Evaluators when preparing the application (see Annex 2).
Method of submission	Project Application shall be filed electronically via the online submission system OSF, available at https://osf.opi.org.pl. The proposal shall be submitted by the Principal Investigator on behalf of the Applicant. **The deadline for submission is September 30, 2026, 14.00 CEST.**
Limitations on the submission of applications	Each Principal Investigator may submit a maximum of one grant application under this call. In case more applications are submitted, the first application registered as submitted will be considered. Further ones will be rejected.

Selection procedure

General information	The Programme Operator shall be responsible for project selection and the award of grants.
Administrative and eligibility checks	The Programme Operator shall review all submitted applications against the defined administrative and eligibility criteria, including any exclusion criteria (see Annex 2). Applications that are deemed not to have met the administrative and eligibility criteria will be rejected and excluded from further assessment. The Applicant whose application is rejected at this stage may appeal against the NCN Director's decision within 14 working days after receiving the decision on the rejection of the application.
Assessment	The documentation of the call, the selection criteria and the procedures for selection of projects are decided by the Cooperation Committee established by the Program Operator. At the merit-based evaluation stage, proposals are assessed by international Expert Teams appointed by the Programme Operator, working across three research domains (HS – Humanities, Social Sciences and Art Sciences; NZ – Life Sciences; ST – Physical Sciences and Engineering). The evaluation process concludes with a meeting of the Selection Committee, which decides on the final lists of projects recommended for funding and, if applicable, reserve lists.

Applications that meet the administrative and eligibility criteria shall be separately reviewed in the single-blind peer-review process and scored against the selection criteria for assessment (see Annex 2) by three impartial international experts.

For ranking the projects, the average of the scores awarded by the experts shall be used. In case of divergence between the scores given by the experts, such proposal shall be subjected to a discussion during the Expert Teams meeting. The experts shall examine the reasons for the discrepancies and attempt to reach a consensus score reflecting their common assessment. Where consensus cannot be fully achieved, the Expert Teams shall agree on a justified final score to be included in the Evaluation Summary Report. The justification for the divergencies and the way it was resolved shall be documented in the report.

The final score established by the Expert Teams shall constitute the basis for preparing the preliminary ranking lists within each research domain (HS; NZ; ST). These lists shall include the total scores assigned to the proposals as well as the requested grant amounts.

Based on the preliminary ranking lists and the Expert Teams reports, the Selection Committee shall determine the final ranking order of the proposals. The Selection Committee may award additional points to proposals aligned with specific areas of support as defined by the objectives of the programme, scientists belonging to an underrepresented gender in the relevant scientific field, interdisciplinary character of the project or involvement of early-stage career researchers. The detailed criteria supported by Selection Committee are specified in the Guide for Applicants and Evaluators. The decision of the Selection Committee shall be final and shall form the basis for funding recommendations.

Selection Committee

The Programme Operator shall establish a Selection Committee that shall recommend the projects to be funded within the programme. Nominees to the Selection Committee should be approved by the Cooperation Committee before the final appointment. The Selection Committee shall consist of at least five persons possessing the relevant expertise (including Chairs of each Expert Team and other relevant experts).

The Programme Operator shall provide the Selection Committee with the list of ranked project applications. The role of the Selection Committee is to decide the final ranking order of the proposals based on the total scores assigned to the projects and the Expert Teams reports. Selection Committee may decide to further prioritise by considering factors relevant to Call Principle and Ambition.

While making a recommendation for funding, the Selection Committee additionally, takes into consideration a similar success rate for each research domain and the total budget for the call.

The Selection Committee may modify the ranking of the projects in justified cases. The justification for the modifications shall be detailed in the minutes of the meeting of the Selection Committee.

The Selection Committee shall submit the list of recommended projects to the Programme Operator.

Grant award decision

The Programme Operator awards grants to projects based on the final ranking lists approved by the Selection Committee.

Detailed information on the evaluation criteria, scoring and procedure is provided in the document Guide for Applicants and Evaluators.

The decisions of the NCN Director may be appealed against to the Appeal Committee of the Council of the National Science Centre, in the event of a breach of the call procedure or other formal infringements. The appeal shall be lodged by the Applicant within 14 days of the effective delivery of the decision.

Project contracts

Based on the grant award decision, the Programme Operator (NCN) shall conclude a project contract with the Project Promoter setting out the terms and conditions of the grant and the roles and responsibilities of the parties. All project partners will sign Partnership Agreements with the Project Promoter. If changes in the proposals and budgets are required, Project Promoters are invited for negotiations with the Programme Operator before signing the contracts.

Provisional timeline

Deadline for submission of applications	30 September 2026
Administrative and eligibility checks	October 2026- November 2026
Assessment of applications	December 2026- March 2027
Decision on the award of grants	April 2027- May 2027
Signature of project contracts	June 2027- October 2027
Deadline for the completion of projects	December 2030

Further information, contacts for queries and the complaint mechanism

Further information

For further information please consult the following documents:

Regulation on the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028 *(https://eeagrants.org/en/fmo/documents-library/regulation-implementation-eea-grants-including-annexes-2021-2028)*

Guideline for Research and Innovation Programme *(https://eeagrants.org/en/fmo/documents-library/guideline-research-and-innovation-programmes)*

Programme Agreement *(https://eeagrants.org/en/poland/programmes/basic-research/documents/programme-agreement-pl-basic-research-polish-version)*

Appealing against the NCN Director's decision (*https://www.ncn.gov.pl/en/finansowanie-nauki/informacje-dla-wnioskodawcow/instrukcja-odwolania*)

Contact for queries

Any queries concerning the call may be directed to the following contacts no later than 7 working days before the deadline for the submission of applications. A written response shall be sent within 7 working days of the receipt of the query.

Frequently asked questions and answers will be published on the website of the call.

Institution	National Science Centre
Names	Marzena Oliwkiewicz-Miklasińska; Joanna Węgrzycka
E-mail	norway.grants@ncn.gov.pl
Telephone	+12 341 9151; +12 341 9188

Contact to file a complaint	To file a complaint please address it to the following e-mail: *biuro@ncn.gov.pl*

Contact to Donor Programme Partners	**Iceland**	**Norway**
	The Icelandic Centre for Research (Rannis)	The Research Council of Norway (RCN)
	rannis@rannis.is	post@forskningsradet.no
	+354 515 5800	+47 22 03 70 00.
	https://en.rannis.is/	https://www.forskningsradet.no/en/

Annexes to the call for proposals

Annex 1	Application form including Budget table
Annex 2	Guide for Applicants and Evaluators including Criteria for administrative and eligibility assessment and Selection criteria and scoring chart for assessment
Annex 3	Partnership agreement template
Annex 4	Letter of Intent template