

Annex 1a to the ToR

Detailed description of the IdeaLab call under the EEA Financial Mechanism

IDEALAB CALL IN THE FRAMES OF THE EEA FINANCIAL MACHANISM

1. The main objective of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 is to contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area and to strengthen bilateral relations between the donor and beneficiary countries (eeagrants.org).
2. The objective of the programme area 'Research' is enhanced research-based knowledge development.
3. The aim of the National Science Centre is to fund basic research which should be understood as 'experimental or theoretical research work undertaken primarily to acquire new knowledge of the underlying foundations of phenomena and observable facts, without any particular commercial use'. Therefore, the workshop should be designed in such a way that the project ideas created during the IdeaLab are kept within the basic research frames and should not concern commercialisation, development or enhancement of products or any other direct commercial use. The IdeaLab is built around existing and future complex social challenges. The workshop should be designed in such a way that the project proposals are very relevant for the society, provide new knowledge foundations, innovative and sustainable solutions and concepts, propose strategies for public authorities, involve reflections on conditions, consequences, uncertainties or dilemmas, etc..
4. The topic of the IdeaLab 'Managing threats' targets challenges arising from the complex processes of our times such as globalisation, technological change (for example the increasing use of robots, artificial intelligence, gene editing), issues of environment and climate change, demographic change, major waves of migration, geopolitical instability, and many others, which bring with them uncertainties (implying threats and, in some cases, opportunities) that European societies have to face.

Globalisation has brought new opportunities and resources, it has also proven conducive to major migratory movements, undermined environmental sustainability, and brought with it economic and social-political instability. Human kind appears to be losing the race with climate change caused by ourselves and there is a growing sense of helpless inertia of doing all too little and all too late. Basic democratic norms and the integrity and liberty of the individual are challenged by major waves of populist, collectivist (nationalist and religious), and authoritarian assaults. New communication technologies have created a highly inclusive, yet complex and compartmentalized global public sphere, where "democratization" of information and cultural goods is accompanied by disinformation, manipulation, spread of conspiracy theories, and the impairment of the social status of



scientific knowledge. Automation and robots relieve the burden of heavy and hazardous physical work and routine tasks, but they put the social fabric under strain and raise questions about the social organisation in the future. Novel gene editing methods allow modifying human genetic material also in germ cells. Rapid development in neurosciences may lead to technologies allowing reading and affecting human minds. Thus, in this environment that is felt to be as much enabling as threatening, individual, social and institutional action is shaped by the needs to respond to perceived threats and uncertainties.

It may be difficult to tell the imaginary threats apart from the real ones, but the impact of the former is not less significant than the impact of the latter. Acting in response to threats and uncertainties may be constructive, but it may also generate unfavourable outcomes, such as disorder, more uncertainty, new dilemmas and, eventually, a flight from freedom.

The objective of this IdeaLab workshop is to encourage participants to think outside the box about challenges outlined by the call, to find new insights and/or new knowledge that may provide the foundations for action as well as solutions offering multi-angle and interdisciplinary approaches to managing various types of threats. The event will provide an unconventional arena for participants from a variety of backgrounds to meet and unleash new ideas supporting the society today and in the future.

5. The IdeaLab will fund projects that:
 - a. respond to the challenge of the IdeaLab: Managing threats;
 - b. generate new insights and/or new knowledge that may provide the foundations for action as well as solutions offering multi-angle and interdisciplinary approaches to manage various types of threats;
 - c. may involve solutions that require "something to happen" - typically an intervention by public authorities so that the projects shall be expected to comprise well thought-through strategies and expertise for making "that" happen;
 - d. represent an interdisciplinary perspective involving specialists from various fields – humanities, social, life and natural sciences as well as engineering.
6. The call budget is EUR 4,434,011. The budget of a single project may vary between EUR 500,000 and EUR 1,500,000.

REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING PARTNERSHIPS

1. Research organisations established as a legal person with registered office in Poland are eligible Project Promoters (beneficiaries), as long as they conduct research continuously and independently. The project principal investigator shall be employed by the research organization which is the Project Promoter (beneficiary).
2. Any public or private entity, commercial or non-commercial, as well as non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person with registered office in Poland, Norway, Island





or Lichtenstein are eligible project partners, as long as they are actively involved in, and effectively contributing to, the implementation of the projects.

3. Eligible partnerships consist of at least one Polish Project Promoter (beneficiary) and at least one partner from Norway, Iceland or Lichtenstein.
4. The aim of the EEA Financial Mechanism is to strengthen bilateral relations between the donor and beneficiary countries. Therefore, support should be given for the establishment of long-term bilateral strategic partnerships.
5. The participation of NGOs, public organisations or other stakeholders that give input to the planning and/or implementation of the project and/or are active users of the results of the project and/or apply the knowledge created by the project and/or benefit from the expertise developed in the project are welcome and may be supported within the project activities and budget. Dissemination of research results shall be included in all projects.
6. Subcontracting of secondary research tasks is an eligible project cost as long it is justified in the project proposal and necessary to implement the project.
7. It is expected that the eligible costs claimed by the Lichtenstein, Icelandic and Norwegian entities participating in the project shall normally not exceed 40% of the total eligible project costs.

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE OF THE IDEALAB CALL

1. 17 June – opening of the call
2. 19 August – deadline for sending applications for participation in the workshop
3. 16 September – expert panel in Krakow and selection of participants
4. 23 September – information sent to participants
5. 21-25 October – IdeaLab workshop
6. 15 December – submission of final project proposals by partnerships created during the workshop

