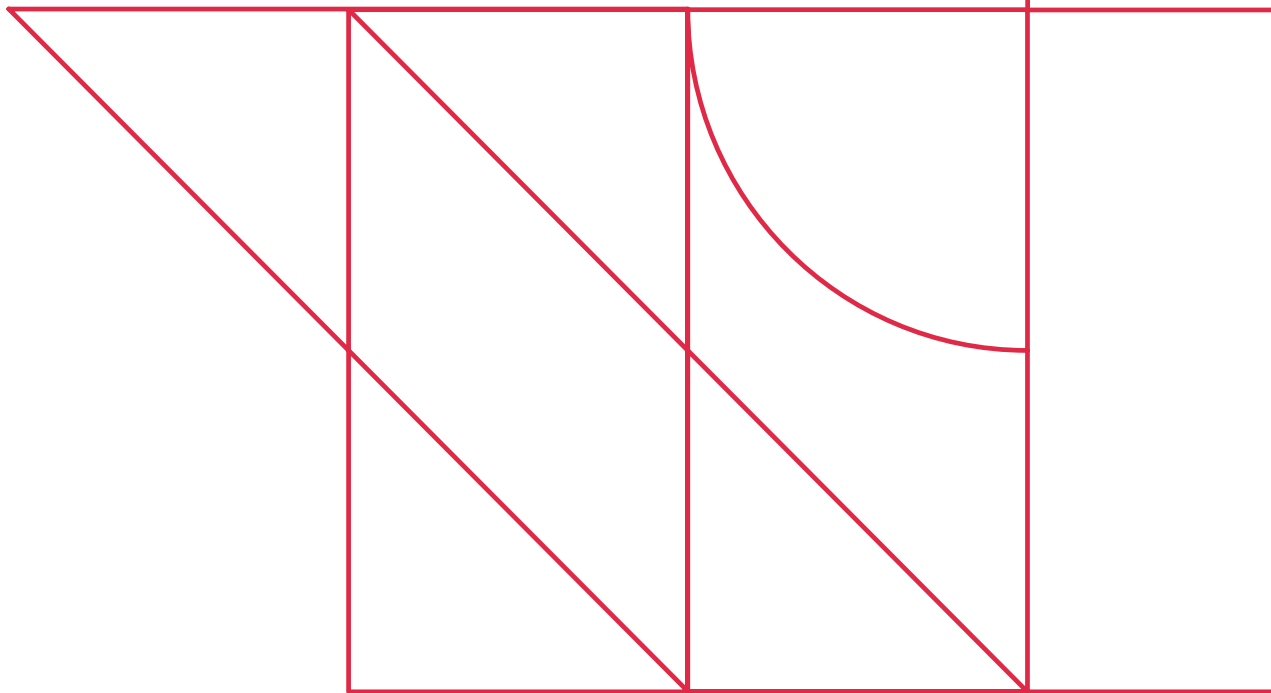


# INFORMATION BROCHURE





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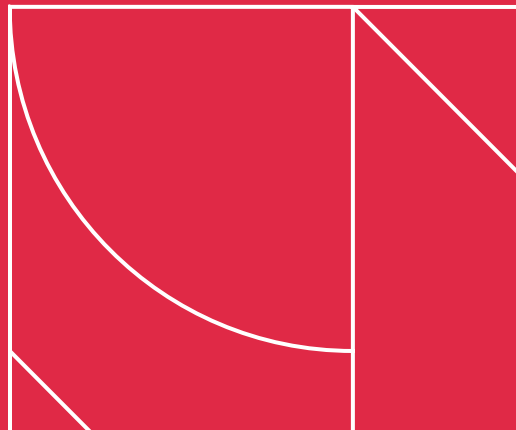
# NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE

The National Science Centre (NCN) is a government executive agency established in the follow-up to the research funding reform of 2010. The Centre supports basic research, i.e. empirical or theoretical studies that seek to gain new knowledge of the fundamentals behind phenomena and observable facts, undertaken without the goal of direct commercial application. The mission of the NCN is to promote the growing importance of Polish research on the international arena and to boost its quality and efficiency thanks to a competitive grant system. The Centre thus publishes regular calls for research projects, doctoral scholarships, postdoctoral fellowships and research activities. In 2019, it has a budget of nearly PLN 1.3 billion slated to fund basic research.

The National Science Centre funds basic research also in cooperation with foreign institutions that promote science. In collaboration with the Max Planck Society from Germany, the NCN implements the DIOSCURI program aimed at establishing Centres of Scientific Excellence in Poland. Furthermore, the National Science Centre coordinates the QuantERA programme engaging 31 agencies that

support research in the field of quantum technologies with the support of the EU funds awarded under the Horizon 2020 programme.

The Centre also operates the "Research" programme within the framework of the EEA and Norway Grants. The Act of 30 April 2010 on the National Science Centre came into force on 1 October 2010. The NCN officially started its activities on 4 March 2011 and the first calls for research proposals were published less than three weeks later. The NCN is supervised by the Minister of Science and Higher Education and the calls are designed by a Council of twenty-four distinguished researchers. The Office of the NCN is managed by a Director.



# THE NCN IN FIGURES

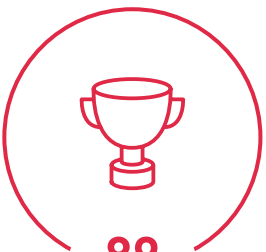
(MARCH 2011 – DECEMBER 2018)

Domestic calls\*



**100**

Calls  
announced



**89**

Calls  
concluded\*\*



**18 212**

Number of  
grants awarded



**PLN 7.7**  
billion

Resources  
granted

## International calls\*\*\*



\* The data correspond to domestic calls currently offered by the NCN, as well as suspended calls.

\*\* The figure does not include the MINIATURA 2 call, which will be concluded at the end of March 2019, and the TANGO 1 and 2 calls concluded by the National Centre for Research and Development.

\*\*\* The data correspond to bilateral and multilateral calls organized within the framework of international cooperation, the POLONEZ call co-funded within the "Horizon 2020" EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation under the "Marie Skłodowska-Curie" grant agreement no. 665778.

\*\*\*\* The figure includes the contribution of the NCN and the funds provided by the European Commission.

# ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE



## The NCN Director

In charge of running the National Science Centre, the Director oversees the completion of its tasks and its financial management, as well as representing it to the outside world. The Director also acts as an independent legal representative on behalf of the NCN.



## The 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. It is also the responsibility of the Council to appoint the members of expert teams that evaluate research proposals.



## The NCN Coordinators

Coordinators organize the efforts of expert teams and conduct calls for research proposals, making sure that the peer review process is correct, impartial and fair. They must hold at least a doctoral degree and are selected by way of an open competition. Coordinators manage three distinct teams at the National Science Centre: Art, Humanities and Social Sciences; Physical Sciences and Engineering; and Life Sciences.

## The NCN Office

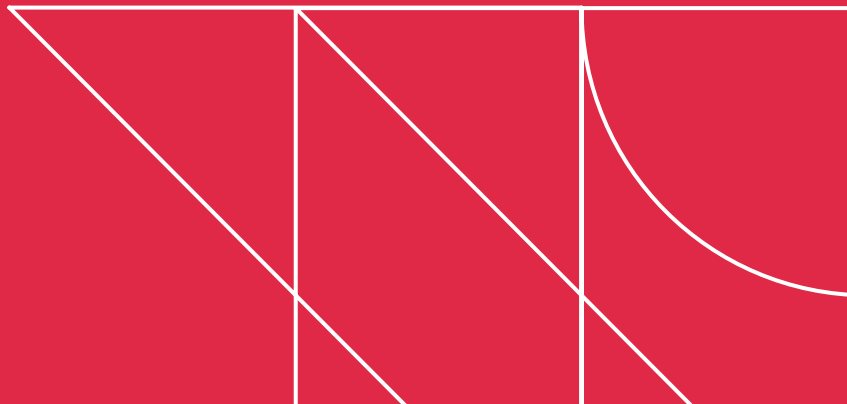
Made up of several divisions and more than ten teams, the NCN office is the administrative core of the Centre, responsible for providing information for applicants, providing support for current calls, and organizing expert team meetings. The Office is also the first line of support to grant recipients who carry out the projects; it handles the process of signing grant agreements, oversees their implementation, initiates international funding cooperation and, in partnership with the Council, the Coordinators and "Research Area" Committee, launches calls in the under the EEA and Norway Grants programme.

# NCN MANAGEMENT



**DIRECTOR**  
**PROF. ZBIGNIEW BŁOCKI**

Professor at the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science of the Jagiellonian University since 1990. Mr Błocki has spent several years abroad, e.g. in Sweden, Germany and the US, including as a Fulbright scholar, and delivered numerous lectures at research centres all over the world. He sat on the NCN Council between 2010 and 2015 until he was appointed the NCN Director in March 2015. Since November 2015, he has also served as a member of the Science Europe Governing Board, an association that brings together European research-funding organizations. In the past, he has headed the Institute of Mathematics at the Jagiellonian University and acted as Vice Chair of the Executive Organizing Committee of the 6th European Congress of Mathematics in Kraków in 2012. In 2010-2015, at the Jagiellonian University, he coordinated a research project funded within the framework of the International PhD Projects selection of the Foundation of Polish Science; he also served as principal investigator in a project funded under the Ideas Plus programme. He is the winner of the Zaremba Prize of the Polish Mathematical Society (2007) and the Polish Prime Minister's Award for outstanding research achievements (2008). In 2014, he received the Jagiellonian Laurel.







**CHAIR OF  
THE NCN COUNCIL  
PROF. MAŁGORZATA  
KOSSOWSKA**

Psychologist, Humanities Professor, Head of the Department of Social Psychology and Centre for Social Cognitive Studies at the Institute of Psychology of the Jagiellonian University. She has penned more than 60 articles in Polish and international journals, as well as authored or co-authored eight books.




She has won multiple awards for research achievements, including the Tadeusz Tomaszewski Award for top publications in psychology, a Lifetime Achievement Medal from the Polish Association for Social Psychology and the Jagiellonian Laurel. In 2001, she received the "Zostańcie z nami" ["Stay with Us"] scholarship awarded by "Polityka" weekly.

She headed the Institute of Psychology of the Jagiellonian University in 2008-2012, served as the President of the Polish Association of Social Psychology (2008-2014), Board Member of the European Association of Social Psychology, and corresponding member of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Since 2012, she has held the office of Deputy Dean at the Faculty of Philosophy of the Jagiellonian University. She has sat on the NCN Council since 2012.

# NCN CALLS

The National Science Centre supports basic research conducted within the framework of projects, doctoral scholarships and postdoctoral fellowships, as well as individual research activities designed to contribute to broader basic research. Calls for proposals are open to all researchers irrespective of age and experience.

The call portfolio of the NCN currently includes 9 kinds of domestic calls targeted at various groups of researchers, as well as international calls, including 7 bilateral calls and a number of multilateral programmes launched by international consortia and networks such as ERA-NET, of which the Centre forms part. The special offer includes the DIOSCURI programme, managed jointly with MPG, which aims to establish Centres of Scientific Excellence throughout Central and Eastern Europe. Since 2018, the NCN has also acted as the operator of the "Research Area" programme funded under the EEA and Norway Grants; in 2019, new calls will be launched within its framework. Proposals for domestic and bilateral calls launched by the NCN may be submitted in three areas – groups of sciences:

-  Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
-  Physical Sciences and Engineering
-  Life Sciences

Researchers may submit proposals on behalf of entities that employ them (e.g. universities, institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences, research institutes) or apply for funding as physical persons. Most funding schemes also provide resources for the purchase of research equipment, with the exception of large research infrastructure. Proposals need to be drafted in accordance with call guidelines, written in Polish and English, and submitted to the NCN electronically through the ZSUN/OSF system before the submission deadline.

Funding is awarded to the best basic research projects, conducted by principal investigators able to demonstrate the required research experience and capability.

## DOMESTIC CALLS

regular NCN-funded calls for research proposals, scholarships, fellowships and research activities that contribute to basic research, launched in accordance with the call schedule once or twice per year, targeted at various groups of researchers

### OPUS

for research projects, targeted at all researchers irrespective of research experience

### SONATA

for research projects, targeted at researchers who earned their PhD between 2 and 7 years before the submission of the proposal

### MINIATURA

for research activities, targeted at researchers who earned their PhD up to 12 years before the submission of the proposal

### PRELUDIUM

for research projects, targeted at researchers without a PhD; the formal opening of the PhD procedure is not a prerequisite for eligibility

### "SONATA BIS

for research projects aimed at setting up a new research team, targeted at researchers who earned their PhD between 5 and 12 years before the submission of the proposal

### UWERTURA

for fellowships in international research teams that carry out ERC-funded projects, targeted at previous NCN call winners with a PhD degree or higher

### SONATINA

for research projects, targeted at researchers who earned their PhD no earlier than 3 years before the submission of the proposal

### MAESTRO

for pioneering research projects, targeted at experienced researchers

### ETIUDA

for doctoral scholarships



## INTERNATIONAL CALLS

calls targeted at researchers with a PhD or higher degree, organized within the framework of international cooperation

### BILATERAL COOPERATION

calls launched in cooperation with the foreign research support institutions and organizations



#### BEETHOVEN CLASSIC

for research projects in arts, humanities, and social sciences and selected fields of physical sciences and engineering, carried out by Polish-German teams



#### BEETHOVEN LIFE

for research projects in life sciences carried out by Polish-German teams



#### DIOSCURI

call launched in cooperation with the Max Planck Society (MPG), aiming to establish DIOSCURI Centres of Scientific Excellence in Poland



#### ALPHORN

for research projects carried out by Polish-Swiss teams



#### MOZART

for research projects carried out by Polish-Austrian teams



#### DAINA

for research projects carried out by Polish-Lithuanian teams



#### SHENG

for research projects carried out by Polish-Chinese teams

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## MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

calls for international research projects, usually funded from the resources of the EU Framework Programme, launched by the NCN in cooperation with foreign research-funding agencies. This group includes, for instance, initiatives such as ERA-NET Co-fund financed within the “Horizon 2020” EU Framework Programme

Detailed information on multilateral programmes can be found on page 19–23.

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## EEA AND NORWAY GRANTS

calls founded within the framework of EEA and Norway Grants scheme

### IDEALAB

for interdisciplinary research projects responding to important social challenges, carried out in cooperation with research teams from Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein

### GRIEG

for research projects carried out by Polish-Norwegian teams

### POLS

for research projects, targeted at foreign researchers who wish to conduct research in Poland

# DOMESTIC CALLS

The detailed conditions of each programme may vary across different editions. The most up-to-date information on current calls is published on the official website of the National Science Centre upon their announcement.

## 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 advisors or academic tutors. The subject of research should be related to the applicant's doctoral dissertation.

## ETIUDA

A call for PhD scholarships targeted at researchers who have formally opened their PhD procedure or declared they would do so within a timeframe specified by the resolution of the NCN Council. Grant recipients receive a scholarship for a period of 6 to 12 months to support their work toward the PhD dissertation.

## SONATINA

A call targeted at researchers who earned their PhD up to three years before the submission of the proposal. The grant includes full-time employment as a researcher and provides funds for the completion of the research project at the host 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 submission of the proposal.

## SONATA BIS

A call for research projects that aim to establish a new research team, carried out by researchers with a PhD or a higher degree, who earned their PhD between 5 and 12 years prior to the submission of the proposal. The call is open to outstanding young researchers wishing to set up their own research team to conduct particularly innovative research projects.



## MAESTRO

A call targeted at experienced researchers who wish 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 a minimum of 5 papers in renowned academic journals and coordinated at least two research projects selected through a call for proposals procedure within the 10 years prior to the submission of the proposal.



## 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.



## UWERTURA

A call for fellowships in international research teams carrying out projects funded by the European Research Council (ERC). The opportunity is targeted at researchers with a PhD degree or higher, who have already won an NCN call and plan to apply for ERC grants. The objective of the scheme is to support researchers in a successful application for European research funds, as well as to increase their numbers in the group of ERC grant recipients.



## MINIATURA

A call for research activities that contribute to broader basic research. It aims to support researchers in applying for funds awarded by the NCN. The opportunity is open to individuals who earned their PhD up to 12 years before submission of the proposal, have never coordinated a research project and have not won any NCN-funded PhD scholarships or fellowships. In addition, as of the day on which the proposal is filed, the person applying for funds must be employed by the applicant on the basis of an employment contract.

# 2019 DOMESTIC CALL SCHEDULE



**OPUS 17  
PRELUDIUM 17**

Submission start date: **15 March**  
Submission deadline: **17 June**  
Results (at the latest): **December 2019**



**SONATA BIS 9  
MAESTRO 11  
UWERTURA 4**

Submission start date: **17 June**  
Submission deadline: **17 September**  
Results (at the latest): **March 2020**



**OPUS 18  
PRELUDIUM 18  
SONATA 15**

Submission start date: **16 September**  
Submission deadline: **16 December**  
Results (at the latest): **June 2020**



**SONATINA 4  
ETIUDA 8**

Submission start date: **16 December**  
Submission deadline: **16 March**  
Results (at the latest): **September 2020**



**MINIATURA 3**

Ongoing application, **from 1 April\* to 30 September 2019**

\* The deadline may change.



# INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The principal tasks of the NCN include the initiation and development of international cooperation projects aimed at funding basic research. Ever since its inception, the Centre has collaborated with foreign research support institutions to launch joint calls for international proposals. The principles of proposal review are drawn up collectively by the partner organizations involved in the call. Submitted projects should show high academic quality and present the advantages of international cooperation. The funding is dispensed to all project participants in parallel through appropriate funding agencies.

## COOPERATION WITH AUSTRIA, GERMANY, SWITZERLAND AND LITHUANIA

In 2019, the NCN has expanded its portfolio of bilateral funding schemes to include calls such as MOZART (published in cooperation with the Austrian agency: Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung (FWF) and ALPHORN, launched jointly with the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). The call for Polish-Austrian research projects has launched in March, while Polish-Swiss proposals will be accepted from July onward. In addition, in September, the Centre will publish the second edition of the call for research proposals conducted in cooperation with Lithuanian partners.

In October 2019, we are going to announce the results of the second edition of the DIOSCURI call, organized by the NCN in partnership with the German Max Planck Society (Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, MPG). Applications for the establishment of MPG-supported Dioscuri Centres at Polish research institutions can be submitted until 20 March. The next edition of the call is scheduled for December 2019.

## HORIZON 2020

In 2019, we will also launch new calls co-funded from the resources of the Horizon 2020 EU Framework Programme. These will include new editions of CHIST-ERA (information and communication sciences and technologies), M-ERA.NET (materials science), and the JPND-funded call devoted to neurodegenerative diseases. The autumn of 2019 will bring the results of the second QuantERA call targeted at researchers wishing to carry out international projects in the field of quantum technologies. In 2017, QuantERA, a network of 31 research-funding institutions from 27 countries, coordinated by the NCN, received 11.5 million euro in financial support from the European Commission. The initiative is the beneficiary of the largest grant acquired by Poland under the Horizon 2020 programme. The initiative is the beneficiary of the largest grant acquired by Poland under the Horizon 2020 programme and is the only ERA-Net Cofund initiative coordinated by an agency from the new EU Member States.

## NEW CALLS FINANCED UNDER THE EEA AND NORWAY GRANTS SCHEME FOR THE YEARS 2014–2021

The 2019 call schedule also includes new international calls, with a budget of 48.8 million euro provided by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. In June, we are planning to launch the GRIEG programme designed to support Polish-Norwegian research projects, with a total budget of 37.34 million euro provided by the Norway Grants. The same month will bring the announcement of the IdeaLab

call for interdisciplinary research projects devoted to important social challenges, carried out by Polish applicants in cooperation with Norwegian, Icelandic and Liechtensteinian teams. The budget of IdeaLab amounts to 4.43 million euro and comes from EEA funds. In December 2019, 7 million euro provided under the Norway Grants scheme will also make it possible to launch the POLS call, based on the idea of POLONEZ, targeted at foreign researchers who wish to conduct research in Poland.



The CHIST-ERA III project is funded under the "Horizon 2020" EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, based on grant agreement no. 768977.

The JPCOFUND2 project is funded under the "Horizon 2020" EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, based on grant agreement no. 825664.

The JPI-EC-AMR project is funded under the "Horizon 2020" EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, based on grant agreement no. 681055

The M-ERA.NET 2 project is funded under the "Horizon 2020" EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, based on grant agreement no. 685451.

The NORFACE Governance project is funded under the "Horizon 2020" EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, based on grant agreement no. 822166.

The QuantERA project is funded under the "Horizon 2020" EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, based on grant agreement no. 731473.

# THEMATIC CALLS

Theme	Programme	Launch	Submission deadline for preliminary proposals	Submission deadline for final proposals
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## HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Democratic governance in a turbulent age	NORFACE Governance* New Opportunities for Research Funding Agency Cooperation in Europe	<b>December 2018</b>	<b>19 February 2019</b>	<b>September 2019</b>
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## LIFE SCIENCES

Development of diagnostic and surveillance tools, technologies and methods to detect antimicrobial resistance	<b>JPI-EC-AMR*</b> ERA-NET for establishing synergies between the Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance Research and Horizon 2020	<b>December 2018</b>	<b>18 February 2019</b>	<b>24 June 2019</b>
Precision medicine in neurodegenerative diseases	<b>JPCOFUND2*</b> ERA-NET to support the Joint Programming in Neurodegenerative Diseases strategic plan	<b>January 2019</b>	<b>12 March 2019</b>	<b>25 June 2019</b>

\* Projects received funding within the framework of the "Horizon 2020" EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. Detailed information on page 18.

\* Projects received funding within the framework of the "Horizon 2020" EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. Detailed information on page 18.

Theme	Programme	Launch	Submission deadline for preliminary proposals	Submission deadline for final proposals
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## PHYSICAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING

Analogue computing for artificial intelligence; smart distribution of computing in dynamic networks	<b>CHIST-ERA III*</b> European Coordinated Research on Long-term Challenges in Information and Communication Sciences & Technologies	<b>October 2018</b>	<b>15 January 2019</b>	<b>May 2019</b>
Quantum technologies	<b>QuantERA*</b> ERA-NET Cofund in Quantum Technologies	<b>listopad 2018 r.</b>	<b>18 lutego 2019 r.</b>	
Photochemical processes in sunlight	<b>Solar-Driven Chemistry</b>	<b>December 2018</b>	<b>13 February 2019</b>	<b>July 2019</b>
Materials sciences and engineering	<b>M-ERA.NET 2*</b> ERA-NET for materials research and innovation	<b>March 2019</b>	<b>June 2019</b>	<b>November 2019</b>
Information and communication technologies	<b>CHIST-ERA III*</b> European Coordinated Research on Long-term Challenges in Information and Communication Sciences & Technologies	<b>October 2019</b>	<b>January 2020</b>	<b>May 2020</b>

# CALLS OPEN TO ALL DISCIPLINES

Call	Cooperating country	Launch	Submission deadline
DIOSCURI 2 for the establishment of Dioscuri research centers in Poland	Germany, Max Planck Society (MPG)	<b>18 December 2018</b>	<b>20 March 2019</b>
MOZART for Polish-Austrian research projects	Austria, Austrian Science Fund (FWF)	<b>15 March 2019</b>	<b>ongoing submission</b>
GRIEG for Polish-Norwegian research projects	Norway, Research Council of Norway (RCN)	<b>17 June 2019</b>	<b>17 September 2019</b>
ALPHORN for Polish-Swiss research projects	Switzerland, Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)	<b>1 July 2019</b>	<b>1 October 2019</b>
DAINA 2 for Polish-Lithuanian research projects	Lithuania, Research Council of Lithuania (RCL)	<b>16 September 2019</b>	<b>16 December 2019</b>
POLS for foreign researchers conducting research in Poland	Norway, Research Council of Norway (RCN)	<b>16 December 2019</b>	<b>16 March 2020</b>
DIOSCURI 3 for the establishment of Dioscuri research centers in Poland	Germany, Max Planck Society (MPG)	<b>December 2019</b>	<b>March 2020</b>

\* Deadlines may change.

# IDEALAB

## “MANAGING THREATS”

### A CALL FOR INNOVATIVE, GROUND-BREAKING RESEARCH PROJECTS

Theme	Programme	Launch	Application deadline	IdeaLab Workshop	Submission deadline for full proposals
IdeaLab call for interdisciplinary projects that address important social challenges, carried out in cooperation with Norwegian, Icelandic and Liechtenstein teams	EEA Funds within Research programme financed with EEA and Norway Grants	<b>17 June 2019*</b>	<b>19 August 2019*</b>	<b>21–25 October 2019*</b>	<b>16 December 2019*</b>

\* Deadlines may change.



# OTHER INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES

In order to expand the range of the calls, the National Science Centre will continue the following initiatives in 2019.

## Open to all disciplines

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### **BEETHOVEN CLASSIC, BEETHOVEN LIFE**

GERMAN RESEARCH FOUNDATION (DFG), GERMANY

**Research area:**

Arts, humanities and social sciences; life sciences; selected areas of physical sciences and engineering. Scheduled next edition of the calls: September 2020

### **SHENG**

NATIONAL NATURAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION OF CHINA (NSFC), CHINA

**Research area:**

Selected areas of social sciences, life sciences, and physical sciences and engineering

## Life sciences

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### **ERA-CAPS**

ERA-NET FOR COORDINATING ACTION IN PLANT SCIENCES

**Research area:**

Molecular plant biology

## Arts, humanities and social sciences

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### **HERA**

HUMANITIES IN THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

**Research area:**

Humanities

### **EQUIP**

(EU-INDIA PLATFORM FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES)

**Research area:**

Humanities and social sciences – cooperation with India

## Interdisciplinary

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### **JPI URBAN EUROPE**

JOINT PROGRAMMING INITIATIVE – URBAN EUROPE

**Research area:**

Modern urban challenges

### **BIODIVERSA**

ERA-NET IN BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH

**Research area:**

Biodiversity

### **FORESTVALUE**

INNOVATING THE FOREST-BASED BIOECONOMY

**Research area:**

Forest-based economy

# NCN EXPERTS

NCN experts are specialists in their respective fields 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.

NCN Experts may be divided into three categories:

1. expert team members – a group of experts selected by the NCN Council 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 on the joint evaluation of each proposal at the meetings and jointly decide on the future of the proposals, including the list of proposals recommended for funding following the second stage of evaluation,
2. external experts – experts performing individual evaluation at the second stage of evaluation in most of the NCN calls
3. members of fixed teams – experts evaluating the reports on the implementation of grants awarded by the NCN.

In 2018, 1359 expert team members were appointed who reviewed a total number of 10 930 proposals at the first stage of evaluation. 7681 external experts participated in the second stage of evaluation, delivering 10 241 of reviews. 92% of them were foreign experts who delivered 9 456 reviews, i.e. 92% of the total number of evaluations.

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 the 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.





# PROPOSAL REVIEW

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

The review procedure begins with a formal evaluation performed by NCN Coordinators, which involves checking the completeness and correctness of the submission. The proposals then undergo a two-stage peer review by dedicated expert teams\*.

## STAGE I

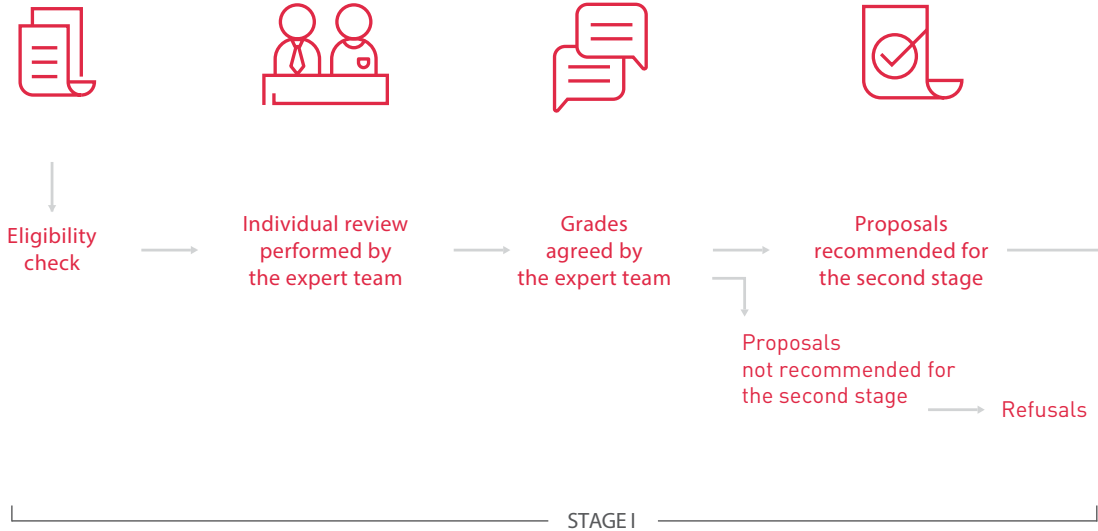
The proposals are first assessed individually by each member of the expert team. Individual evaluations serve as a point of departure for debate during the first panel session. The decision to reject or approve the proposal is taken collectively by the team as a whole. Subsequently, the members prepare a shortlist of projects admitted to stage two of the peer review process.

## STAGE II

Stage two may be conducted in one of three ways, depending on the type of call. Proposals submitted in the OPUS, PRELUDIUM and SONATA calls are evaluated by external, often foreign experts, whose reviews are later discussed by the expert team during the second panel session. External experts 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 calls includes an interview. The same is true of the ETIUDA and UW-ERTURA calls. The ranking list of winners is approved by the expert team.

The procedure (scheme on p. 26–27) applies to most domestic calls from the NCN portfolio, with the exception of MINIATURA, which involves a simplified, one-stage review process. Proposals in international calls are assessed based on separate principles described in dedicated call documents.

# PROPOSAL REVIEW





STAGE II

# YOUNG RESEARCHERS

One of the priorities of the National Science Centre is to support the growth of young researchers who have not yet earned their PhD or did so within the last 7 years. The PRELUDIUM, SONATINA, SONATA and ETIUUDA, where they do not need to compete against more experienced researchers, are specifically designed for this group.

In the NCN calls concluded in 2018:

**18%** of the total awarded funding went to calls dedicated for young researchers: PRELUDIUM, SONATINA, SONATA and ETIUUDA,

**51%\*** of all proposals were submitted by young researchers,

**56%\*** of projects qualified for funding were coordinated by young researchers.

\* Because of incomplete data, the estimate does not include the MINIATURA 2 call.

# NCN AWARD 2018

The NCN Award is a distinction granted to researchers up to 40 years old for outstanding achievements in basic research documented with publications affiliated with a Polish research institution. The prize was founded by the Council of the National Science Centre in February 2013. The distinction is awarded by a chapter consisting of the Director, the Council and founders' representatives in three research areas: Arts, Humanities and Social sciences; Life Sciences; and Physical Sciences and Engineering.

The distinctions have already been awarded six times. The NCN Award 2018 ceremony was held on 10 October 2018 at the Gallery of the 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Polish Art in the Sukiennice, the branch of National Museum in Kraków.



ARTS, HUMANITIES  
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



PHYSICAL SCIENCES  
AND ENGINEERING



LIFE SCIENCES

## Funders of the NCN Award 2018



## LIFE SCIENCES



### **Dr hab. Joanna Sułkowska**

Centre of New Technologies of  
the University of Warsaw

**Achievement:** pushing the boundaries of medical knowledge to develop new drugs – research into the structure and dynamics of proteins with non-trivial topologies

## ARTS, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



### **Prof. dr hab. Bartosz Brożek**

Faculty of Law and Administration of  
the Jagiellonian University

**Achievement:** developing an innovative concept of normativity, applicable in law and other normative systems, based on philosophical reasoning and the achievements of cognitive and evolutionary sciences

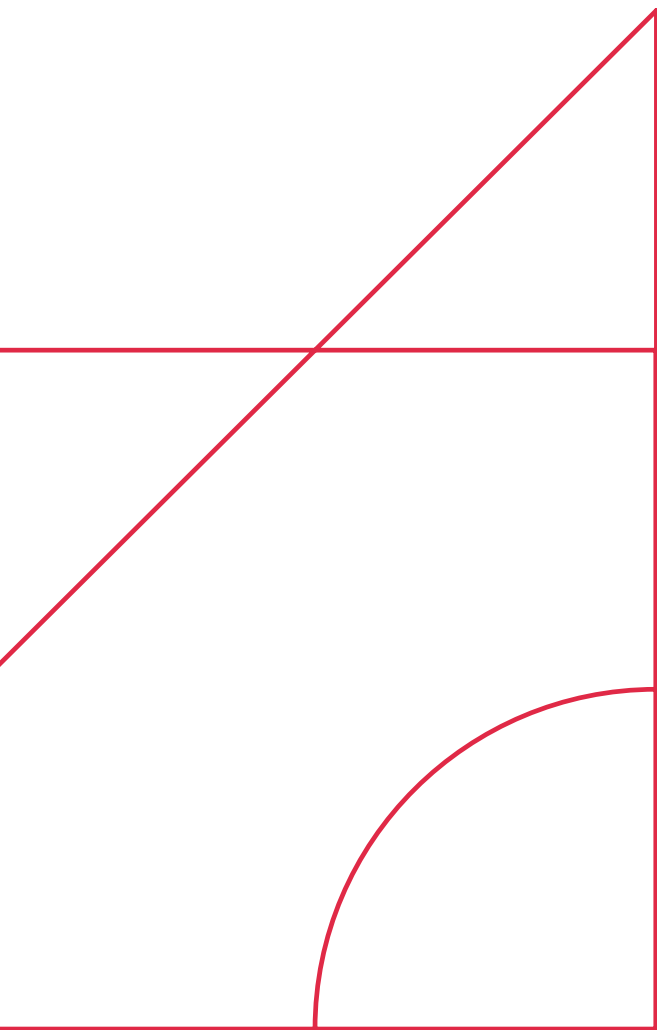


## **Dr hab. Piotr Sankowski**

Institute of Informatics at  
the University of Warsaw

**Achievement:** fundamental results in the area of graph algorithms, especially finding associations in graphs





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**PERFORMING FOR POLISH RESEARCH**

**2019**