

Krakow, 14 May 2020

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Please note that we have just concluded the EXPRESS CALL TO FUND RESEARCH ON COVID-19 announced on 30 March 2020. The list of winners is available [here](#). We announced this call, so different from any other NCN calls, given the special situation arising from the emergence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and global pandemic. We were hoping the call to trigger research would enable researchers in Poland to join the global fight against COVID-19. Interest in the call has exceeded our expectations. We have received 259 incredibly interesting proposals in nearly all research domains. Although the call was carried out according to a special procedure, all the standards and code of ethics applicable to the NCN experts and reviewers in regular calls have been adhered to during the evaluation procedure. We are confident that, despite the short time and extraordinary procedure, the proposals have been fairly evaluated.

The initial budget of PLN 10,000,000 allocated for the call by the NCN Council was increased and eventually exceeded PLN 12,000,000. With over 250 submitted proposals for a total amount of over PLN 140,000,000, the choice was particularly difficult. The proposals to be awarded funding represent only 7% of all proposals submitted and we can only regret that this rate cannot be any higher. We are aware that with such a low success rate, a great number of important and interesting projects will not receive funding, although there is a chance that the effort put into drafting the proposals will not be in vain if you consider submitting them under NCN's regular calls. Some of them fit perfectly in the OPUS call, since the proposed scope of research is so wide that the implementation period can take up to 4 years. These proposals could be submitted to the upcoming call, which will be announced on 15 June 2020. Apart from that, there are other calls available; for example, the call for research into COVID-19 to be carried out jointly with researchers from Switzerland (ALPHORN-COVID-19) or Austria (CEUS-UNISONO). Polish research teams whose joint proposals are approved by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and Austrian Science Fund (FWF), respectively, will participate in the cooperation and will be funded by the NCN according to its regular terms and conditions. We have also received proposals in which researchers have suggested specific activities of an applied nature that perfectly fit the call launched by the National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR) and as such can be funded by the NCBR.

We would like to thank everyone for participating in the EXPRESS CALL TO FUND RESEARCH ON COVID-19 and congratulate the winners. We wish all the others a lot of success in the upcoming calls launched by the National Science Centre as well as the National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR), Foundation for Polish Science (FNP), Medical Research Agency and Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA).

Management and Council
of the National Science Centre