



Council  
of the National Science Centre  
KR.0003.17.2018

**RESOLUTION N° 17/2018**  
**BY THE COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE**  
of 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018  
**on the terms of conducting the call for proposals OPUS 15**

Pursuant to art. 18 point 4 of the act of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010 on the National Science Centre (Journal of Laws of 2016, item 1071, as amended), the Council of the National Science Centre sets the terms of conducting **the OPUS 15 call for proposals of research projects, including purchase or construction of research equipment necessary for the completion of those projects.**

### 1. Eligible applicants

Applications for funding of research projects may be submitted by entities set out in art. 10 of the act of 30<sup>th</sup> April on the principles of funding science (Journal of Laws of 2018, item 87), hereinafter referred to as applicants.<sup>1</sup>

### 2. Eligible proposals

Under the call proposals may be submitted for funding of research projects:

- 1) which constitute basic research within the meaning of art. 2 point 3a of the act of 30<sup>th</sup> April on the principles of funding science in any of the disciplines specified by the National Science Centre's panels, as adopted by Resolution no 102/2016 of 10th November 2016 by the Council of the National Science Centre;
- 2) which last 12, 24 or 36 months;<sup>2</sup>
- 3) whose principal investigator can indicate between 3 and 10 published research works, of which 3 most important ones they attach to the proposal;

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<sup>1</sup> Applications for funding of research projects may be submitted by:

- 1) academic or research organisations;
- 2) research consortia;
- 3) research networks and organisational units within institutions of higher education that do not constitute their basic organisational units;
- 4) science and technology facilities;
- 5) research centres of the Polish Academy of Sciences;  
5a) academic research centres shared by higher education institutions;
- 6) scientific libraries
- 7) enterprises with the status of a research and development centre as defined in the Act of 30<sup>th</sup> May 2008 on certain forms of support for innovation activities;
- 8) other legal entities established in the territory of the Republic of Poland;
- 9) natural persons;
- 10) enterprises conducting research in a different form than those specified in points 1-8.

If the applicant is a natural person, the host institution may not be a composite entity or an entity for which the funding of the research project constitutes state aid.

<sup>2</sup> In the case of entities applying for state aid, the start date of a research project is 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.



- 4) which take into account “Regulations on the mode of granting financial resources for the completion of tasks funded by the National Science Centre (Narodowe Centrum Nauki, NCN) as regards research projects, post-doctoral internships and doctoral scholarships,” as adopted by the resolution of the Council of the NCN no 16/2018 of 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018, hereinafter referred to as “Regulations.”

### 3. Submission of proposals

- 3.1. Information required in the proposal and documents attached to the application for funding a research project under the OPUS 15 call for proposals are set out in the **annex** to this resolution.
- 3.2. An applicant not receiving any operating support grant from the budget for science should support their application with information concerning:<sup>3</sup>
  - 1) research conducted over the period of 2 years before submitting the proposal, together with a list of publications affiliated with the entity;
  - 2) research equipment and other instrumentation/facilities crucial to scientific research.
- 3.3. Application for funding a research project together with the required annexes must be submitted no later than 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018 in electronic form via the OSF (Obstuga Strumieni Finansowania) system at [www.osf.opi.org.pl](http://www.osf.opi.org.pl).
- 3.4. The application must be supported with a confirmation of submitting the proposal bearing a qualified electronic signature or with a scan of the document signed in the signatory's own hand.

### 4. Evaluation of proposals

- 4.1. The merit-based evaluation is open only to research proposals evaluated positively at the stage of the eligibility check.
- 4.2. Research proposals are evaluated in accordance with the Regulations.
- 4.3. In the process of the merit-based evaluation of research proposals, the following are given particular consideration:
  - 1) fulfilling the criterion of basic research within the meaning of art. 2 point 3 a) of the act of 30<sup>th</sup> April on the principles of funding science;
  - 2) the scientific achievements of the principal investigator, including publications in academic press/journals;
  - 3) evaluation of the results of research projects conducted by the principal investigator, funded from the budget for science;
  - 4) quality of the planned research or project tasks;
  - 5) innovative nature of the research problem addressed;
  - 6) project's impact on the advancement of the scientific field/discipline;
  - 7) relevance of the planned costs to the subject and scope of the research;
  - 8) assessment of the feasibility of the project's completion;
  - 9) due diligence in proposal preparation.

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<sup>3</sup> The applicant who is a natural person enters the data of the entity in which they intend to carry out the research project.



## 5. Call procedure and call results

- 5.1. The call procedures are to be concluded and its results published by 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2018.
- 5.2. The results of the call are published in the OSF system and dispatched by way of the decision of the Director of the National Science Centre to the address of the electronic mail account known as Elektroniczna Skrzynka Podawcza ESP, as indicated in the application, or to the address of the applicant's ePUAP account. If the applicant has not indicated an address of ePUAP account, a message is sent to the principal investigator's email address, as indicated in the application, containing the electronic address, whereby the applicant may download the Director's decision.
- 5.3. If the decision is not collected, the decision of the Director of the National Science Centre is considered to have been delivered within 14 days of the date of being made available.
- 5.4. In the event of a breach of the call procedure or other formal infringements, the applicant may appeal the decision of the Director of the National Science Centre to the Committee of Appeals of the Council of the National Science Centre within 14 days of the decision's delivery.
- 5.5. The Committee of Appeals of the Council of the National Science Centre passes judgement in the case of the appeal no later than 3 months from lodging the appeal.

## 6. Mode of funding

- 6.1. Financial resources for the completion of the research tasks specified in the proposal recommended for funding are granted by the decision of the Director of the NCN.
- 6.2. Financial resources are granted to the research project's host institution, pursuant to a funding agreement concluded between the National Science Centre, the host institution and the principal investigator.
- 6.3. If the research project recommended for funding has been submitted by a natural person not employed by any of the entities referred to in art. 10 points 1-8 & 10 of the act of 30<sup>th</sup> April on the principles of funding science, the Director of the National Science Centre will issue a funding commitment. The financial resources are granted to the entity employing the person. The condition for concluding the funding agreement is employing the person by one of the entities referred to in art. 10 points 1-8 & 10 of the abovementioned act, with the exception of composite entities<sup>4</sup> and entities for which the funding for the research project constitutes state aid.
- 6.4. If financial resources are granted to applicants established as enterprises<sup>5</sup>, the provisions of the directive of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015 on the terms and mode of granting state aid via the National Science Centre (Journal of Laws of 2015, item 1381) shall apply.
- 6.5. The applicant is obliged, within the period indicated in the decision on awarding funding for the completion of a research project, to submit to the National Science Centre a draft version of the funding agreement, including its work plan and breakdown of costs, and to perform other

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<sup>4</sup> The following are all considered as composite entities: research consortium, research networks, science and technology facilities, research centres of the Polish Academy of Sciences and academic research centres shared by higher education institutions, with the exception of academic research centres operating as units within single higher education institution. Composite entities are represented by a leader indicated in the application or a composite entity agreement. The leader makes declarations on behalf of the composite entity.

<sup>5</sup> An enterprise is considered to be any entity engaged in an economic activity, irrespective of its legal form. This includes, in particular, self-employed persons and family businesses engaged in craft or other activities, and partnerships or associations regularly engaged in an economic activity, in accordance with the directive of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015 on the terms and mode of granting state aid via the National Science Centre (Journal of Laws of 2015, item 1381) in reference to Article 1 of ANNEX I to the Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17<sup>th</sup> June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty Text (OJ EU L 187 of 26<sup>th</sup> September 2014, p. 1)



actions ordered in the decision. Failure to comply with the provisions of the decision within the indicated period is tantamount to resignation from concluding the funding agreement.

## **7. Call budget**

The Council of the National Science Centre establishes the amount of financial resources allocated for the completion of research projects under the OPUS 15 call for proposals **as PLN 300 million.**

*The English version of this Resolution does not constitute a sworn translation and has been prepared as an auxiliary document for your convenience. In case of any doubts as to the interpretation of its provisions, the Polish version shall prevail.*