

RESOLUTION NO 27/2019
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE

of 14 March 2019

on terms of the OPUS call for proposals

Pursuant to Article 18 (4) of the Act on the National Science Centre of 30 April 2010 (Journal of Laws of 2018, item 947, as amended), hereinafter referred to as the “NCN Act”, the Council of the National Science Centre sets forth the terms of the **OPUS call for proposals for research projects**.

I. Eligible applicants

- § 1. Entities referred to in Article 27 (1) of the NCN Act, hereinafter referred to as the “applicants”, may file proposals for funding of a research project, hereinafter referred to as the “proposals”.
- § 2. Proposals may also be filed by entities referred to in § 1 for which funding of research projects will constitute state aid granted in compliance with the Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 9 September 2015 on the terms and mode for granting state aid via the NCN (Journal of Laws of 2015, item 1381).
- § 3. When a group of entities defined in Article 27 (1) (2) of the NCN Act is the applicant, a proposal shall be submitted by the leader. The entity that employs the principal investigator shall act as a leader.
- § 4. When a natural person is the applicant, the research project may not be carried out by a group of entities or an entity for which project funding will constitute state aid.
- § 5. Entities under forced administration or in liquidation or subject to bankruptcy proceedings cannot submit proposals or carry out research projects.

II. Terms of entry

- § 6. The following proposals may be submitted under the call:
 - 1) for research tasks which have not been and are not funded by the NCN or from other sources;
 - 2) that cover basic research within the meaning of Article 2 (1) of the NCN Act, in any academic discipline specified in the NCN panels approved by the NCN Council;
 - 3) that cover research projects planned for a period of 12, 24 or 36 months and
 - 4) that meet the requirements specified in the “*Regulations of awarding funding for the implementation of research tasks funded by the National Science Centre*”, adopted by the NCN Council, hereinafter referred to as the “Regulations”.
- § 7. Proposals may be submitted to the call in which applicants will specify:
 - 1) the title of the research project (*in Polish and in English*);



- 2) project's abstract (*up to 4500 characters in English*);
- 3) project's abstract for the general public (*1 page in Polish and 1 page in English*),
- 4) research project description:
 - a) short (*up to 5 pages in English*),
 - b) full (*up to 15 pages in English*).

Descriptions shall contain: the scientific goal of the project, significance of the project, general concept and plan of research, research methodology and list of literature applicable to the subject-matter of the project;

- 5) research plan (*in Polish and in English*) presenting research tasks;
- 6) information on the research team (*in English*), including:
 - a) information on the principal investigator, including:
 - academic and research career;
 - 1-10 of the most important papers published or accepted for publication (with confirmation) in the year of the proposal or in the period of the last 10 years before the year of the proposal¹ with one to three publications of those listed in PDF format;
 - in the case of research in the arts, 1-10 of the most important papers published or accepted for publication (with confirmation) or artistic achievements and achievements in research in art in the year of the proposal or in the period of the last 10 years before the year of the proposal¹. If one or more papers are listed, one to three of them will be attached in PDF format;
 - information on the management of research projects or other funding collected under NCN calls in the year of the proposal or in the period of the last 10 years before the year of the proposal¹ and on the management of research projects in that period, funded under other domestic or international calls;
 - description of the most important scientific achievement;
 - research experience acquired in Poland or abroad;
 - the most important international and Polish awards for research or other scientific and artistic activities;
 - b) information on the required qualifications and planned scope of work of each investigator in the research project.
- 7) breakdown of costs for the research project (*in English*) drafted in compliance with the Regulations;
- 8) in the case of a research project to be carried out in cooperation with a partner from a foreign research institution, information on international collaboration as well as description of benefits that may result from such cooperation (*in English*);
- 9) information on the ethical aspects of the project, including any consents, opinions, permits and/or approvals necessary to carry out the project in compliance with generally applicable laws and best practices adopted for a specific academic discipline (*in English*);

¹ The period can be extended by long-term (over 90 days) evidenced sickness benefits or physiotherapy benefits on account of unfitness for work. This period may be extended by the number of months of child care leave granted pursuant to the Labour Code and in the case of women, by 18 months for every child born or adopted child, if this way of accounting for career breaks is more advantageous.



- 10) in the case of research projects which include clinical research with a medicinal product or medical devices, a detailed justification of the non-commercial nature of clinical research (*in English*);
- 11) in the case of research projects covering research being performed or completed by the principal investigator, or with respect to which the principal investigator applies for funding under other NCN calls and from other sources, description of research tasks similar to those proposed in the project with reasons justifying the need to have them funded (*in English*);
- 12) in the case of research projects to be carried out in entities that do not receive any institutional core funding for research activity, information on research carried out in the last 2 years with a list of publications and information concerning research equipment and other instruments crucial to research (*in English*);
- 13) in the case of research projects to be carried out by a group of Polish entities, an agreement on collaboration for the performance of the proposed research project, including identification of the parties to the agreement and its leader; subject and term of the agreement covering the performance period of the research project; authorisation for a representative of the leader to act on behalf of the entire group of entities in the procedure for the allocation of funding and performance of the research project; obligation of the leader to provide the other parties with information received from the NCN; signatures of the authorised representatives of all members of the group of entities (*in Polish*);
- 14) declarations by the principal investigator and the host institution as required in the proposal and
- 15) in the case of entities for which project funding will constitute state aid, a detailed breakdown of costs as well as other documents and declarations related to the proposal for state aid via the NCN as required in the proposal (*in Polish*).

III. Evaluation of proposals

§ 8. Proposals shall be evaluated pursuant to the Regulations.

§ 9. The evaluation of proposals shall focus in particular on:

- 1) compliance with the criterion of basic research as specified in Article 2 (1) of the NCN Act;
- 2) quality of the research or project tasks to be performed;
- 3) innovative nature of the research problem addressed;
- 4) project's impact on the development of the scientific discipline;
- 5) research track record of the principal investigator, including publications in reputable academic journals;
- 6) evaluation of the results of research projects conducted by the principal investigator, funded by the NCN or from other sources;
- 7) evaluation of feasibility of the requested research project;
- 8) relevance of the planned costs to the subject and scope of research and
- 9) preparation of the proposal and compliance with other requirements set forth in the call announcement.



IV. Funding decision

§ 10. The call shall be concluded within 6 months of submission of the proposal.

§ 11. The call results shall be communicated by way of a decision by the NCN Director.

Prof. dr hab. Małgorzata Kossowska
Chairwoman of the Council of the
National Science Centre

This document is not a certified translation and has been prepared for your convenience. In the case of any doubts as to the interpretation of its provisions, the Polish version shall prevail.