

Annex to NCN Council Resolution No 91/2019 of 12 September 2019 amending the terms of the OPUS call

**The terms of the OPUS call for research projects  
to be carried out by the National Science Centre**

**I. Addressees of the call**

The call is addressed at researchers at any stage of their research career who intend to carry out research projects, including projects carried out under international cooperation established initiated directly with a partner or partners from foreign research institutions or under international programs or initiatives launched in bilateral or multilateral cooperation, or research projects involving large-scale international research infrastructure to be used by the Polish research teams.

**II. Eligible applicants**

- § 1. Proposals for funding of research projects, hereinafter referred to as the “proposals”, may be submitted by entities referred to in Article 27 (1) of the NCN Act, hereinafter referred to as the “applicants”.
- § 2. Proposals may also be filed by entities defined in § 1, for which funding of the research project will constitute state aid granted pursuant to the Regulation on the terms and mode of granting state aid via the National Science Centre adopted by the Minister of Science and Higher Education on 9 September 2015 (Journal of Laws of 2015, item 1381).
- § 3. Where the applicant is a group of entities defined in Article 27 (1) (2) of the NCN Act, the proposal shall be submitted by the leader. The principal investigator’s employer shall act as a leader of the group of entities.
- § 4. Where the applicant is a natural person, the research project cannot be carried out by a group of entities or entity for which funding of the research project will constitute state aid.
- § 5. An entity that is under receivership, in liquidation or subject to bankruptcy proceedings cannot be an applicant or host institution for a research project.

**III. Terms of entry**

- § 6. The following proposals may be submitted under the call:
- 1) to carry out research that neither is nor was funded by the NCN nor from any other sources,
  - 2) which comprise basic research laid down in Article 2 (1) of the NCN Act in any of the academic disciplines defined in the NCN panels adopted by the NCN Council ,
  - 3) which cover a research project planned for a period of 12, 24, 36 or 48 months and
  - 4) which comply with the Regulations on awarding funding for research tasks funded by the National Science Centre as regards research projects, adopted by the NCN Council, hereinafter referred to as the “Regulations”.
- § 7. Proposals submitted under the call must include:
- 1) research project title (*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 description (*up to 5 pages in English*);
  - b) full description (*up to 15 pages in English*);

The description shall contain the scientific goal of the project, significance of the project, general concept and work plan, research methodology and project literature applicable to the subject of the project;
- 5) work 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 most important papers published or accepted for publication (letter of a acceptance required) in the proposal submission year and over the period of 10 years prior to the proposal submission year<sup>1</sup>, with 1-3 of them attached as PDF files;

For research in art, 1-10 most important papers published or accepted for publication (letter of acceptance required) or artistic achievements and achievements in research in art in the proposal submission year or over the period of 10 years prior to the proposal submission year<sup>1</sup>. If more than one paper is listed, 1-3 of them should be attached as PDF files;

    - information on research project management or other funding awarded under NCN calls in the proposal submission year or within 10 years prior to proposal submission year<sup>1</sup> and on research project management in that period funded under other domestic calls or international calls<sup>2</sup>;
    - description of the most important research achievement;
    - research experience gained in Poland or abroad;
    - the most important national or international distinctions for research and/or other activity in research in art;
  - b) information on the required qualifications and scope of work planned by each investigator in the research project;
- 7) research project budget (*in English*) drafted pursuant to the Regulations;
- 8) in the case of a research project to be carried out under international cooperation
  - a) with a partner from a foreign research institution or under international programs or initiatives launched in bilateral or multilateral cooperation, information on international cooperation as well as description of benefits that may result from such cooperation (*in English*);
  - b) involving large-scale international research infrastructure to be used by the Polish research teams, information on international cooperation as well as description of benefits that may result from such cooperation and document confirming that such large-scale international research infrastructure can be used (*in English*);

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Acting as a principal investigator also means managing/ coordinating the work of a research group in international research projects or programs.



- 9) information on the data management plan concerning data generated or used in the course of a research project, as required by the proposal (*in English*);
- 10) information on the ethical aspects of the project, including any consents, opinions, permits and/or approvals necessary to carry out the project pursuant to generally applicable laws and best practices adopted for a specific academic discipline, as required by the proposal (*in English*);
- 11) in the case of research projects which include clinical trials with a medicinal product or a medical device, a detailed justification of the non-commercial nature of the trials (*in English*);
- 12) 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 or from other sources, description of similar research tasks with reasons justifying the need to have them funded under the project (*in English*);
- 13) in the case of research projects to be carried out in host institutions that do not receive any operating support for research, information on research carried out over the last 2 years, together with a list of publications and information on research equipment and other instruments crucial to research (*in English*);
- 14) in the case of research projects to be carried out by a group of ~~Polish~~ entities, an agreement on collaboration for the purposes of completion of the requested research project containing, *inter alia*, the parties to the agreement and its leader; subject-matter and term of the agreement covering the performance period of the research project; authorisation of leader's representative 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*);
- 15) administrative declarations by the principal investigator and the host institution for the project, as required by the proposal and
- 16) 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 by the proposal (*in Polish*).

#### **IV. Evaluation of proposals**

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

§ 9. In the evaluation of proposals, the following criteria shall be reviewed in particular:

- 1) compliance with the criterion of basic research laid down in Article 2 (1) of the NCN Act;
- 2) quality of research or tasks to be carried out;
- 3) innovative nature of the research problem addressed;
- 4) project's impact on the advancement of the scientific discipline;
- 5) research achievements of the principal investigator, including publications in renowned academic press/journals;
- 6) evaluation of other projects carried out by the principal investigator and funded by the NCN or from other sources;
- 7) evaluation of feasibility of the project's completion;
- 8) justification of the costs as regards the subject and scope of research; and



- 9) development of the proposal and compliance with other requirements of the call announcement.

**V. Funding decision**

- § 10. The call shall be concluded within 6 months of the proposal submission date.
- § 11. The results of the call shall be announced by way of a decision of the NCN Director.

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

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.