

RESOLUTION NO 32/2024

OF THE COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE

of 21 March 2024

laying down the terms and regulations of the call for proposals for NCN funding of Research Components in research projects funded under the Polish Returns NAWA Programme launched by the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange

Pursuant to Article 18 (4) and Article 21, in conjunction with Article 20 (3) of the Act on the National Science Centre of 30 April 2010 (consolidated text in Journal of Laws of 2023, item 153, hereinafter: the "NCN Act") and pursuant to the Cooperation Agreement between the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (the "NAWA") and the National Science Centre (the "NCN") entered into on 12 September 2019, the Council of the National Science Centre hereby lays down the terms and regulations of the call for proposals for NCN funding of Research Components in research projects funded under the Polish Returns NAWA Programme launched by the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange.

I. General Provisions

Whenever this Resolution refers to:

- 1) NCN, it shall mean the National Science Centre;
- 2) NAWA, it shall mean the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange;
- 3) Basic Research, it shall mean research laid down in Article 2 (1) of the NCN Act;
- 4) Programme, it shall mean the Polish Returns NAWA 2022 Programme launched by the NAWA;
- 5) Project, it shall mean actions planned by the Returning Scientist and described in the proposal that has been awarded funding by the NAWA in the Programme, financed by both the NAWA and the NCN;
- 6) Research Component, it shall mean Basic Research funded by the NCN and performed under the Project by a Returning Scientist and a Project Group (if provided for in the Project);
- 7) Beneficiary, it shall mean an entity that has been awarded funding under the Programme to employ a Returning Scientist and a Project Group (if provided for in the Project);
- 8) Returning Scientist, it shall mean a researcher returning to Poland under the Programme, employed by the Beneficiary and performing the Research Component the funding of which they have requested;
- 9) Project Group, it shall mean a research team performing the Research Component in the Project;
- 10) Call or Call for Proposals, it shall mean a qualification for NCN funding of Research Components performed under Projects and funded under the NAWA Programme; and
- 11) Applicant, it shall mean an institution eligible to submit a proposal to the NCN under the Call for Proposals pursuant hereto.

II. Addressees of the Call

The call is addressed at those Programme Beneficiaries whose proposals submitted to the NAWA include Research Components.

III. Eligible Applicants

- §1. Only those Beneficiaries that have received funding under the Programme to perform a Project containing a Research Component are eligible applicants.
- §2. Proposals for funding of a Research Component (hereinafter: "proposal/s") may be submitted by entities described in Article 7 (1) (1), 7 (1) (2), 7 (1) (4), 7 (1) (5), 7 (1) (6), 7 (1) (7) and 7 (1) (8) of the Act on Higher Education and Science of 20 July 2018 (consolidated text in Journal of Laws 2023, item 742, as amended), for which funding will not constitute state aid, i.e.:
- 1) universities;
 - 2) federations of science and HE entities;
 - 3) research institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences, operating pursuant to the Act on the Polish Academy of Sciences of 30 April 2010 (consolidated text in Journal of Laws of 2020, item 1796);
 - 4) research institutes operating pursuant to the Act on Research Institutes of 30 April 2010 (consolidated text in Journal of Laws of 2022, item 498);
 - 5) international research institutes established pursuant to separate Acts, operating in the Republic of Poland;
 - 6) Łukasiewicz Centre operating pursuant to the Act on the Łukasiewicz Research Network of 21 February 2019 (consolidated text in Journal of Laws of 2020, item 2098);
 - 7) institutes operating within the Łukasiewicz Research Network;
 - 8) Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences; and
 - 9) other entities involved in research independently on a continuous basis that have been awarded an academic category.
- §3. The applicants must not be under forced administration or in liquidation or subject to bankruptcy proceedings.

IV. Terms of Entry

- §4. The following proposals for a Research Component may be submitted to the Call:
- 1) covered by the Project;
 - 2) performed by a Returning Scientist and a Project Group (if provided for in the Project);
 - 3) comprising 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;
 - 4) comprising research to be performed during the first 18 months of the Project start date;
 - 5) with requested funding not exceeding 200,000 PLN for the entire project performance period;
 - 6) in which the Investigator including:
 - a) proposal title the same as the title of the Project financed under the Programme (*in Polish and in English*);
 - b) Research Component start date consistent with the Project start date;

- c) full proposal submitted to the NAWA under the Programme in PDF format;
- d) costs of the Research Component drafted in compliance with the terms laid down by the NCN Council in the document: *Costs in Research Components funded by the National Science Centre within the framework of the projects funded under the programmes launched by the Polish National Academy for Academic Exchange* including the costs of the Research Component covered by the Project and recommendations of the NAWA Team evaluating proposals submitted under the Programme (if any) (*in English*);
- e) general budget including the costs of Research Component covered by the Project referred to in Point d) as well as recommendations of the NAWA Team evaluating proposals submitted under the Programme (if any);
- f) information on the data management plan concerning data generated or used in the course of performance of the Research Component, as required by the proposal (*in English*);
- g) information on the ethical aspects, including any consents, opinions, permits and/or approvals necessary to perform the Research Component in compliance with generally applicable laws and best practices adopted for a specific academic discipline, as required by the proposal (*in English*);
- h) in the case of a Research Component which includes clinical trials with a medicinal product or a medical device, a detailed justification of the non-commercial nature of the trials (*in English*);
- i) in the case of a Research Component to be performed in a host institution that does not receive any institutional core funding for research activities, information on research carried out over the last 2 years, together with a list of publications and information on research equipment and other instruments/facilities crucial to research (*in English*); and
- j) declaration by the Applicant, as required by the proposal (*in Polish*).

V. Submission of Proposals

- §5. Proposals are submitted electronically via the OSF submission system available at <https://osf.opi.org.pl>.
- §6. Proposals are filled in with information requested in the proposal in the OSF submission system. Information required in the proposal is included in the Call Text.
- §7. Only complete proposals that meet all the requirements set forth in the Call Text are accepted in the Call for Proposals.
- §8. By submitting a proposal, the Applicants accepts the General Terms of the Funding Agreement for a Research Component, the template of which is included in the Call Text.

VI. Proposal Submission Date

- §9. The continuous call for proposals shall be open from the date the results of the Programme are published by the NAWA until the last proposal is submitted to the NCN containing a Research Component and recommended for funding by the NAWA under the Programme.
- §10. A funding proposal for a Research Component must be submitted to the NCN at least two weeks before the forecasted Project start date.

VII. Proposal Evaluation Methods and Criteria

- §11. Proposals submitted under the Call for Proposals are subject to an eligibility check.
- §12. An eligibility check is performed by the Coordinators.
- §13. The eligibility check includes:
- 1) verification whether the proposal is complete;
 - 2) verification whether the proposal meets all requirements of the Call Text;
 - 3) verification whether information in the proposal submitted to the NCN complies with information in the proposal submitted to the NAWA under the Programme; and
 - 4) verification whether the costs comply with eligible costs specified by the NCN Council in the document: *Costs in Research Components funded by the National Science Centre within the framework of the projects funded under the programmes launched by the Polish National Academy for Academic Exchange*; and
 - 5) verification whether the costs comply with the costs of Research Components covered by the proposal submitted to the NAWA as well as any recommendations of the NAWA Team evaluating proposals submitted to the Programme.
- §14. An Applicant whose proposal does not meet the eligibility criteria can submit another proposal in line with the comments provided by the NCN.
- §15. Only proposals approved as eligible to the extent laid down in §13 hereto are recommended for funding.

VIII. Conclusion of the Call for Proposals

The results of the Call for Proposals are announced by way of a decision of the NCN Director.

Prof. Dr hab. Robert Hasterok
President of the Council of the
National Science Centre