

## **Terms of the SONATA call for research projects launched by the National Science Centre**

### **I. Addressees of the call**

The call is addressed at researchers with a PhD degree conferred within 2 to 7 years before the proposal submission year who are planning to carry out research projects.<sup>1</sup>

### **II. Eligible applicants**

- §1. Research project funding proposals, hereinafter referred to as the “proposals”, may be submitted by any entity set forth in Article 27 (1) of the Act on the National Science Centre of 30 April 2010 (consolidated text in Journal of Laws of 2023, item 153, as amended; hereinafter: the “NCN Act”), hereinafter referred to as the “applicant”.<sup>2</sup>
- §2. Proposals may also be submitted by applicants, for which funding of the research project will constitute state aid granted pursuant to the Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education adopted pursuant to Article 37 (2) of the NCN Act.
- §3. Where the applicant is a group of entities set forth 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 the 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 has not been funded by the NCN or from other sources;
  - 2) which comprise basic research set forth 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) in which the principal investigator has been conferred a PhD degree within 2 to 7 years before the proposal submission year<sup>3</sup>
  - 4) which cover a research project planned for a period of 12, 24 or 36 months;

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<sup>1</sup> Including research projects aimed at creating a unique methodology understood as innovative basic research projects using modern research facilities and/or original theory and methodology.

<sup>2</sup> An additional legal, organisational, and financial situation will be conducted for applicants outside the public finance sector operating for less than 5 years, or applicants unable to provide appropriate security for successful completion of the project. If an individual applies, the host institution will be subject to such assessment. In the case of a group of entities, each partner will be assessed individually.

<sup>3</sup> This period can be extended by long-term (in excess of 90 days) documented sick leaves or physiotherapy leaves granted on account of being unfit to work. In addition, this period may be extended by the number of months of a 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, whichever manner of accounting for career breaks is preferable.

- 5) 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"; and
- 6) that contain information and documents specified in §7

§7. Proposals must contain information specified in the proposal form in the OSF submission system, the template of which is provided in the call announcement, including:

- 1) research project title (*in Polish and in English*);
- 2) project's abstract (*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 descriptions must contain the scientific goal of the project, significance of the project, general concept and work plan, research methodology, composition and qualifications of the research team, including (if applicable) achievements of the co-investigators specified in the proposal, as well as project literature applicable to the subject of the project.

Project literature does not count towards the page limit.

- 5) work plan presenting research tasks (*in Polish and in English*);
- 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 acceptance required) in the proposal submission year or over the period of 10 years prior to the proposal submission year<sup>3</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>3</sup>. If one or more paper(s) are 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 the period of 10 years prior to the proposal submission year<sup>3</sup>;
    - information on management of research projects funded under other national or international calls<sup>4</sup> in the proposal submission year or within the period of 10 years prior to the proposal submission year<sup>3</sup> (*no more than 5 projects*);
    - 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 drafted pursuant to the Regulations (*in English*);
- 8) in the case of research projects to be carried out with partners from foreign research institutions, information on international cooperation as well as description of benefits that may result from such cooperation (*in English*).
- 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*);

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<sup>4</sup> Acting as a principal investigator also means managing/ coordinating the work of a research group in international research projects or programmes.

- 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 by a group of entities, a research project cooperation agreement, as required by the proposal (*in Polish*);
- 14) administrative declarations by the principal investigator and the host institution for the project, as required by 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 application 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 criteria of basic research laid down in Article 2 (1) of the NCN Act;
  - 2) quality and innovative nature of research or tasks to be performed;
  - 3) impact of the research project on the advancement of the scientific discipline;
  - 4) assessment of the feasibility of the proposed project;
  - 5) scientific 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) relevance of the costs to be incurred with regard to the subject and scope of the research; and
  - 8) preparation of the proposal and compliance with other requirements set forth in the call text.

#### **V. Funding decision**

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

Prof. dr hab. Tomasz Dietl  
President of the Council  
of the National Science Centre  
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