



Council
of the National Science Centre
KR.0003.38.2026

RESOLUTION NO 38/2026

of 16 April 2026

BY THE COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE

laying down the terms of and regulations on the NCN-funding of research tasks for Polish and Lithuanian research projects under DAINA 4

Pursuant to Article 18 (4) and in conjunction with Article 20 (1) (4) of the Act on the National Science Centre of 30 April 2010 (consolidated text in Journal of Laws of 2026, item 101, hereinafter: the „NCN Act”) and pursuant to the Cooperation Agreement between the National Science Centre (NCN) and the Research Council of Lithuania (RCL) of 16 November 2016, the Council of the National Science Centre hereby lays down the **terms of and regulations on the NCN-funding of research tasks for Polish and Lithuanian research projects under DAINA 4**.

1. General provisions

1.1 Whenever this Resolution refers to:

- 1) joint proposal, it shall mean a proposal drafted jointly by the Polish and Lithuanian research team and submitted by the Lithuanian applicant under the RCL call pursuant to RCL requirements;
- 2) NCN proposal, it shall mean a proposal of the Polish research team for the NCN-funding of the Polish part of the project, including the joint proposal submitted to RCL;
- 3) Regulations, it shall mean the Regulations on the NCN-funding of research tasks for Polish and Lithuanian research projects under DAINA 4, attached hereto as Annex 1;
- 4) research team, it shall mean the principal investigator together with members of the research team, if applicable in the proposal;
- 5) NCN panels, they shall mean disciplines or groups of disciplines defined by the NCN Council, covering the entire span of research in three domains: i.e. Humanities, Social Sciences and Art Sciences (HS), Physical Sciences and Engineering (ST) and Life Sciences (NZ), for which NCN calls are announced and launched.

1.2 The call is addressed at Polish research teams submitting joint funding proposals together with Lithuanian research teams.

1.3 This Resolution lays down the terms and conditions of DAINA 4 and NCN funding of research projects funded by the Polish research teams.

1.4 The terms and conditions of NCN funding of research tasks under DAINA 4 are laid down in the Regulations (**Annex 1**).

1.5 RCL lays down the terms and conditions of awarding funding for research tasks carried out by the Lithuanian research teams under DAINA 4.

2. Terms of entry



2.1 DAINA 4 is open to NCN proposals:

- 1) for research tasks that have not been funded by the NCN or from other sources;
- 2) that cover basic research for the purposes of Article 2 (1) of the NCN Act in any of the academic disciplines covered by the NCN panels, as laid down in the terms and regulations of the RCL call and in the DAINA 4 call text;
- 3) that cover research based on a balanced and complementary contribution of research teams within the framework of bilateral cooperation between the research teams from Poland and Lithuania requesting RCL funding;
- 4) that cover research projects carried out over a period of 36 months;
- 5) in which the requested funding for the entire duration of the Polish part of the research project is no more than PLN 1,300,000;
- 6) in which each research team involved in the project has a principal investigator, whereas the Polish part of the project is managed by the principal investigator in the Polish research team;
- 7) in which the principal investigator is at least a PhD holder;
- 8) in which the budget of the Polish part of the project included in the NCN proposal and in the joint proposal is drafted pursuant to **Annex 2** hereto (Costs in NCN-funded research projects under DAINA 4 for Polish and Lithuanian research projects) and is converted on the basis of the exchange rate published by the National Bank of Poland on the date this Resolution is adopted by the NCN Council, i.e., EUR 1 = PLN 4.2411;
- 9) that comply with the terms hereof; and
- 10) that include the documents and information set forth in 2 (2) hereof.

2.2 NCN proposals must include the following information specified in the proposal form in the OSF submission system, the template of which is included in the call text:

- 1) research project title as provided in the joint proposal (*in Polish and in English*);
- 2) joint proposal in PDF format, including all documents required under the rules applicable at the RCL, identical to the version submitted in the RCL electronic submission system, including but not limited to:
 - a) research project description, according to the rules governing the RCL call (*in English*);
 - b) CVs and publication records of members of the research teams involved in the implementation of the research project, according to the rules governing the RCL call;
- 3) research project's abstract for the general public (*no more than 1 standard page in Polish and no more than 1 standard page in English*);
- 4) research plan (*in Polish and in English*) presenting research tasks to be carried out by the Polish research team;
- 5) information on the required qualifications and scope of work by each investigator in the Polish part of the research project (*in English*);
- 6) budget of the Polish part of the research project drafted in compliance with **Annex 2** hereto (*in English*);
- 7) information on planned international cooperation in the research project, including cooperating foreign research institutions as well as description of related advantages (*in English*);
- 8) information on the data management plan concerning data generated or used in the course of the Polish part of the project, as required by the proposal (*in English*);
- 9) information on the ethical aspects of the project, including required 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, as required by the proposal (*in English*);



- 10) 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*);
- 11) in the case of research projects covering research 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*);
- 12) in the case of research projects to be carried out by a group of Polish entities set out in Article 27 (1) (2) of the NCN Act, a research project cooperation agreement, as required by the proposal (*in Polish*); and
- 13) administrative declarations of the principal investigator and host institution for the project on the Polish part, as required by the proposal.

3. Submission of proposals

- 3.1. DAINA 4 is open to NCN proposals submitted pursuant to the Regulations (**Annex 1**), with joint proposals annexed thereto.
- 3.2. Joint proposals must be drafted and submitted pursuant to the terms and conditions of the RCL call laid down in the DAINA 4 call text.
- 3.3. NCN proposals must be submitted to NCN electronically via the OSF submission system available at <https://osf.opi.org.pl>, by 22 June 2026, 2 pm CET.

4. Evaluation of proposals

Proposals are evaluated pursuant to the Regulations (**Annex 1**) and documents governing the merit-based evaluation procedure for joint proposals in place at RCL.

5. Funding decision

- 5.1. The funding decision shall be taken by the NCN Director by the end of June 2027.
- 5.2. Under DAINA 4, funds for the Polish research teams are awarded by way of a decision of the NCN Director only for those research projects in the case of which the RCL will award funding to the Lithuanian research teams.

6. Call budget

The NCN Council has decided to award **PLN 26,000,000** for research tasks carried out by the Polish research teams under the Polish and Lithuanian research projects in DAINA 4.

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

REGULATIONS ON THE NCN-FUNDING OF RESEARCH TASKS FOR POLISH AND LITHUANIAN RESEARCH PROJECTS UNDER DAINA 4.

Chapter 1

General provisions

- §1. These Regulations lay down the terms and conditions of NCN-funding of research tasks carried out by Polish research teams in research projects submitted to DAINA 4 launched by NCN in bilateral collaboration with the Research Council of Lithuania (RCL).
- §2. Funds shall be awarded for research tasks carried out by the Lithuanian research teams pursuant to RCL rules.
- §3. Specific terms and conditions of DAINA 4 shall be governed by separate documents adopted by NCN and RCL.
- §4. Whenever these Regulations refer to:
- 1) NCN, it shall mean the National Science Centre;
 - 2) NCN Act, it shall mean the Act on the National Science Centre of 30 April 2010 (consolidated text in Journal of Laws of 2026, item 101);
 - 3) Director, it shall mean the Director of the National Science Centre;
 - 4) Council, it shall mean the Council of the National Science Centre;
 - 5) Scientific Coordinator, it shall mean a Scientific Coordinator within the meaning of Article 2 (5) of the NCN Act;
 - 6) disciplines or groups of disciplines, they shall mean the NCN panels defined by the NCN Council, covering the entire span of research in three domains: i.e. Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (HS), Physical Sciences and Engineering (ST) and Life Sciences (NZ), for which NCN calls are launched;
 - 7) projects, they shall mean research projects within the meaning of Article 2 (2) of the NCN Act, funded under NCN calls;
 - 8) Polish research team, it shall mean the principal investigator named in the NCN proposal together with research team members, if applicable in the NCN proposal;
 - 9) host institution, it shall mean an entity named in the NCN proposal as the host institution for the project if the applicant is a natural person;
 - 10) member of a group of entities, it shall mean a member of a group of entities within the meaning of Article 27 (1) (2) of the NCN Act;
 - 11) NCN proposal, it shall mean a proposal for NCN funding of the Polish part of a research project submitted to DAINA 4, including the joint proposal submitted to RCL, according to the terms of the latter; and
 - 12) joint proposal, it shall mean a proposal drafted by the Polish and Lithuanian research team submitted by the Lithuanian applicant to the RCL call according to the terms of the latter.

Chapter II

Eligible applicants

- §5. NCN proposals may be submitted by the entities specified in Article 27 (1) (1) – (2), (1) (4) – (5) and (1) (7) – (8) of the NCN Act, hereinafter referred to as the “applicants” for whom funding in the project shall not constitute state aid.

- §6. Should an applicant be a natural person, a group of entities cannot be the host institution for the project.
- §7. Should an applicant be a group of entities laid down in Article 27 (1) (2) of the NCN Act, an NCN proposal shall be submitted by the leader of the group of entities named in the research project cooperation agreement, entered into by the entities acting as host institutions for the Polish part of the research project. The entity that employs the principal investigator shall act as the leader of the group of entities.
- §8. Where a research project is to be carried out by at least two Polish entities, they shall form a group of entities referred to in §7 and only in that legal form may they apply for NCN funding. Each entity in the group of entities shall have its own budget; however, the budget for salaries and scholarships referred to in point 2 (1) of Annex 2 (Costs in NCN-funded research projects under DAINA 4 for Polish and Lithuanian research projects) shall be joint for all the entities in the group. NCN proposals submitted by a group of Polish entities shall have only one principal investigator. If, pursuant to Article 27 (1) (2) of the NCN Act, such entities cannot form a group of entities, they shall not be eligible to apply to NCN for the funding of a joint research project.
- §9. Entities under forced administration or in liquidation or subject to bankruptcy proceedings cannot act as applicants or host institutions for the project.

Chapter III **Restrictions to submitting NCN proposals**

- §10. A person named as principal investigator in the NCN proposal cannot, at the same time, represent the entity acting as the host institution for the research project.
- §11. The person named as principal investigator in the NCN proposal cannot be a person who, on the date of submitting the proposal:
- a) acts as principal investigator¹ in three or more research projects funded under NCN calls;
 - b) acts as principal investigator in two research projects funded under NCN calls and is named as principal investigator in another proposal pending evaluation or recommended for funding;
 - c) acts as principal investigator in a research project funded under NCN calls and is named as principal investigator in two other proposals pending evaluation or recommended for funding;
 - d) is named as principal investigator in three other proposals pending evaluation or recommended for funding under other calls.

The restrictions referred to in §11(a) - §11(d) do not apply to research projects and proposals submitted to PRELUDIUM BIS and DIOSCURI.

§12. A person named as the principal investigator in an NCN proposal must not be a person who, at the time of submitting the NCN proposal, is named as the person implementing a research activity in a proposal which has been submitted under the MINIATURA call and for which the funding decision has not become final.

§13. The principal investigator must be employed by the host institution for the project pursuant to at least a half-time employment contract for the entire duration of the project. The foregoing does not apply to persons receiving pension under the social insurance scheme

¹ Acting as principal investigator applies to the period from the date of signing the funding agreement for the project in the framework of NCN calls until the day of submitting the final report on the completion of the research project.

§14. The principal investigator is required to spend at least 50% of the project duration in Poland or at the foreign division of the participating entity², and must be available to the participating entity throughout the project duration. The foregoing obligation does not apply to documented project-related business trips and holiday governed by generally applicable laws.

§15. An NCN Council member must not be named as the principal investigator or research team member in a proposal submitted during their term of office on the NCN Council.

§ 16. A researcher who no longer sits on the NCN Council can be named as the principal investigator in a proposal at least 4 months³ after the date of their ceasing to act as the Council member.

§17. NCN proposals covering research tasks overlapping tasks specified in another proposal submitted earlier to an NCN call or with respect to which an appeal has been initiated, can only be submitted after the NCN Director's decision to refuse funding has become final.

Chapter IV Proposal submission procedure

§18. DAINA 4 is open to NCN proposals to which joint proposals have been attached.

§19. Joint proposals are drafted by Polish and Lithuanian research teams and submitted to RCL by the Lithuanian research team according to the terms of the RCL call.

§20. NCN proposals are submitted to NCN by the Polish research team via the OSF (Servicing Financing Streams) submission system available at www.osf.opi.org.pl, as soon as possible following submission of the joint proposal to RCL, within 7 calendar days at the latest.

§21. Joint proposals attached to NCN proposals must be identical with the proposal submitted to RCL.

§22. If a joint proposal submitted to RCL is amended as regards the Polish part of the project and re-submitted at RCL's request:

- a) before the NCN proposal is submitted, the amended joint proposal must be attached to the NCN proposal;
- b) after the NCN proposal has been submitted, the amended joint proposal submitted to RCL must be submitted to NCN electronically, within 3 days of submission of the amended joint proposal to RCL.

§23. Information in NCN proposals must be consistent with information in joint proposals.

§24. Under DAINA 4, a joint proposal may be attached to one NCN proposal only, subject to §17.

§25. NCN accepts complete NCN proposals in line with the DAINA 4 call text. If false information is provided or requested information is withheld, the case may be referred to the NCN's Research Integrity Committee or other competent authorities.

² It applies to entities specified in Article 7 (1), (1), (2) and (4) – (7) of the Act on Higher Education and Science and entities specified in Article 27 (1) (3) – (5) of the NCN Act. For other entities carrying out research projects, principal investigators are required to spend at least 50% of the project duration in Poland, regardless of whether they have branches or divisions abroad.

³ This term must be met on the proposal submission date.

Chapter V

Evaluation of proposals

§26. Proposals submitted to DAINA 4 are subject to an eligibility check carried out by NCN and RCL, and to merit-based evaluation carried out by RCL, subject to **Błąd! Nie można odnaleźć źródła odwołania.**, **Błąd! Nie można odnaleźć źródła odwołania.**, **Błąd! Nie można odnaleźć źródła odwołania.** and **Błąd! Nie można odnaleźć źródła odwołania.**

§27. Eligibility check of the NCN proposals is performed by the Coordinators.

§28. An NCN proposal or joint proposal may also be rejected as ineligible at a later stage of evaluation.

§29. The eligibility check of NCN proposals comprises:

- 1) verification of NCN proposals for completeness as compared to the terms of the DAINA 4 call text;
- 2) verification whether the proposal meets the terms of the DAINA 4 call text;
- 3) verification whether the costs outlined in the NCN proposal and joint proposal comply with Annex 2 (Costs in NCN-funded research projects under DAINA 4 for Polish and Lithuanian research projects);
- 4) verification whether the joint proposal attached to the NCN proposal is identical with the joint proposal submitted to RCL;
- 5) verification whether information in the joint proposal is consistent with information in the NCN proposal and
- 6) analysis of the legal and organisational situation as well as financial standing of applicants outside of the public finance sector operating for less than 5 years on the proposal submission date, in order to assess whether they can provide sufficient assurance of proper project implementation. For applicants who are natural persons, the host institution shall undergo the analysis referred to in the preceding sentence; whereas for applicants that form a group of entities, each partner shall be individually analysed.

§30. If a joint proposal submitted to RCL is amended and re-submitted at the RCL's request, NCN shall re-perform the eligibility check of the NCN proposal, taking into account the amendments introduced to the joint proposal.

§31. In the event of any doubt regarding the eligibility check referred to in §27, the Coordinator may request the Director to refer to an external expert's opinion.

§32. Entities operating for over 5 years may also be analysed as set out in §29 (6), should the evaluation of the entity raise any doubts as to whether the applicant, host institution, or partner can provide sufficient assurance of proper project implementation.

§33. The analysis set out in §29 (6) shall be conducted based, *inter alia*, on the following documents, which must be submitted for the eligibility check at least 7 days in advance:

- 1) a declaration indicating the exact location of the project, including the type of ownership of the property where the entity will implement the project;
- 2) a declaration on the entity's technical, administrative, and office infrastructure;
- 3) a declaration on the entity's staff, including the number of employees and associates;
- 4) a declaration on the implementation of other projects financed from external sources;
- 5) statutory documents (e.g., company deed, by-laws of a foundation or association);
- 6) documents confirming the entity's financial standing;
- 7) a clearance certificate confirming that the entity is not in arrears with taxes, social insurance contributions, or other public levies.

- §34. If the analysis set out in §29 (6) gives rise to any doubts as to whether the applicant, host institution or partner can provide assurance of proper project implementation, the proposal may be conditionally subject to a merit-based evaluation, of which the applicant shall be informed in writing by the NCN Director upon completion of the eligibility check.
- §35. NCN shall provide RCL with information on the outcome of the eligibility check.
- §36. Only joint proposals approved in the eligibility check by NCN and RCL are subject to a merit-based evaluation, subject to §34.
- §37. An NCN proposal or joint proposal may also be rejected as ineligible at a later stage of evaluation, in particular if the deadline referred to in §34 is not adhered to or the analysis of the explanations or documents does not dispel the doubts as to whether the applicant, host institution or member of the group of entities can provide a sufficient warranty for correct project performance.
- §38. Joint proposals are subject to a merit-based evaluation.
- §39. The principles of the merit-based evaluation of joint proposals are specified by RCL, subject to **Błąd! Nie można odnaleźć źródła odwołania.**, **Błąd! Nie można odnaleźć źródła odwołania.**, **Błąd! Nie można odnaleźć źródła odwołania.** and **Błąd! Nie można odnaleźć źródła odwołania.**
- §40. RCL shall provide NCN with information on the outcome of the merit-based evaluation together with a list of projects recommended for funding.
- §41. If, following the RCL's merit-based evaluation of the joint proposal, NCN continues to have doubts as to the rationale of the costs planned for the Polish part of the research project specified in the joint proposal as regards the subject and scope of research, NCN shall, pursuant to Article 30 (1) of the NCN Act, perform a merit-based evaluation in this respect of NCN proposals recommended for funding by RCL.
- §42. If the costs planned for the Polish part of the research project are unreasonable as regards the subject and scope of research following the merit-based evaluation by RCL and/or NCN, NCN may refuse to award funding or award less funding than planned in the NCN proposal.
- §43. If following the RCL's merit-based evaluation of the joint proposal, NCN continues to have doubts about the ethics issues of the Polish part of the research to be carried out, NCN shall, pursuant to Article 30 (2) of the NCN Act, perform a merit-based evaluation in this respect of NCN proposals recommended for funding by RCL.
- §44. The principal investigator of the Polish research team must apply the recommendations on the ethics issues resulting from the merit-based evaluation performed by NCN pursuant to §43.
- §45. The ranking lists of projects recommended for funding are approved by the Director.
- §46. Under DAINA 4, funds are awarded to Polish research teams only for research projects in the event that RCL awards funds to the Lithuanian research teams.
- §47. If RCL recommends for funding research projects evaluated in various groups of disciplines and on various ranking lists, and the total funds planned for Polish research teams exceed the available funds designated for research tasks to be financed by NCN, the order of the funded projects is established according to the ratio obtained by dividing

the project's position (number) on the ranking list by the total number of all proposals recommended for funding from that list, and

- a) where the ratio is identical for two or more projects, the order shall be established according to their position (number) on the ranking list;
- b) where the ratio referred to in §47 (a) is identical for two or more projects, the order is established according to the number of points allocated to the projects in the course of merit-based evaluation performed by RCL, provided that RCL allocates points.

§48. If the projects cannot be conclusively ranked using the ratio referred to in §47, they shall be subject to an additional merit-based evaluation at NCN performed by the Experts appointed by the Director pursuant to Article 22 (2) of the NCN Act.

§49. If RCL recommends the research projects for funding without ranking them according to quality, and the total funds planned for the Polish research teams exceed the available funds designated for research tasks to be financed by NCN, they shall be subject to an additional merit-based evaluation at NCN performed by the Experts appointed by the Director pursuant to Article 22 (2) of the NCN Act, as a result of which the projects shall be ranked according to quality.

§50. The Director may decide to award funding for research projects which are partially within the limit of resources designated for research tasks financed by the NCN under DAINA 4.

§51. In well-justified cases, the Director may, regardless of any doubts arising from the analysis referred to in §29 (6), approve the ranking list. At the same time, in his decision referred to in Article 33 (1) of the NCN Act, the Director may impose an obligation on the applicant, host institution, or leader of the group of entities, as defined in Article 27 (1) (2) of the NCN Act, to establish sufficient assurance for the correct project implementation.

§52. The funding decision is taken by the Director.

§53. In the event of a breach of the call procedure or other formal infringements related to actions performed by the NCN, the applicant may appeal against the decision of the NCN Director with the Committee of Appeals of the NCN Council within 14 days of the date the decision is served. The Committee of Appeals of the NCN Council decides on the appeal within 3 months of the date on which the appeal was lodged.

§54. If the appeal is deemed legitimate by the Committee of Appeals of the NCN Council, the funding decision concerning the research project carried out by the Polish research team is issued provided that RCL awards funds for the project to the Lithuanian research team. The funding decision has no legal or financial consequences to the other applicants whose proposals have been qualified for funding, even if the amount of funds available for the call has already been used.

§55. Appeals relating to proceedings that have been carried out at RCL are lodged in compliance with RCL rules.

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