

“BEETHOVEN 2”: Polish-German Funding Initiative

Call for proposals 2016

1. Introduction

In order to strengthen international academic co-operation, wishing to fund high quality scientific research within their own countries, and conscious that some of the best research can be delivered by working with the best researchers internationally, NCN and DFG are launching the second call for proposals within the joint funding initiative “Beethoven”. The “Beethoven” initiative was started in 2014 in order to provide funding for integrated Polish-German research projects of outstanding scientific quality. In light of the success of “Beethoven”’s first round in the Humanities and Social Sciences, NCN and DFG are **extending the funding initiative to cover more disciplines**, now inviting proposals in the **Humanities, Social Sciences, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics (including Astronomy) and Materials Science** (see below for details).

The partner agencies will conduct a coordinated peer review and a joint selection process. Funding will be distributed according to the funding rules of each individual agency.

Projects must have well-defined joint working programmes, demonstrating clearly the added value of international collaboration. It is expected that each partner contributes substantially to the common project; this includes taking organisational responsibilities. The division of responsibilities should also be reflected in the amount of funds requested by each partner. Only proposals involving [basic research](#)¹ (knowledge-oriented research) may be submitted.

2. Disciplines covered

Researchers are invited to submit proposals in the following disciplines:

- All Humanities disciplines
- All Social Sciences disciplines

¹ Basic research is defined as experimental or theoretical endeavours undertaken to gain new knowledge of the foundations of phenomena and observable facts, without any direct commercial use.

as well as most subjects² belonging to the areas of

- Chemistry
- Mathematics
- Physics (including Astronomy)
- Materials Science

Applicants who are uncertain of whether their proposal would be eligible should contact the relevant agencies for clarification.

3. Eligibility

- All projects must focus on **substantive research and feature an integrated work programme**. Scientific infrastructure or networking activities can only be funded within projects with a substantive research focus. As stand-alone projects, infrastructure or networking projects will not be eligible.
- **All budget items must conform to the national rules** relevant for each applicant. Applicants must note that NCN and DFG retain the right to reject proposals which fail to comply with the procedures set out in the respective guidelines. If a proposal is deemed ineligible by one national agency, the complete project will be rejected by both agencies.
- **Cooperation with non-university research institutes:** research cooperation with the industrial sector is ruled out. In addition, **Polish researchers** may not co-operate with holders of grants that would be considered state aid. **German researchers** from non-university research institutions who have to fulfil their **duty to cooperate** (Kooperationspflicht) may only submit proposals in cooperation with a partner from a German university. Your duty to cooperate is not considered fulfilled if you only cooperate with a Polish partner.
- If an **application has been submitted to any other call** or funding line of NCN, DFG or any other funding agency, this must be clearly stated in the proposal. Please also check the

² **DFG:** Proposals are accepted in the subjects 101-113, 301-312, 406 (please refer to DFG's subject classification). Applicants who wish to pursue a project which has a clear focus in the Social Sciences, Humanities, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics (including Astronomy) or Materials Science but falls in a different section of DFG's subject classification are advised to contact DFG well before the deadline. Please note that proposals will not be accepted in subjects that are covered by an open BMBF (Federal Ministry of Education and Research) call. **NCN:** Proposals are accepted in the subjects covered by the panels HS1, HS2, HS3, HS4, HS5, HS6 and ST1.1-1.14, ST1.16-1.17, ST2.1-2.9, ST2.11-2.12, ST2.14-2.18, ST3.1-3.18, ST4.1-4.17, ST5.1-5.24 and ST9.1.-9.18 (please refer to NCN's panel list).

respective national agency's rules regarding submission of a project to more than one scheme.

- Proposals must be **written in English**.
- Joint Polish-German research projects may be funded **for a period of either 24 or 36 months**.

4. Applicants

Each joint research project must consist of one Polish and one German research team. Each team must be led by one Principal Investigator (PI).

5. Budget and eligible costs

The estimated budget must be calculated in Euros according to the budget table included in the *Project Template*. Additionally, Polish researchers must provide the budget in PLN. The budget of the Polish part of the project must be at least 150 000 PLN. All costs must be eligible according to the national eligibility requirements.

A detailed justification of the requested budget will be required. Please note that since the Polish part of the project budget cannot be negotiated at any point after the submission of the proposal, an oversized budget may lead to the proposal's rejection.

For more information please see *Information for Applicants*.

6. Submission of proposals

The proposals must be submitted **online to both agencies' respective submission systems**. Submitted Joint Project Descriptions must be identical; a project will be rejected if the proposals submitted to the two agencies differ.

DFG's submission system ELAN can be found at <http://elan.dfg.de> Please select the appropriate call in the ELAN system, depending on the subject of your proposal:

- "DFG-NCN 2016 Natural Sciences": proposals in Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics and Material Sciences
- "DFG-NCN 2016 Humanities and Social Sciences": proposals in Humanities and Social Sciences

NCN's submission system OSF can be found at <https://osf.opi.org.pl>

The deadline for the online submission in both submission systems is 15 December 2016. Proposals received after the deadline will not be eligible.

German applicants are responsible for ensuring that they have a working ELAN account before the submission deadline. Please note that it takes up to two working days to set up an ELAN account.

Polish applicants must, in addition to the online submission, send a hard copy of the proposal to Narodowe Centrum Nauki, ul. Królewska 57, 30-081 Kraków no later than 15 December 2016. The deadline is considered to be met if a proposal is sent with a postmark of the Poczta Polska S.A. postal operator by 15 December 2016.

7. Evaluation procedure

- 1) The applicants' and projects' eligibility will be checked by both NCN and DFG for the Polish and German sides, respectively.
- 2) As a general rule, each proposal will then be assessed by at least two external referees.
- 3) In the second review stage, each proposal will be evaluated by a joint expert panel. There will be two separate panels, one for the Humanities and Social Sciences, and one for Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics (including Astronomy) and Materials Science. The panels will consist of recognised researchers from the relevant disciplines who are familiar with the two agencies' decision-making procedures.
- 4) The funding recommendations of the expert panels will be subject to approval by the agencies.

8. Criteria

All project proposals will be assessed against three sets of criteria: 1) qualification of the research team members, 2) academic merits of the research project and 3) feasibility of the project.

1) Qualification of the research team members (40%)

- Research portfolio of the research team
- Relevant preliminary work

2) Academic merits of the research project (50%)

- Innovative nature of the project
- Impact of the research project on the academic discipline and international cooperation

- Scientific level of objectives and work programme
- Integrated approach of the project

3) Feasibility of the project (budget, research facilities and infrastructure) (10%)

- Feasibility of the project
- Appropriateness of project's budget

9. Tentative Timeline

15 September 2016	Launch of the call for proposals
15 December 2016	Submission deadline
January-July 2017	Peer-review
Beginning of October 2017	Results
January 2018	Start of joint research projects

10. Call documents

1) *Call Text*

2) *Project Template*

3) *Information for Applicants*

4) *Evaluation Sheet for Reviewers*

For Polish applicants only:

5) *Uchwała nr 62/2016 z dnia 7 lipca 2016 r. Rady Narodowego Centrum Nauki w sprawie warunków oraz regulaminu przyznawania środków na realizację zadań finansowanych przez Narodowe Centrum Nauki w konkursie „BEETHOVEN 2” na polsko-niemieckie projekty badawcze.*

11. Contact

<p>POLAND, NCN:</p> <p>Humanities and Social Sciences:</p> <p>Dr Anna Marszałek Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences e-mail: anna.marszalek@ncn.gov.pl tel: +48 12 341 91 70</p> <p>Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics:</p> <p>Dr Marzena Oliwkiewicz-Mikłasińska Physical Sciences and Engineering e-mail: marzena.oliwkiewicz@ncn.gov.pl tel.: +48 12 341 91 51</p> <p>Other inquiries:</p> <p>Anna Plater-Zyberk e-mail: anna.plater@ncn.gov.pl tel.: +48 12 341 9016</p>	<p>GERMANY, DFG:</p> <p>Humanities and Social Sciences:</p> <p>Dr Tanja Kollei, Humanities and Social Sciences e-mail: tanja.kollei@dfg.de tel: +49 228 885-2972</p> <p>Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics:</p> <p>Barbara Bauer-Marx Chemistry and Engineering Sciences 2 e-mail: barbara.bauer-marx@dfg.de tel: +49 228 885-2780</p> <p>Administrative inquiries:</p> <p>Bettina Schilling e-mail: bettina.schilling@dfg.de</p> <p>For further information on cooperation with Poland:</p> <p>Annina Lottermann International Affairs e-mail: annina.lottermann@dfg.de phone: +49 228 885-2802</p>
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