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NARODOWE CENTRUM NAUKI

DAINA: Polish-Lithuanian Funding Initiative

Call for proposals 2017

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, the National Science Centre (NCN) and the Research Council of Lithuania (RCL) are launching the first call for proposals within the joint funding initiative DAINA. The DAINA initiative was started in order to provide funding for integrated Polish-Lithuanian research projects of outstanding scientific quality **in all fields of science and the humanities**.

The partner agencies will conduct a joint peer review and 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 will contribute 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 all fields of science and the humanities**.

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 the NCN and RCL retain the right to reject proposals which fail to comply

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.

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.

- Grants that are considered state aid will not be offered.
- If an **application has been submitted to any other call** or funding line of the NCN, RCL or any other funding agency, this must be clearly stated in the proposal. Please also check the respective national agency's rules regarding submission of a project to more than one scheme.
- A PI may submit only one proposal under the same call.
- Complete proposals must be **written in English** (except for sections specified explicitly in the call documentation²).
- Joint Polish-Lithuanian research projects may be funded **for a period of either 24 or 36 months**.
- The research project must start on the first day of a calendar month, not earlier than 1 September 2018 and not later than 1 January 2019.

4. Applicants

Each joint research project must consist of one Polish and one Lithuanian research team. Each team must be led by one Principal Investigator (PI) and hosted either by an eligible Host Institution in Poland or eligible implementing institution in Lithuania.

The Polish PI must have at least a PhD degree when submitting a proposal. The Lithuanian PI must be a scientist.

Eligible Host institutions in Poland: academic or research organisations, research consortia, scientific networks and university organisational institutions which are not basic organisational institutions, research and development centres, Polish Academy of Sciences research centres, university research centres, scientific libraries, organisational institutions having legal personality which have been established on Polish territory.

Eligible implementing institutions in Lithuania: Lithuanian research and higher education institutions included in the Register of Education and Research institutions (to be found at <https://www.aikos.smm.lt/en/Pages/Default.aspx> under "Registers" and the section "Education providers" category).

5. Budget and eligible costs

The estimated budget must be calculated in Euros according to the budget table included in the *Joint Project Description Template*.

The budget of the Polish part of the project must be at least 150 000 PLN.

The budget of the Lithuanian part of the project must not exceed 80 000 EUR (in the case of a 24-month project) or 120 000 EUR (in the case of a 36-month project).

All costs must be eligible according to the national eligibility requirements.

A detailed justification of the requested budget will be required.

Polish research teams must provide the budget in PLN together with a detailed justification via the OSF system.

Lithuanian research teams must provide a detailed budget justification to the RCL via the electronic system.

Please note that since the project budget cannot be negotiated at any point after the submission of the proposal, an excessive budget may lead to the proposal's rejection.

The workload of the Lithuanian PI and each principal co-investigator within the project may not be less than 20 hours multiplied by the duration of the project in months.

More information will be provided in *Frequently Asked Questions* (to be published shortly on the NCN and RCL websites).

6. Submission of proposals

Complete proposals must be submitted by the Polish applicant **online** to the **OSF submission system** which can be found at <https://osf.opi.org.pl>. The Lithuanian research team shall also submit a signed Letter of Commitment, issued by the implementing institution, and provide a detailed budget justification to the RCL via the electronic submission system which can be found at: <http://junkis.lmt.lt/>.

The deadline for the online submission is 15 December 2017. Proposals received after the deadline will not be eligible.

7. Evaluation procedure

- 1) The applicants' and projects' eligibility will be checked by both the NCN and RCL for the Polish and Lithuanian sides, respectively.
- 2) As a general rule, each eligible 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. The panel 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 Principal Investigators (PIs), 2) academic merits of the research project, 3) feasibility and budget of the project.

1) Qualification of Principal Investigators (30%)

- Research portfolio of the PIs
- Relevant preliminary work
- Previous international cooperation

2) Academic merits of the research project (60%)

- Innovative nature of the project
- Impact of the research project on advances in the academic discipline and international cooperation
- Scientific level of the objectives and work programme
- Integrated approach of the project
- Risk management
- Added value of bilateral cooperation

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

- Feasibility of the project
- Appropriateness of the requested funds.

9. Tentative Timeline

15 September 2017	Launch of the call for proposals
15 December 2017	Submission deadline
January-May 2018	Peer-review
June 2018	Results
September 2018 – January 2019	Start of joint research projects

10. Budget:

8 000 000 PLN for Polish teams
At least 800 000 EUR for Lithuanian teams

11. Call documents

- Call Text
- Joint Project Description Template
- Evaluation Sheet for Reviewers
- FAQ (to be published shortly on the NCN and RCL websites)

For Polish applicants only: [all relevant documents can be found on the NCN website.](#)

For Lithuanian applicants only: [all relevant documents can be found on the RCL website.](#)

12. Contact

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