



**Annex No 2 to the Regulations of awarding funding for the implementation of research tasks funded by the National Science Centre as regards research projects, post-doctoral fellowships and doctoral scholarships**

**TYPES OF COSTS IN RESEARCH PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE**

**ELIGIBLE COSTS** are expenditures eligible for funding from NCN resources and fulfilling all of the following criteria:

- 1) they are critical to the completion of the project,
- 2) they have been incurred from the day on which the decision of the Director of the NCN to grant funding became fully valid until the final date of the research project's implementation<sup>1</sup>;
- 3) they are incurred in line with the principle of advisability and frugality, as well as in line with the principle of obtaining optimal effects from given resources,
- 4) they allow for verification, and are scrupulously documented and duly recorded in an account book
- 5) they conform with all rules and regulations, including the rules and regulations of the host institution and the rules and regulations of the NCN, including the rules set forth in this document.

The following shall not be deemed eligible costs:

- 1) reserves for future liabilities, interest due and other expenditures for debt-servicing, interest and other expenditures for late payments, contractual penalties, fines, penalties and payments for the costs of judicial proceedings,
- 2) VAT, if the host institution is entitled to reclaim VAT,
- 3) costs of proceedings related to conferment of academic degrees/titles, 4) costs of fees paid for pre-publishing reviews.

The eligibility of costs is assessed during the proposal evaluation, evaluation of the annual report, evaluation of the final report and during the external control and audit.

Eligible costs incurred by the host institution of a fellowship are subdivided into direct and indirect costs.

**1. Indirect costs** are the general operative costs related indirectly to the research project, and essential for the proper realisation of the funding agreement.

The maximum limit for indirect costs amounts to 40 per cent of direct costs, excluding "costs of research equipment, devices and software." Indirect costs shall be covered by a lump sum and considered as incurred expenditure. The host institution shall arrange with the principal investigator in the project for the distribution of at least 25 per cent of the indirect costs' value.

**2. Direct costs** are costs directly related to the completion of the research project and are subdivided into:

- costs of salaries and scholarships,
- costs of research equipment, devices and software,
- costs of fellowships in institutions abroad,
- costs of the reduction of the PI's obligatory teaching load,
- other direct costs.

The following expenditures may not be financed as direct costs:

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<sup>1</sup> In the event of failure to sign the funding agreement for reasons directly attributable to the host institution or the principal investigator, the return of incurred costs may not be demanded of the NCN. Recording of costs and settling all liabilities incurred during the period of the project is possible by the date of submitting the final report; ,however no later than 60 days after the project's end date.



- 1) salaries of the administrative and financial staff (performing services related to personnel, accounting, legal issues, including the outsourcing of accounting to an accountancy office),
- 2) costs of renovation of facilities,
- 3) costs of adapting/upgrading facilities, so that they can meet the needs of the research tasks,
- 4) fees and rent for the use of facilities, property taxes, etc.,
- 5) utilities (cost of electricity, heating, gas, water, as well as other transmission fees, sewage, etc.), telecommunications charges (telephone, Internet) and mail and courier services, excluding the services referred to in point 2.5.2.,
- 6) costs of cleaning, janitorial and security services to facilities,
- 7) cost of non-life insurance,
- 8) handling and administrative fees,
- 9) cost of banking services, including: opening and maintaining a sub-account or separate account for the research project, bank fees,
- 10) costs of external audits,
- 11) costs of organising conferences, workshops, seminars, meetings (with the exception of personal costs in points 2.5.3. and 2.5.4.),
- 12) costs of subscriptions (with the exception of the cost of data and access to data referred to in point 2.5.6.),
- 13) fees for individual membership in organisations, associations, etc.

All expenses outlined above in points 1-13 may be covered as indirect costs.

**2.1 Costs of salaries and scholarships** <sup>2</sup>– these include the costs of salaries and related expenditures,<sup>3</sup> and scholarships.

Salaries may be paid **only to persons employed as members of the research team, i.e. the principal investigator and other investigators in the project**. Resources granted to projects may also be used to cover scholarships for doctoral candidates and students involved in the project's activities.

The budget for salaries and scholarships for members of the research team may include resources for:

- a) *full-time remuneration*<sup>4</sup> i.e. salaries paid pursuant to a full-time contract of employment to the project's principal investigator and persons employed as post-docs and to the person/s employed at specialist auxiliary posts,
- b) *additional remuneration* for members of the research team,
- c) *scholarships*<sup>5</sup> for doctoral candidates and students.

Each person may be paid salaries from the project's direct resources only in one of the forms enumerated above in points a) through c).

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<sup>2</sup> For joint entities, the budget for salaries and scholarships is shared by all individual host institutions that form the composite entity

<sup>3</sup> The amounts of salaries quoted in the document are gross amounts. The amounts quoted shall include also non-wage labour costs, including social and health insurance contributions and other elements of salaries, financed by the host institution. These resources shall also cover the annual bonus, should the host institution have an obligation to pay it.

<sup>4</sup> Does not apply to projects funded under the PRELUDIUM and HARMONIA calls.

<sup>5</sup> Does not apply to projects funded under the PRELUDIUM, SONATINA and HARMONIA calls.

### 2.1.1. Full-time remuneration:

**The principal investigator** may be paid a salary from the pool allocated for full-time salaries pursuant to a full-time contract of employment t as long as they meet all of the following conditions:

- a) at the time of receiving this remuneration, they are not receiving any other remuneration paid from the resources granted as direct costs under NCN calls;
- b) at the time of receiving this remuneration, they are not employed pursuant to another contract of employment<sup>6</sup> nor do they receive a pension from the social security system;
- c) funding for employment amounts<sup>7</sup>:
  - PLN 190 K per annum under the MAESTRO funding scheme;
  - PLN 160 K per annum under the SONATA BIS funding scheme;
  - PLN 150 K per annum under the OPUS funding scheme;
  - PLN 140 K per annum under the SONATA funding scheme;
  - PLN 100 K per annum under the SONATINA funding scheme.

**A person at a *post-doc type post*<sup>8</sup>** may be paid a salary from the pool allocated for full-time salaries pursuant to a full-time contract of employment at a research post as long as they meet all of the following conditions:

- a) has been selected by means of the open competition procedure, carried out by a recruitment committee appointed by the head of the project's host institution, composed of the project's principal investigator as its chair and at least two other persons selected by them, who have all the necessary scientific or professional qualifications. The assessment of the candidates is carried out pursuant to the criteria outlined in the call announcement, and the results are made public by posting on the website of the project's host institution;
- b) the principal investigator in the project has not been a thesis supervisor/auxiliary thesis supervisor of their doctorate;
- c) for two years before employment in the project has not been employed by the host entity pursuant to a contract of employment
- d) at the time of receiving this remuneration, they are not receiving any other remuneration paid from the resources granted as direct costs under NCN calls;
- e) in the period of receiving the salary they are not employed pursuant to another contract of employment<sup>14</sup>;
- f) the funding for their employment is 15 PLN 120 K per annum. If justified by special circumstances presented in the proposal, a larger amount for remuneration may be requested. The justifiability of increasing the amount for remuneration is evaluated by the Expert Team.

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<sup>6</sup> Applies also to contracts of employment concluded with an employer established outside the territory of the Republic of Poland.

<sup>7</sup> If full-time remuneration is not received on a continuous basis during the entire course of the project's completion, the amount of full-time remuneration is reduced in proportion to the period when the remuneration is received.

<sup>8</sup> A post-doc type position is to be understood as a full-time position, planned by the project's principal investigator for a person, who has obtained their doctorate degree within 7 years of joining the project. This period does not include breaks related to: maternity leave, adoption leave, paternal leave, parental leave granted in compliance with the Labour Code, periods of collecting maternity or parental benefits nor periods of sickness benefit or physiotherapy benefit granted on account of being unfit to work, including any caused by a health condition requiring rehabilitation. Women may extend the 7-year period by 18 months for every child born or adopted. A woman may choose whichever manner of accounting for career breaks she finds preferable.



The criterion set forth in point b) may be waived for only one person employed at the post-doc type post in the project with remuneration paid from the pool allocated for full-time salaries.

When re-applying for employment at the post-doc type post in the same entity, provisions of point c) shall not apply. One may apply for re-employment at the post-doc type post only once.

The SONATINA and HARMONIA calls do not allow the employment at *post-doc* positions.

The OPUS, SONATA and SONATA BIS calls, permit the employment of persons at post-doc type posts provided that the aggregate time of employment of all persons employed at those posts is no more than twice the time planned for the project's duration. The minimum duration of an individual employment contract at this post is 6 months.

The MAESTRO call requires a new post-doc type post(s) to be established for the aggregate period of at least 36 months provided that the aggregate time of employment of all persons employed at these posts is no more than twice the time planned for the project's duration. The minimum duration of an individual employment contract at this post is 6 months.

**Persons employed at specialist auxiliary posts** (an investigator collaborating on project-related research problems, having specialist knowledge or experience, e.g. *a lab-manager, senior technician* etc.) may be paid a salary from the pool allocated for full-time salaries pursuant to a full-time contract of employment at a research post as long as they meet all of the following conditions:

- a) at the time of receiving this remuneration, they are not receiving any other remuneration paid from the resources granted as direct costs under NCN calls;
- b) in the period of receiving the salary they are not employed pursuant to another contract of 14 employment;
- c) the funding for their employment does not exceed 15 PLN 85 K per annum.

Under the SONATA BIS and MAESTRO calls one specialist auxiliary post may be established at which more than one person may be employed pursuant to a full-time contract of employment, provided that the aggregate time of employment of all persons employed at the post is no more than the time of the project's duration. The minimum duration of an individual employment at this post is 6 months.

### 2.1.2. Additional remuneration:<sup>9</sup>

The resources for the project may be directed toward payment of additional remuneration, which may be used to finance employment pursuant to full- or part-time employment contracts as well as pursuant to civil law contracts. Members of a research team employed pursuant to a contract of employment by a host institution are allowed to receive additional remuneration in a form other than pursuant to a civil law contract only.

When calculating the budget for additional salaries, the calculation shall exclude from the team's personnel (understood as the principal investigator and other investigators) any persons who in the period of the project's duration should be included in the full-time remuneration pool of another NCN funded project, and persons who should be receiving scholarships under the project. The number of persons thus determined shall be the basis for the calculation of the budget for additional salaries.

The amounts set out below serve solely the purpose of calculating the maximum budget for additional remuneration in a given project. The maximum budget for the salary of the principal investigator may not be increased once the project has entered the stage of implementation.

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<sup>9</sup> The employment paid for from the pool allocated for additional remuneration is not subject to the restrictions set forth in point 2.1.1.



Under the MAESTRO funding scheme, the budget for additional remuneration per each month of the project's implementation, for all investigators, amounts in total to no more than:

- a) should the principal investigator not plan to be employed pursuant to a full-time contract of employment, with remuneration paid from the pool allocated for *full-time salaries*:
  - PLN 6 K for one person;
  - PLN 7,5 K for two persons, of which no more than PLN 6 K for the principal investigator;
  - PLN 8,5 K for three persons, of which no more than PLN 6 K for the principal investigator;
  - PLN 9,5 K for four persons, of which no more than PLN 6 K for the principal investigator;
  - PLN 10,5 K for five or more persons, of which no more than PLN 6 K for the principal investigator;
- b) should the principal investigator plan to be employed pursuant to a full-time contract of employment, with remuneration paid from the pool allocated for *full-time salaries*:
  - PLN 1,5 K for one person;
  - PLN 2,5 K for two persons;
  - PLN 3,5 K for three persons;
  - PLN 4,5 K for four or more persons.

Under the SONATA BIS funding scheme, the budget for additional remuneration per each month of the project's implementation, for all investigators, amounts in total to no more than:

- a) should the principal investigator not plan to be employed pursuant to a full-time contract of employment, with remuneration paid from the pool allocated for *full-time salaries*:
  - PLN 5 K for one person;
  - PLN 6,5 K for two persons, of which no more than PLN 5 K for the principal investigator;
  - PLN 7,5 K for three persons, of which no more than PLN 5 K for the principal investigator;
  - PLN 8,5 K for four or more persons, of which no more than PLN 5 K for the principal investigator,
- b) should the principal investigator plan to be employed pursuant to a full-time contract of employment, with remuneration paid from the pool allocated for *full-time salaries*:
  - PLN 1,5 K for one person;
  - PLN 2,5 K for two persons;
  - PLN 3,5 K for three or more persons.

Under the OPUS funding scheme, the budget for additional remuneration per each month of the project's implementation, for all investigators, amounts in total to no more than:

- a) should the principal investigator not plan to be employed pursuant to a full-time contract of employment, with remuneration paid from the pool allocated for *full-time salaries*:
  - PLN 3 K for one person;
  - PLN 4,5 K for two persons, of which no more than PLN 3 K for the principal investigator;
  - PLN 5,5 K for three or more persons, of which no more than PLN 3 K for the principal investigator;

- b) should the principal investigator plan to be employed pursuant to a full-time contract of employment, with remuneration paid from the pool allocated for *full-time salaries*:
- PLN 1,5 K for one person;
  - PLN 2,5 K for two or more persons.

Under the SONATA funding scheme, the budget for additional remuneration per each month of the project's implementation, for all investigators, amounts in total no more than:

- a) should the principal investigator not plan to be employed pursuant to a full-time contract of employment, with remuneration paid from the pool allocated for *full-time salaries*:
- PLN 2 K for one person;
  - PLN 3,5 K for two or more persons, of which no more than PLN 2 K for the principal investigator.
- b) should the principal investigator plan to be employed pursuant to a full-time contract of employment, with remuneration paid from the pool allocated for *full-time salaries*:
- PLN 1,5 K for one or more persons

Under the SONATINA funding scheme, the budget for additional remuneration per each month of the project's implementation, for all investigators with the exception of the principal investigator, amounts in total to no more than PLN1,5 K.

Under the PRELUDIUM funding scheme, the budget for additional remuneration per each month of the project's implementation, for the principal investigator and all other investigators, amounts in total to no more than PLN 1,5 K.

Under the HARMONIA funding scheme, the budget for additional remuneration per each month of the project's implementation, for the principal investigator and all other investigators, amounts in total to no more than PLN 5 K.

### 2.1.3. Scholarships:

**The NCN research scholarships<sup>10</sup>** may be awarded, provided that:

- a) they be granted in compliance with the Regulations on awarding scholarships for young researchers in NCN-funded research projects, as specified in the Resolution of the Council of the NCN no 85/2018 of 26 September 2018;
- b) in the period of receiving the NCN research scholarship, the investigator may not receive any salaries from the NCN funds regardless of the contract type;<sup>11,12</sup>
- c) the total amount of all research scholarships received by the investigator monthly does not exceed PLN 4,5 K. This amount must not include scholarship received on the terms of the doctoral scholarship funded from NCN resources under the ETIUDA call.

The amounts set out below serve solely the purpose of calculating the maximum budget for scholarships in a given project, which calculated for each month of the project's implementation, amounts to no more than:

- PLN 4,5 K under the SONATA funding scheme ;
- PLN 9 K under the OPUS, SONATA BIS funding scheme;
- PLN 13,5 K under the MAESTRO funding scheme;

<sup>10</sup> In the case of entities applying for state aid, the cost of scholarships does not qualify as an eligible cost.

<sup>11</sup> Does not apply to laureates of the ETIUDA call.

<sup>12</sup> Does not apply to the SONATINA, ETIUDA and HARMONIA calls.

No scholarships may be granted under the PRELUDIUM, SONATINA and HARMONIA calls.

**2.2 Costs of research equipment, devices and software** research equipment to be purchased or constructed, costs of other devices and software needed to conduct the research tasks in the project.

**Research equipment**<sup>13</sup> (as defined by the Central Statistical Office) is to be understood as set(s) of testing, measurement and laboratory apparatus[es] of limited application and high technical parameters (usually several orders of magnitude higher than typical apparatus used for production or exploitation purposes), which in accordance with the accounting policies of the host institution, constitute the host institution's fixed assets.

Purchase of research equipment may not constitute the main goal of the project.

**Other devices** – other devices outside the scope of the definition of research equipment, which in accordance with the accounting policies of the host institution constitute the host institution's fixed assets.

**Software** – software purchased to meet the requirements of the research project, which in accordance with the accounting policies of the host institution constitute the host institution's fixed assets.

The value of research equipment shall be determined in accordance with Accounting Law and it includes, among others: costs of transportation, loading and unloading, insurance of the transported goods, installation/assembly, customs and excise duty, and the value of software if it is treated as a component of the research equipment.

**2.3 Costs of fellowships in institutions abroad** – this category includes:

- a) costs related to the beneficiary's stay at a research centre abroad in which the fellowship has been granted, calculated as a lump sum in the amount of:
  - PLN 12 K per month under the SONATINA funding scheme
- b) outbound and return travel costs, calculated as a lump sum:
  - from PLN 1 K to PLN 10 K under the SONATINA funding scheme, depending on the distance between the place of residence and the location of the fellowship abroad, in accordance with the rules set out in the terms and conditions of the call.

**2.4 Costs of the reduction of the PI's obligatory teaching load**<sup>19,23</sup> – the host institution that employs the principal investigator under a full-time contract of employment, may receive funding to cover a 50% reduction of the principal investigator's obligatory teaching load, amounting to PLN 100 for every teaching hour reduced.

**2.5 Other direct costs** – this category includes costs qualifying neither as "costs of salaries and scholarships" nor "costs of research equipment, devices and software."

**2.5.1. Materials and small devices** – costs of purchasing materials and consumables for direct use over the course of the project, including, among others:

- raw materials, half-finished products, reagents,
- stationery, office items and supplies,
- small laboratory devices, IT hardware and small office devices (e.g. a computer, licensing costs and software development, printers, scanners, monitors, copiers), other devices, provided that they are not qualified as tangible or intangible assets according to the accounting policies of the host institution.

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<sup>13</sup> The project's resources may not be used to finance or co-finance the purchase or creation of research equipment or IT equipment with the value of over PLN 500,000 (Article 365 (2) (b) of the Act on Higher Education and Science of 20 July 2018)



**2.5.2. Outsourcing:** costs of services rendered by third parties (incorporated as well as individuals with a business activity), including, among others:

- cost of research services (laboratory analyses, statistical reports, polls, etc.),
- cost of purchasing other specialist services critical to the completion of the research in due form (proofreading, editing, graphics, counselling, monitoring, etc.),
- cost of postal, shipping and transport services directly related to the completion of a given research task,
- cost of renting a venue, cost of catering, etc., which are essential to the completion of research tasks that include subjects/respondents.

Persons who are recipients of salaries or scholarships in the project may not be involved in research tasks as subcontractors directly or indirectly (via institutions that employ them).

**2.5.3. Business trips** – costs of business trips of the members of the research team, including, among others:

- costs of participation in seminars/conferences related to the subject of the research,
- costs of trips critical to the completion of the research, e.g. preliminary archival and library research, fieldwork, etc.

Costs of business trips include:

- daily allowance and reimbursement of travel costs, as set forth by the regulations passed in accordance with art. 775 § 2 of the Polish Labour Code,
- individual insurance,
- conference fees,
- other costs, as long as they are considered justified and essential to the completion of the research, such as: visas, vaccinations, etc.

Costs of long-term expedition may be eligible if they have been calculated in line with the principle of advisability and frugality, based on a solid assessment of their actual costs.

**2.5.4. Visits and consultations** – costs of visits by external collaborators and/or consultants closely connected to the subject of the research.

In this category only personal costs in the form of allowances, reimbursement of travel costs and accommodation shall be eligible.

**2.5.5. Collective investigators** – total cost of gratification for persons carrying out one-time responsibilities (e.g. interviewers) as well as study participants. The minimum number of such investigators is 5 persons. This category does not include technicians and lab managers.

A detailed cost estimate shall be drafted, describing the objective of the expenditure and its total cost, as well as the number of persons receiving benefits, the value of individual benefit and the form of benefit (monetary or material).

**2.5.6. Other costs** – other costs that fall in none of the previous categories, among others:

- costs of purchasing data/databases or access thereto,
- specialist publications/teaching aids, - costs of publishing the results.

The research project may include actions intended to promote and disseminate its results. Anticipated costs generated by such actions, as long as they meet the conditions of eligibility, shall be entered in the categories “Costs of salaries and scholarships,” “Outsourcing,” etc., accordingly.

**3. Cost eligibility** for entities applying for state aid.



If the funding applied for is classified as state aid for the host institution, the applicant may include in the project only eligible costs, as set out in the hereby annex (with the exception of costs of the reduction of the PI's obligatory teaching load and costs of scholarships) and which are also eligible pursuant to the

Directive of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 9th September 2015 on the conditions and procedures of granting state aid via the National Science Centre (Journal of Laws of 2015, item no. 1381).

Individual items should be grouped according to the following scheme:

**W** – costs of salaries together with non-wage labour costs for persons employed in a research project to the extent in which these salaries are directly connected with the completion of the project; (in the case of salaries for collective investigators category Wz should be chosen);

**A** – costs of research equipment and instruments to the extent and for the period in which they are used for the completion of the project; if the research equipment and instruments are not used for the completion of the project over the entire period of use, only depreciation costs corresponding to the period of the project's completion, calculated based on the applicable accountancy regulations, are deemed eligible costs;

**G** – costs of premises and land to the extent and for the period in which they are used for the completion of the project; in the case of premises, only depreciation costs corresponding to the period of the project's completion, calculated based on the applicable accountancy regulations, are deemed eligible costs; in the case of land – costs of leasing the land and current incurred capital costs;

**E** – costs of research conducted based on contracts, costs of knowledge and patents purchased or used pursuant to license agreements with external parties on a full competition basis, as well as costs of consultancy and parallel services used solely for the completion of the research project;

**Op** – other operational costs, including cost of materials, supplies and similar products directly related to the completion of the research project;

**O** – additional general costs (overheads).

*The English version of this resolution does not constitute a sworn translation and has been prepared as an auxiliary document for your convenience. In case of any doubts as to the interpretation of its provisions, the Polish version shall prevail.*

prof. dr hab. Janusz Janeczek

Chair of the Council of the National Science Centre