



**RESOLUTION N° 49/2018**  
**BY THE COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE**  
of 7 June 2018  
**on the terms of the call for proposals MAESTRO 10**

Pursuant to art. 18 point 4 of the act of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010 on the National Science Centre (Journal of Laws of 2018, item 947), the Council of the National Science Centre sets the terms of conducting **the MAESTRO 10 call for proposals for research projects, carried out by advanced investigators, aiming to conduct pioneering research, including interdisciplinary research, which is significant for the development of science, goes beyond the current state of knowledge and may result in ground-breaking scientific discoveries.**

### **1. Eligible applicants**

- 1.1. Proposals for funding of research projects may be submitted by entities set out in art. 10(1)-(3), (5)-(6) and (8)-(9) of the act of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010 on the principles of funding science (Journal of Laws of 2018, item 87), hereinafter referred to as applicants.<sup>1</sup>
- 1.2. Under the call, proposals may be submitted for research projects whose Principal Investigator is an advanced investigator, aiming to conduct pioneering research, including interdisciplinary research, which is significant for the development of science, goes beyond the current state of knowledge and may result in ground-breaking scientific discoveries.
- 1.3. An advanced investigator is a person holding at least a doctoral degree, who within 10 years of the submission of the proposal for funding:
  - a) has published at least five research works in renown Polish or international scientific journals,
  - b) has acted as the principal investigator in at least two research projects funded in national or international competitive calls for proposals<sup>2</sup>,
  - c) fulfils at least three of the criteria below:

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<sup>1</sup> Proposals for funding of research projects may be submitted by:

- 1) academic or research organisations;
- 2) research consortia;
- 3) research networks and units within institutions of higher education (HE) that do not constitute their basic administrative units;
- 5) research centres of the Polish Academy of Sciences;  
5a) academic research centres shared by HE institutions;
- 6) scientific libraries
- 8) other legal entities established in the territory of the Republic of Poland;
- 9) natural persons

If the applicant is a natural person, the host institution cannot be a joint entity.

<sup>2</sup> Acting as a principal investigator also includes being the leader/coordinator of a research team in international projects or programmes



- has been a member of a scientific committee of at least one renown international conference,
- has published at least one monograph,
- has presented papers at renown international conferences,
- has received an international award or prize,
- has been or was a member of renown associations, international scientific organisations or academia,
- has other significant scientific achievements,

and in the case of research in the field of arts – a person who is an author of works of art of international significance or works significant for the Polish culture and has actively participated in international exhibitions, festivals, or other artistic events in visual, musical, theatrical or film arts.

## 2. Terms of entry

Under the call, proposals may be submitted for funding of research projects:

- 1) which constitute basic research within the meaning of art. 2 (3)(a) of the act of 30<sup>th</sup> April on the principles of funding science, in any of the disciplines specified by the National Science Centre's panels, as adopted by Resolution no 102/2016 of 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016 by the Council of the National Science Centre;
- 2) whose duration is 36, 48 or 60 months;
- 3) whose principal investigator can indicate between 5 and 10 published research works, of which 3 most important ones they attach to the proposal;
- 4) which involve the creation of at least one new full-time post-doc position<sup>3</sup> for at least one person holding a doctoral degree, for the aggregate period of at least 36 months;
- 5) which involve awarding a scholarship for a doctoral candidate or candidates<sup>4</sup> for the aggregate period of at least 36 months in compliance with the Regulations on awarding scholarships in NCN-funded research projects as adopted by the resolution of the Council of the NCN no 96/2016 of 27<sup>th</sup> October 2016;
- 6) which take into account "Regulations on the mode of granting financial resources for the completion of tasks funded by the National Science Centre (Narodowe Centrum Nauki, NCN) as regards research projects, fellowships and doctoral scholarships," as adopted by the resolution of the Council of the NCN no 48/2018 of 7 June 2018, hereinafter referred to as "Regulations."

## 3. Mode and dates of proposal submission

3.1. Information required in the proposal and documents attached to the proposal for funding a research project under the MAESTRO 10 call for proposals are set out in the **annex** to this resolution.

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<sup>3</sup> A post-doc type position is a full-time post, planned by the project's principal investigator for a person at the beginning of their career in research, who has been awarded 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, 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.

<sup>4</sup> According to the Act on higher education of 27<sup>th</sup> July 2005, a doctoral candidate (*doktorant*) is a participant of a doctoral programme.



- 3.2. Applicants that do not receive any operating support grant from the budget for science should provide information concerning:
  - 1) research conducted over the period of 2 years before submitting the proposal, together with a list of publications affiliated with the applicant organisation<sup>5</sup>;
  - 2) research equipment and other instrumentation/facilities crucial to scientific research.
- 3.3. Proposals for funding a research project together with the required annexes must be submitted no later than 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018 via the electronic submission system ZSUN/OSF (Zintegrowany System Usług dla Nauki/Obsługa Strumieni Finansowania) at [www.osf.opi.org.pl](http://www.osf.opi.org.pl).
- 3.4. A confirmation of proposal submission bearing a qualified electronic signature or a scan of the document signed in the signatory's own hand must be attached to the proposal.

#### **4. Mode and criteria of evaluating research proposals**

- 4.1. The merit-based evaluation is open only to research proposals evaluated positively at the stage of the eligibility check.
- 4.2. Research proposals are evaluated in accordance with the Regulations.
- 4.3. The merit-based evaluation of research proposals takes into account the following:
  - 1) fulfilling the criterion of basic research within the meaning of art. 2 (3)(a) of the act of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010 on the principles of funding science;
  - 2) fulfilling by the principal investigator the criterion of advanced researcher within the meaning of art. 2 (4) of the act of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010 on the National Science Centre;
  - 3) the research track record of the principal investigator, including publications in academic press/journals;
  - 4) evaluation of the results of research projects conducted by the principal investigator, funded from the budget for science;
  - 5) quality of the planned research or project tasks;
  - 6) innovative nature of the research problem addressed;
  - 7) project's impact on the advancement of the scientific field/discipline;
  - 8) assessment of the feasibility of the project's completion;
  - 9) relevance of the planned costs to the subject and scope of the research;
  - 10) whether the proposal has been prepared with due diligence.

#### **5. Funding decision**

- 5.1. The call is to be concluded and its results published by 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2019.
- 5.2. The call results will be available in the ZSUN/OSF electronic submission system and will also be communicated by an electronically delivered decision of the Director of the NCN,.
- 5.3. If the electronic decision is not collected, the decision of the Director of the National Science Centre is considered to have been delivered within 14 days of the date of being made available.
- 5.4. In the event of a breach of the call procedure or other formal infringements, the applicant may appeal the decision of the Director of the National Science Centre to the Committee of Appeals of the Council of the National Science Centre within 14 days of the decision's delivery.

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<sup>5</sup> If the applicant is a natural person, they should provide information about the project's host institution.



5.5. The Committee of Appeals of the Council of the National Science Centre passes judgement in the case of the appeal no later than 3 months from lodging the appeal.

## 6. Mode of funding

- 6.1. Financial resources for the completion of the research tasks specified in the proposal recommended for funding are granted by the decision of the Director of the NCN.
- 6.2. Financial resources are granted to the research project's host institution, pursuant to a funding agreement concluded between the National Science Centre, the host institution and the principal investigator.
- 6.3. If financial resources are granted to natural persons who are not employees of entities specified in art. 10(1)-(3), (5)-(6) and (8)-(9) of the act of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010 on the principles of funding science, the Director of the NCN issues a funding commitment letter whereby the funding is granted to the host institution in which the applicant is to be employed. The funding agreement will be concluded on condition that the natural person has been employed by one of entities specified in art. 10(1)-(3), (5)-(6) and (8)-(9) of the abovementioned act, with the exception of joint entities<sup>6</sup> and host institutions for whom such funding would constitute state aid.
- 6.4. Within the period indicated in the funding decision, the applicant is obliged to submit to the National Science Centre a draft version of the funding agreement, including the project's work plan and breakdown of costs, and to perform other actions ordered in the decision. Failure to comply with the provisions of the decision within the indicated period is equivalent to resignation from concluding the funding agreement.

## 7. Additional provisions

As part of the project implementation, the applicant is required to establish a project website.

## 8. Amount of funding

The Council of the National Science Centre establishes the amount of financial resources allocated for the completion of research projects under the MAESTRO 10 call for proposals **as PLN 40 million.**

*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.*

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<sup>6</sup> Joint entities are: research consortia, research networks, research centres of the Polish Academy of Sciences and academic research centres shared by HE institutions with the exception of academic research centres established as a unit within a single HE institution. Joint entities are represented by a leader indicated in the proposal or in the agreement establishing a joint entity. The leader makes all the declarations on behalf of the joint entity.