



Council
of the National Science Centre
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RESOLUTION N° 51/2018
BY THE COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE
of 7 June 2018
on the terms of the call for proposals SONATA BIS 8

Pursuant to art. 18 point 4 of the act of 30th 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 SONATA BIS 8 call for proposals for research projects, aimed to establish new research teams¹, carried out by persons with an academic degree or title, who have been awarded a doctorate within 5 to 12 years of submitting the proposal**

1. Eligible applicants

- 1.1. The call is addressed to individuals with an academic degree or title, who have been awarded a doctorate within 5 to 12 years² of submitting the proposal.
- 1.2. 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 30th April 2010 on the principles of funding science (Journal of Laws of 2018, item 87), hereinafter referred to as applicants.³

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 30th April on the principles of funding science, in any of the disciplines specified by the National Science

¹ For the purpose of this call, a new research team consists of researchers, including new employees, who do not hold a habilitation degree or a title of professor, who have not yet cooperated with one another as one research team on research tasks funded in competitive calls and who are appointed by the principal investigator who conducts cutting-edge basic research.

² The principal investigator is a person who has been awarded a doctorate between 1st January 2006 and 31st December 2013. This period does not include career 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.

³ 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.



Centre's panels, as adopted by Resolution no 102/2016 of 10th 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 3 and 10 published research works, of which 3 most important ones they attach to the proposal⁴;
- 4) in which the members of the research team other than the principal investigator cannot hold a habilitation degree or the title of professor;
- 5) which involve awarding a scholarship for a doctoral candidate or candidates⁵ 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 27th 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 SONATA BIS 8 call for proposals are set out in the **annex** to this resolution.
- 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 organisation⁶;
 - 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 17th September 2018 via the electronic submission system ZSUN/OSF (Zintegrowany System Usług dla Nauki/Obługa Strumieni Finansowania) at 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 30th April 2010 on the principles of funding science;

⁴ This condition must be met on the final day of submitting proposals under the call, i.e. on 17th September 2018.

⁵ According to the Act on higher education of 27th July 2005, a doctoral candidate (*doktorant*) is a participant of a doctoral programme.

⁶ If the applicant is a natural person, they should provide information about the project's host institution.



- 2) the research track record of the principal investigator, including publications in academic press/journals;
- 3) evaluation of the results of research projects conducted by the principal investigator, funded from the budget for science;
- 4) quality of the planned research or project tasks;
- 5) innovative nature of the research problem addressed;
- 6) project's impact on the advancement of the scientific field/discipline;
- 7) the manner in which a new research team will be established;
- 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 15th 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.
- 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 30th 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 entities⁷ 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

⁷ 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.



comply with the provisions of the decision within the indicated period is equivalent to resignation from concluding the funding agreement.

7. 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 SONATA BIS 8 call for proposals **as PLN 120 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.