

Annex to NCN Council Resolution No 23/2020 of 20 February 2020 amending the terms of the international CEUS-UNISONO call for research projects carried out as multilateral collaboration under the CEUS programme pursuant to the Lead Agency Procedure

Terms of the international CEUS-UNISONO call for research projects carried out as multilateral collaboration under the CEUS programme pursuant to the Lead Agency Procedure

1. General provision

1.1. Whenever this Resolution refers to:

- 1) CEUS programme, it shall mean the programme launched by the NCN and carried out as multilateral collaboration with the FWF, ARRS and GAČR pursuant to the Lead Agency Procedure under the CEUS-UNISONO call and calls of the lead agencies;
- 2) CEUS-UNISONO call, it shall mean the call launched under the CEUS programme, in which the NCN shall not act as the lead agency;
- 3) partner agencies, they shall mean partner agencies from Austria (FWF), Czech Republic (GAČR) and Slovenia (ARRS);
- 4) lead agency, it shall mean the partner agency responsible for the merit-based evaluation of submitted proposals;
- 5) lead agency call, it shall mean the call launched by the lead agency in order to perform the merit-based evaluation of joint proposals in the CEUS programme, specified in Point 3 (2) hereof;
- 6) joint proposal, it shall mean a proposal drafted by the Polish research team(s) jointly with the foreign research team(s) and submitted to the lead agency by the foreign research team pursuant to the terms and conditions of the call launched by the lead agency, including all documents required by the lead agency;
- 7) NCN proposal, it shall mean a proposal submitted to the NCN for funding of the Polish part of a project, including a joint proposal submitted to the lead agency;
- 8) regulations, it shall mean the *Regulations on awarding funding for research tasks funded by the National Science Centre under international calls carried out as multilateral collaboration pursuant to the Lead Agency Procedure*, adopted by the NCN Council;
- 9) research team, it shall mean the principal investigator together with members of a research team, if applicable in the proposal; and
- 10) NCN panels, they shall mean disciplines or groups of disciplines defined by the NCN Council, covering the entire span of research in three domains: i.e. Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (HS), Physical Sciences and Engineering (ST) and Life Sciences (NZ), for which NCN calls are announced and launched.

1.2. Under the call, funding will be awarded to the research projects carried out jointly by the research teams from two or three countries involved in the CEUS programme, for which ration between the teams is essential.

1.3. The call is addressed at Polish research teams that will apply jointly with research teams from one or two other countries involved in the CEUS programme for funding of research projects.

1.4. This Resolution sets forth the terms and conditions of the CEUS-UNISONO call and funding by the NCN of research projects to be performed by Polish research teams.

- 1.5. The principles for allocating funds for the tasks to be funded by the NCN under the CEUS-UNISONO are set forth in the Regulations.
- 1.6. The terms of the calls launched by the partner agencies under the CEUS programme to handle joint proposals are set forth by the FWF, ARRS and GAČR, respectively.
- 1.7. The CEUS-UNISONO call is carried out pursuant to the Lead Agency Procedure. FWF, GAČR or ARRS will act as the lead agency, whereas:
 - in the case of research projects to be carried out jointly by the research teams from two countries involved in the CEUS programme, the partner agency competent for the research team applying for at least 40 % of the entire project costs planned in the joint proposal shall act as the lead agency;
 - in the case of research projects to be carried out jointly by research teams from the three countries involved in the CEUS programme, the partner agency competent for the research team applying for at least 25 % of the entire project costs planned in the joint proposal shall act as the lead agency.

2. Terms of entry

- 2.1. The CEUS-UNISONO call is open to NCN proposals:
 - 1) for research tasks which have not been and are not funded by the NCN or from other sources;
 - 2) which involve basic research within the meaning of Article 2 (1) of the NCN Act in any of the scientific disciplines covered by the NCN panels;
 - 3) for the Polish part of the research project planned for the period of 24 or 36 months and in the case of research projects to be carried out jointly with research teams from Austria – also 48 months, whereas the duration of the project must be identical for all research teams involved in the project; and
 - 4) whose principal investigator holds at least a PhD degree and is responsible for managing the work of the Polish research team;
 - 5) in which the requested funding for the entire duration of the Polish part of the research project is no less than PLN 150 000;
 - 6) in which the budget for the Polish part of the project in a joint proposal is drafted in compliance with the requirements specified in the Regulation and calculated on the basis of the exchange rate as at the date of the NCN Council Resolution on the allocation of funds for the CEUS-UNISONO call;
 - 7) that meet the requirements specified in the Regulations; and
 - 8) that comprise all the elements specified in Point 2 (2) hereof.
- 2.2. NCN proposals shall include:
 - 1) the title of the research project included in the joint proposal (*in Polish and in English*);
 - 2) the joint proposal in pdf format, including all required documents in compliance with the principles applicable in the lead agency, identical with the version submitted in the lead agency's submission system, including:
 - a) a description of the research project in compliance with the principles applicable in the lead agency (*in English*);
 - b) CV with a list of publications by members of the research teams involved in the research project, whose names are known at the project submission stage, in compliance with the terms of the call launched by

the lead agency, with the exception of persons selected in an open call procedure, including persons to be employed as post-docs from the NCN budget;

- 3) the project's abstract for the general public (up to 1 page in Polish and up to 1 page in English);
- 4) a work plan (*in Polish and in English*) presenting research tasks to be performed;
- 5) information on the required qualifications and expected scope of work of each investigator in the research project (*in English*);
- 6) budget for the research project (*in English*) drafted in compliance with the terms laid down in the Regulations;
- 7) information on international cooperation planned during the implementation of the project, including names of foreign research institutions to be involved in such cooperation (*in English*);
- 8) information on the data management plan concerning data generated or used in the course of a research project, as required by the proposal (*in English*);
- 9) information on the ethical aspects of the project, including any consents, opinions, permits and/or approvals necessary to carry out the project in compliance with generally applicable laws and best practices adopted for a specific academic discipline, as required by the proposal (*in English*);
- 10) in the case of research projects which include clinical research with a medicinal product or medical devices, a detailed justification of the non-commercial nature of clinical research (*in English*);
- 11) in the case of research projects covering research being performed or completed by the principal investigator or with respect to which the principal investigator applies for funding under other NCN calls or from other sources, a description of similar research tasks with reasons justifying the need to have them funded in the submitted project (*in English*);
- 12) in the case of research projects to be carried out in entities that do not receive any institutional core funding for research activities, information on research carried out in the last 2 years with a list of publications and information concerning research equipment and other instruments crucial to research (*in English*);
- 13) in the case of research projects to be carried out by a group of Polish entities as defined in Article 27 (1) (2) of the NCN Act, an agreement on collaboration for the performance of the proposed research project, including (*inter alia*) identification of the parties to the agreement and its leader; subject and term of the agreement covering the performance period of the research project; authorisation for a representative of the leader to act on behalf of the entire group of entities in the procedure for the allocation of funding and performance of the research project; obligation of the leader to provide the other parties with information received from the NCN; signatures of authorised representatives of all entities forming the group of entities (*in Polish*); and
- 14) administrative declarations by the principal investigator and applicant, as required by the proposal.

3. Submission of NCN proposals

- 3.1. The CEUS-UNISONO call is open to NCN proposals to which joint proposals are attached, according to the proposal submission terms set forth in the Regulations.
- 3.2. Joint proposals must be drafted and submitted according to the requirements set forth in the terms of the call applicable in the lead agency, i.e.:

- *Stand-Alone Projects* and, in the case of clinical research, in the *Programme Clinical Research (KLIF)*, if FWF is the lead agency;
- *Lead Agency Grants*, if GAČR is the lead agency and
- *National Research Projects*, if ARRS is the lead agency

4. Evaluation of proposals

Proposals shall be evaluated pursuant to the Regulations and documents governing the merit-based evaluation of joint proposals applicable in the lead agency.

5. Funding decision

- 5.1. The funding decision shall be adopted by the NCN Director within 12 months of the date the NCN proposal is submitted.
- 5.2. Under the CEUS-UNISONO call, funds are awarded to Polish research teams only for research projects in the event of which the partner agencies award funds to the foreign research teams.

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