

RESOLUTION NO 63/2020

OF THE COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE

of 22 May 2020

laying down the terms and regulations of the call for proposals for NCN funding of Research Components in research projects funded under the Polish Returns 2020 Programme launched by the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange

Pursuant to Article 18 (13) and Article 21, in conjunction with Article 20 (1) (2) of the Act on the National Science Centre of 30 April 2010 (consolidated text in Journal of Laws of 2019, item 1384), hereinafter: the "NCN Act" and pursuant to Annex 2 to the Cooperation Agreement between the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (the "NAWA") and the National Science Centre (the "NCN") entered into on 2 January 2020, the Council of the National Science Centre hereby lays down the terms and regulations of the call for proposals for NCN funding of Research Components in research projects funded under the Polish Returns 2020 Programme launched by the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange.

I. General provisions

Whenever this Resolution refers to:

- 1) NCN, it shall mean the National Science Centre;
- 2) NAWA, it shall mean the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange;
- 3) Basic Research, it shall mean research laid down in Article 2 (1) of the NCN Act;
- 4) Programme, it shall mean the Polish Returns 2020 Programme launched by the NAWA;
- 5) Project, it shall mean actions aimed at performing the Programme, described in the proposal submitted to the NAWA and funded by both the NAWA and the NCN;
- 6) Research Component, it shall mean Basic Research funded by the NCN and carried out by a Returning Scientist and a Project Group in a project funded under the Programme (if any);
- 7) Returning Scientist, it shall mean a researcher returning to Poland under the Programme, employed by the Applicant and performing the Research Component the funding of which he/she has requested;
- 8) Project Group, it shall mean a research team performing the Research Component in a project funded under the Programme;
- 9) Call or Call for Proposals, it shall mean a qualification for NCN funding of Research Components to be performed under projects funded in the Programme;
- 10) Beneficiary, it shall mean an entity that has been awarded funding under the Programme to employ a Returning Scientist and a Project Group (if any); and
- 11) Applicant, it shall mean an institution authorised to submit a proposal to the NCN under the Call pursuant hereto.

II. Addressees of the Call

The call is addressed at the Returning Scientists identified in the Projects containing Research Components funded under the Programme.

III. Eligible applicants

- §1. Only Beneficiaries of the Polish Returns 2020 Programme that have received funding under the Programme to perform a Project containing a Research Component can act as applicants.
- §2. Proposals for funding of a Research Component (hereinafter: "proposal") may be submitted by entities for which funding will not constitute state aid, i.e.:
- 1) universities laid down in Article 7 (1) (1) of the Act on Higher Education and Science of 20 July 2018 (Journal of Laws, item 1668, as amended);
 - 2) research institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences operating pursuant to the Act on the Polish Academy of Sciences of 30 April 2010 (consolidated text in Journal of Laws of 2019, item 1183, as amended);
 - 3) research institutes operating pursuant to the Act on Research Institutes of 30 April 2010 (consolidated text in Journal of Laws of 2019, item 1350, as amended);
 - 4) international research institutes established pursuant to separate Acts, operating in the Republic of Poland;
 - 5) Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences;
 - 6) institutes operating within the Łukasiewicz Research Network laid down in Article 7 (1) (6) (b) of the Act on Higher Education and Science of 20 July 2018; and
 - 7) other entities involved in research independently on a continuous basis that have been awarded an academic category.
- §3. Entities under forced administration or in liquidation or subject to bankruptcy proceedings cannot act as applicants.

IV. Terms of entry to the Call for Proposals

- §4. The following proposals for funding of a Research Component may be submitted under the Call:
- 1) covered by the Project funded under the Programme;
 - 2) to be performed by a Returning Scientist in cooperation with a Project Group in a project funded under the Programme (if any);
 - 3) during which a Returning Scientist will be employed by the Applicant pursuant to an employment contract;
 - 4) which comprise basic research laid down in Article 2 (1) of the NCN Act in any of the academic disciplines defined in the NCN panels adopted by the NCN Council;
 - 5) which comprise research to be performed during the first 18 months of the start date of a Project funded under the Programme;
 - 6) whose requested funding is up to 200,000 PLN for the entire project performance period;
 - 7) in which the Applicant includes:
 - a) proposal title the same as the title of the Project funded under the Programme;
 - b) Research Component start date the same as the start date of the Project;
 - c) full proposal submitted to the NAWA under the Programme in PDF format;

- d) costs of the Research Component drafted in compliance with the terms laid down in the **Annex** hereto concerning *Costs in Research Components funded by the National Science Centre*;
- e) general budget;
- f) information on the data management plan concerning data generated or used in the course of performance of the Research Component, as required by the proposal;
- g) information on the ethical aspects, including any consents, opinions, permits and/or approvals necessary to perform the Research Component in compliance with generally applicable laws and best practices adopted for a specific academic discipline, as required by the proposal;
- h) in the case of a Research Component which includes clinical trials with a medicinal product or a medical device, a detailed justification of the non-commercial nature of the trials;
- i) in the case of a Research Component to be performed in a host institution that does not receive any institutional core funding for research activities, information on research carried out over the last 2 years, together with a list of publications and information on research equipment and other instruments/facilities crucial to research; and
- j) declaration by the applicant, as required by the proposal.

V. Submission of proposals

- §5. Proposals are submitted electronically via the ZSUN/OSF submission system available at <https://osf.opi.org.pl>.
- §6. Proposals are filled in with information requested in the proposal in ZSUN/OSF. Information required in the proposal is included in the Call announcement.
- §7. Only complete proposals that meet all the requirements set forth in the Call announcement are accepted in the Call for proposals.
- §8. By submitting a proposal to the Call, the Applicants accept the General Terms of the Funding Agreement for a Research Component, the template of which is included in the Call announcement.

VI. Submission of proposals (procedure and dates)

- §9. The continuous call for proposals shall be open from the date the results of the Programme are published by the NAWA until the last proposal is submitted to the NCN containing a Research Component.
- §10. A Proposal for funding of a Research Component must be submitted to the NCN at least two weeks before the forecasted Project start date.

VII. Evaluation of proposals (procedure and criteria)

- §11. Proposals submitted under the Call for Proposals are subject to an eligibility check only.
- §12. An eligibility check is performed by the Coordinators.
- §13. The eligibility check includes:
- 1) verification whether the proposal is complete;
 - 2) verification whether the proposal meets all requirements of the Call announcement;

- 3) verification whether information in the proposal submitted to the NCN complies with information in the proposal submitted to the NAWA under the Programme; and
 - 4) verification whether the costs planned comply with the costs laid down in the Annex hereto.
- §14. An Applicant whose proposal does not meet the eligibility criteria can submit another proposal in line with the comments provided by the NCN.
- §15. Only proposals approved as eligible to the extent laid down in §13 hereto are recommended for funding.

VIII. **Conclusion of the Call for Proposals**

The results of the Call for Proposals are announced by way of a decision of the NCN Director.

IX. **Call budget**

The NCN Council has decided to award **PLN 4,000,000** for Research Components under the Call for Proposals.

Prof. Dr hab. Małgorzata Kossowska
President of the Council of
the National Science Centre

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