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NARODOWE CENTRUM NAUKI

DAINA 2: Polish-Lithuanian Funding Initiative

Call for proposals 2020

1. Introduction

In order to strengthen international academic co-operation, wishing to fund high quality scientific research within their own countries, and conscious that some of the best research can be delivered by working with the best researchers internationally, the National Science Centre (NCN) and the Research Council of Lithuania (RCL) are launching the second call for proposals within the joint funding initiative DAINA. The DAINA initiative was started in 2017 in order to provide funding for integrated Polish-Lithuanian research projects of outstanding scientific quality **in all fields of science**. DAINA 2 is a continuation of that successful funding initiative.

The partner agencies will conduct a parallel peer review and selection process. Funding will be distributed according to the funding rules of each individual agency.

The joint projects must be collaborative and conducted jointly by Polish and Lithuanian teams, each led by a respective Principal Investigator. Projects must have, therefore, well-defined joint working programmes demonstrating clearly the added value of bilateral collaboration. It is expected that each partner contributes substantially to the common project; this includes taking organisational responsibilities. The division of responsibilities should also be reflected in the amount of funds requested by each partner. Only proposals involving [basic research](#)¹ (knowledge-oriented research) may be submitted.

2. Disciplines covered

Researchers are invited to submit proposals **in all fields of science**.

3. Eligibility

- All projects must focus on **substantive research and feature an integrated work programme**. Scientific infrastructure or networking activities can only be funded within projects with a substantive research focus. As stand-alone projects, infrastructure or networking projects will not be eligible.

¹ Basic research is defined as experimental or theoretical endeavours undertaken to gain new knowledge of the foundations of phenomena and observable facts, without any direct commercial use.

- **Joint proposals, including all budget items must conform to the national rules** relevant for each applicant. Applicants must note that the NCN and RCL retain the right to reject proposals which fail to comply with the procedures set out in the respective guidelines. If a proposal is deemed ineligible by one national agency, the complete project will be rejected by both agencies. **No changes will be accepted after the deadline for submission.**
- Grants that are considered state aid will not be offered.
- If an **application has been submitted to any other call** or funding line of the NCN, RCL or any other funding agency, this must be clearly stated in the proposal. Please also check the respective national agency's rules regarding submission of a project to more than one scheme.
- A PI may submit only one proposal under the same call.
- Joint proposals (consisting of Joint Project Description and CVs of the Principal Investigators together with publication lists) must be written in English (except for sections specified explicitly in the call documentation²).
- Joint Polish-Lithuanian research projects may be funded **for a period of either 24 or 36 months.**
- It is recommended that the projects on Polish and Lithuanian sides start simultaneously, within 2 months of the announcement of the results of the joint call.
- Research teams that are carrying out or have carried out a research project in "DAINA 1" can apply for funding within DAINA 2.

4. Applicants

Each joint research project must consist of one Polish and one Lithuanian research team. Each team must be led by one Principal Investigator (PI) and hosted by an eligible Host Institution either in Poland or in Lithuania.

The Polish PI must have at least a PhD degree when submitting a proposal. The Lithuanian PI must be a scientist.

Eligible Host institutions in Poland:

NCN proposals may be submitted by the entities specified in Article 27 (1) (1) – (2), (1) (4) – (5) and (1) (7) of the Act on the National Science Centre of 30 April 2010 (Journal of Laws of 2019, item 1384).

²As for language requirements, please also check the respective national agency's rules regarding submission to the ZSUN/OSF and the JUNKIS electronic submission systems concerning the DAINA 2 call.

Eligible implementing institutions in Lithuania: Lithuanian research and higher education institutions included in the Register of Education and Research institutions (to be found at <https://www.aikos.smm.lt/en/Pages/Default.aspx> under “Registers” and the section “Education providers” category).

5. Budget and eligible costs

General requirements:

- All costs must be eligible according to the national eligibility requirements.
- The EUR budgets of the Lithuanian and Polish teams, together with a detailed justification of all requested costs, must be included in the Joint Project Description (for this purpose, Polish applicants should fill out the sections: V.1 and V.3. of the JPD and Lithuanian applicants: sections V.2. and V.4. of the JPD).

Country specific requirements – Poland:

- The budget for the Polish part of the project must be at least 150,000 PLN. There is no maximum limit for the Polish part of the project.
- Polish research teams must provide the budget in PLN together with a detailed justification via the ZSUN/OSF system.
- Expenses and the EUR costs of the project implemented by the Polish applicants provided in the Joint Project Description must equal the budget provided in the breakdown of the project’s costs in PLN in the ZSUN/OSF. Severe discrepancies between the EUR budgets in JPD and the PLN budgets in ZSUN/OSF may lead to rejection of the joint proposal.
- All costs requested by the Polish research teams must be justified in detail in the JPD, section V.1. The justification of costs in the JPD must be consistent with the justification of costs provided in the ZSUN/OSF system.
- The EUR costs in the JPD must be calculated based on the EUR exchange rate as in the NCN Research Council Resolution no. 62/2020 of 22 May 2020 (namely: 1 EUR = 4,5234 PLN).
- The PLN costs in the ZSUN/OSF must be rounded down to total values and EUR costs in the JPD must be rounded down to two decimal places.
- For detailed information please see NCN call documentation.

Please note that, since the project budget cannot be negotiated at any point after the submission of the proposal, an oversized budget may lead to the proposal’s rejection.

Country specific requirements – Lithuania:

- The budget of the Lithuanian part of the project must not exceed 80,000 EUR (in the case of a 24-month project) or 120,000 EUR (in the case of a 36-month project).
- Lithuanian research teams must provide a detailed budget justification to the RCL via the electronic system. The workload of the Lithuanian PI and each principal co-investigator within the project may not be less than 20 hours multiplied by the duration of the project in months.

6.Submission of proposals

The joint proposals (consisting of the Joint Project Descriptions and the CVs together with publication lists), prepared jointly by both Polish and Lithuanian applicants, must be submitted online to both agencies' respective submission systems, together with all necessary documents conforming to the formal requirements of the respective funding organisation set out in the call documentation:

1. First, by the Polish applicant to NCN via ZSUN/OSF system, **by 15 September 2020, 16:00 CEST**. The PDF version of the complete DAINA 2 proposal shall be generated in the ZSUN/OSF system after completion of the submission process in the ZSUN/OSF system.
2. Second, by the Lithuanian applicant to RCL via JUNKIS system, **by 22 September 2020, 16:00 EEST**. The Lithuanian applicant must submit the above-mentioned PDF version of the complete DAINA 2 proposal generated in the ZSUN/OSF system into the JUNKIS system.

Proposals received after the above-mentioned deadlines will not be eligible.

Joint proposals submitted to both agencies must be identical; **a project may be rejected if they differ.**

For Polish applicants:

- NCN's submission system ZSUN/OSF can be found at <https://osf.opi.org.pl>.
- Information required in the proposal and the attachments to the application are set out in the NCN call documentation.
- Data included in the ZSUN/OSF system should be consistent with information included in the joint project description.

For Lithuanian applicants:

- RCL submission system JUNKIS can be found at <http://junkis.lmt.lt/>.
- Information required in the proposal and the attachments to the application are set out in the RCL call documentation.

- Data included in the JUNKIS system should be consistent with information included in the joint proposal.

7. Evaluation procedure

1. The applicants' and projects' eligibility will be checked by both the NCN and RCL for the Polish and Lithuanian sides, respectively. The merit-based evaluation is open only to proposals approved as eligible by both agencies.
2. All proposals will be reviewed by NCN and RCL separately.
3. At NCN, each eligible proposal will be evaluated by expert panels as well as by at least two external referees. The panels will consist of recognised researchers from relevant disciplines who are familiar with the NCN decision-making procedures.
4. At RCL, each eligible proposal will be evaluated by two or three independent experts, followed by the consensus report with the scores of the panel assessment on the basis of which the ranking list is drafted.
5. Funding will be granted to those proposals where both NCN and RCL recommend funding.

8. Criteria

The merit-based evaluation of the proposals submitted to DAINA 2 call will be carried out in line with the NCN's and RCL's evaluation criteria.

All project proposals will be assessed against three sets of criteria, i.e:

- 1) qualification of Principal Investigators (PIs),
- 2) academic merits of the research project,
- 3) feasibility and budget of the project.

9. Tentative Timeline

15 June 2020	Launch of the call for proposals
15 September 2020, 16:00, CEST	Submission deadline in ZSUN/OSF system for Polish applicants
22 September 2020, 16:00 EEST	Submission deadline in JUNKIS system for Lithuanian applicants
November 2020-April 2021	Peer-review
End of April 2021/beginning of May	Announcement of the results

2021	
mid-2021	Start of joint research projects

10. Budget:

10,000,000 PLN for Polish teams.

At least 1,500,000 EUR for Lithuanian teams (max. cost 80,000 EUR for 2-year projects; 120,000 EUR for 3-year projects).

11. Call documents

- Call Text (this document),
- Joint Project Description Template,
- Evaluation sheet for reviewers in NCN, Evaluation sheet for reviewers in RCL.

For Polish applicants: all relevant documents can be found on the [NCN website](#).

For Lithuanian applicants: all relevant documents can be found on the [RCL website](#).

Please note that personal data included in DAINA 2 proposals (both in the JPD and in domestic NCN and RCL proposals) will be processed by NCN and RCL according to the rules and regulations available under the following links:

- NCN: <https://ncn.gov.pl/dane-osobowe?language=en>
- RCL: <https://www.lmt.lt/en/administrative-information/the-reform-of-personal-data-protection/3061>

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