



Council  
of the National Science Centre  
KR.0003.79.2018

**RESOLUTION NO 79/2018**  
**BY THE COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE**  
of 6 September 2018  
**on the terms of the call for proposals SONATA 14**

Pursuant to Article 18 (4) of the Act on the National Science Centre of 30 April 2010 (Journal of Laws of 2018, item 947), the Council of the National Science Centre sets the terms of conducting **the SONATA 14 call for proposals for research projects<sup>1</sup> carried out by persons who have been awarded a doctorate within 2 to 7 years before submitting the proposal.**

### **1. Eligible applicants**

- 1.1. The call is addressed to individuals who have been awarded a doctorate within 2 to 7 years<sup>2</sup> before submitting the proposal.
- 1.2. Proposals for funding of research projects may be submitted by entities set out in Article 10 of the Act on the principles of funding science of 30 April 2010 (Journal of Laws of 2018, item 87), hereinafter referred to as applicants.<sup>3</sup>

### **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 Article 2 (3) (a) of the Act on the principles of funding science of 30 April 2010 in any of the disciplines specified by the

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<sup>1</sup> Including research projects aimed at creating a unique methodology understood as innovative basic research projects using modern research facilities and/or original theory and methodology.

<sup>2</sup> The principal investigator is a person who has been awarded a doctorate between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2016. The foregoing period can be extended by a maternity leave, adoption leave, paternity leave or parental leave granted in compliance with the Labour Code or periods of sickness benefit or physiotherapy benefit granted on account of being unfit to work, including any caused by a health condition requiring physiotherapy. Women may extend the period by 18 months for every child born or adopted. A woman may choose whichever manner of accounting for her career break she finds preferable.

<sup>3</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;
- 4) research and industrial consortia;
- 5) research centres of the Polish Academy of Sciences;  
5a) academic research centres;
- 6) scientific libraries
- 7) enterprises with the status of a research and development centre as defined in the Act on certain forms of support for innovation activities of 30 May 2008;
- 8) legal entities with registered office in Poland;
- 9) natural persons;
- 10) enterprises conducting research in a different form than those specified in points 1-8.

If the applicant is a natural person, the host institution cannot be a joint entity or an entity for which the funding of the research project constitutes state aid.



National Science Centre's panels, as adopted by Resolution No 102/2016 of 10 November 2016 by the Council of the National Science Centre;

- 2) whose duration is 12, 24 or 36 months;<sup>4</sup>
- 3) whose principal investigator can indicate between 1 and 10 published research works, of which the most important one will be attached to the proposal;
- 4) in which only one member of the research team other than the principal investigator can hold a habilitation (*doktor habilitowany*) degree or the title of full professor<sup>5</sup>, provided that he/she is not employed by the host institution;
- 5) 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, NCM*) as regards research projects, post-doctoral fellowships and doctoral scholarships," as adopted by the Resolution of the NCN Council No 76/2018 of 6 September 2018, hereinafter referred to as "Regulations" and
- 6) in which the total cost of research equipment is up to PLN 500,000 in the areas of Physical Sciences and Engineering (PE) and Life Sciences (LE), and PLN 150,000 in the areas of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (HS), respectively.

### 3. Submission of proposals

- 3.1. Information required in the proposal and documents attached to the proposal for funding a research project under the SONATA 14 call for proposals are set out in this resolution.
- 3.2. Applicants that do not receive any operating support grant from the budget for science should support their proposal with information concerning:<sup>6</sup>
  - 1) research conducted over the period of 2 years before submitting the proposal, together with a list of publications affiliated with the entity;
  - 2) research equipment and other instrumentation/facilities crucial to scientific research.
- 3.3. Complete proposals with the required annexes and a confirmation of submitting the proposal bearing a qualified electronic signature or with a scan of the document signed in the signatory's own hand must be submitted no later than 17 December 2018 in electronic form via the ZSUN/OSF (Zintegrowany System Usług dla Nauki / Obsługa Strumieni Finansowania) system at [www.osf.opi.org.pl](http://www.osf.opi.org.pl).

### 4. Evaluation of proposals

- 4.1. The 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 evaluation of research proposals takes account of the following:
  - 1) fulfilling the criterion of basic research laid down in Article 2 (3) (a) of the Act on the principles of funding science of 30 April 2010;
  - 2) the research track record of the principal investigator, including publications in prestigious academic press/journals;
  - 3) evaluation of the results of research projects conducted by the principal investigator, previously funded from the budget for science;

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<sup>4</sup> In the case of entities applying for state aid, the start date of a research project is 1 October 2019.

<sup>5</sup> This condition must be met on the final day of submitting proposals under the call, i.e. 17 December 2018.

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



- 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 discipline;
- 7) relevance of the planned costs to the subject and scope of the research;
- 8) assessment of the feasibility of the project's completion;
- 9) 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 June 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 NCN Director.
- 5.3. If the decision is not collected in the electronic form, the decision of the NCN Director 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 project recommended for funding are granted by the decision of the NCN Director.
- 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 Article 10 (1) – (8) and (10) of the Act on the principles of funding science of 30 April 2010, the NCN Director will issue a funding commitment, i.e. 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 the entities specified in Article 10 (1) – (8) and (10) of the abovementioned Act, with the exception of joint entities<sup>7</sup> and host institutions for whom such funding would constitute state aid.
- 6.4. If financial resources are granted to applicants established as enterprises<sup>8</sup>, the regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 9 September 2015 on the terms and mode of granting state aid via the National Science Centre (Journal of Laws of 2015, item 1381) shall apply.
- 6.5. Within the period specified in the funding decision, the applicant will submit to National Science Centre a draft funding agreement, including project's work plan and breakdown of costs, and

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<sup>7</sup> Joint entities mean research consortia, research networks, scientific and industrial consortia, research centres of the Polish Academy of Sciences and academic research centres, with the exception of academic research centres established within a single HE institution. Joint entities are represented by a leader specified in the proposal or in the agreement establishing a joint entity. The leader makes all the declarations on behalf of the joint entity.



perform other actions ordered in the decision. Failure to comply with the deadline is tantamount to resignation from concluding the funding agreement.

## 7. Call budget

The Council of the National Science Centre establishes the amount of financial resources allocated for the completion of research projects under the SONATA 14 call for proposals **as PLN 90 million.**

prof. dr hab. Janusz Janeczek,  
Chairman 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 case of any doubts as to the interpretation of its provisions, the Polish version shall prevail.*