



Council  
of the National Science Centre  
KR.0003.66.2019

**RESOLUTION NO 66/2019**  
**OF THE COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE**  
of 13 June 2019  
**on the terms of the ALPHORN international bilateral call**  
**for Polish-Swiss research projects**

Pursuant to Article 18 (4), in conjunction with Article 20 (1) (4) of the Act on the National Science Centre of 30 April 2010 (Journal of Laws of 2018, item 947, as amended), hereinafter the “NCN Act” and pursuant to the Agreement on Collaboration entered into by and between the National Science Centre (the “NCN”) and the Swiss National Science Foundation (the “SNSF”) on 22 November 2018, the Council of the National Science Centre hereby lays down the terms of the **ALPHORN call for Polish-Swiss research projects**.

## **1. General provisions**

- 1.1. This Resolution sets forth the terms of the call for the funding by the NCN of the Polish part of research projects to be performed by Polish research teams<sup>1</sup> under the ALPHORN call.
- 1.2. The SNSF shall set forth the terms and conditions of a call for the funding by the SNSF of the Swiss part of research projects to be performed by Swiss research teams under the ALPHORN call.
- 1.3. The ALPHORN call shall be held in line with the Lead Agency Procedure. Under the ALPHORN call, the SNSF shall act as the Lead Agency.
- 1.4. The principles for awarding funding for the tasks to be funded by the NCN under the ALPHORN call are set forth in the “Regulations on awarding funding for research tasks funded by the National Science Centre under international calls carried out as bilateral cooperation pursuant to the Lead Agency Procedure”, adopted pursuant to NCN Council Resolution No 65/2019 of 13 June 2019, hereinafter the “Regulations”.
- 1.5. Under the ALPHORN call, funding will be awarded to research projects carried out jointly by Polish and Swiss research teams, in which their cooperation is a key element.

## **2. Eligible applicants**

The call is addressed at Polish research teams that will apply jointly with Swiss research teams for funding of research projects. The Polish part of the research project shall be headed by the principal investigator at the Polish research team, hereinafter referred to as the “principal investigator”. The Swiss part of the research project shall be headed by the principal investigator in the Swiss research team.

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<sup>1</sup> A research team shall be understood as the principal investigator together with members of the research team if named in the proposal.

### 3. Terms of entry

Under the call, the following proposals may be submitted for funding by the NCN of the Polish part of the research project under the ALPHORN call, hereinafter the “NCN proposals”:

- 1) in which the principal investigator is at least a PhD holder,
- 2) to carry out research that neither is nor was funded by the NCN nor from any other sources,
- 3) which constitute basic research as defined in Article 2 (1) of the NCN Act in any of the disciplines specified by the NCN panels, as adopted by the NCN Council,
- 4) for a research project to be carried out over 24 or 36 months,
- 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 of the Polish part of the project in a joint proposal<sup>2</sup> must be calculated on the basis of the exchange rate published by the National Bank of Poland on the date this Resolution is adopted by the NCN Council, i.e. EUR 1 = PLN 4,2610,
- 7) which meet the terms of the Regulations and
- 8) which comprise all the elements specified in point 4(5) hereof.

### 4. Submission of proposals

- 4.1 The call is open to NCN proposals to which joint proposals are attached, prepared by Polish research teams in cooperation with Swiss research teams, in accordance with the proposal submission procedure set forth in the Regulations.
- 4.2. Proposals shall be submitted in two electronic submission systems: ZSUN/OSF (Integrated Services for Science/Funding Stream Support, available at: <https://osf.opi.org.pl>) for NCN proposals submitted to the NCN and mySNF (SNSF's web platform, available at: <https://www.mysnf.ch>) for joint proposals submitted to the SNSF.
- 4.3. Joint proposals, prepared in compliance with SNSF's requirements set forth in the SNSF Project Funding programme shall be submitted to the SNSF by the Swiss research team by **1 October 2019**.
- 4.4. NCN proposals shall be submitted to the NCN by the Polish research team as soon as possible following the submission of the joint proposal to the SNSF, within a maximum of 7 days. NCN proposals shall be submitted by **8 October 2019**.
- 4.5. NCN proposals shall specify:
  - 1) title of the research project (*in Polish and in English*);
  - 2) joint proposal in pdf format, including all documents required by the SNSF in compliance with the principles applicable in the SNSF Project Funding programme, identical to the ones submitted to mySNF, including:
    - a) joint project description in compliance with the principles applicable in the SNSF Project Funding programme (*in English*);
    - b) CV with a list of publications by principal investigators of the Polish and Swiss research teams, in compliance with the principles applicable in the SNSF Project Funding programme (*in English*);
  - 3) research project's abstract for the general public (*no more than 1 page in Polish and no more than 1 page in English*);
  - 4) research plan (*in Polish and in English*) presenting the research tasks to be carried out by the Polish research team;
  - 5) information on the required qualifications and expected scope of work to be performed by

<sup>2</sup> A joint proposal shall be understood as a proposal submitted by the Swiss research team in the SNSF's mySNF system, comprising all documents required by the SNSF in accordance with the terms of the SNSF Project Funding programme. A joint proposal may be annexed only to one NCN proposal; the information in a NCN proposal must be identical to the information in a joint proposal.

- each co-investor in the research project on the Polish part (*in English*);
- 6) budget of the Polish part of the research project (*in English*) drafted in compliance with the Regulations;
  - 7) information on expected international cooperation in the research project beyond the cooperation with the Swiss research team as required in the call, including cooperating foreign research institutions (*in English*);
  - 8) information on the data management plan concerning data generated or used in the course of a research project, in compliance with SNSF's requirements, identical to the ones submitted to mySNF (*in English*);
  - 9) information on the ethical aspects of the project, including 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 (*in English*); where a research project requiring consents, opinions, permits and/or approvals is recommended for funding, the funding agreement shall be entered into when copies of the foregoing documents are submitted to the NCN within the time frame set forth in the NCN Director's funding decision;
  - 10) in the case of research projects which include clinical trials with a medicinal product or a medical device, a detailed justification of the non-commercial nature of the trials (*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, description of similar research tasks with reasons justifying the need to have them funded under the project applied for (*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 activity, 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 specified in Article 27 (1) (2) of the NCN Act, an agreement on collaboration for the performance of the proposed research project, including: identification of the parties to the agreement and its leader; subject-matter 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 the authorised representatives of all members of the group of entities (*in Polish*) and
  - 14) declarations of the principal investigator and the applicant required by the proposal.

## 5. Evaluation of proposals

- 5.1. Proposals shall be evaluated pursuant to the Regulations adopted pursuant to NCN Council Resolution No 65/2019 of 13 June 2019 and documents on the merit-based evaluation which apply to the SNSF Project Funding programme, available at: <http://www.snf.ch/en/funding/projects/projects-in-all-disciplines/Pages/default.aspx>.
- 5.2. Pursuant to Article 30 (1) of the NCN Act, the NCN carries out merit-based evaluation of NCN proposals to assess whether the costs are justified as regards the subject and scope of research, provided that such evaluation is not conducted by the lead agency. If the costs planned in the NCN proposal are deemed unjustified as regards the subject and scope of research, the NCN Director may award less funding for research projects to be carried out by Polish research teams than planned in the NCN proposal or may refuse to award funding.



## **6. Funding decision**

- 6.1. The call shall be concluded and results of the call shall be announced by the end of June 2020.
- 6.2. The results of the call shall be announced by way of a decision of the NCN Director.
- 6.3. Under the ALPHORN call, funds are awarded only to research projects under which the NCN Director awards funding to Polish research teams while SNSF awards funding to Swiss research teams.

## **7. Call budget**

- 7.1. The NCN Council decides to allocated PLN **7,000,000** for the tasks to be performed by Polish research teams under the ALPHORN call.
- 7.2. The NCN Council may increase the amount of funding allocated for the tasks to be performed by Polish research teams under the ALPHORN call.

Prof. dr hab. Małgorzata Kossowska

Chairwoman of the Council of  
the National Science Centre