

ANNUAL PROGRAMME REPORT

FM14-21

Poland

PL-Basic Research Research

2020

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The main objective of the Basic Research Programme implemented by the National Science Centre (NCN) is enhanced research-based knowledge development through research cooperation between Poland and the Donor States. All activities implemented in 2020 within the programme contributed to this goal.

So far, the most important success of the programme is the large interest in the calls, which resulted in a great number of high-quality applications received under the calls. Moreover, almost 50% of awarded projects include at least one partner from the Donor States.

One of the significant results of the programme was the fact, that all calls for proposals designed under the Basic Research Programme were announced as planned:

- the GRIEG call for Polish-Norwegian research projects covering all areas of basic research including polar research and social sciences,
- the IdeaLab call for ground-breaking, interdisciplinary research projects targeting challenges facing European societies today and in the future implemented in cooperation between teams from Poland and the Donor States,
- the SGS POLS call supports incoming mobility of researchers from abroad, who are residents and working outside Poland.

Overall, the programme implementation is progressing well. The next big success of the programme is that the selection process within the calls was successfully completed. According to the programme schedule the results of the GRIEG and IdeaLab call were published in April 2020. In the case of the SGS POLS call the funding decision was announced in December 2020.

There were 70 projects awarded in the GRIEG, IdeaLab, and SGS POLS call including 31 projects in partnership with the research organisations, institutes, university departments, NGOs, etc. from Norway.

The project contracts in GRIEG and IdeaLab call were signed in the period from September to October 2020. However, due to the COVID situation, two projects within the GRIEG call were signed in January 2021. The contracting phase under the SGS POLS call is planned in the period from March to April 2021.

The great challenge was to carry out the calls within the world pandemic situation. The process of contracting was especially difficult because it required changes in the internal procedures of the Programme Operator due to the changes in national law.

When it comes to bilateral activities, the Research Council of Norway – Donor Programme Partner was closely involved in and effectively contributed to developing the template of documents like the project contract or partnership agreement template relevant to the program's implementation, especially those affecting the relation of the project's promoters and partners. The RCN was also involved in the dissemination of information about calls for proposals among Norwegian research organisations. Those

actions resulted in establishing the Polish-Norwegian partnerships and ultimately in receiving a large number of project proposals.

The visibility of the programme was ensured through the following promotional and informational activities: updating of the programme website, sending the press releases to various professional media, posting on social media, the arrangement of informational chats regarding the SGS POLS call, and 4 online informational meetings for GRIEG and IdeaLab beneficiaries related to the contracting issues. The conference promoting the Basic Research Programme planned in June 2020 due to the Covid situation was postponed to Q 2 2021. An effective information and promotion campaign directed to the target groups resulted in the broad interest of the calls and in a significant number of submitted applications in the three calls.

The following risks that were initially defined for the programme, both programmatic and operational did not arise:

- the risk of failure in carrying out the IdeaLab Call,
- the difficulties in initiating cooperation between partners from Poland and the Donor States,
- delays in calls launch and projects selection.

Other risks presented for the programme could still emerge. The Program Operator pays special attention to the risk of underspending funds allocated to projects due to exchange rate differences. The EUR/PLN exchange risk is on an ongoing basis analysing and the response is worked out to mitigate this risk. The new risk was identified due to the COVID19 pandemic, related to delays in the project's implementation and not spending allocation in the Basic Research Programme and research projects.

B. PERFORMANCE

1. Programme context

The COVID-19 outbreak has pushed Poland into a new social and economic situation. This global pandemic is a severe public health emergency for citizens, societies, and economies. In Poland, for the first time in almost three decades, a recession is forecasted for 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic is expected to contribute to the GDP decline by 4,3% in 2020, followed by a recovery of 4,1% in 2021.

The necessity of public intervention in such sectors as industry, business, and public health will probably decrease the expenditure on R&D or keep them at the level from previous years. Thus, the efficient absorption of EEA and Norway Grants' aid was a great challenge in 2020. The large-scale oversubscription (success rate less than 10% in GRIEG and IdeaLab calls) has indicated that any amount of the reserve in the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms would enable funding additional, scientific

excellent projects. Implementation of these projects would also create jobs in the research sector.

2. Results

Outcome 1: Enhanced performance of Polish basic research

Description and analysis of results

The implementation of the programme is progressing according to the Programme Agreement. Three planned calls were announced according to the Programme Agreement: two within the Norwegian Financial Mechanism (GRIEG and POLS) and one within the EEA Financial Mechanism (IdeaLab).

In the case of the POLS call, the announcement was postponed from December 2019 to March 2020 due to the necessity of assessing the added value of SGS POLS by the Programme Committee, following paragraph 8 point 2 of annex II to the Programme Agreement.

GRIEG is a call for research projects carried out jointly by research teams from Poland and Norway. Research teams must include at least one Polish partner acting as the partnership leader and at least one Norwegian partner. Partnerships may include research organisations, enterprises, and non-governmental organisations. 306 applications were submitted under the GRIEG call and 28 projects have been successfully selected for funding. GRIEG covers all academic disciplines defined in the NCN panels, with a particular focus on polar research and social sciences. Out of 28 funded projects, 6 projects represent polar sciences while social sciences are realised in 8 projects. By the decision of the Programme Committee, 19 projects have been placed on the waiting list.

IdeaLab is a call for interdisciplinary ground-breaking research projects carried out by Polish researchers in collaboration with researchers from countries of the European Economic Area. The IdeaLab call was carried out in compliance with the “sandpit” formula developed by the UK Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and used by the Research Council of Norway under the name of Idélab. The subject of the IdeaLab call is “Managing Threats”, which covers challenges arising from the complex processes of our times, such as globalisation, technological change, issues of environment and climate change, demographic change, major waves of migration, geopolitical instability, and many others, which bring with them uncertainties (implying threats and, in some cases, opportunities) that European societies have to face. Three projects were selected within the innovative IdeaLab call financed by EEA Financial Mechanism, with an absorbing amount of € 4,107, 780 out of € 4,434, 011 total budget of the call.

POLS is a scheme designed to support researcher mobility, implemented in the form of small grants awarded to international researchers who wish to conduct their research in Poland. The arrival of both well-established and promising researchers with at least a Ph.D. degree is expected to contribute to strengthening the research potential of Polish institutions. The grants (ranging from 100 to 200 thousand euro) can go towards

the costs of research team salaries, equipment depreciation or purchase, materials and services, research trips and conferences, as well as other project-related expenses. The projects may take 12 or 24 months to complete. In justified cases, their duration can be extended, but they must all be completed before 30 April 2024. 99 applications were submitted under Small Grant Scheme POLS and 39 have been recommended for funding. The POLS granted funding amounts to € 6,953,751 out of € 7,000,000 total budget of the call. Ten projects have been placed on the waiting list after the selection meeting of the Programme Committee. *The Programme Committee appreciated the high quality of the proposals and considers the call a success, despite initial fears that it might be difficult to attract excellent international researchers to Polish research centres.*

Under the GRIEG and POLS calls, projects in the area of social sciences and polar research have been funded according to the Norwegian Financial Mechanism MoU.

After submitting the first annual project reports by the Project Promoters, the planned achievements of outcome 1 presented in annex 1 (updated results) will be delivered in the next annual programme report.

Pre-defined projects

N/A

Bilateral Outcome: Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme

Analysis of bilateral relations and achievements

The programme contributes to strengthening the bilateral cooperation between Poland and the Donor States on the level of the funding agencies and the research communities. In the reported period, the bilateral activities concerned the collaboration with the Research Council of Norway focused on supporting and advising the NCN in preparation of SGS POLS call documentation and consultation of the template of documents including project contact and partnership agreement template.

RCN played an important role in disseminating the information on the possibilities of funding and facilitating the contracting phase. This resulted in involving 19 research organisations: research institutes, university departments, NGOs, etc., from Norway, in partnerships with Polish institutions under 31 projects awarded in GRIEG and the IdeaLab call. There was an online informational meeting for Norwegian partners on contracting organised.

The establishment and operation of the Programme Committee for basic research is also an example of successful bilateral cooperation. The Programme Committee supported and advised the Programme Operator in all matters concerning the scientific quality and relevance of the projects and activities funded by the programme, including approving the selection criteria and the texts for the SGS POLS call for proposals, overseeing and approving the procedures for the selection of projects and recommending to the Programme Operator which proposals to select for

funding and final awarding of grants. The Programme Committee applied certain principles to prioritise projects led by young scientists and female/male researchers in scientific areas where the women/the men are under-represented. During the GRIEG and POLS evaluation meetings, the Programme Committee paid particular attention to supporting the polar research and social science research according to the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding for Norwegian Financial Mechanism.

3. Implementation

Conformity with specific requirements

The programme is implemented according to the schedule and in line with the conditions included in the Programme Agreement, which was signed in June 2019.

The NCN fulfilled the following general conditions set in the Programme Agreement:

The National Focal Point shall ensure that pursuant to Article 1.5.2 of the Regulation that the Programme Operator shall ensure that any additional provisions to the implementation of the Programme shall be kept to a minimum, and to this end, the Donor Programme Partner shall be closely involved in and effectively contribute to the development of the project contract template and other templates of document(s) relevant to the implementation of the programme, especially those affecting the relation of the project promoter and partner(s).

Programme Operator closely cooperated with the National Focal Point and the Research Council of Norway to ensure that any additional provisions to the Programmes' implementation will be kept to the minimum. As far as the Donor Programme Partner, the Research Council of Norway was very much involved in developing the call documentation and consultation of the documents' template, including project contact and partnership agreement template.

The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator closely cooperates during the implementation of the programme with the Programme Operator of the Applied Research Programme in Poland.

In the reported period, the NCN collaborated closely on daily basis with the National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR) - the Programme Operator of the Applied Research Programme to ensure consistency of the Basic and Applied Research Programme. Within the cooperation, representatives of the NCBR attended the Programme Committee meeting for Basic Research Programme. Also, the NCN representatives took part in the meeting of the Program Committee for Applied Research as well as in the IdeaLab workshop organised by NCBR.

The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator, before publishing the SGS 'POLS' presents to the Programme Committee a thorough assessment of the added value of this measure vis-à-vis similar national initiatives (offered by the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA)) and other European initiatives, in order to establish whether there is a justifiable funding gap for the activities proposed

by the SGS 'POLLS'. Further provisions on the implementation of this condition are specified in section 8. Miscellaneous in Annex II of this agreement.

In accordance with paragraph 8 point 2 of annex II to the Programme Agreement, before publishing the SGS POLS, the National Science Centre presented a thorough assessment of the added value of the SGS POLS to the Programme Committee. After reviewing the provided analysis, the Programme Committee decided to launch the SGS POLS call in March 2020. The SGS POLS call was successfully conducted, and results were announced in December 2020.

With the reference to Annex II to the Programme Agreement, the following milestones were achieved according to schedule: (1) announcement of the GRIEG, IdeaLab, and SGS POLS call (2) publishing the results of the calls (3) signing the project's contracts in the GRIEG and IdeaLab call.

Within the GRIEG call, 28 projects were awarded in all areas of basic research: Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (8 projects), Physical Sciences and Engineering (12 projects), and Life Sciences (8 projects).

Within the IdeaLab call, 3 projects were awarded in the domain of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences.

All awarded projects under the GRIEG and IdeaLab call will be implemented in partnership with the research organisations, institutes, university departments, NGOs, etc. from Norway.

Within the SGS POLS call, 39 projects were financed in all areas of basic research: Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (10 projects), Physical Sciences and Engineering (21 projects), and Life Sciences (8 projects).

The research areas of special interest, required by MoU between Poland and Norway, are present in around 7 projects in the area of polar research (4 GRIEG projects and 3 POLS projects) whereas in social sciences in around 21 projects (8 GRIEG projects, 3 IdeaLab projects and 10 POLS projects).

According to Annex II to the Programme Agreement, the Programme Operator pays particular attention to the implementation of principles and provisions on Open Science. The obligation that all publications published within the programme must comply with the programme's open access policy was introduced to the project contract.

Cooperation with International Partner Organisations (IPOs)

N/A

C. LEARNING

1. Monitoring

N/A

2. Evaluation

N/A

3. Lessons learned

Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic and the limitation of social contacts, the organisation of the events such as the Programme Committee meetings or informational meetings with beneficiaries was a great challenge. The unprecedented situation required us to test new tools for organising remote meetings for large groups and additional team training in this area. In response to this challenge, we introduced a new operating method - online meetings and collaboration. Eventually, we also discovered the benefits of the online meeting formula, such as time efficiency and lower costs.

The second lesson learned was related to the new government regulations introduced during the pandemic time. NCN had to adapt its administrative procedures concerning the projects funding and contracting to be in line with the Act on subsidization of interest on bank loans granted to entities affected by COVID-19 and simplified arrangement approval proceedings due to COVID-19, commonly referred to as Anti-Crisis Shield.

The National Science Centre's experience shows how important is to be open to new solutions and actively adapt to the rapidly changing circumstances and environment.

D. ANNEXES

1. Updated results (indicator achievements)
2. Communication
3. Overview of contracted projects
4. Risk management
5. Monitoring plan
6. Evaluation report
7. List of individual mobilities

Annex 1: Updated results (indicator achievements)

Objective: Enhanced research-based knowledge development								
Outcome 1: Enhanced performance of Polish basic research								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of peer-reviewed scientific publications submitted	Number	0	0 (APR 2019)	-	-	0	250	to be achieved in the next periods of the programme implementation
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Number of joint, peer-reviewed scientific publications submitted in basic research	Number	0	0 (APR 2019)	-	-	0	60	to be achieved in the next periods of the programme implementation
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Type of scientific publication</i>								
<i>Gold open access</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Pending open access</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Other</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Output 1.1: Support to researchers conducting basic research provided								

Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of Polish researchers supported	Number	0	0 (APR 2019)	-	-	0	200	to be achieved in the next periods of the programme implementation
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Number of researchers from donor states supported	Number	0	0 (APR 2019)	-	-	0	70	to be achieved in the next periods of the programme implementation
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Output 1.2: Support to young researchers provided								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		

Number of mentor-mentee relationships established for young researchers	Number	0	0 (APR 2019)	-	-	0	70	to be achieved in the next periods of the programme implementation
Output 1.3: Support for collaboration between science and society implemented								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of public organisations, NGOs or other public benefit organisations involved	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	40	to be achieved in the next periods of the programme implementation
Bilateral Outcome: Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Level of trust between cooperating entities in Poland and donors states	Scale 1-7	TBD, Survey to be carried out by the FMO	-	-	-	-	4.5, Target is ≥ 4.5 , and an increase on the baseline value	to be achieved in the next periods of the programme implementation
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
EEA Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Norway Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>State type</i>								
Beneficiary State	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Donor State	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not specified	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Level of satisfaction with the partnership	Scale 1-7	TBD, Survey to be carried out by the FMO	-	-	-	-	4.5, Target is ≥4.5, and an increase on the baseline value	to be achieved in the next periods of the programme implementation
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>State type</i>								
<i>Beneficiary State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Share of cooperating organisations that apply the knowledge acquired from bilateral partnership	Percentage	N/A	-	-	-	-	50, Target is minimum 50%	to be achieved in the next periods of the programme implementation
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>State type</i>								
<i>Beneficiary State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of joint applications for further funding	Number	0	-	-	-	0	5	to be achieved in the next periods of the programme implementation
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>								

Norway	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Iceland	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Liechtenstein	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Not specified	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Type of scientific publication</i>								
Gold open access	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Pending open access	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Not specified	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Bilateral Output 1: Cooperation between beneficiary and donor state entities supported								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of projects involving cooperation with a donor project partner	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	31	30	two project contracts were signed in January 2021
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
EEA Grants	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Norway Grants	-	-	-	-	-	28	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>								
Norway	-	-	-	-	-	31	-	-
Iceland	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Liechtenstein	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Not specified	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-

Annex 2: Communication summary

a. Visibility of the Grants and the donors

Visibility of the Polish Basic Research Programme within the EEA and Norway Grants was ensured through the numerous information and promotional activities defined in Information and Communication Plan reaching the target groups such as Polish and foreign researchers, research organisations from Poland, and the Donor States, public organisations, enterprises, NGOs.

The Number of views of the programme website (32 thous.) call announcements (40 thous.), news related to the programme showed a great interest in funding for research projects under the EEA and Norway Grants.

To further increase the presence of information concerning the Polish Research Programme around 41 press releases and other press materials were prepared and sent out in national and local media, professional media (research area), PR contacts (over 500 at present), research departments of Polish higher education institutions, NGO's, cultural organizations and diplomatic circles.

As a part of promotional activities, 4 events for beneficiaries, including partners from the Donor States, were organised in the form of online meetings. Information on project implementation rules, reporting, promotion, and open access policy was provided during the meetings.

The informational meetings were attended by 323 administrative employees and representatives of the scientific staff of research organizations.

In addition, the promotional materials and gifts promoting the Polish Basic Research Programme were produced.

b. Communication with the National Focal Point

The NCN was an active member of the Programme Operators' communication network exchanging information on the call announcement, event organisation, and all programme activities.

c. Website and social media

The web requirements of the programme were fulfilled through the following activities:

1. Website www.ncn.gov.pl/eeanorwaygrants dedicated to the programme in both languages English and Polish was established. The website is regularly updated with comprehensive information regarding opportunities available in the Polish Basic Research Programme, information on programme activities and events organised for target groups.
2. The Partner Search database run by the Research Council of Norway was available through the programme website. It supported the applicants from Poland in searching for partners and researchers from Norway interested in bilateral cooperation. (https://www.forskningsradet.no/no/Artikkel/Partner_Search_Database_f_or_EEA_and_Norway_Grants/1254034516104?lang=no)

3. Social media – during the reported period about 11 news relating to the launch of the programme, calls announcement, promotional and informational events were posted. The following social media channels/profiles run by the NCN were used to promote the Polish Basic Research Programme:
 - Narodowe Centrum Nauki – Facebook profile
<https://www.facebook.com/NarodoweCentrumNauki>
 - Narodowe Centrum Nauki Instagram profile
https://www.instagram.com/ncn_gov_pl/
 - NCN's YouTube Channel
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2bHSeriW4lty8j44k_CMAg
4. The informational chat for researchers interested in applying to the SGS POLS call was organised. About 60 participants from around the world were registered for the chats. All questions and answers that appeared in the webchat were published afterward on the website and updated in Frequently Asked Questions.

d. Best practice examples

Not applicable in this stage of the programme implementation.

e. Multimedia

The video presenting the IdeaLab call and the Polish Research Programme was recorded during the IdeaLab workshop. There is a link below:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JXfoZrZwN_Y

Annex 3: Overview of contracted projects

Outcome	Projects	#	# of donor project partners	Amount contracted	% of outcome budget contracted
Outcome 1: Enhanced performance of Polish basic research	Pre-defined	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Contracted through open calls	31	20	€ 40,731,911	83.51 %
	Contracted through small grants scheme	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Total Outcome 1	31	20	€ 40,731,911	83.51 %
Programme	Total	31	20	€ 40,731,911	83.51 %

Annex 4: Risk management

Programmatic risks						
Risk description	Risk related to	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk score	Response type	Risk N/A?
underspending of funds allocated to the projects	Both objectives	4	2	2.83		No
	Description of planned response	ongoing consultations with RCN, FMO and NFP in Poland, requesting for regular teleconferences to verify and unify all questionable areas associated with the proper Programme management, policy of financial flexibility in reference to project implementation, analysing the EUR/PLN exchange risk				
	Description of actual response	ongoing consultations with RCN, FMO and NFP in Poland, requesting for regular teleconferences to verify and unify all questionable areas associated with the proper Programme management, policy of financial flexibility in reference to project implementation, analysing the EUR/PLN exchange risk				
	Planned future response	ongoing consultations with RCN, FMO, and NFP in Poland, requesting for regular teleconferences to verify and unify all questionable areas associated with the proper Programme management, a policy of financial flexibility in reference to project implementation, analysing the EUR/PLN exchange risk, ongoing analysis of project expenditures and early identification of savings, taking into account COVID19 as one of the major drivers in changes of project expenditures and additional savings.				
different understanding of formal guidelines and criteria related to cooperation within the Programme	Both objectives	3	3	3.00		No
	Description of planned response	ongoing consultations with RCN, FMO and NFP in Poland, requesting for regular teleconferences to verify and unify all questionable areas associated with the proper Programme management, regular meetings of employees involved in Programme preparation, implementation and completion				
	Description of actual response	ongoing consultations with RCN, FMO and NFP in Poland, requesting for regular teleconferences to verify and unify all questionable areas associated with the proper Programme management, regular meetings of employees involved in Programme preparation, implementation and completion				
	Planned future response	ongoing consultations with RCN, FMO and NFP in Poland, requesting for regular teleconferences to verify and unify all questionable areas associated with the proper Programme management, regular meetings of employees involved in Programme preparation, implementation and completion				

changes in Polish law and/or Donor States' law	Both objectives	2	3	2.45	No	
	Description of planned response	day-by-day overview of law modification and estimating its influence on the Programme assumptions, ongoing consultations with RCN, FMO and NCP in Poland to find acceptable solutions of preventing the risk of incompatibility with The Programme requirements and to moderate the delays in ongoing projects				
	Description of actual response	day-by-day overview of law modification and estimating its influence on the Programme assumptions, ongoing consultations with RCN, FMO, and NCP in Poland to find acceptable solutions of preventing the risk of incompatibility with The Programme requirements and to moderate the delays in ongoing projects, observing the changing regulations that occur due to COVID 19 that can have an impact on the program implementations.				
	Planned future response	day-by-day overview of law modification and estimating its influence on the Programme assumptions, ongoing consultations with RCN, FMO, and NCP in Poland to find acceptable solutions of preventing the risk of incompatibility with The Programme requirements and to moderate the delays in ongoing projects, observing the changing regulations that occur due to COVID 19 that can have an impact on the program implementations.				
failure to provide appropriate conditions for opening and conducting call in IdeLab funding scheme	Both objectives	1	1	1.00	No	
	Description of planned response	Organisation of the IdeaLab call was completed and the risk is not foreseen in the future.				
	Description of actual response	N/A				
	Planned future response	N/A				
Operational risks						

Risk description	Risk related to	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk score	Response type	Risk N/A?
difficulties with initiating cooperation between partners from Poland and Donor States	Both objectives	1	1	1.00		No
	Description of planned response	The bilateral GRIEG and IdeaLab calls were successfully implemented and the risk is not foreseen in the future				
	Description of actual response	N/A				
	Planned future response	N/A				
delays in call launch and project selection	Both objectives	1	1	1.00		No
	Description of planned response	involvement at an early stage of programming departments and teams of NCN working on research programme				
	Description of actual response	The calls planned under the programme were launched according to the plan, the projects were selected and the risk is not foreseen in the future.				
	Planned future response	The calls planned under the programme were launched according to the plan, the projects were selected and the risk is not foreseen in the future.				
failure to achieve goals and results of the projects	Both objectives	4	4	4.00		No
	Description of planned response	ongoing supervision, in particular the assesment of annual reports (monitoring the status of achieving goals and results); agreement on the implementation and financing of a research project - encourage the possiblility of:1) extension the duration of a project in case of justified delays;2) adequate				

		modification of research tasks after a positive recommendation of an independent expert in particularly justified cases (friendly scientific goals and objectives management and supervision)		
	Description of actual response	ongoing supervision, in particular, the assessment of annual reports (monitoring the status of achieving goals and results); agreement on the implementation and financing of a research project - encourage the possibility of:1) extension the duration of a project in case of justified delays; 2) adequate modification of research tasks after a positive recommendation of an independent expert in particularly justified cases (friendly scientific goals and objectives management and supervision)		
	Planned future response	ongoing supervision, in particular, the assessment of annual reports (monitoring the status of achieving goals and results); encourage the possibility of:1) extension the duration of a project in case of justified delays; 2) adequate modification of research tasks after a positive recommendation of an independent expert in particularly justified cases; considering COVID 19 as a justified reason for delays in achieving the project results and other project implementation disturbances.		
Overall risk of the programme				
		Likelihood	Consequence	Risk score
OVERALL RISK OF THE PROGRAMME		3	3	3.00

Annex 5: Monitoring plan

Please note this Annex is uploaded separately and is not visible in this document. Please download and print separately if needed.

Annex 6: Evaluation report

Please note this Annex is uploaded separately and is not visible in this document. Please download and print separately if needed.