

ANNUAL PROGRAMME REPORT

FM14-21

Poland

PL-Basic Research Basic Research

2021

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 2021 within the programme contributed to this goal.

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 in previous years:

- 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.

The main programme calls launched in June 2019 finalised the contracting phase in 2020 and 2021. Due to the additional allocation from the Norwegian Financial Mechanism reserve fund (7 510 282 EUR), seven projects from the waiting list were financed. Thus, the success rate in the GRIEG call grew up to 11.44% from the initial 9.15%. GRIEG covers all academic disciplines defined in the NCN panels, focusing on polar research and social sciences. Out of 35 funded projects, 9 represent polar sciences, while social sciences are realised in 10 projects.

The POLS call was announced in March 2020 and, despite the implementation under COVID-19 circumstances, was considered a success with 99 excellent scientific proposals submitted by both well-established and promising young researchers from Europe and other countries. Thirty-nine projects have been recommended for funding, and ten projects have been placed on the waiting list. Unfortunately, the pandemic situation strongly influenced POLS mobility call – the restriction in travelling resulted in the beneficiaries' resignations; thus, finally, 35 projects will be contracted, with 4 representing polar research and 9 projects in social sciences.

All projects awarded in the main programme calls GRIEG and IdeaLab are realised in partnership with Norway's research organisations, institutes, university departments, NGOs, etc. There were 49 Norwegian partner's institutions in 35 GRIEG and 3 IdeaLab projects.

Implementing projects was a great challenge for both the beneficiaries and the programme operator. The contracting process was challenging 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 an active and supportive advisor due to the regular, online consultations in the issues concerning Polish-Norwegian collaboration in GRIEG and IdeaLab projects and general topics, like the Open Science policy, sharing the experiences and good practices between all research programme operators, initiation of activities empowering capacity building of the researchers and research administration.

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 online informational meeting for POLS beneficiaries related to the contracting issues. The online conference promoting the Basic Research Programme was organised in June 2021. During the conference, the progress of the programme implementation, plans for the future, and a few selected projects were presented. The second part of the event held the expert discussion panel on open access. Around 120 attendees participated in the conference.

The risk of failure in carrying out the IdeaLab call, which was initially defined for the programme, arose this year after verifying annual reports by the Programme Committee. Out of three IdeaLab projects, only two passed the verification of annual reports for 2020 positively. The Programme Committee expressed its disappointment with the scientific quality of IdeaLab projects. Considering the possibility of the 2021 annual reports negative assessment, the Programme Operator implemented monitoring two IdeaLab projects in December 2021 and January 2022 due to the necessity of preparing recommendations that allow achieving projects goals and good scientific results (publications).

Other risks presented for the programme could still emerge, and two of them are particularly jointed with COVID-19: 1) failure in achieving the planned goals and results of the programme as well as individual projects; 2) underspending funds due to the project implementation disturbances.

The Program Operator also pays special attention to the risk of underspending funds allocated to projects due to exchange rate differences. The EUR/PLN exchange risk is ongoing, analysing, and the response is worked out to mitigate this risk.

B. PERFORMANCE

1. Programme context

2021 was the second year of the Basic Research programme implementation under the COVID-19 circumstances. The Polish government is struggling with the challenges of following waves of pandemic and economic problems caused by the high inflation, resulting in deteriorating social moods and discontent of public and non-governmental institutions and entrepreneurs. Relatively low vaccination's level may generate the next pandemic waves and make the economic situation unstable in the longer perspective. Similar to other European and worldwide economies, the Polish economy deals with disruption of supply chains and rapidly growing costs of goods and services. Limitations in traveling impact many branches, including research and development. These

problems influenced the implementation of POLS mobility projects due to the numerous resignation of beneficiaries both from original and waiting ranking lists.

In such an unfavorable economic environment, the efficient absorption of EEA and Norway Grants' aid was a great challenge in 2021. Due to the additional allocation from the Donor's reserve fund, both Polish research programmes could reduce the large-scale oversubscription in their main calls. In the case of the GRIEG call, the initial success rate (9.15%) grew up to 11.44% due to the absorption of 7 510 282 EUR from the Norwegian Financial Mechanism reserve fund. Funding the additional, excellent scientific projects allows creating new jobs in the research sector.

2. Programme results

Outcome 1: Enhanced performance of Polish basic research

The implementation of the programme is progressing according to the Programme Agreement. Three planned calls were announced: two within the Norwegian Financial Mechanism (GRIEG in 2019 and POLS in 2020) and one within the EEA Financial Mechanism (IdeaLab in 2019).

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 consist of research organisations, enterprises, and non-governmental organisations. Three hundred six applications were submitted under the GRIEG call. Finally, after running the additional allocation from the Donor's reserve fund for seven projects from the waiting list, 35 projects have been recommended for funding. The total grant amount awarded is EUR 46, 497, 032. GRIEG covers all academic disciplines defined in the NCN panels, focusing on polar research and social sciences. Out of 35 funded projects, 9 represent polar sciences, while social sciences are realised in 10 projects. The seventh project recommended for financing also used unspent resources of the POLS call following paragraph 4 point 1 of Annex II to the Programme Agreement. Twelve projects are still left on the waiting list, but taking into account the deadline for eligible incurred expenses (30th April 2024), the signing of the additional contracts for projects planned as 36-months lasting is impossible.

IdeaLab is a call for interdisciplinary ground-breaking research projects carried out by Polish researchers in collaboration with researchers from the European Economic Area countries. 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. Among three projects recommended by the Programme Committee to finance, with an absorbing amount of € 4,107, 780 out of € 4,434, 011 total budget of the call, only two passed the verification of annual reports for 2020 positively. The Programme Committee decided to terminate the project entitled “How does multisensory virtual experience impact environmental behavior?”. Following the series of consultations with Donors (Research Council of Norway, Financial Mechanism Office) and the National Focal Point, the possibility of the project's gradual phasing out was decided. After assessing the estimated costs of tasks needed to be performed due to publish the achieved results, the mutual agreement between the National Science Centre and the Project Promoter was signed on 30th November 2021, with the established project's end date on 31st January 2022.

POLS is a scheme designed to support researcher mobility, implemented in the small grants scheme (SGS) 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 strengthen 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. Their duration can be extended in justified cases, but they must all be completed before 30th April 2024. Ninety-nine applications were submitted under SGS POLS. During the selection meeting of the Programme Committee in November 2020, 39 projects have been recommended for funding, and ten projects have been placed on the waiting list. The contracting of POLS projects has started on the first quarterly of 2021 under the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The limitations in travelling were probably the main reason for numerous resignations of the beneficiaries from the original ranking list. Consequently, the waiting list has been started, and due to the subsequent resignations, three additional ranking lists were published on 23rd March, 16th April, and 24th May. Finally, 35 POLS project's contracts will be signed in total, and the last two projects are planned to be contracted till the end of March 2022. The total grant amount awarded is EUR 6, 074 618 out of € 7,000,000 total budget of the call.

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

After submitting the annual project reports for 2021 by the Project Promoters, the planned achievements of outcome 1 presented in annex 1 will be updated in the following annual programme report. The indicators for outcome 1 will be delivered in the annual technical reports at the beginning of March 2022. In the case of the terminated IdeaLab project, the final report must be submitted at the beginning of April 2022. 28 GRIEG projects, two IdeaLab projects, and 12 POLS projects are obliged to submit the annual reports for 2021.

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

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 based on regular online consultations. The workshop for the IdeaLab beneficiaries, initially planned for the autumn of 2021, was postponed due to the pandemic. The workshop for the research programmes operators from the Baltic states, Czech Republic, Poland, Portugal, and Romania planned as a face-to-face meeting finally was conducted in hybrid mode, with the online participation of both Polish operators. This workshop took place on 7-9 December 2021 and was the possibility to discuss topics concerning proposal's selection, assessment of the progress in project's and programmes implementation by the monitoring and evaluation of annual and final reports. This workshop was an excellent opportunity to share the experiences and good practices of the programme operators, the Research Council of Norway, and the Financial Mechanism Office. The lessons learned from this event will help update the Guidelines for research programmes and Regulations for the next EEA and Norway Grants edition.

RCN was also an active and supportive advisor in the issues concerning Open Sciences. Both agencies (NCN and RCN) intensely collaborated in cOAlition S established in September 2018. This initiative aims to make full and immediate Open Access to research publications a reality.

RCN supported and advised the NCN in implementing the programme, for example, by confirming the Norwegian partners entitled to use personnel rates for the given year according to the procedure established for Norwegian research institutes. RCN has checked the completeness of the reported data and prescribed the use of these rates in the project's reporting. RCN was also consulted in the cases when Polish and Norwegian partners struggled with preparing the partnership agreement template, especially for a few projects from the waiting list, when the deadlines were short, and partners worked under solid time pressure.

3. Implementation

Cooperation with International Partner Organisations (IPOs)

N/A

C. LEARNING

1. Monitorings carried out

Ongoing monitoring of projects is carried out. Information on projects' financial and material progress and data on the use of resources, problems, planned changes, and transfers are obtained from several sources. In addition to annual reports, which are the primary source of information according to the Research Program Guidelines, the NCN gets information on project implementation during annual monitoring and controls and analyses declarations on expenditure received from beneficiaries twice a year.

By the analysis of the financial reports, the NCN collects information concerning not only the level of spending projects' grants but also explanations concerning the differences between planned and incurred costs.

The progress of the projects' implementation is also verified daily, by phone calls and e-mails. Our beneficiaries consult with us about the changes in the projects; the project contract precisely defines the conditions of such changes in the Art. 15 Procedure and scope of amendments to the Contract.

The planned monitoring and controls were carried out as planned and covered 6 projects. There was an irregularity of EUR 24.41 identified during the PO's control carried out in September 2021 in project number PL- Basic Research-0014 under the GRIEG call. The beneficiary returned the ineligible cost in December 2021. According to article 12.5.3(c) of the Regulations, this financial correction doesn't need to be reported. No other irregularities were found in the controlled projects.

The implemented monitoring focused primarily on monitoring the results to identify the progress of their implementation. An essential part of the monitoring was also the identification of risks that could lead to a situation in which the assumed results of the research project will not be achieved until its completion (risk monitoring).

Monitoring consisted of three stages:

1. Documentation analysis: project contract with indicators tables and a detailed project schedule.
2. Monitoring form: the principal investigator received a monitoring form electronically, which he/she completed with the project partners. The form asked about the implementation of research tasks to date, the values of indicators achieved so far, cooperation in partnership, and the pandemic's impact on the course of the grant implementation.
3. Monitoring interview: after analysing the received responses, a monitoring interview was conducted to deepen the information obtained from the form.

The information obtained shows that in 2021 the projects entered the main stage of implementation. A research team has been hired for all projects, the equipment has also been purchased, or tenders have been announced, and spending increased significantly.

In several projects, annexes were signed. The changes in order to spend the resulting savings and adapt the implementation of project activities to the new COVID-19 situation were introduced. The annexes concerned the purchase of equipment enabling tests to be carried out at the beneficiary's, which were initially planned in an external laboratory, to which access is currently limited, or the purchase of tablets enabling remote survey research.

The analysis of information on the progress of project implementation obtained from beneficiaries shows that despite the later start of projects and the situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the implementation of projects is not at risk.

2. Evaluations carried out

N/A

3. Lessons learned from monitoring, evaluation and implementation

The monitoring showed that implementing projects during the global COVID-19 pandemic is a big challenge. In order to achieve the planned results of the projects, both the Programme Operator and beneficiaries must use new solutions and actively respond to changing conditions. Therefore, the National Science Center supports the beneficiaries in this process by adapting and simplifying its procedures. The project promoters introduce new methods of operation without changing the overall goal of the project. An important lesson is that the results can be achieved more effectively by using a flexible approach. For example, during the course of the project, budgetary flexibility is given in order to allow for appropriate project management. Changes that do not require an amendment to the Project Contract demand their communication to the NCN in the next report at the latest and during the project's verification. Such changes should be introduced according to the internal procedures of the beneficiaries' institution. After re-building the online submission system ZSUN/OSF, the process of project's amending is user-friendly and allows to proceed with all changes needed by the beneficiaries more efficiently. Also, submitting the annual and final reports will be easier and less time-consuming due to the possibility of transferring data from the project's contract and annexes module.

D. ANNEXES

1. Updated achievements in the results framework

2. Communication summary

3. Overview of contracted projects

4. Risk management

5. Monitoring plan

6. Evaluation report

7. Agreement conditions

Annex 1: Updated achievements in the results framework

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 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of peer-reviewed scientific publications submitted	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2020)	-	-	0	250	to be reported in the next annual report after receiving the reports from project promoters
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</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	-	-
Number of joint, peer-reviewed scientific publications submitted in basic research	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2020)	-	-	0	60	to be reported in the next annual report after receiving the reports from project promoters
<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 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of Polish researchers supported	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2020)	-	-	0	215	to be reported in the next annual report after receiving the reports from project promoters
<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	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2020)	-	-	0	80	to be reported in the next annual report after receiving the reports from project promoters
<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 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of mentor-mentee relationships established for young researchers	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2020)	-	-	0	80	to be reported in the next annual report after receiving the reports from project promoters
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 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of public organisations, NGOs or other public benefit organisations involved	Cumulative number	0	3 (IFR 2021)	-	-	3	40	So far 3 public organisation/NGOs are involved as partners in the implemented projects. The further achievements will be reported in the next annual report after receiving the reports from project promoters.
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 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Level of trust between cooperating entities in Poland and donors states	Scale 1-7	6.84, Survey to be carried	-	-	-	-	4.5, Target is ≥4.5, and an	to be achieved in the next periods of the programme implementation

		out by the FMO					increase on the baseline value	
<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>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Level of satisfaction with the partnership	Scale 1-7	6.59, 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	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2020)	-	-	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>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	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 2021			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of projects involving cooperation with a donor project partner	Cumulative number	0	31 (IFR 2021)	-	-	38	35	The total number of signed partnership projects is 38: GREIG Call- 35 projects (28 and 7 from the waiting list) IdeaLab Call- 3 projects.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	35	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	-	-	-	38	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-

<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
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Annex 2: Communication summary

1. Best practice examples

Information on promotion and communication is obtained from beneficiaries mainly through annual reports. The beneficiaries will send the first annual reports by the end of February 2022. Examples will be presented in the next annual report.

2. Best bilateral cooperation examples

Information on bilateral activities is obtained from beneficiaries mainly through annual reports. The beneficiaries will send the first annual reports by the end of February 2022. Examples will be presented in the next annual report.

3. The programme in a nutshell

<p>What is the added value of this programme?</p>	<p>- Promoting the Open Access policy in Poland; - The establishment of long term bilateral cooperation within new research projects</p>					
<p>Include up to two quotes about this programme. Please include the name, last name and title of the person.</p>	<p>Quote 1</p>					
	<p><i>“RCN and NCN are active in science Europa. Both institutions are members of Coalition S. The coalition of research funders joining forces to promote scholarly publication through the so-called PlanS. I would like to particularly rise NCN’s commitment to use the EEA and Norway Grants funding to explore and pilot a more proactive policy to Open Science.”</i></p>					
	<p>Author</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="628 1115 839 1160">Name</th> <th data-bbox="839 1115 1396 1160">Title</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="628 1160 839 1240">Mari Sundli Tveit</td> <td data-bbox="839 1160 1396 1240">Chief Executive at the Research Council of Norway</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name	Title	Mari Sundli Tveit	Chief Executive at the Research Council of Norway
	Name	Title				
Mari Sundli Tveit	Chief Executive at the Research Council of Norway					
<p>Quote 2</p>						
<p><i>“Through over the years, our bilateral research cooperation has produced some outstanding results. Not only in terms of the bilateral research, but the cooperation has also served as a basis for polish and Norwegian researchers to compete participate in projects on the international and European areas.”</i></p>						
<p>Author</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="628 1480 839 1525">Name</th> <th data-bbox="839 1480 1396 1525">Title</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="628 1525 839 1561">Anders H.Eide</td> <td data-bbox="839 1525 1396 1561">Ambassador of Norway to Poland</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name	Title	Anders H.Eide	Ambassador of Norway to Poland	
Name	Title					
Anders H.Eide	Ambassador of Norway to Poland					

4. 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 (15 thous.) and news related to the programme showed a great interest in funding research projects under the EEA and Norway Grants.

To further increase the presence of information concerning the Polish Research Programme, around 16 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, the online conference promoting the Basic Research Programme was organised on 17th June. During the conference, the progress of the programme implementation, plans for the future, and a few selected projects were presented. In the second part of the event, the expert discussion panel on open access was held. Around 120 attendees took part in the conference.

There was one event for POLS beneficiaries organised on 21st January in the online form. Information on project implementation rules, reporting, promotion, and open access policy was provided during the sessions. The meeting was attended by 90 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 distributed to around 60 beneficiaries.

5. Media coverage

Example 1

Coverage	Type	Regional
Description	Biotechnologist from MCB Jagiellonian University among the winners of the GRIEG Call	
Relevant links	Wiadomości - Uniwersytet Jagielloński (uj.edu.pl)	

Example 2

Coverage	Type	National
Description	Additional PLN 42 million for Polish-Norwegian research Seven additional projects received over PLN 42 million in the GRIEG Call	
Relevant links	Dodatkowe 42 mln zł na polsko-norweskie badania - Liderzy Innowacyjności (liderzyinnovacyjnosci.com)	

Example 3

Coverage	Type	National
Description	Additional PLN 42 million for Polish-Norwegian research Seven additional projects received over PLN 42 million in the GRIEG Call	
Relevant links	Narodowe Centrum Nauki/ Dodatkowe 42 mln zł na polsko-norweskie badania Nauka w Polsce	

Example 4

Coverage	Type	National
Description	Over 50 million euro for Basic Research. 3rd edition of the Norwegian and EEA funds	
Relevant links	Rozpoczyna się nowy Horyzont Europa. Polscy naukowcy mogą liczyć na ogromne wsparcie (polskieradio24.pl)	

Example 5

Coverage	Type	National
Description	Symbolic resources and political structures in the periphery. The legitimation of the elite in Poland and Norway, approx. 1000-1300-project under the GRIEG Call	
Relevant links	Projekt ELITES. Zasoby symboliczne i struktury polityczne... (archeologia.com.pl)	

Example 6

Coverage	Type	National
Description	Additional PLN 42 million for Polish-Norwegian research Seven additional projects received over PLN 42 million in the GRIEG Call	
Relevant links	Narodowe Centrum Nauki: Dodatkowe 42 mln zł na polsko-norweskie badania - finanse (wnp.pl)	

Example 7

Coverage	Type	National
Description	Additional PLN 42 million for Polish-Norwegian research Seven additional projects received over PLN 42 million in the GRIEG Call	
Relevant links	Narodowe Centrum Nauki: Dodatkowe 42 mln zł na polsko-norweskie badania (polskaprasa.pl)	

Example 8

Coverage	Type	National
Description	Additional PLN 42 million for Polish-Norwegian research Seven additional projects received over PLN 42 million in the GRIEG Call	
Relevant links	Dodatkowe 42 mln zł na polsko-norweskie badania - wGospodarce.pl	

Example 9

Coverage	Type	National
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Description	Additional PLN 42 million for Polish-Norwegian research Seven additional projects received over PLN 42 million in the GRIEG Call
Relevant links	Narodowe Centrum Nauki: Dodatkowe 42 mln zł na polsko-norweskie badania - Prawo i finanse (portalsamorzadowy.pl)

Example 10

Coverage	Type	National
Description	Additional PLN 42 million for Polish-Norwegian research Seven additional projects received over PLN 42 million in the GRIEG Call	
Relevant links	Narodowe Centrum Nauki: dodatkowe 42 mln zł na polsko-norweskie badania dzieje.pl - Historia Polski	

6. Website and social media

6.a. Links to the programme website and social media accounts

Link to programme website					
https://ncn.gov.pl/en/eeanorwaygrants					
Total number of page views in the reporting year	Change, compared to last year (in absolute numbers)	Total number of unique visitors in the reporting year	Change, compared to last year (in absolute numbers)		
21000	0	15000	0		
Specific link or handle for the account	Posts published in the reporting year	Total likes in the reporting year	Total comments in the reporting year	Total shares/Retweets etc. in the reporting year	Followers gained since programme launch
Facebook	Yes https://www.facebook.com/NarodoweCentrumNauki				
	2	73	2	5	0
Twitter	https://twitter.com/NCN_PL				
	9	57	5	6	1920
Instagram	https://www.instagram.com/ncn_gov_pl/				
	0	0	0	0	0
LinkedIn	https://www.linkedin.com/company/5286765				
	3	12	1	0	2200
Other	https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2bHSeriW4Ity8j44k_CMAg				
	2	298	0	0	0

6.b. Results of website and social media activities

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_for_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 social media channels/profiles run by the NCN were used to promote the Polish Basic Research Programme are presented in the table above.

7. Visuals

The conference promoting the Polish Research Programme was recorded. There is a link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z0e3rMV19aI>

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	38	26	€ 50,604,810	87.84 %
	Contracted through small grants scheme	35	0	€ 6,074,618	10.54 %
	Total Outcome 1	73	26	€ 56,679,428	98.39 %
Programme	Total	73	26	€ 56,679,428	98.39 %

Annex 4: Risk management

Programmatic risks						
Risk description	Risk related to	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk score	Response type	Validity
underspending of funds allocated to the projects	Both objectives	4	2	2.83	Mitigate	
	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, 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.				
	Description of actual response	Activities described above with special reference to the negative verification of the annual reports by the Programme Committee as the possible primary driver in additional savings both in projects and programme. Monitoring of the ongoing projects with particular attention to the IdeaLab projects, with recommendations to the beneficiaries concerning annual reporting.				
	Planned future response	Regular teleconferences with RCN, FMO, and NFP in Poland; analysing the EUR/PLN exchange risk; ongoing analysis of project expenditures and early identification of savings; monitoring of the ongoing projects with particular attention to the IdeaLab projects, with recommendations to the beneficiaries concerning annual reporting.				
different understanding of formal guidelines and criteria related to cooperation within the Programme	Both objectives	3	3	3.00	Mitigate	
	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	Mitigate	
	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, observing the changing regulations that occur due to COVID 19 that can have an impact on the program implementations.				
	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.				
Operational risks						
Risk description	Risk related to	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk score	Response type	Validity
failure to achieve goals and results of the projects	Both objectives	4	4	4.00	Mitigate	
	Description of planned 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.				

	Description of actual 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.		
	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.

Annex 7: Agreement conditions

General	
Condition	Fulfilled status
<p>1. 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).</p>	<p>Is condition fulfilled? - Yes Comment</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>2. 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.</p>	<p>Is condition fulfilled? - Yes Comment</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>3. 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</p>	<p>Is condition fulfilled? - Yes Comment</p> <p>In accordance with paragraph 8 point 2 of annex II to the Programme Agreement, before publishing the SGS POLs, the</p>

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

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.