

ANNUAL PROGRAMME REPORT

FM14-21

Poland

PL-Basic Research Basic Research

2023

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2023, the activities of the Program Operator and the beneficiaries of funded projects achieved almost all the Programme's objectives. The projects financed under the GRIEG, IdeaLab, and POLS calls underwent the final realisation phase. The strengthening of the Polish-Norwegian research collaboration was confirmed during the monitoring of the selected projects, including monitoring by on-site Norwegian partners (research institutions in Oslo and Bergen in June 2023 and Trondheim in October 2023). The increasing Polish-Norwegian research cooperation was additionally confirmed by the successful implementation of the predefined project CRIOS by the research consortium of seven Polish and four Norwegian partners. Since the spring of 2023, the PO has been preparing, with the support of the donors and NFP, the new bilateral polar initiative HarSval. This new initiative, planned to be realised in March 2024, resulted in establishing a consortium of twenty-five partners - eleven Polish and fourteen Norwegian. Funding additional scholarships from the waiting list for special programme for Ukrainian students and researchers without PhD from the Bilateral Cooperation Fund allowed the excellent international visibility of the EEA & Norway Funds due to the intensive promotion of support to Ukraine by the National Science Centre as the Program Operator. The Polish-Norwegian collaborations implementing the GRIEG and IdeaLab projects significantly increased the numbers of the Programme's indicators, especially when it comes to supporting young researchers and employing members of research teams. Also, the indicator concerning the total number of research publications was achieved, and the beneficiaries were on the right path to achieving the planned number of joint publications. The ongoing successful collaboration also allowed us to reach the indicator concerning further financing applications.

The Program Operator pays special attention to the risk of underspending funds allocated to projects due to exchange rate differences. The actions mitigating this risk were implemented by giving additional funds to already approved projects which have the potential for absorbing additional funds and scaling up results or whose costs have increased due to the exceptional price increases, even if such additional funding would not scale up results. The call for applications for increasing funding addressed to the beneficiaries of the GRIEG, POLS, and Idealab call was announced in November 2022, and results were announced in January 2023. As a result, about 70% of beneficiaries have signed the annexes increasing the projects' budget in 1 Q 2023. Moreover, the unspent funds resulting from the currency differences were transferred to the bilateral fund after the Donor's acceptance. This favourable decision was followed by annexing the MoU and the Programme Agreement in December 2023. As a result, the new polar bilateral initiative HarSval will be realised in twelve months, starting March 2024. Other risks presented for the programme could still emerge, but the risk level has significantly decreased after assessing the projects' annual reports. It seems that such risks as 1) failure in achieving the planned goals and results of the programme and individual projects and 2) underspending funds due to the project implementation disturbances are still possible, but the ongoing projects' monitoring and effective mitigation activities have minimalised these risks.

B. PERFORMANCE

1. Programme progress and results

Objectives

The main objective of the Basic Research Programme implemented by the National Science Centre (NCN) is to enhance research-based knowledge development to strengthen the Polish-Norwegian research cooperation, improve the quality of publications (primarily in humanities), support the development of young researchers and build a positive perception of scientific research among the public at large. All activities implemented in 2023 within the programme contributed to this goal, and the National Science Centre, as the Programme Operator, has provided high-quality administrative support to the beneficiaries.

Three calls were conducted 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 the incoming mobility of researchers from abroad who are residents and working outside Poland.

In 2023, all GRIEG and IdeaLab projects underwent implementation in the final phase. The project implemented experts' and the Programme Committee's recommendations concerning the publications' quantity and quality. Seven projects from the waiting list have been conducted successfully, reaching the aims and spending funds effectively. The progress in two IdeaLab projects was evaluated positively. Regarding the SGS POLS call, 21 projects have finished the realisation in 2023, one due to the mutual agreement. Eleven projects have submitted the final reports, and ten have been preparing the final reports.

Additionally, the polar pre-defined project CRIOS entitled "*Cryosphere Integrated Observatory Network on Svalbard*" was implemented by seven Polish and four Norwegian research institutions. The project contract was signed in November 2022; the realisation was successfully ongoing in 2023, confirmed during the monitoring visit in November 2023. Under the CRIOS project, a synchronised ecosystem observation network will operate within the framework of the existing Svalbard Observing System (<https://sios-svalbard.org/ObservingSystem>). Planned developments will allow for continuous measurements in some of the most extended environmental data series on Svalbard and create a venue for excellent Pan-Arctic cooperation in the future.

The research areas of particular interest, required by the MoU between Poland and Norway, are present in around 14 projects, including the pre-defined project in polar research, whereas in social sciences, in about 23 projects.

Outcome 1: Enhanced performance of Polish basic research

Time advancement of the programme implementation amounts to 83%, whereas the incurred rate is almost 94%. This year, approximately EUR 17 million has been spent as planned.

The following expected results of the programme were achieved:

- support to researchers conducting basic research provided - 624 researchers from Poland and Norway were supported under the programme;
- support to young researchers provided - around 272 mentor-mentee relationships for young researchers were established.

The achieved indicators are almost three times higher than planned because the established partnerships are much larger than expected. The disturbances in project implementation related to COVID-19 resulted in the modification of research plans and the enlarging of project teams to intensify the work. Also, encouraging principal investigators to involve young researchers in research tasks resulted in a higher-than-expected indicator value. Moreover, the young scientist underlined the advantages resulting from participation in the large bilateral collaborative projects elaborating on the most actual research topics.

Regarding the Bilateral outcome - Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme - ten joint applications for further funding were prepared and submitted to the different funding agencies.

The primary outcome of the programme - Enhanced performance of Polish basic research - has been achieved this year by 259 peer-reviewed scientific publications, with a target established as 250. Among these 259 publications, 34 joint publications were submitted out of 60 planned. Those numbers refer to the project's annual reports for 2022, presenting results achieved in the second year of the project's implementation and considering that publications giving the results of the projects are created in the last phase of implementation and often after its completion, the Programme Operator seems to have achieved results as impressive after two years of the projects' realisation. Therefore, there is no risk that the indicator concerning joint publications will not be achieved.

Also, the support for collaboration between science and society implemented is going well. Cooperation with public organisations is based mainly on disseminating the project's achievements. So far, 48 public organisations or NGOs have signed letters of intent describing the common activities within the projects, reaching the planned value. The PO has expected that this number will be increased after the final reports' assessment.

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. The Research Council of Norway – Donor Programme Partner was an active and supportive advisor due to the regular online consultations on the issues concerning Polish-Norwegian collaboration in GRIEG and IdeaLab projects as well as polar pre-defined project CRIOS and the polar bilateral initiative HarSval. The last one resulted from the successful implementation of the pre-defined project CRIOS and has been consulted with Donors since April 2022. The unspent funds - due to the exchange rate differences - from the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 were transferred to the Bilateral Fund and allowed to finance the polar bilateral HarSval initiative under the impressive consortium of eleven Polish and fourteen Norwegian research institutions. The RCN also supported such general topics as sharing the experiences and good practices between all research programme operators and initiation of activities empowering the capacity-building of the researchers and research administration. Thanks to the initiative of RCN and the Financial Mechanism Office in Brussels, the Programme Operators' meeting in Reykjavik was organised to discuss important issues concerning the programs' implementation, with particular interest in projects and program completion. Moreover, the perspectives for the new Norway Grants edition were discussed, bearing in mind the possible adaptation of the Research Guidelines.

All projects awarded in the main calls GRIEG and IdeaLab are realised in partnership with Norway's research organisations, institutes, university departments, NGOs, etc. There were 49 Norwegian partner institutions in 35 GRIEG and 3 IdeaLab projects. Also, the polar pre-defined project CRIOS is implemented in cooperation with 4 Norwegian research organisations. During the consultation of the polar bilateral HarSval, letters of intent from fourteen Norwegian research institutions confirmed the vivid and increasing collaboration. Cooperation within the partnership is developing well, as evidenced by the achievement of the indicator on the Bilateral outcome - Enhanced collaboration between the beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme. Ten joint applications for further funding were prepared and submitted to the different funding agencies. In 2023, the special Scholarship Programme addressed to students and researchers from Ukraine without a PhD degree has been continued. The great interest in the programme (101 applications submitted in 2022) and

the good scientific quality of the proposals resulted in establishing the waiting list of 18 proposals, followed by the NCN's request to the Donors for the additional allocation in the amount of EUR 215 000. After receiving the JCBF's consent to grant an additional allocation to finance 18 scholarships from the waiting list, the contracting scholarships with beneficiaries and disbursement of funds were realised in the first half of 2023. As a final result, 36 students and young scientists from Ukraine will receive support under the scholarship programme. They could join the research communities in many academic centres in Poland (Cracow, Warsaw, Poznań, Olsztyn, Rzeszów, Słupsk, Szczecin) and continue studies and research work. The scholarship programme has provided Ukrainian students and researchers without PhD boosting their careers and international experience. Mentoring more experienced scientists from Polish research institutions has enabled achieving these goals. Using bilateral funds for this purpose has allowed the excellent visibility of the EEA & Norway Funds in activities supporting Ukraine.

C. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

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 (annual reports, annual monitoring and controls, and expenditures declarations).

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

The monitoring of 13 projects and controls of 8 projects were carried out, more than the 20 planned for 2023. On-site monitoring visits at Norwegian partners were carried out in Oslo and Bergen in June 2023 and in Trondheim in October 2023. One of these monitoring visits at the GRIEG project PL-0072 resulted in the organising of an expert panel entitled *Social Transformations in the Age of Polarization* during the third Programme Conference in November 2023. Additionally, the idea of establishing the networking or seminar for social science and humanities resulted from the discussion with beneficiaries conducting GRIEG, IdeaLab, and selected POLS projects if the funds for such activities are available.

Three Ukrainian scholarships were verified in detail, while the online questionnaire was sent to all scholars. Formal and financial verification was carried out on 35 GRIEG annual reports, 2 IdeaLab annual reports, and 35 POLS annual reports. One final report from the IdeaLab project has been positively evaluated, and the project is reported as completed. Nineteen POLS final reports have been prepared and their formal and financial evaluation is progressing.

There was also a monitoring visit to the Basic Research Programme carried out by the National Focal Point in June 2023. The Programme's progress was assessed, focusing on the CRIOS project's implementation and details concerning the UKRAINE special scholarship programme. Recommendations for presenting the Programme's annual reports were introduced by the PO.

Many annexes signed this year concerned the change of the project implementation date. All GRIEG and IdeaLab projects have been extended by several months, and they will be finished by the end of March or even April 2024. Regarding the POLS call, many projects have been extended till the end of 2023 or longer.

There was one irregularity identified during the PO's control carried out in the first quarter of 2023 within the SGS POLS call - project no PL-Basic Research-0043. The beneficiaries returned the ineligible cost of EUR 1382,33 and introduced the follow-up recommendations.

The monitoring plan for 2024 is prepared and attached as annex 5 to the APR.

2. Evaluations carried out

N/A

D. ANNEXES

- 1. Results achieved**
- 2. Communication summary**
- 3. Project summary and call details**
- 4. Risk management**
- 5. Monitoring plan**
- 6. Evaluation report**
- 7. Agreement conditions**

Annex 1: Results achieved

Objective: Enhanced research-based knowledge development								
Outcome 1: Enhanced performance of Polish basic research								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of peer-reviewed scientific publications submitted	Cumulative number	0	85 (APR 2022)	-	-	259	250	Increasing number of publication as an effect of more advanced projects' implementation
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	5	-	-	12	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	80	-	-	247	-	-
<i>Type of scientific publication</i>								
<i>Gold open access</i>	-	-	34	-	-	131	-	-
<i>Pending open access</i>	-	-	12	-	-	23	-	-
<i>Other</i>	-	-	38	-	-	97	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	1	-	-	8	-	-
Number of joint, peer-reviewed scientific publications submitted in basic research	Cumulative number	0	8 (APR 2022)	-	-	34	60	More than half of the target value was achieved according to projects' annual reports for 2022. More joint publications are expected in the last year of projects' realisation.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	2	-	-	6	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	6	-	-	28	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	8	-	-	34	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-

<i>Type of scientific publication</i>								
<i>Gold open access</i>	-	-	3	-	-	15	-	-
<i>Pending open access</i>	-	-	2	-	-	3	-	-
<i>Other</i>	-	-	3	-	-	12	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	4	-	-
Output 1.1: Support to researchers conducting basic research provided								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of Polish researchers supported	Cumulative number	0	334 (APR 2022)	-	-	482	230	The higher number of researchers involved in the projects results from the creation of large partnerships and the employment of a more significant number of scientists.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	33	-	-	33	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	301	-	-	449	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	121	-	-	195	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	213	-	-	286	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	1	-	-
Number of researchers from donor states supported	Cumulative number	0	117 (APR 2022)	-	-	142	88	The higher number of researchers involved in the projects results from the creation of large partnerships and the employment of a more significant number of scientists.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	12	-	-	12	-	-

Norway Grants	-	-	105	-	-	130	-	-
Gender								
Female	-	-	52	-	-	69	-	-
Male	-	-	65	-	-	70	-	-
Not specified	-	-	0	-	-	3	-	-
Output 1.2: Support to young researchers provided								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of mentor-mentee relationships established for young researchers	Cumulative number	0	187 (APR 2022)	-	-	272	90	Participation of young researchers in projects teams was intensively promoted by the PO and as a result more than expected mentor-mentee relationships were established under the projects.
Output 1.3: Support for collaboration between science and society implemented								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of public organisations, NGOs or other public benefit organisations involved	Cumulative number	0	47 (IFR 2023)	-	-	48	48	The target was achieved.
Bilateral Outcome: Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Level of trust between cooperating entities in Poland and donors states	Scale 1-7	6.76	-	-	-	-	4.5, Target is ≥4.5,	-

								and an increase on the baseline value	
Level of satisfaction with the partnership	Scale 1-7	6.43	-	-	-	-	-	4.5, Target is ≥4.5, and an increase on the baseline value	-
Share of cooperating organisations that apply the knowledge acquired from bilateral partnership	Percentage	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	50, Target is minimum 50%	-
Number of joint applications for further funding	Cumulative number	0	7 (APR 2022)	-	-	10	5	Based on the cooperation between the project partners 10 joint applications (including 7 with the Donor State partners) for further funding, were submitted to different funding agencies.	
<i>Donor State</i>									
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	5	-	-	7	-	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	2	-	-	3	-	-	-
Bilateral Output 1: Cooperation between beneficiary and donor state entities supported									
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2023			Target value	Comment	
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value			

<p>Number of projects involving cooperation with a donor project partner</p>	<p>Cumulative number</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>39 (IFR 2023)</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>39</p>	<p>35</p>	<p>The total number of signed partnership projects is 39: GRIEG Call - 35 projects (28 and 7 from the waiting list) IdeaLab Call - 3 projects and 1 pre-defined project CRIOS.</p>
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Annex 2: Communication summary

1. Best projects

Project no PL-0028, entitled "Serum metabolome profiling in breast cancer risk assessment ", is implemented under the GRIEG call in partnership with the Norwegian University of Science and Technology.

Breast cancer is among the most frequent types of cancer and the main cause of cancer-related deaths among women. Worldwide, about 1.5 million women are diagnosed with breast cancer annually, and approximately one-third of them will die due to this malignancy. The prognosis of this malignancy, in addition to treatment efficacy, greatly depends on the stage of the disease at diagnosis. Therefore, many developed countries (including Poland and Norway) introduced mammography screening programs for middle-aged women. However, because of several disadvantages of imaging techniques, supplementary molecular markers that could help early detection of breast cancer are highly desired.

The SEMPRA project concerns the possibility of estimating the risk of breast cancer based on a novel combination of molecular features with anthropometric and lifestyle-related features. Combining a serum metabolome profile and lifestyle-related risk factors will allow the building of a joint classification model for breast cancer risk stratification in a healthy population.

Specific aims of the project include:

- to identify serum metabolome signature that discriminates individuals who were diagnosed with breast cancer a few years after donating serum from women who remained free of breast cancer,
- to compare the serum metabolome signature of a "high risk of breast cancer" with serum metabolome features of female patients with actual (clinical) breast cancer and other types of malignancies,
- to build a classification model for the stratification of breast cancer risk in the population of healthy women, which will combine features of the serum metabolome and features associated with anthropometric and lifestyle-related risk factors.

The project provides the unique possibility to explore the underlying biological mechanisms in early breast cancer development and possibly identify molecular targets to hinder cancer progression. Moreover, the project could contribute to pre-diagnostic management, early diagnosis and successful treatment of breast cancer, which is to issues with high health and socio-economic impact in both participating countries.

The SEMPRA project may be treated as an example of synergy between the EU Cancer Mission and EEA & Norway Grants. As cancer is a disease affecting our society and generating enormous problems for the economy and health policy, the collaboration of Polish-Norwegian researchers may create new therapies and medicines.

2. Visibility of the Grants and the Donors

2.a. Communication activities

Visibility of the Polish Basic Research Programme within the EEA and Norway Grants was ensured through the numerous information and promotional activities defined in the 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 (30,4 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 three press releases and other press materials were prepared and sent out to national and local media, professional media (research area), PR contacts, research departments of Polish higher education institutions, NGO's, cultural organisations and diplomatic circles. As a part of promotional activities, the conference promoting the Basic Research Programme was organised on 16 November 2023 in Kraków. Project teams and individual researchers from Polish and Norwegian academic centres also presented their research projects during the conference. They detailed the findings they had obtained in grants awarded under calls such as GRIEG, POLS and IDEALAB. The conference also featured an expert panel entitled Social Transformations in the Age of Polarization, moderated by Prof. Nina Witoszek from the University of Oslo. Its panellists discussed the challenges of mounting social polarisation, shared their observations and recommended possible measures. Around 40 participants attended the conference.

2.b. Project stories

3. Media coverage

1. The project "Screening for new therapeutic targets in inherited retinal diseases based on protein-protein interactions analysis":

<http://bazalekow.leksykon.com.pl/specjalisci-sum-umozliwili-opracowanie-leku-na-wyleczenie-zwyrodnienia-barwnikowego-siatkowki-117126-artykul.html#>

<https://dobrewiadomosci.net.pl/70670-polscy-specjalisci-umozliwili-opracowanie-leku-na-wyleczenie-zwyrodnienia-barwnikowego-siatkowki/>

2. The project "Activism and Its Moral and Cultural Foundations: Alternative Citizenship and Women's Roles in Kurdistan and the Diaspora"

<https://waw4free.pl/wydarzenie-113945-polityka-ekologia-aktywizm-kobiety-kurdyjskie-wobec-katastrofy-klimatycznej-w-zachodniej-azji>

<https://karnet.krakowculture.pl/50446-krakow-kobieta-zycie-wolnosc>

3. The scholarship program addressed to students and researchers without Ph.D. from Ukraine:

<https://www.sggw.edu.pl/stypendium-dla-pocztakujacych-naukowcow-z-ukrainy-dla-sggw/>

<https://www.mojasocjologia.pl/18-kolejnych-studentow-i-pocztakujacych-naukowcow-z-ukrainy-stypendystami-programu-ncn/>

<https://www.wnp.pl/wiadomosci/18-kolejnych-studentow-i-pocztakujacych-naukowcow-z-ukrainy-stypendystami-programu-ncn,680203.html>

<https://www.portalsamorzadowy.pl/polityka-i-spoleczenstwo/18-kolejnych-studentow-i-pocztakujacych-naukowcow-z-ukrainy-stypendystami-programu-ncn,442172.html>

<https://naukawpolsce.pl/aktualnosci/news%2C95438%2C18-kolejnych-studentow-i-pocztakujacych-naukowcow-z-ukrainy-stypendystami>

4. The project "Model of paintings with craquelure patterns for evidence-based environmental control in museums":

<https://krknews.pl/wazne-odkrycie-dla-ochrony-dziel-sztuki/>

<https://www.radiokrakow.pl/audycje/ochrona-dziedzictwa-nie-musi-byc-tak-energochlonna>

5. The IdeaLab project "#Webimmunization. How can online social networks create collective resilience against misinformation?"

<https://eeagrants.org/news/figthing-fake-news-through-social-networks>

6. The GRIEG project "Symmetry, Curvature Reduction and EquivAlence Methods"

<https://wyborcza.pl/magazyn/7,124059,30520639,mozdzer-fale-grawitacyjne-fizycy-melomani-fortepian-jakiego.html>

4. Website and social media

Link to programme website		Total number of page views in the reporting year	
https://ncn.gov.pl/en/eeanorwaygrants		30400	
	Link or account handle	Number of posts published in the reporting year	Number of followers
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/NarodoweCentrumNauki	5	18701

X (formerly Twitter)	https://twitter.com/NCN_PL	7	5761
Instagram	https://www.instagram.com/ncn.gov.pl/	2	1440
LinkedIn	https://pl.linkedin.com/company/national-science-centre-poland	4	15385
YouTube	https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2bHSeriW4lty8j44k_CMAg	2	410

5. Visuals

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

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

2. EEA and Norway Grants, Basic Research Programme operated by National Science Centre – promo video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H64uyY_UL1U&t=6s

3. Series of portraits of 15 PI's conducting research projects funded by the EEA and Norway Grants – will be used to promote the programme throughout 2024

Annex 3: Project summary and call details

1. Project summary

	Number	Total Grant	Amount budgeted to dpps (estimate)
Total number of projects contracted	76	€ 58,253,596	€ 18,861,682
Number of pre-defined projects contracted	1	€ 1,271,625	€ 328,625
Number of projects with a donor project partner	39	€ 51,876,435	€ 18,861,682
Number of projects with a donor project partner Norway	39	€ 51,876,435	€ 18,861,682
Number of projects with a donor project partner Iceland	0	€ 0	€ 0
Number of projects with a donor project partner Liechtenstein	0	€ 0	€ 0

2. Call details

Call title	Outcome(s)	Call amount	Submission deadline	Number of applications received	Grant amount applied for	Grant demand %	Number of applications approved for funding	Grant amount awarded	Number of projects contracted	Amount contracted
GRIEG call for research projects	Outcome 1	€ 46,175,733	28/10/2019	306	€ 386,378,636	836.76 %	35	€ 46,497,032	35	€ 46,497,030
IdeaLab call for ground-breaking, interdisciplinary research projects	Outcome 1	€ 4,434,011	19/08/2019	4	€ 5,011,690	113.03 %	3	€ 4,107,780	3	€ 4,107,780
POLS call for research projects led by incoming researchers of any nationality	Outcome 1	€ 7,000,000	16/06/2020	99	€ 16,888,655	241.27 %	39	€ 6,953,750	37	€ 6,377,161

Annex 4: Risk management

Risk description	Likelihood (1-4)	Consequence (1-4)	Risk score	Planned response in 2024
underspending of funds allocated to the projects	2 medium low	2 medium low	2.00	Some of POLS projects and UKRAINE scholarships returned unspent funds after completing. The PO effectively cooperates with Donors and NFP to transfer these means for the bilateral initiatives. Most probably some funds returned in GRIEG projects may also be used for this purpose.
different understanding of formal guidelines and criteria related to cooperation within the Programme	2 medium low	2 medium low	2.00	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	2 medium low	2 medium low	2.00	Day-by-day overview of law modification and estimating its influence on the Programme assumptions, ongoing consultations with RCN, FMO, and NFP in Poland to find acceptable solutions of preventing the risk of incompatibility with The Programme requirements, observing the changing regulations that occur due to changes in the macroeconomic situation that can have an impact on the program implementation.
failure to achieve goals and results of the projects	2 medium low	2 medium low	2.00	Almost all of planned indicators were achieved at the Programme level. The possible disturbances may appear at the projects' level, especially for the joint publications. The response will be support to the beneficiaries at the final phase of projects' realisation, organising of

				meetings/workshops devoted to final projects' reporting.
Overall risk of not absorbing most financing and achieving most targets (1-4):			2.00	

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

Not Available

Annex 7: Agreement conditions

Description	Type	Tracking	Fulfilled	Date of fulfilment	Description of measures taken
<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>	General	Continuously tracking	No		<p>The Programme Operator closely cooperated with the National Focal Point and the Research Council of Norway to ensure that any additional provisions to the Programme's implementation would be kept to the minimum. The Donor Programme Partner, the Research Council of Norway, was very involved in developing the call documentation and consultation of the documents' template, including the project contract and partnership agreement template. RCN played an essential role in defining the pre-defined project and supported preparing a scholarship program for students and young scientists from Ukraine under the Bilateral Cooperation Fund. Donors, FMO and National Focal Point were involved in establishing the polar bilateral initiative HarSval and effectively proceeded annexes to MoU and PA allowing to finance the HarSval initiative.</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>	General	Continuously tracking	No		<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 both agencies attended the Programme</p>

					Committee meetings for the Applied and Basic Research Programmes and participated in the conferences organised by the both operators.
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 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.	General	One-time fulfilment	Yes	04/10/2019	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, and in the first half of 2021 for the projects from the ranking list.