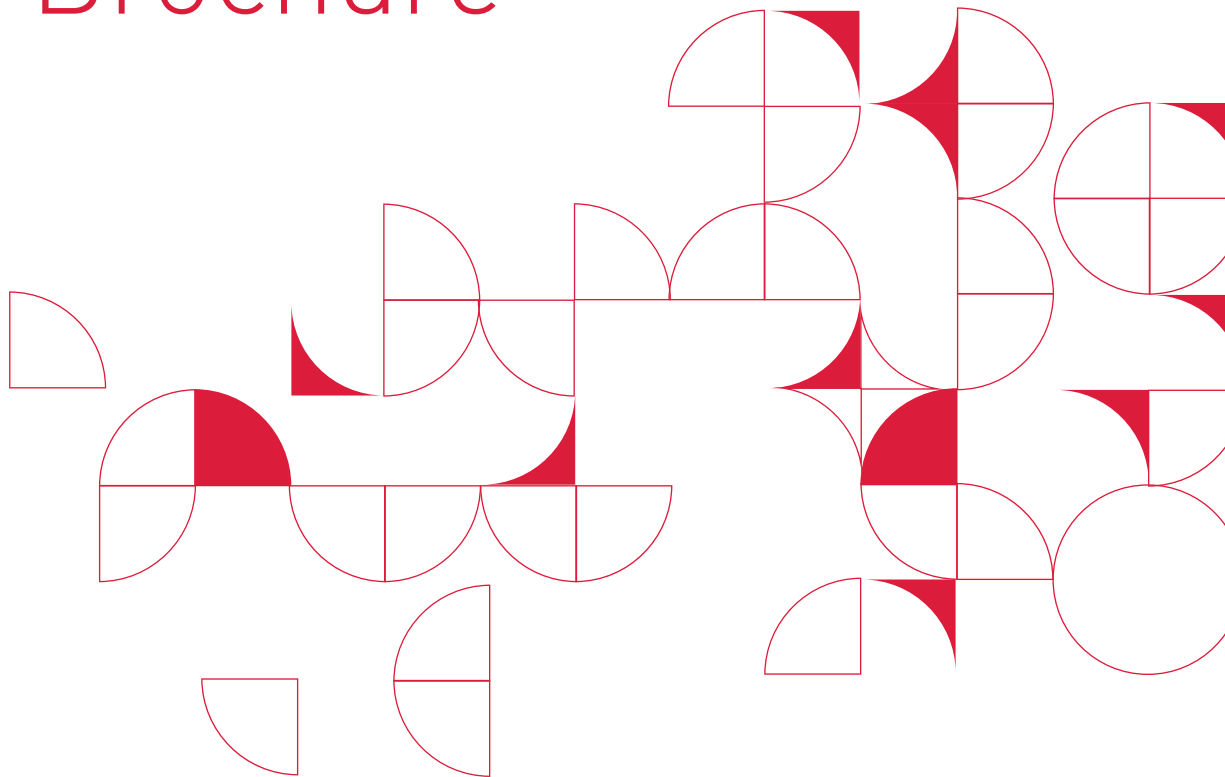


Information Brochure



NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE
POLAND

National Science Centre

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Instagram: [@ncn_gov_pl](https://www.instagram.com/ncn_gov_pl)

Linkedin: [NCN National Science Centre](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ncn-national-science-centre)

Twitter: [@NCN_PL](https://twitter.com/NCN_PL)

Layout by Studio Graficzne Papercut

National Science Centre

The National Science Centre (NCN) is a government executive agency established to support basic research, i.e. experimental or theoretical work undertaken primarily to acquire new knowledge of the underlying foundations of phenomena and observable facts, without any direct commercial application or use in view. The mission of the NCN is to boost the quality and efficiency of Polish research thanks to a competitive grant system and to promote its growing importance on the international stage. The Centre thus publishes regular calls for research projects and research activities. In 2022, it has a budget of almost PLN 1.4 billion slated to fund basic research.

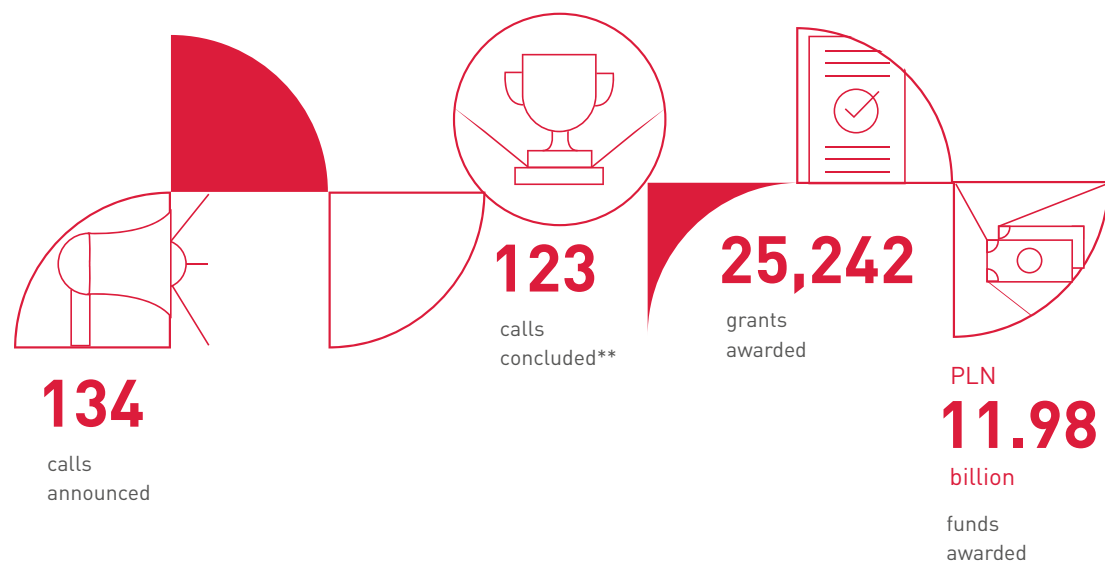
The Act of 30 April 2010 on the National Science Centre came into force on 1 October 2010. The NCN officially started its activities on 4 March 2011 and the first calls were announced less than three weeks later. The NCN is supervised by the Minister of Education and Science and the calls are designed by a Council of twenty-four distinguished researchers. The Office of the NCN is managed by a Director.

The National Science Centre also funds basic research in cooperation with foreign institutions that support science. NCN is the coordinator of programmes launched by QuantERA (network of research agencies operating in the field of Quantum Technologies) and CHANSE (European research funding institutions operating in the field of Humanities and Social Sciences) with the support of the EU funds awarded under the Horizon 2020. The Centre also operates the “Research” programme within the framework of the EEA and Norway Grants. With the support of Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions COFUND (MSCA), we are launching the POLONEZ BIS call for incoming researchers.

The NCN in figures

MARCH 2011 –
DECEMBER 2021

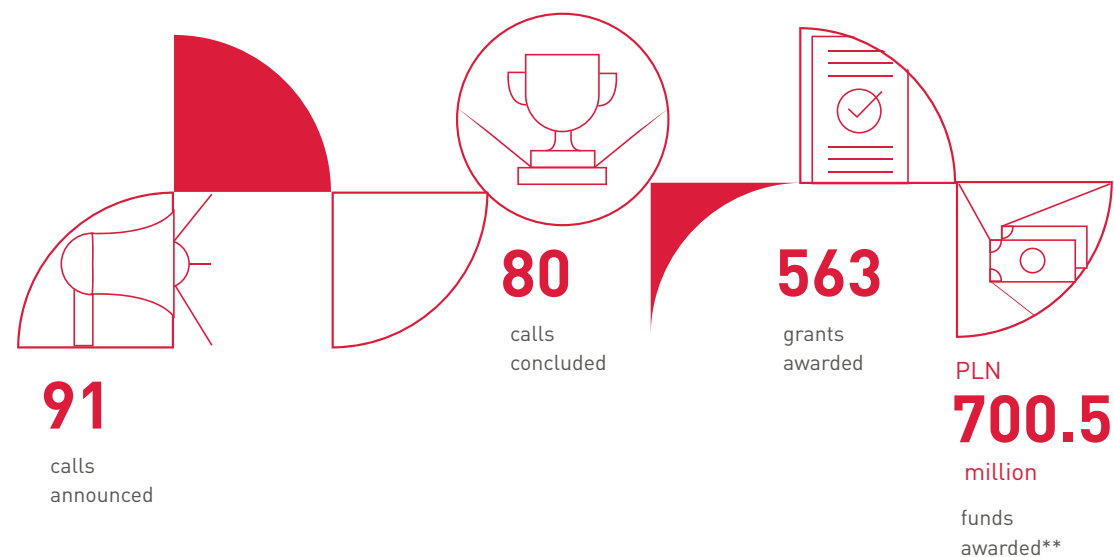
Domestic calls*



* The data correspond to domestic calls currently offered by the NCN, as well as suspended calls.

** The figure does not include TANGO calls concluded by the National Centre for Research and Development and calls launched jointly with NAWA.

International calls*



* The data correspond to bilateral and multilateral calls organized within the framework of international cooperation, the POLONEZ call co-funded within the „Horizon 2020” EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation under the „Marie Skłodowska-Curie” grant agreement no. 665778, calls within the framework of the EEA and Norway Grants, calls launched jointly with the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA) and DIOSCURI call.

** The figure includes the contribution of the NCN, the funds provided by the European Commission and grants awarded under DIOSCURI call.

Organization structure



The NCN Director

In charge of running the National Science Centre, the Director oversees the completion of its tasks and its financial management, as well as representing it to the outside world.

The NCN Council

The Council of the National Science Centre is made up of twenty-four scholars from various disciplines, who define the priority areas of basic research in accordance with the state's development strategy, lay down the terms and conditions for calls for research proposals, allocate funding and publish calls for doctoral scholarships and postdoctoral fellowships. It is also the responsibility of the Council to appoint the members of expert teams that evaluate research proposals.



Coordinators organize the efforts of expert teams and conduct calls for research proposals, making sure that the peer review process is correct, impartial and fair. They must hold at least a doctoral degree and are selected by way of open competition. Coordinators work in three distinct teams at the National Science Centre: Art, Humanities and Social Sciences, Physical Sciences and Engineering and Life Sciences.

Made up of several divisions and more than ten teams, the NCN office is the administrative core of the Centre, responsible for delivering information to applicants, providing ongoing support for current calls and organizing expert team meetings. The Office staff is also the first line of support to grant recipients who carry out the projects; it handles the process of signing grant agreements, oversees their implementation, initiates international funding cooperation and, in partnership with the Council, the Coordinators and “Research Area” Committee, launches calls under the EEA and Norway Grants programme.

NCN Management



DIRECTOR
PROF. ZBIGNIEW BŁOCKI

Professor at the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science of the Jagiellonian University since 1990. Mr Błocki has spent several years abroad, developing his research career, e.g. in Sweden, Germany and the US, including as a Fulbright scholar, and delivered numerous lectures at research centres all over the world.

He sat on the NCN Council between 2010 and 2015 until he was appointed the NCN Director in March 2015. From 2015 to 2021 he has also served as a member of the Science Europe Governing Board, an association that brings together European research-funding organizations.

In the past, he has headed the Institute of Mathematics at the Jagiellonian University and acted as Vice Chair of the Executive Organizing Committee of the 6th European Congress of Mathematics in Kraków in 2012. In 2010-2015, at the Jagiellonian University, he coordinated a research project funded within the framework of the International PhD Projects selection of the Foundation of Polish Science; he also served as principal investigator in a project funded under the Ideas Plus programme.

He is the winner of the Stanisław Zaremba Prize of the Polish Mathematical Society (2007) and the Polish Prime Minister's Award for outstanding research achievements (2008). In 2014, he received the Jagiellonian Laurel.



CHAIR OF THE NCN COUNCIL
PROF. JACEK KUŹNICKI

Neuroscientist and biochemist, member of the Polish Academy of Science, Head of the Laboratory of Neurodegeneration at the International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology (IIMCB) in Warsaw. Author of over 150 publications available in the Web of Science database. Doctoral supervisor of 18 PhD dissertations.

Winner of the Officer's Cross of *Polonia Restituta* (2008) awarded by the President of the Republic of Poland. Winner of many awards and prizes, such as the Crystal Brussels Prize for outstanding FP7 achievements in the individual category (2013), Jerzy Konorski Award for the Best Polish Research Work in Neurobiology (2011), Professorial Subsidy Program Award from the Foundation for Polish Science (2004-2007), and Prime Minister's Award for Scientific Achievements (2003).

Co-founder and director of the IIMCB (2001-2018), member of the Scientific Policy Committee (2011-2014), member of the Board of the European Calcium Society (since 2008), honorary President of the Council and one of the founding members of BioEducation, organiser and director of the Polish Centenarians Programme. Visiting professor (1992-1995) and post-doc (1981-1984) at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, USA. NCN Council member since 2018, and its President since December 2020.

NCN calls

The National Science Centre supports basic research conducted within the framework of projects and research activities. Calls for proposals are open to all researchers irrespective of age and experience. Most of our calls are open to foreign researchers. The call documents are always available in English and only some parts of the proposal form must be completed in Polish.

The call portfolio of the NCN currently includes domestic calls, as well as international calls launched by the NCN in bi- and multilateral cooperation with foreign research funding agencies and a number of multilateral programmes launched by international consortia and networks such as ERA-NET, of which the National Science Centre forms part. Proposals may be submitted to NCN in three areas – groups of sciences:



Arts, Humanities and
Social Sciences



Physical Sciences and Engineering



Life Sciences

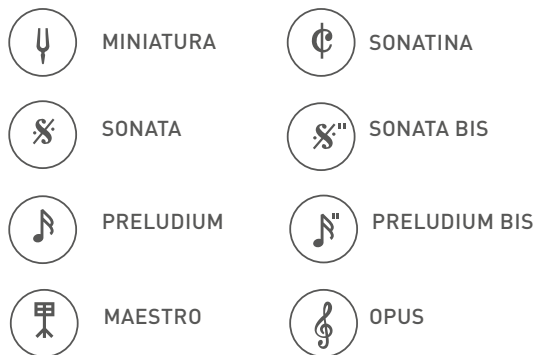
Researchers may submit proposals on behalf of the organizations that employ them (e.g. universities, institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences, research institutes) or apply for funding individually. Most funding schemes provide resources for the purchase of research equipment, with the exception of large research infrastructure. Proposals need to be drafted in accordance with call guidelines, written in Polish and English, and submitted to the NCN electronically through the OSF system before the submission deadline.

Funding is awarded to the best basic research projects, conducted by principal investigators able to demonstrate the required research experience and capability.

Domestic

REGULAR

NCN-funded calls for research proposals and research activities, launched in accordance with the call schedule once or twice per year, targeted at various groups of researchers:



LAUNCHED IN COOPERATION WITH THE POLISH NATIONAL AGENCY FOR ACADEMIC EXCHANGE NAWA

- NAWA CHAIR
- THE POLISH RETURNS

LAUNCHED IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (NCBR)



International

BILATERAL

calls launched in cooperation with foreign research funding institutions and organizations



LEAD AGENCY PROCEDURE



for international research projects in all academic disciplines, launched by the NCN in cooperation with foreign research funding agencies pursuant to the Lead Agency Procedure.

- WEAVE-UNISONO
- OPUS + LAP/WEAVE

ORGANISED WITH THE SUPPORT OF EEA AND NORWAY GRANTS



MULTILATERAL

calls for international research projects, funded from the resources of the EU Framework Programme, launched by the NCN in cooperation with foreign research funding agencies. This group includes, for instance, initiatives such as ERA-NET Co-fund financed within the "Horizon 2020" EU Framework Programme.

Domestic calls

Regular NCN-funded calls for research proposals and research activities, launched in accordance with the call timeline once or twice per year, targeted at various groups of researchers. The detailed conditions of each programme may vary across different editions. The most recent information on current calls is published on www.ncn.gov.pl.

MINIATURA

A call for research activities aimed at supporting researchers in applying for funds awarded by the NCN. The opportunity is open to individuals who earned their PhD up to 12 years before submission of the proposal, have never coordinated a research project and have not previously won any NCN-funded PhD scholarships or fellowships. In addition, as of the day on which the proposal is filed, the person applying for funds must be employed by the applying entity on the basis of an employment contract.

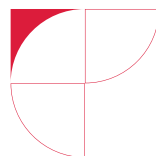


SONATINA

A call targeted at researchers who earned their PhD up to three years before the submission of the proposal. The grant includes full-time employment as a researcher and provides funds for the completion of the research project at the host institution.

SONATA

A call for research projects carried out by researchers with a PhD degree. The objective of the call is to support principal investigators in innovative basic research, including the use of cutting-edge research equipment and/or methodology. The call is open to researchers who earned their PhD between 2 and 7 years prior to the submission of the proposal.



SONATA BIS

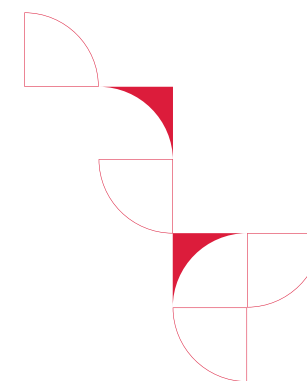
A call for research projects that aim to establish a new research team, carried out by researchers with a PhD or a higher degree, who earned their PhD between 5 and 12 years prior to the submission of the proposal. The call is open to outstanding young researchers wishing to set up their own research team to conduct particularly innovative research projects.

PRELUDIUM

A call for research projects carried out by researchers without a PhD degree. Projects funded under the PRELUDIUM scheme may take anywhere between one and three years to complete and are supervised by thesis advisors or academic tutors. The subject of research does not have to be related to the applicant's doctoral dissertation.

PRELUDIUM BIS

A call for research projects addressed at institutions operating doctoral schools. The objective of the call is to support PhD student education in doctoral schools and fund research projects carried out by PhD students as part of their doctoral dissertations. The principal investigator is the doctoral supervisor of the PhD dissertation.



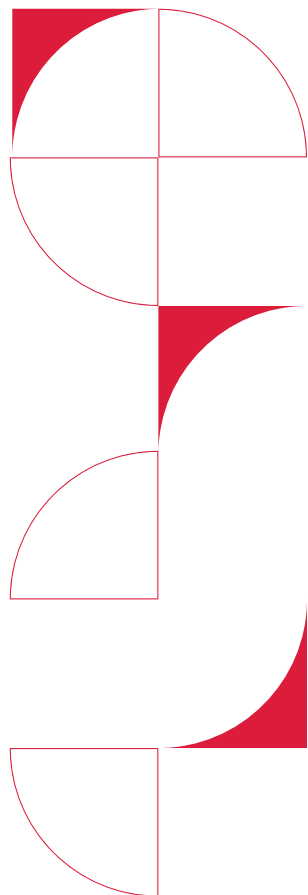
MAESTRO

A call targeted at experienced researchers who wish to conduct pioneering research projects, often with an interdisciplinary perspective, which are essential for scientific progress, expand the current state of knowledge and may likely lead to significant scientific discoveries. The call is open to researchers with a PhD degree or higher, who have published a minimum of 5 papers in renowned academic journals and coordinated at least two research projects selected through a call for proposals procedure within the 10 years prior to the submission of the proposal.

OPUS

A call for research proposals open to all researchers irrespective of research experience. The projects may be carried out by the principal investigator alone or by research teams including an adequate number of assistant researchers.

In September 2022, we are launching the so-called OPUS LAP/Weave call for research projects carried out by research teams from Poland in cooperation with their partners from the Czech Republic, Austria, Slovenia, Switzerland, Germany, Luxembourg and Belgium - Flanders, whose tasks are funded by the partner agencies of the National Science Centre based on the recommendations of the latter acting as the lead agency in charge of the merit-based evaluation of proposals.



CALLS LAUNCHED IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER POLISH GRANT AGENCIES

The National Science Centre also organises programmes in cooperation with Polish research funding institutions: Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA) and the National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR).

Cooperation between the NCN and the NAWA is conducted within the framework of:

- **The Polish Returns** call, targeted at Polish researchers working abroad, who wish to come back to Poland and work in Polish research centres;
- **NAWA Chair** programme, which allows universities and research institutions to invite eminent specialists from their priority fields.

Under these calls, the NAWA covers the costs of employment for researchers and project team members, their adaptation, workplace organisation and relocation to Poland. The NCN funds the so-called research components carried out in the first 18 months from the project start date. The funding covers basic research, which can then be continued in the framework of larger research projects.

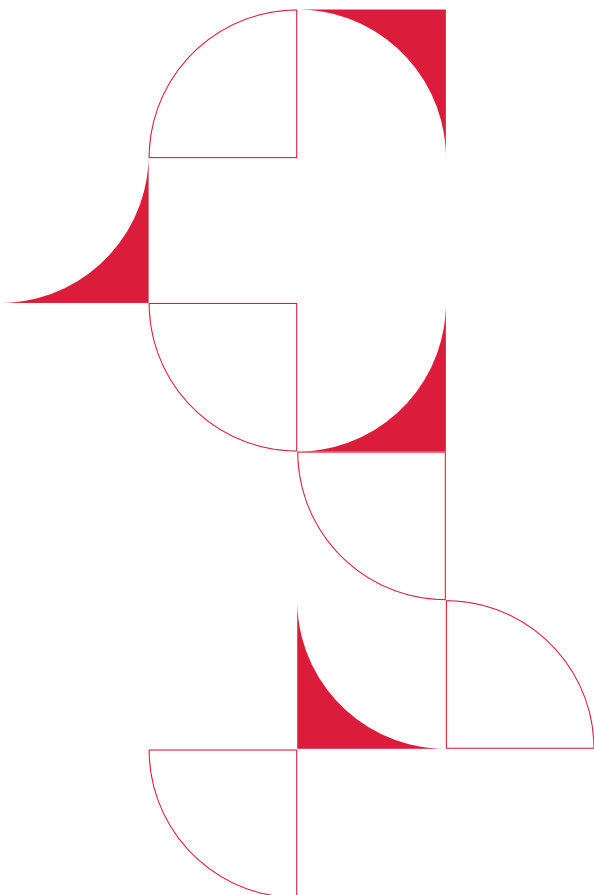
Moreover in NCN **PRELUDIUM BIS** call, targeted at experienced researchers planning to take PhD students under their wing, NAWA covers the doctoral scholarship costs.

In order to provide for the carry-over from basic research to its implementation, the NCN and the NCBR joined hands to launch a joint **TANGO** call, under which principal investigators of NCN-funded projects can now submit R&D and implementation proposals, which originated during their basic research. This makes it possible to implement their results.

NCN and the NCBR together launched the **ARTIQ** call in 2021. The objective of the call is to fund projects that may increase Poland's scientific and R&D potential in the area of artificial intelligence (AI). To this end, three AI Centres of Excellence (AI CE) will be created, i.e. highly specialised teams working at Polish Host Institutions and headed by high-class scientists, known as Leaders, with international reputation and outstanding research, research implementation and organization record. The call will provide for funding of NCN-funded basic research projects as well as industrial research, development, and preliminary work, and of special purpose vehicles (funded by the NCBR). ARTIQ call is now closed and results will be announced in 2022.



International cooperation



Ever since its inception, the National Science Centre has collaborated with foreign research funding organisations to launch joint calls for international proposals. The National Science Centre also cooperates with other agencies, with the aim of developing European research policy by participating in the operations of Science Europe or Coordination and Support Actions co-funded by the European Union.

Each year, the National Science centre launches multilateral calls carried out jointly with foreign research funding agencies under multilateral networks to support particular academic disciplines. The National Science Centre is a programme coordinator of QuantERA in the field of Quantum Technologies and CHANSE in the field of Humanities and Social Sciences. The budget of ERA-NET Cofund programmes includes domestic funds and funds from EU Horizon 2020. Other bilateral and multilateral initiatives are supported only by the domestic funds of particular agencies. In September 2021, we launched a new POLONEZ BIS call to support the mobility of incoming researchers with the support of Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions COFUND (MSCA).

International networks engaging the National Science Centre

Name	Number of organizations	Number of countries	Research area supported by the network
BiodivERsA	74	37	conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity
CHANSE	27	24	humanities and social sciences with a special focus on social and cultural dynamics in the digital age
CHIST-ERA	28	25	information and communication science and technologies
EqUIP	20	15 Europe) + India	collaboration between Europe and India in the social sciences and humanities
ERA-CAPS	20	18	Molecular Plant Sciences (healthy, safe and sufficient food, plant-based products – chemicals and energy, sustainable agriculture, forestry and landscape)
ForestValue	31	19	research, development and innovation in the forest-based sector
HERA	26	25	establishing the humanities in the European Research Area and funding as well as coordinating transnational research projects in this area of knowledge
JPI AMR	30	28	antimicrobial resistance
JPI Urban Europe	25	18	interdisciplinary research projects that respond to the challenges of modern cities and urban areas
JPND	29	24	research aimed at finding causes, developing cures and identifying appropriate ways to care for those with neurodegenerative diseases
M-ERA.NET	50	36	materials science and engineering, low carbon energy technologies and materials for future batteries technologies supporting the European Green Deal
NORFACE	25	19	social sciences (migration, future of the welfare state, social inequalities, etc.)
QuantERA	39	31	quantum technologies
Solar-Driven Chemistry	6	6	solar-driven chemistry
Trans-Atlantic Platform (T-AP)	18	13	humanities and social sciences

INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS COORDINATED BY THE NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE



QuantERA is a quantum technologies programme coordinated by the National Science Centre that brings together 39 research funding agencies from 31 countries. It includes two projects: QuantERA I and QuantERA II and is implemented by one of the largest networks involved in the development of quantum technologies in the world. In addition to launching calls for research projects performed by international consortia (the next one will be launched in 2023), the purposes of the QuantERA programme include:

- **fostering international collaboration between research funding agencies operating in the field of quantum technologies,**
- mapping of public policies in quantum technologies in Europe,
- cooperating with the Quantum Technologies Flagship initiative of the European Commission,
- actions to promote equal treatment of men and women under the programme and in research, and
- dissemination of scientific excellence and ensuring wider participation.

QuantERA programme has a budget of EUR 89 mln, of which EUR 26.5 mln is paid by the European Commission under the EU Framework Programme Horizon 2020. **77 projects** were recommended for funding within the calls launched in 2017, 2019 and 2021.



Collaboration of Humanities and Social Sciences in Europe (CHANSE) is an ERA-Net Cofund programme supporting research in the area of Humanities and Social Sciences. The programme coordinated by the National Science Centre is a joint initiative of 27 research funding agencies from 24 European countries. The CHANSE's goal is to finance high-quality international research projects and inspire collaboration between researchers and various stakeholder groups, such as: NGOs, cultural institutions, legislators, policy makers, schools, etc.

In 2021, a call for international research projects was launched (Transformations: Social and cultural dynamics in the digital age). Projects recommended for funding will help us understand the impact of digital innovations on social and cultural changes as well as the social and cultural impact on such innovations. The results will be announced in 2022.

The CHANSE programme is a result of cooperation between the HERA and NORFACE networks supporting research in Humanities and Social Sciences. The CHANSE consortium has a budget of EUR 36 mln, of which EUR 10 mln is funded under the EU Framework Programme Horizon 2020.

BIODIVERSA+: EUROPEAN BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

The NCN is a national coordinator under the European Biodiversity Partnership: Rescuing Biodiversity to Safeguard Life on Earth (Biodiversa+) which is a European platform for national and regional research and innovation programmes aimed at protecting and enhancing biodiversity. Biodiversa+, co-financed by the European Commission, aims to connect science, policy and practice for transformative changes. It is part of the European Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and gathers 74 research-funding agencies and environmental protection actors from 37 European and associated countries.

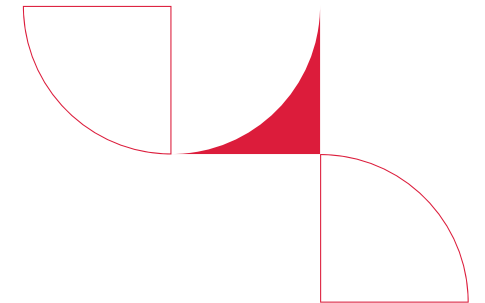
Biodiversa+ is planning to launch 6 calls for international research projects in the area of biodiversity protection. A pilot call for proposals (*Supporting the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems across land and sea*) started in 2021. The next call for proposals will be launched in September 2022.

In addition to the calls for research projects, the Partnership has set ambitious goals and focus, on, in particular:

- forecasting activities and identifying problems related to biodiversity, dynamics and trends of changes and factors stimulating such changes;
- ensuring efficient science-based support for policy-making and implementation in Europe;

- strengthening the relevance and impact of pan-European research on biodiversity in a global context;
- creating an online interactive database of research infrastructure and online database of R&D projects in the area of biodiversity;
- building capacity of research and innovation stakeholders and increasing the social impact of R&D programmes and projects;
- supporting researchers in facing open access challenges; and
- measures aimed at increasing the transfer of knowledge.

Biodiversa+ with the total budget of EUR 800 mln will be carried out for the period of 7 years.



Multilateral calls in 2022

Area	Programme	Subject-matter of the call	Call for proposals	Application deadline (pre-proposals)	Application deadline (full proposals)
INTERDISCIPLINARY	EN-UAC Urban Accessibility and Connectivity China Call (JPI Urban Europe)	1) Sustainable Urban Logistics in the Age of Digitisation; 2) Strengthening Climate-neutral Mobility.	17 February 2022	12 April 2022	13 September 2022
	JPCofuND2 (JPND network, Call 2022)	Understanding the mechanisms of non-pharmacological interventions	4 January 2022	1 March 2022	28 June 2022
NZ – Life Sciences	JPIAMR-ACTION (JPI AMR network, Call 2022)	Disrupting Drug Resistance Using Innovative Design	11 January 2022	8 March 2022	5 July 2022
	ERA-CAPS	ERA-CAPS 4 th Joint Call (Plant Sciences)	II quarter 2022	IV quarter 2022	2023
ST – Physical Sciences and Engineering	CHIST-ERA IV (Call 2022)	1) Security and privacy in decentralised and distributed systems; 2) Machine Learning for modern communication	October 2022	–	December 2022
	M-ERA.NET 3 (Call 2022)	1) Materials for energy 2) Innovative surfaces, coatings and interfaces, 3) High performance composites, 4) Functional materials, 5) New strategies for advanced material-based technologies for health applications, 6) Materials for electronics	15 March 2022	15 June 2022	17 January 2023

COOPERATION PURSUANT TO THE LEAD AGENCY PROCEDURE (LAP)

The National Science Centre participates in the programmes carried out pursuant to the Lead Agency Procedure (LAP) based on domestic calls launched by each participating institution in order to evaluate international research projects. Funding proposals for bilateral or trilateral research projects in all academic disciplines are subject to merit-based evaluation by the lead agency, i.e. the agency selected in the call and appropriate for one of the research teams participating in the call. Proposals are evaluated alongside other proposals submitted to the call, including domestic ones.



Since 2021, the NCN has continued within the newly launched Weave programme cooperation with its partners from Austria (Austrian Science Fund, FWF), the Czech Republic (Czech Science Foundation, GACR), Slovenia (Slovenian Research Agency, ARRS), Switzerland (Swiss National Science Foundation, SNSF) and Germany (German Research Foundation, DFG). From the beginning of 2022, our new partners under WEAVE have included the Luxembourg National Research Fund (FNR) from Luxembourg and the Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO) from Belgium-Flanders. The Weave Programme was created with the support of Science Europe and based on the Lead Agency Procedure.

The NCN invites bilateral and trilateral proposals in all academic disciplines under two calls within the framework of the Weave Programme, depending on who takes on the role of the lead agency (foreign partner institution or NCN):

- **Weave-UNISONO** for NCN proposals, for which joint proposals will be submitted to and evaluated by the foreign partner institutions acting as the Lead Agency (FWF, GACR, ARRS, SNSF, DFG, FNR or FWO); the call was announced on 4 January 2021, or
- **OPUS**, launched in the autumn, for funding proposals for research projects planned to be carried out within the Weave cooperation scheme, and evaluated by the NCN as the Lead Agency. OPUS 24 + LAP/Weave will be launched on 15 September 2022.

BILATERAL COOPERATION: SHENG, DAINA AND DIOSCURI



NCN portfolio currently includes three bilateral calls. **SHENG** is the funding scheme launched in cooperation with the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) for research projects carried out by Polish-Chinese teams. In December 2022, we will open its third edition which will comprise selected academic disciplines in the area of Physical Sciences and Engineering as well as management sciences. **DAINA** – scheme for research projects carried out by Polish-Lithuanian teams, will be launched for the third time in 2023 in cooperation with the Research Council of Lithuania (RCL).

Together with the German Max Planck Society (MPG), the National Science Centre has launched the **DIOSCURI** programme to establish the Centres of Scientific Excellence in Poland. In four editions of the call, five Dioscuri Centres of Scientific Excellence were created at the institutes specialising in various academic disciplines. The next three winners were selected in fourth edition of the call. Each newly-created Centre of Scientific Excellence cooperates with the German mentor institution and receives funding from the NCN awarded by the Polish Ministry of Education and Science and German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.



CALLS FOR PROPOSALS FUNDED UNDER THE EEA AND NORWAY GRANTS 2014-2021

Under the 3rd edition of the Basic Research Programme within the framework of the EEA and Norway Grants, three calls were launched:

-  **GRIEG:** call for proposals for Polish-Norwegian research projects in all academic disciplines, with a particular focus on polar research and social sciences,
-  **IdeaLab:** innovative, interdisciplinary call operated according to the 'sandpit' method by research teams



Funded under the "Horizon 2020" EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation: CHIST-ERA IV – grant agreement no 857925, JPCofuND2 – grant agreement no 825664; CHANSE – grant agreement no 101004509; EN-UAC - grant agreement no 875022; EN-UTC – grant agreement no 101003758, JPIAMR-ACTION – grant agreement no 963864; M-ERA.NET 3 – grant agreement no 958174, QuantERA II – grant agreement no 101017733; POLONEZ BIS – grant agreement no 945339.

from Poland, Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein for ground-breaking research projects addressing important scientific, geopolitical, social and economic challenges,





 **POLS:** call for proposals supporting researcher mobility with small grants, targeting foreign researchers wishing to carry out research in Poland.

In the GRIEG call, 35 Polish-Norwegian research projects received funding of over PLN 198 mln. 3 projects were recommended for funding of PLN 17.5 mln under the IdeaLab call and 37 projects received funding totalling PLN 28 mln under the POLS call.



The launch of the second and the third POLONEZ BIS call is scheduled to 15 March and 15 September. The call is addressed at incoming researchers with a PhD degree or at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience, who have not been employed or have not studied in Poland for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the call announcement and have not managed any research project in a Polish research institution. The successful applicants will be ensured full-time employment, funds for research projects in any academic discipline as well as an additional soft skill training.

Timeline of 2022 domestic and international calls: bilateral and based on the Lead Agency Procedure

Funding scheme	Submission start date	Submission deadline	Results (at the latest)
Weave-UNISONO	continuous call, in line with partner agencies call timelines		depends on the time of publishing results by partner agencies
 OPUS 23 PRELUDIUM 21 POLONEZ BIS 2	15 March	15 June	December
 SONATA BIS 12 MAESTRO 14	15 June	15 September	March 2023
 OPUS 24 + LAP/Weave PRELUDIUM BIS 4 SONATA 18 POLONEZ BIS 3	15 September	15 December	OPUS 24, SONATA 18, POLONEZ BIS 3 – June 2023 LAP/Weave – depends on the time of accepting evaluation results by partner agencies, November 2023 at latest PRELUDIUM BIS 4 – May 2023
 SONATINA 7 SHENG 3	15 December	15 March 2023	SONATINA 7 – September 2023 SHENG 3 – November 2023
 MINIATURA 6	ongoing call, open between 1 February and 31 July 2022		

NCN Experts

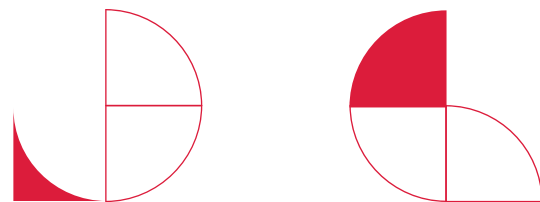
NCN experts are specialists in their respective fields engaged in reliable, comprehensive and impartial evaluation of proposals submitted to NCN calls and reports on the implementation of NCN grants pursuant to the applicable rules and regulations adopted by the NCN Council. NCN experts must use their skills, experience and knowledge in any actions and evaluations they carry out.

NCN Experts may be divided into three categories:

- 1. expert team members** – a group of experts selected by the NCN Council from among prominent researchers and appointed by the NCN Director to evaluate proposals in a given discipline or groups of disciplines. They evaluate proposals at the first stage of evaluation, discuss their joint evaluation of each proposal at meetings and jointly decide on the future of the proposals, e.g. whether or not a proposal will be recommended for funding,
- 2. reviewers** – experts performing individual evaluation at the second stage of evaluation who are not team members,
- 3. members of fixed teams** – experts evaluating the reports on the implementation of grants awarded by the NCN.

In 2021, 2,110 expert team members were appointed who reviewed a total number of over 11 thousand proposals at the first stage of evaluation. 56,5% of the expert team members appointed in 2021 were affiliated abroad. Almost 8 thousand reviewers participated in the second stage of evaluation, delivering over 10 thousand reviews. More than 96% of them were foreign experts.

NCN experts must be driven by actions aimed at promoting the development of Polish science and support research that deserves promotion and financial support within their competencies. They perform their tasks in compliance with strict confidentiality provisions as regards the evaluation procedure, evaluation alone as well as evaluators. They must adhere to the ethical rules adopted by the NCN Council.



Proposal evaluation

The objective of the National Science Centre is to grant funding to top research projects selected through a two-stage peer review process. As a general rule, setting criteria of the calls, the Council of the NCN takes into account, in carefully considered proportion, both the quality of the project as such, and the achievements of the researchers involved.

The review procedure begins with a formal evaluation performed by NCN Coordinators, which involves checking the completeness and correctness of the submission. The proposals then undergo a two-stage peer review by dedicated expert teams.

STAGE 1

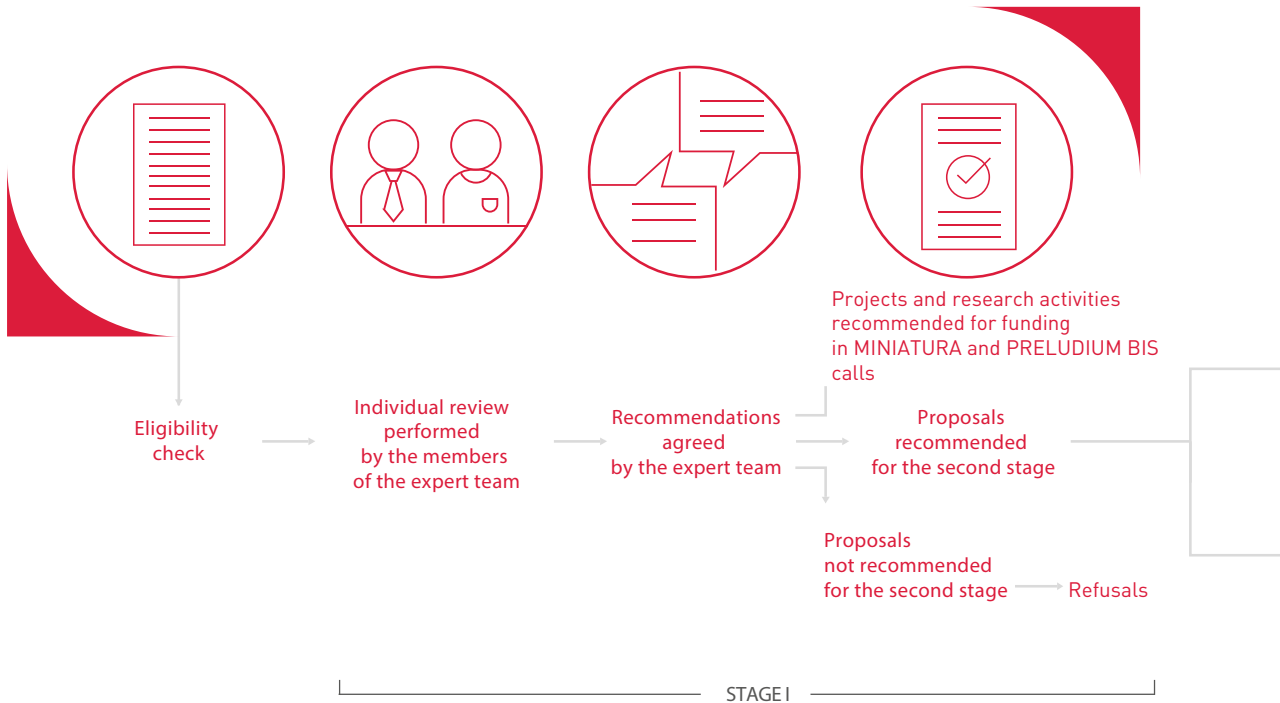
The proposals are first assessed by experts working independently. Individual evaluations serve as a point of departure for debate during the first panel session. The decision to reject or approve the proposal is taken collectively by the team as a whole. Subsequently, the members prepare a shortlist of projects admitted to stage two of the peer review process or list of projects qualified for funding in MINIATURA or PRELUDIUM BIS calls (there is 1-stage merit based evaluation under these calls).

STAGE 2

Stage two may be conducted in one of two ways, depending on the type of call. Proposals submitted in the OPUS, PRELUDIUM and SONATA calls are evaluated by at least two, often foreign, experts (reviewers), working independently, whose reviews are later discussed by the expert team during the second panel session. External experts are nominated by NCN coordinators, based on the recommendations of team members. The second stage of the review process in the SONATINA, SONATA BIS, MAESTRO and POLONEZ BIS calls includes an interview with the principal investigator.

The procedure scheme presented on the following pages applies to most domestic calls from the NCN portfolio. Proposals in international calls are assessed based on separate principles described in dedicated call documents.

Proposal evaluation process





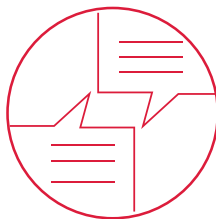
SONATINA, SONATA BIS,
MAESTRO, POLONEZ BIS

Evaluation by reviewers
and interview with the principal
investigator



OPUS, PRELUDIUM, SONATA

Evaluation by reviewers



Decision agreed
by the expert
team

Projects
recommended
for funding

Announcement
of results

Projects
not recommended
for funding

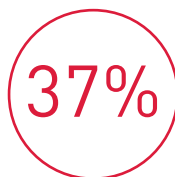
Refusals

STAGE II

Young researchers

One of the priorities of the National Science Centre is to support the growth of early-stage researchers who have not yet earned their PhD, or have done so within the last 7 years. The PRELUDIUM, PRELUDIUM BIS, SONATINA, SONATA and ETIUDA calls, under which they do not need to compete against more experienced researchers, are specifically designed for this group. In 2011-2021 a total of 59 calls addressed to early-stage researchers was announced.

In the NCN calls concluded in 2021:



of the total awarded funding went to projects led by early-stage researchers,



of all proposals were proposals submitted under calls addressed to early-stage scientists and other domestic NCN calls where principal investigators met the definition of an early-stage researcher,



of projects qualified for funding were coordinated by early-stage researchers.

*Because of the lack of data, the estimate does not include the TANGO call, calls launched jointly with NAWA, as well as the EXPRESS CALL TO FUND RESEARCH ON COVID-19

NCN Award 2021

The NCN Award is a distinction granted to researchers up to 40 years old for outstanding achievements in basic research documented with publications affiliated with a Polish research institution. The prize was founded by the Council of the National Science Centre in February 2013. The distinction is awarded by a chapter consisting of the Director, the Council and funders' representatives in three research areas: Arts, Humanities and Social sciences; Life Sciences; and Physical Sciences and Engineering.

The NCN Award has been awarded nine times. On 6 October 2021, at the Sukiennice 19th Century Polish Art Gallery (National Museum) in Krakow, the 2020 and 2021 NCN Awards were presented.



Arts, Humanities
and Social Sciences



Physical
Sciences and
Engineering



Life Sciences

NCN Award 2021 Laureates



ARTS, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Dr Paweł L. Polkowski

*Polish Centre of Mediterranean
Archaeology, University of Warsaw
and Archaeological Museum
in Poznań*

Scientific achievement: Rock art
research in the Dakhleh Oasis, Egypt



LIFE SCIENCES

**Dr hab.
Sebastian Glatt**

*Małopolska Centre of Biotechnology,
Jagiellonian University*

Scientific achievement:

Characterization of the structure and
function of the Elongator protein complex
and the links between mutations and
the onset of neurodevelopmental and
neurodegenerative disorder



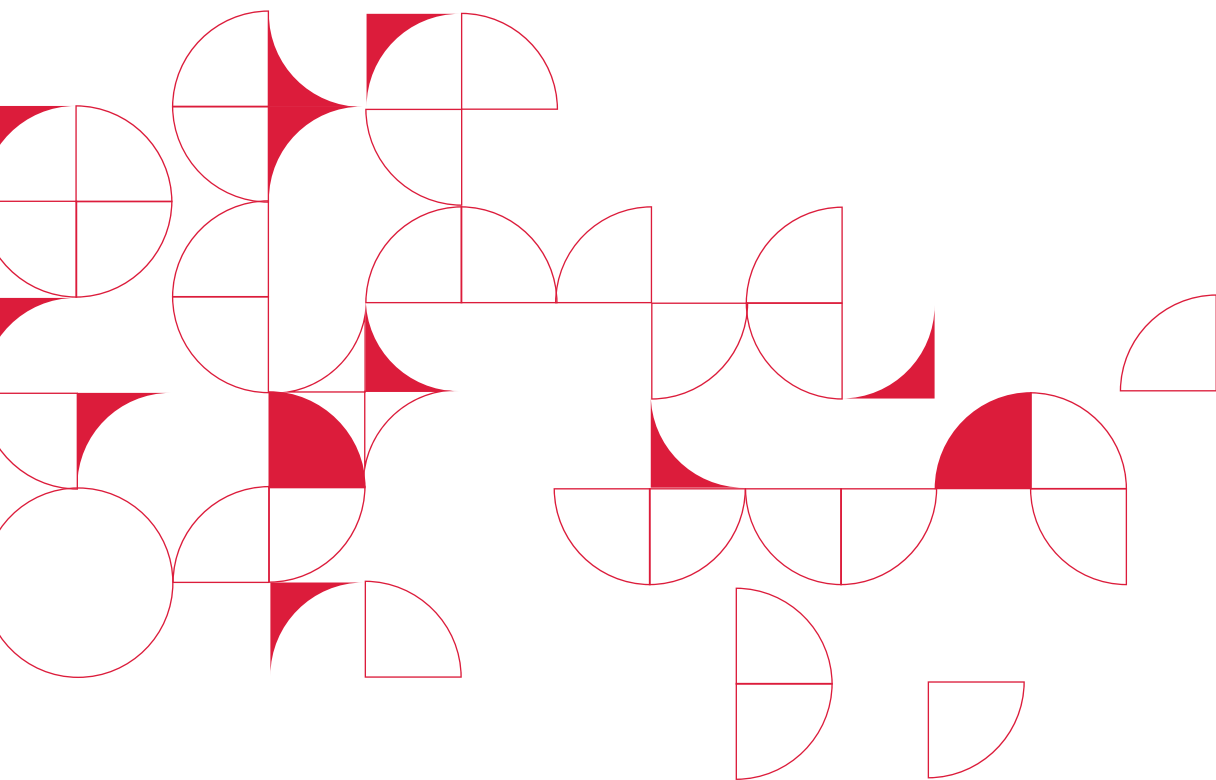
PHYSICAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING

Prof. Jonatan Gutman

*Institute of Mathematics of the Polish
Academy of Sciences*

Scientific achievement:

Groundbreaking results in the field of
dynamical systems and ergodic theory,
in particular regarding the optimal
dimension estimation for embedding of
dynamical systems into Hilbert cubes
and the theory of nilspace structures



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PERFORMING FOR POLISH RESEARCH

2022