



Information Brochure



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 NCN National Science Centre

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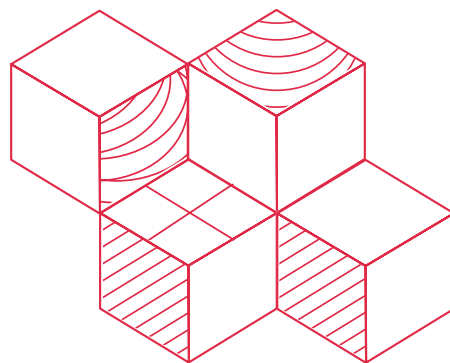
Photographs: Michał Łepecki

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. Thus, the NCN publishes regular calls for research projects and research activities. For 2024, it has a budget of almost PLN 1.6 billion slated to fund basic research.

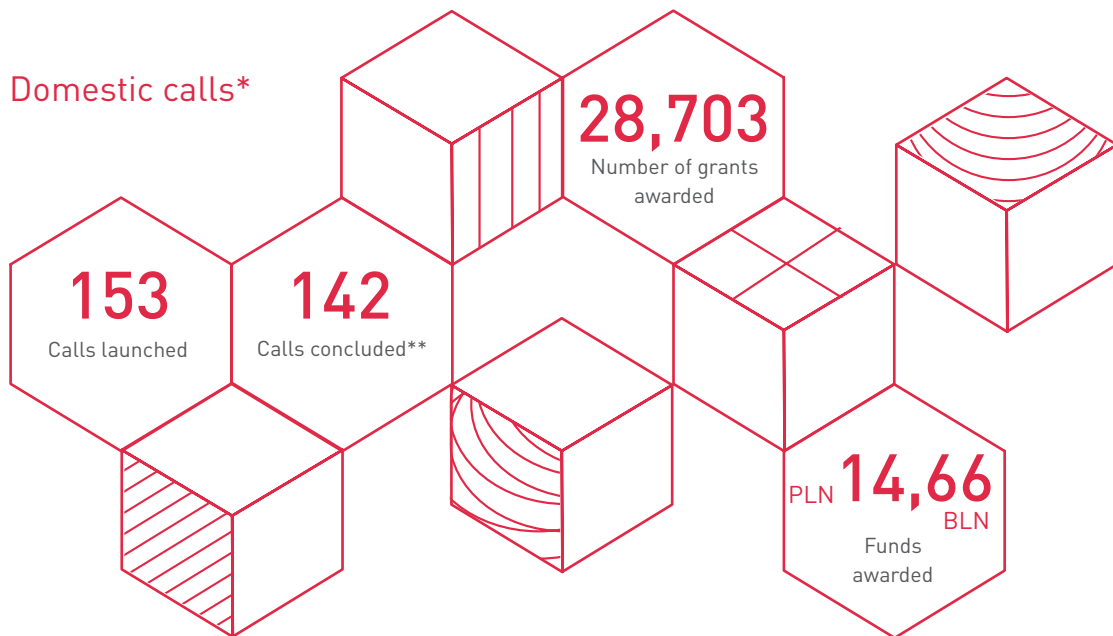
The Act on the National Science Centre of 30 April 2010 came into force on 1 October 2010. The NCN officially started to operate on 4 March 2011 and the first calls were announced within the next three weeks. The NCN is supervised by the Minister of Science and the calls are designed by a Council composed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

The National Science Centre also funds basic research in cooperation with foreign institutions that support science. It coordinates QuantERA II and CHANSE programmes with the support of the EU funds under Horizon 2020, as well as the European Biodiversity Partnership (Biodiversa+) co-funded by the European Commission. Furthermore, the NCN operates the "Research" programme within the framework of the EEA and Norway Grants.



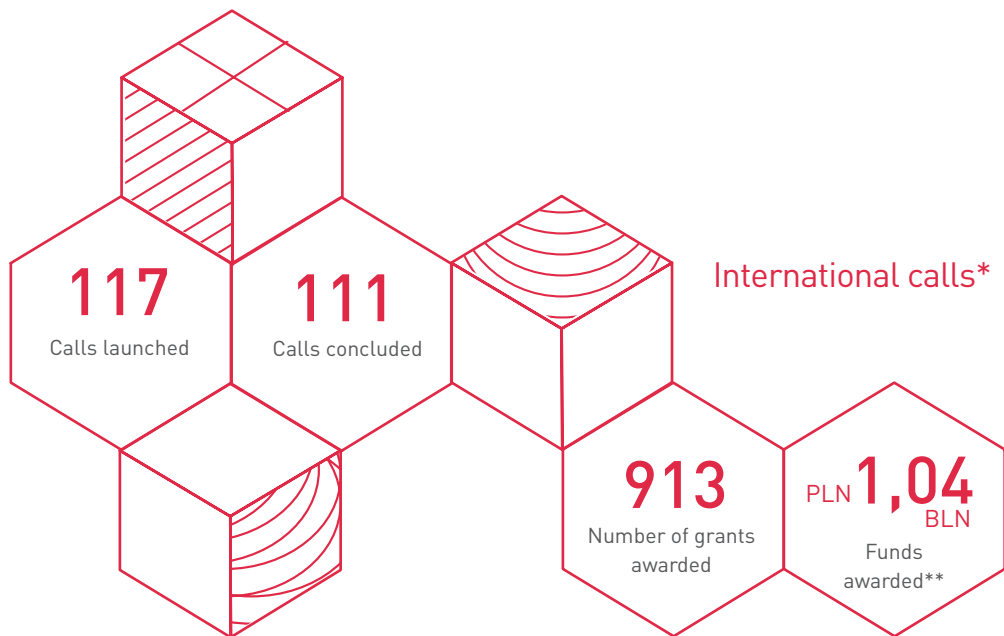
The NCN in figures

March 2011 – December 2023



* Information on domestic calls currently offered, suspended, the express call to fund research into COVID-19, the special scheme for Ukrainian researchers and the LAP track in OPUS call for proposals. The number and amount of funds includes grants awarded following an appeal, according to the state of affairs as at the end of 2023.

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



* The data corresponds to bilateral and multilateral calls organised within the framework of international cooperation, the POLONEZ and POLONEZ BIS calls co-funded within the Horizon 2020 EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation under the "Marie Skłodowska-Curie" grant agreements No 665778 and No 945339, calls within the framework of the EEA and Norway Grants including the special scheme for Ukrainian researchers, calls launched jointly with the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA), Dioscuri and ARTIQ call.

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

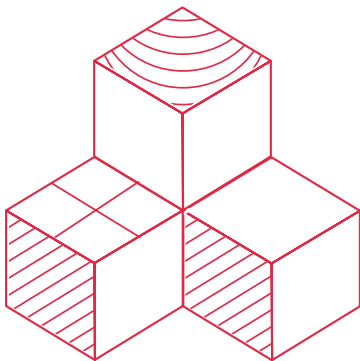
Organisation structure

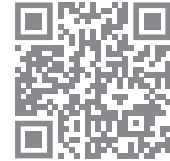
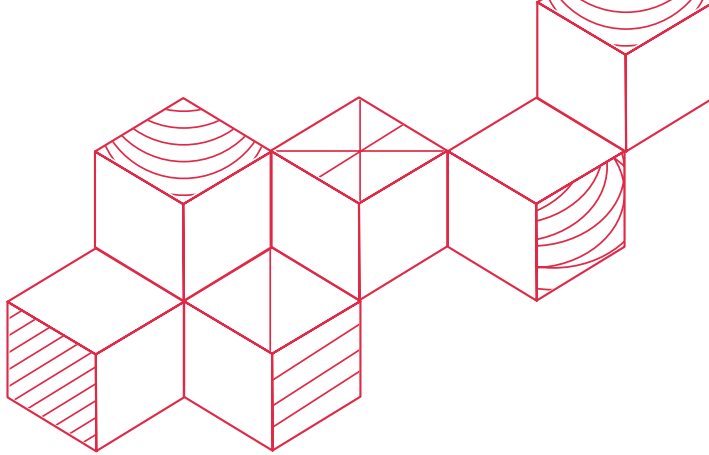
The NCN Director

The Director manages the National Science Centre, supervises its tasks and financial management and represents 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. Furthermore, the Council appoints members of expert teams that evaluate research proposals.





The NCN Coordinators

Coordinators organise the efforts of expert teams and conduct calls for research proposals and single research activities, making sure that the peer review process is correct, impartial and fair. They must be at least PhD holders and are selected in open calls. Coordinators work in three research areas: Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Physical Sciences and Engineering, and Life Sciences.

The NCN Office

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 organising 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 and initiates international funding cooperation.

NCN Management



DIRECTOR PROF. KRZYSZTOF JÓŻWIAK

Professor at the Faculty of Pharmacy, Medical University of Lublin, conducting research on molecular pharmacology and medicinal chemistry. Co-author of over 100 publications, two international patents and a number of plenary lectures. Editor and co-au-

thor of the book "Drug Stereochemistry: Analytical Methods and Pharmacology" (2013). Head of research grants awarded by the State Committee for Scientific Research (KBN) and Ministry of Science and Higher Education (MNiSW), winning applicant of the FOCUS and TEAM programmes operated by Foundation for Polish Science, and a member of the consortium operating a project commissioned by the National Institutes of Health (USA).

Completed two post-doctoral fellowships, one at the National Institute on Aging, NIH in Baltimore (USA) (2001-2004), and the other at the Laboratory of Biomodeling at the International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology in Warsaw (2005-2007). Visiting professor at the Università di Bologna in Italy (2023). Recipient of team and individual scientific awards of the Polish Minister of Health and the 2012 laureate of the UCB-Ehrlich Award for Excellence in Medicinal Chemistry by the European Federation for Medicinal Chemistry.

Between 2012 and 2020, member of the NCN Council and, inter alia, former Head of the Council's Life Sciences Committee. Since October 2023, Director of the National Science Centre.



CHAIR OF THE NCN COUNCIL PROF. ANETTA UNDas

Graduated from the Medical Academy in Krakow. Internist specialising in the management of patients with thromboembolic disorders. PhD holder and professor of medical sciences. Grantee of the Polish Fulbright Scholar Program (Department of Biochemistry, University of Vermont). Head of the Department of Thromboembolic Diseases at the Institute of

Cardiology at the Jagiellonian University Medical College in Krakow. Director for Science, Research and Innovation at the St. John Paul II Hospital in Krakow and head of the Centre for Innovative Laboratory Diagnostics at the said hospital. Collaborates with research centres in Europe and USA.

Interested in genetic and environmental regulation of blood coagulation and atherosclerosis. Founder of the centre for research on fibrin. Author of over 500 peer-reviewed papers (e.g. The Lancet, Circulation, Blood, Stroke, and Journal of Biological Chemistry). Recipient of grants from the State Committee for Scientific Research and National Science Centre. Supervised 18 doctoral dissertations. Panel member in the ERC's evaluation of grant proposals (LS4).

Editor-in-chief of the Polish Archives of Internal Medicine and Polish Heart Journal.

Member of the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis, European Society for Clinical Investigation, International Fibrinogen Research Society and Academia Europaea. Associate member of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences and Polish Academy of Sciences. Recipient of many awards, e.g. Prime Minister's Award, Jędrzej Śniadecki Medal, Laur Jagielloński.

NCN calls

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

The call portfolio includes domestic calls, as well as international calls launched by the NCN in bilateral or multilateral cooperation with foreign research funding agencies and a number of multilateral programmes launched by the international consortia and networks (e.g., ERA-NET) that include the National Science Centre as its member.

Proposals may be submitted in three research areas:



Arts, Humanities
and Social Sciences



Physical Sciences
and Engineering



Life Sciences








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

Funding is awarded to the best basic research projects conducted by principal investigators capable of demonstrating required research experience and skills.

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:

	MINIATURA		SONATINA
	SONATA		SONATA BIS
	PRELUDIUM		MAESTRO
	OPUS		

IN COOPERATION WITH THE POLISH NATIONAL AGENCY FOR ACADEMIC EXCHANGE NAWA

- NAWA CHAIR
- NAWA POLISH RETURNS

International

BILATERAL

Calls launched in cooperation with foreign research funding institutions and organisations



WEAVE PROGRAMME

Calls for international research projects in all academic disciplines, launched by the NCN in collaboration with foreign research funding agencies pursuant to the Lead Agency Procedure (LAP):

- WEAVE-UNISONO
- OPUS + LAP/Weave

MULTILATERAL

Calls for international research projects, funded from the EU Framework Programme, launched by the NCN in cooperation with the foreign research funding agencies (e.g., ERA-NET Co-fund financed from the "Horizon 2020" EU Framework Programme).

Domestic calls



MINIATURA

A call for research activities aimed at supporting researchers in applying for funding of their research projects to the NCN. The call is open to researchers with a PhD degree conferred within 12 years prior to the proposal submission date, who have not acted as the principal investigator in any research project and are not winning applicants of any NCN-funded call for doctoral scholarships or fellowships. Researchers applying for funding must be employed by the applicant pursuant to an employment contract on the proposal submission date.



SONATINA

A call targeted at researchers who earned their PhD within 3 years prior to the proposal submission date. The grant includes full-time employment as a researcher and provides funds for the completion of a research project at the host institution, as well as a 3-6 months fellowship at a foreign research 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 proposal submission date.



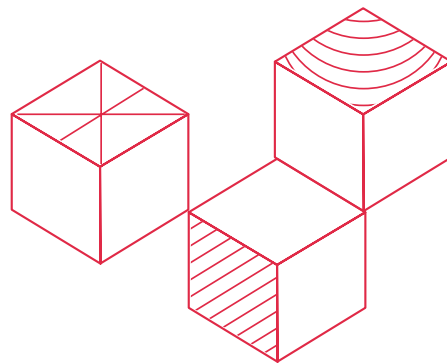
SONATA BIS

A call for research projects that aim to establish a new research team, carried out by researchers with a PhD or higher degree, who earned their PhD between 5 and 12 years prior to the proposal submission date. The call is open to outstanding early-stage researchers intending to establish their own research teams 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 supervisors or academic tutors. The subject of research does not have to be related to the applicant's doctoral dissertation.



MAESTRO

A call targeted at experienced researchers intending 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 at least 5 papers in renowned academic press/journals and coordinated at least two research projects selected in a call for proposals within 10 years prior to the proposal submission date.



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 2024, 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 in its capacity as lead agency in charge of the merit-based evaluation of proposals.

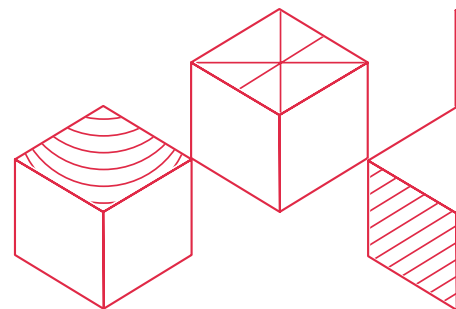
CALLS LAUNCHED IN COOPERATION WITH THE POLISH NATIONAL AGENCY FOR ACADEMIC EXCHANGE

The National Science Centre organises programmes in cooperation with Polish research funding institutions.

The NCN cooperates with the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA) within the framework of the following schemes:

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

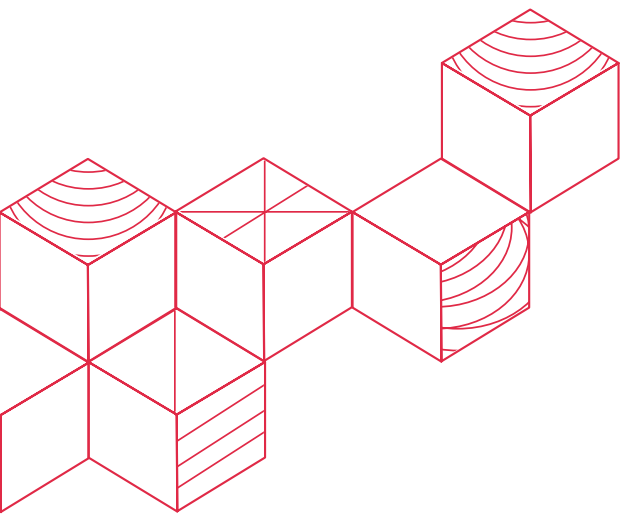
Under the schemes, the NAWA covers the costs of employment of researchers and project team members, their adaptation, workplace organisation and relocation to Poland. The NCN funds the so-called research components carried out in the first 18 months following the project's start date. The funding covers basic research that can be continued within the framework of larger research projects.



International collaboration

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.

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 NCN also operates the POLONEZ BIS scheme for incoming researchers with the support of Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions COFUND (MSCA).



International networks engaging the National Science Centre

Name	Number of organisations	Number of countries	Research area supported by the network
Biodiversa+	81	40	Conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity
CHANSE	27	24	Humanities and Social Sciences
CHIST-ERA	32	28	Information and communication science and technologies
ForestValue2 (CSA)	14	11	Research, development and innovation in the forest-based sector
HERA	26	25	Establishing the humanities in the European Research Area, and funding and coordinating transnational research projects in this area
JPIAMR	31	29	Antimicrobial resistance
JPI Urban Europe	25	18	Interdisciplinary research projects responding 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	49	35	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	41	31	Quantum technologies
Solar-Driven Chemistry	6	6	Solar-driven chemistry
Trans-Atlantic Platform (T-AP)	18	13	Humanities and Social Sciences
IMPRESS-U	9	6	Collaboration with researchers from Ukraine and the United States (optionally from Lithuania, Latvia and/or Estonia) to rebuild and strengthen the research potential of Ukraine; Physical Sciences and Engineering, Life Sciences, Social Sciences

International networks coordinated by the National Science Centre



QuantERA is a programme coordinated by the National Science Centre to support the development of quantum technologies. It is implemented by one of the largest networks involved in the development of quantum technologies in the world. QuantERA is highly appreciated by its partners, the European Commission and the scientific community, which is why following the first edition of the programme, it is continued as QuantERA II. The consortium is currently working on a proposal to be submitted to the EU Horizon Europe requesting a grant for continuation of the network as QuantERA III.

In addition to launching calls for research projects performed by international consortia, the purposes of the QuantERA programme include:

- fostering international collaboration between research funding agencies operating in the area of QT,
- mapping of public policies in QT 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,

- dissemination of scientific excellence and ensuring wider participation (widening).

QuantERA programme has a total budget of EUR 123 mln, of which EUR 26.5 mln is paid by the European Commission under the EU Framework Programme Horizon 2020. In the previous four calls launched in 2017, 2019, 2021 and 2023, 101 projects were recommended for funding.



The Collaboration of Humanities and Social Sciences in Europe (CHANSE) is an ERA-Net Co-fund programme supporting research in the area of Humanities and Social Sciences. The CHANSE programme is a result of cooperation between the HERA and NORFACE networks supporting research in Humanities and Social Sciences. EUR 10 mln in the programme budget is co-financed by the EU Horizon 2020 Framework Programme.

CHANSE's goal is to finance high-quality international research projects and inspire collaboration between researchers and various stakeholder groups, e.g., NGOs, cultural institutions, legislators, policymakers, schools, etc. The programme explores new opportunities for international research cooperation and delivers a broad range of academic,

societal and economic impacts within, across and beyond the partner countries.

So far, 3 calls have been launched under the programme: *Transformations: Social and cultural dynamics in the digital age*, in which 26 projects were recommended for funding, of which 12 in cooperation with Polish research teams, as well as *Crisis – Perspectives from the Humanities* in cooperation with HERA, and *Enhancing well-being for the future*, in cooperation with the NORFACE networks. The calls will be concluded in autumn 2024.



The NCN is the national coordinator of the European Biodiversity Partnership: Rescuing Biodiversity to Safeguard Life on Earth (Biodiversa+). It 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 and is a part of the European Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. Biodiversa+ is intending to launch 6 calls for international research projects in the area of biodiversity protection. 3 calls have been launched to date: *BiodivProtect: Supporting the protec-*

tion of biodiversity and ecosystems across land, BiodivMon: Improved transnational monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem change for science and society and BiodivNBS: Nature-based solutions for biodiversity, human well-being and transformative change. The next call for proposals will be launched in September 2024.

The Partnership has set also other ambitions goals and focuses, in particular, on:

- 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 an 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 a total budget of EUR 800 mln, will continue for a period of 7 years.

Multilateral calls in 2024: launched and expected

Area	Programme	Subject-matter	Call for proposals	Pre-proposal submission deadline	Full proposal submission deadline
NZ – Life Sciences	JPcofuND2 (JPND, Call 2024)	<i>Mechanisms and measurement of disease progression in the early phase of neurodegenerative diseases</i>	4 January 2024	5 March 2024	25 June 2024
	BiodivTransform (Biodiversa+)	<i>Supporting societal transformation for the sustainable use and management of biodiversity</i>	September 2024	November 2024	April 2025
	BiodivNBS (Biodiversa+)	<i>Nature-based solutions for biodiversity, human well-being and transformative change</i>	11 September 2023	10 November 2023	9 April 2024
	JPIAMR-ACTION (JPI AMR, Call 2024)	<i>Interventions Moving forward to Promote ACTION to counteract the emergence and spread of bacterial and fungal resistance and to improve treatments (IMPACT)</i>	10 January 2024	14 March 2024	9 July 2024
ST – Physical Sciences and Engineering	CHIST-ERA IV (Call 2023)	<i>Multidimensional Geographic Information Systems (MultiGIS)</i> <i>Smart Contracts for Digital Transformation Ecosystems (SmartC)</i>	6 January 2024	–	10 April 2024
	M-ERA.NET 3 (Call 2024)	<i>Sustainable advanced materials for energy</i> <i>Innovative surfaces, coatings and interfaces</i> <i>High performance composites</i> <i>Functional materials</i> <i>Materials addressing environmental challenges</i> <i>Next generation materials for advance electronics</i>	5 March 2024	14 May 2024	20 November 2024



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; 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. Biodiversa+ (agreement No 101052342) is funded by the EU Horizon Europe research and innovation funding programme (Agreement No 101052342).



The National Science Centre participates in 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 competent for one of the research teams participating in the call. Proposals are evaluated alongside other proposals submitted to the call, including domestic ones.

Under the Weave programme, the National Science Centre cooperates with the partner agencies from Austria (Austrian Science Fund, FWF), the Czech Republic (Czech Science Foundation, GACR), Slovenia (Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency, ARIS), Switzerland (Swiss National Science Foundation, SNSF), Germany (German Research Foundation, DFG), Luxembourg (*Luxembourg National Research Fund*, FNR) and Belgium-Flanders (Research Foundation – Flanders, FWO). The Weave programme was created with the support of Science Europe.

Bilateral or trilateral proposals in all academic disciplines can be submitted to the NCN under two calls

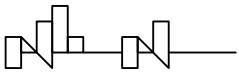
within the framework of the Weave Programme, depending on the institution in the capacity of the lead agency (foreign partner institution or NCN):

- **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, ARIS, SNSF, DFG, FNR or FWO); the call was announced on 4 January 2021;
- **OPUS, launched in the autumn**, for proposals for research projects carried out within the Weave cooperation and evaluated by the NCN as the Lead Agency. OPUS 28 + LAP/Weave will be launched on 16 September 2024.

BILATERAL COOPERATION

The results of the third edition of the DAINA call for Polish-Lithuanian research projects, organised jointly with the Research Council of Lithuania (LMT) will be published in November 2024.

In December, the fourth edition of the SHENG call for Polish and Chinese research projects will be launched. The call is organised jointly with the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC).





Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway grants


Norway
grants

Calls for proposals funded under the EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021

Three calls were launched in the 3rd edition of the Basic Research Programme within the framework of the EEA and Norway Grants:

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

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

Under 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 of PLN 28 mln under the POLLS call.

In 2022, EUR 1.27 mln was awarded from the EEA Financial Mechanism for the predefined polar programme CRIOS (Cryosphere Integrated Observatory Network on Svalbard).

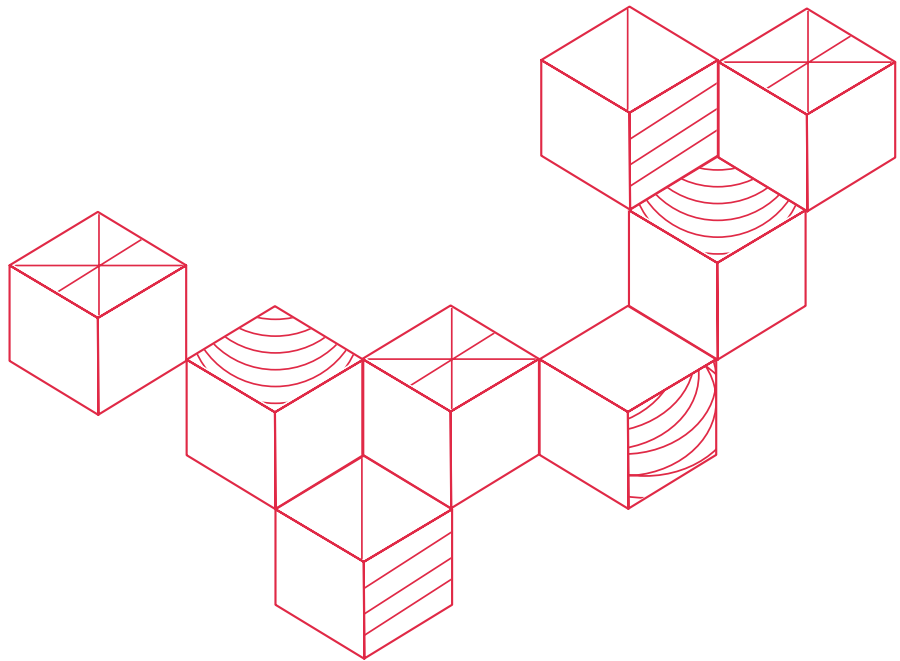
Initiated by the National Science Centre as the Basic Programme operator, a scholarship programme was launched in July 2022, addressed at Ukrainian students and researchers without a PhD degree. The programme was funded from the resources of the bilateral cooperation fund, of which PLN 2.18 mln was designated for scholarships for 37 Ukrainian students and early-stage researchers.

The pre-defined polar initiative *HarSval Bilateral aiming at harmonisation of the Svalbard cooperation*, with funds of EUR 1.58 mln awarded in 2024, is yet another activity within the framework of the Bilateral Cooperation Funds.

DIOSCURI







In collaboration with the German Max Planck Society (MPG), the National Science Centre has devised the DIOSCURI programme to support the development of Centres of Scientific Excellence in Poland. In four editions of the call, eight Dioscuri Centres were established at the Polish host institutions specialising in various academic disciplines. Each new Dioscuri Centre cooperates with a German research partner and is funded by the National Science Centre with resources from the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher

Education and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. Leaders of the Dioscuri Centres form new research teams in host institutions and raise funds for research conducted at their Centres.



Timeline

of 2024 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
IMPRESS-U	call open until 31 December 2025, may be suspended earlier if the total amount of funds set by any partner institution has been depleted		within 12 months of the NCN proposal submission date
 MINIATURA 8	ongoing call, open between 1 February and 31 July		
 OPUS 27 PRELUDIUM 23	15 March	17 June	December 2024
 SONATA BIS 14 MAESTRO 16	17 June	17 September	March 2025
 OPUS 28 + LAP/Weave SONATA 20	16 September	16 December	OPUS 28, SONATA 20 – June 2025 Weave – depends on the time of accepting evaluation results by partner agencies, November 2025
 SONATINA 9	16 December	17 March 2025	SONATINA – September 2025 SHENG – November 2025
 SHENG 4			

NCN experts

NCN experts specialise in their respective fields and are 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.

Experts invited to evaluate proposals and projects funded by the National Science Centre:

- 1. expert team members**, i.e., 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 reviews 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. external experts**, i.e., experts performing individual reviews at the second stage of evaluation;

- 3. members who are not team members**, i.e. experts evaluating the reports on the implementation of grants awarded by the NCN.

In 2023, 2,207 expert team members were appointed who reviewed a total number of more than 10.3 thousand proposals at the first stage of evaluation. 6.7 thousand external experts participated in the second stage of evaluation, delivering over 8.3 thousand reviews. Almost 98% of them were foreign experts, who reviewed 8.3 thousand proposals.

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 procedure

The objective of the National Science Centre is to grant funding to top research projects selected through a two-stage peer review process. Following The NCN Council has established the evaluation criteria based on both the quality of the projects and achievements of the researchers involved.

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

STAGE 1

The proposals are first reviewed by experts working independently. Individual reviews 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 or a list of projects recommended for funding in MINIATURA or PRELUDIUM BIS calls (a single stage merit-based evaluation).

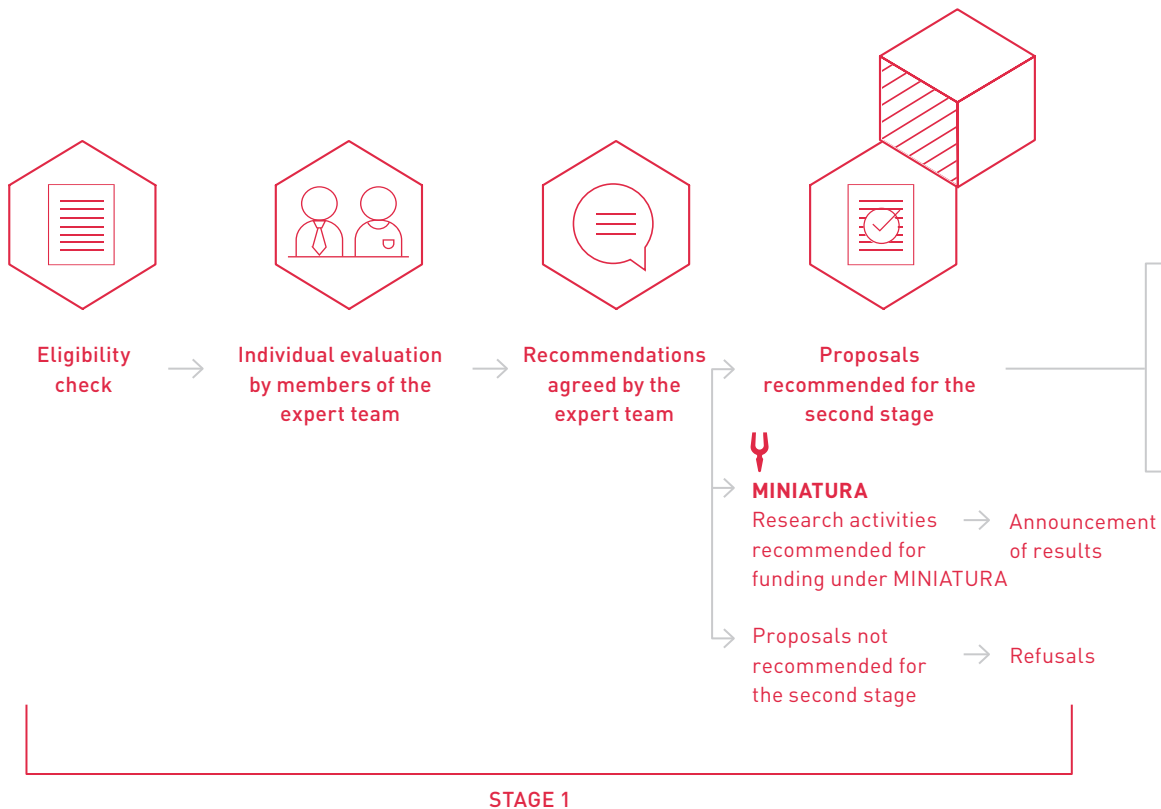
STAGE 2

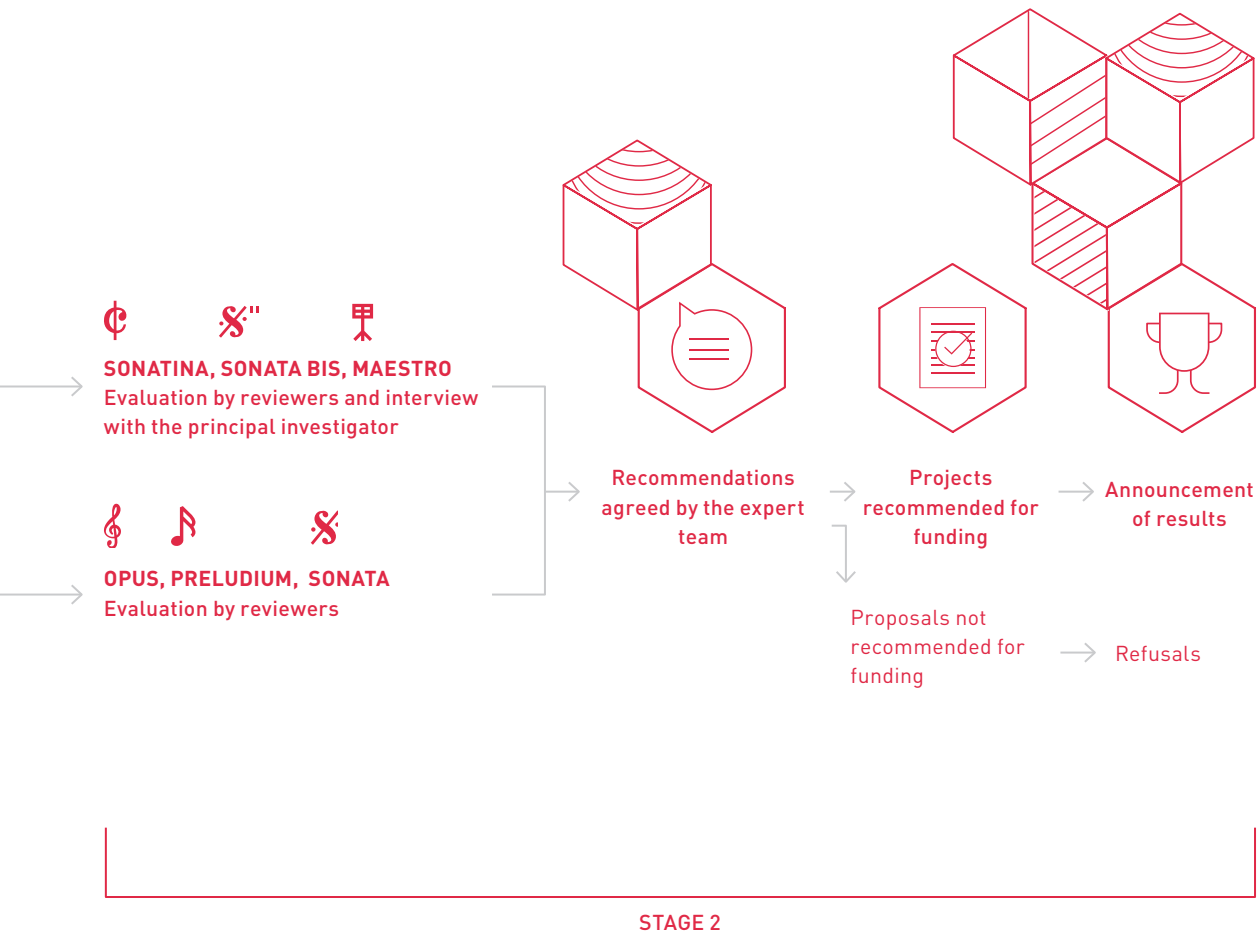
Stage two may be conducted in one of two ways, depending on the type of call. Proposals submitted to the OPUS, PRELUDIUM, SONATINA, SONATA, SONATA BIS and MAESTRO calls are reviewed by at least two, often foreign, experts (reviewers), working independently, whose reviews are later discussed by the expert 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 and MAESTRO calls also includes an interview with the principal investigator.

Expert teams decide on the evaluation of proposals and compile ranking lists specifying proposals recommended for funding.

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 diagram





Early-stage 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, ETIUDA and FUGA calls, under which they do not need to compete against more experienced researchers, are specifically designed for this group. In 2011-2023, a total of 67 calls addressed to early-stage researchers was announced.

NCN supports the development of early-stage researchers by funding their research projects. In NCN calls* concluded in 2023:

32%

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

51%

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

59%

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

* Due to lack of data, the estimate does not include the TANGO call, calls launched with the NAWA, the EXPRESS CALL TO FUND RESEARCH ON COVID-19 as well as the special scheme for Ukrainian researchers.

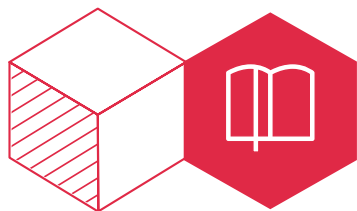
2023 NCN Award



Until 2023, the NCN Award was bestowed on researchers up to 40 years of age for outstanding achievements in basic research, documented with publications affiliated with Polish research institutions. Since 2024, candidates for the Award must be researchers who have been conferred their PhD degree within the past 12 years and have significant research achievements evidenced by publications affiliated with Polish research institutions.

The award was founded by the Council of the National Science Centre in February 2013 and is bestowed by the NCN Director and Council in three research areas: Arts, Humanities and Social sciences; Life Sciences; and Physical Sciences and Engineering.

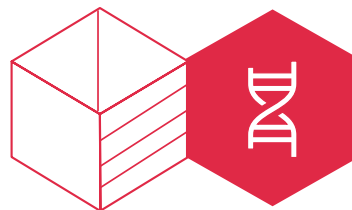
The NCN Award has been awarded eleven times. The 2023 NCN Award ceremony was held on 11 October 2023 at the Gallery of 19th-Century Polish Art in the Sukiennice, a branch of the National Museum in Kraków.



Arts, Humanities and
Social Sciences



Physical Sciences
and Engineering



Life Sciences

NCN Award 2023 Laureates



**ARTS, HUMANITIES
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Dr Karolina Ćwiek-Rogalska

Institute of Slavic Studies, Polish Academy
of Sciences

Scientific achievement:

Defining a new category of resettlement cultures
in the research on post-displacement areas



LIFE SCIENCES

Dr hab. Łukasz Opaliński

Professor at the University of Wrocław

Scientific achievement:

Investigation of the multivalent interactions between fibroblast growth factor receptors and natural and designed ligands for applications in research and medicine



PHYSICAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING

Dr hab. Katharina Boguslawski

Professor at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń

Scientific achievement:

Building a simple and reliable quantum mechanical model of actinide compounds and using quantum information theory to develop innovative methods to study electron structures and track actinide chemical reactions

Examples of funded projects






Norway
grants

Principal Investigator:

Dr hab. Magdalena Wrembel

Professor at Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań

Project title: Across-domain Investigations in Multilingualism: Modeling L3 Acquisition in Diverse Settings (ADIM)

NCN Panel: HS2

Call for proposals: GRIEG, announced on 7 June 2019



Principal Investigator:

Prof. Dr hab. Rafał Weron

Wrocław University of Science and Technology

Project title: Crossing Frontiers in electricity price forecasting (CrossFIT)

NCN Panel: HS4

Call for proposals: MAESTRO 10, announced on 15 June 2018



Principal Investigator:

Mgr Łukasz Suprewicz

Medical University of Białystok

Project title: Extracellular vimentin as a signalling molecule in the pathogenesis of inflammation and central nervous system damage in patients with COVID-19

NCN Panel: NZ6

Call for proposals: PRELUDIUM 21, announced on 15 March 2022



Principal Investigator:

Prof. Dr hab. Ksenia Pazdro

Institute of Oceanology Polish Academy of Sciences

Project title: New approaches in determining the impacts of chemical pollution to protect the biodiversity of the Baltic Sea [Detect2Protect]

NCN Panel: NZ8

Call for proposals: BiodivProtect, announced on 1 October 2021



Principal Investigator:

Dr hab. inż. Robert Bogdanowicz
Gdańsk University of Technology

Project title: Heterogenous diamond biosensing nanoarchitectures: opto-electro-chemical interactions with antibody complexes

NCN Panel: ST7

Call for proposals: OPUS 22, announced on 15 September 2021



Principal Investigator:

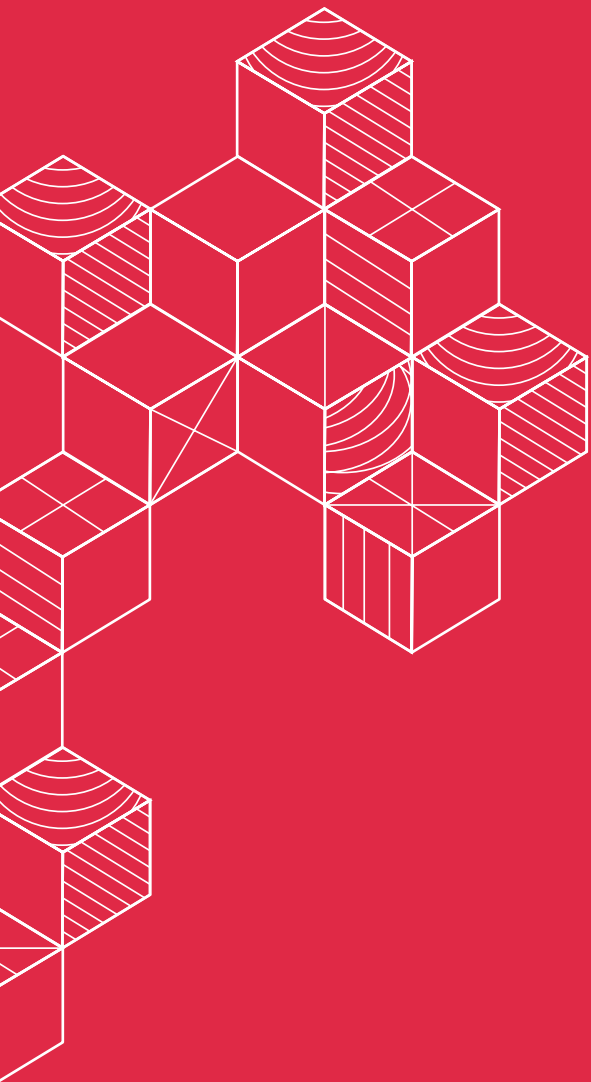
Dr hab. Magdalena Stobińska
Professor at the University of Warsaw

Project title: Photonic Quantum Memristor Networks [PhoMemtor]

NCN Panel: ST5

Call for proposals: QuantERA, announced on 12 March 2021





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2024