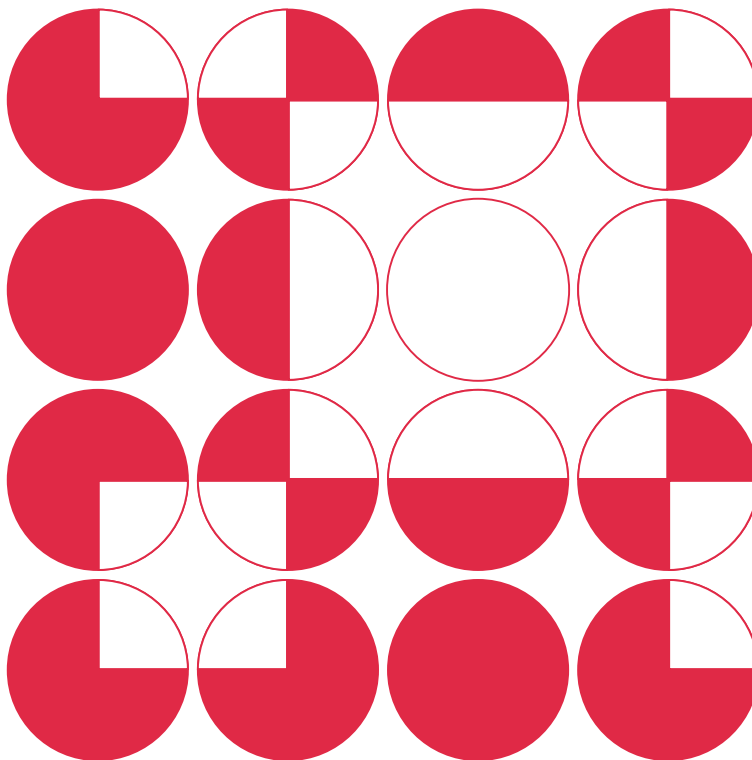




NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE  
POLAND





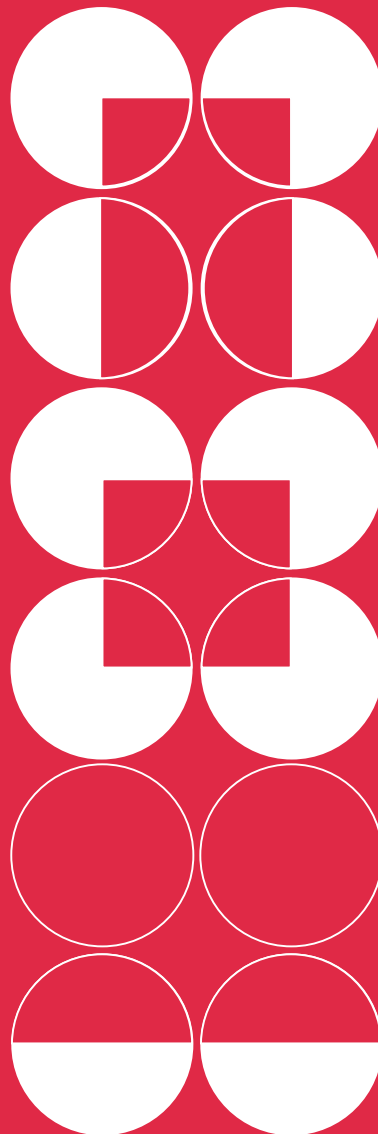
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-  NCN National Science Centre
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# National Science Centre

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 through a competitive grant system and to promote its growing international importance. Thus, the NCN publishes regular calls for research projects and research activities. For 2026, it has a budget of almost PLN 1.68 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

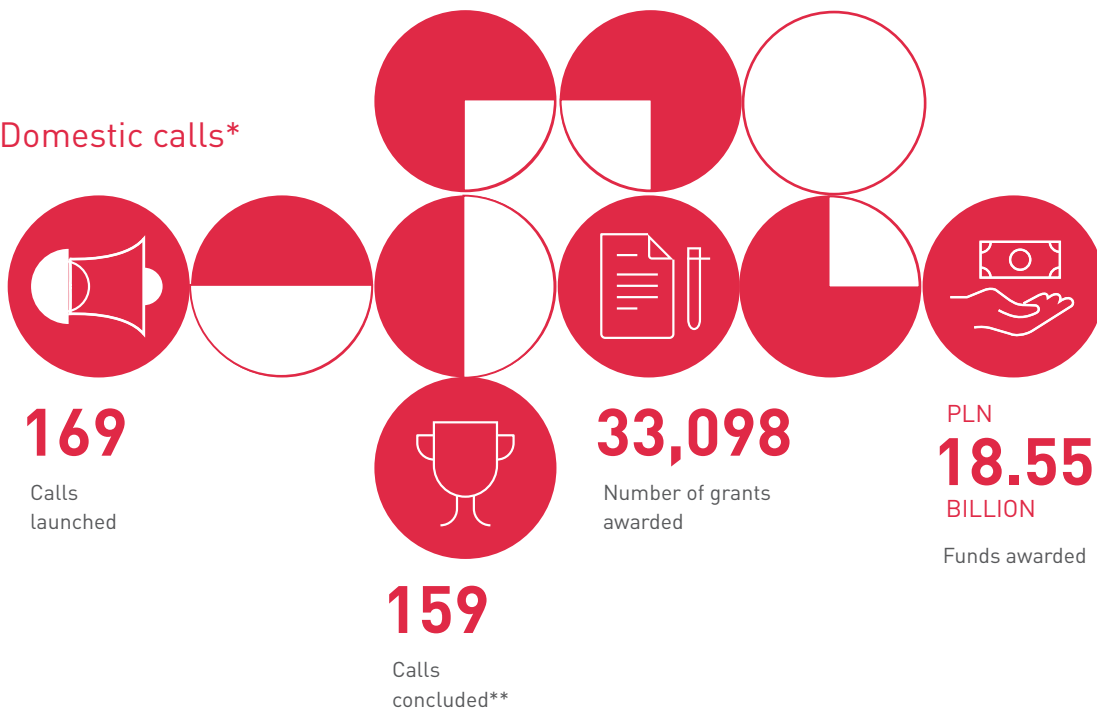
Science and the calls are designed by a Council composed of twenty-four distinguished researchers. The Office of the NCN is managed by the Director.

Furthermore, the National Science Centre funds basic research proposals submitted in cooperation with foreign institutions that support science, coordinates the European Partnership on Social Transformations and Resilience which is being formed within the framework of the EU R&I programme, the QuantERA and CHANSE networks with the support of the EU funds under Horizon 2020, and the European Biodiversity Partnership (Biodiversa+) co-funded by the European Commission. Furthermore, the NCN operates the "Basic Research" programme under the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the EEA and Norway Grants.

# NCN in Figures

March 2011 – December 2025

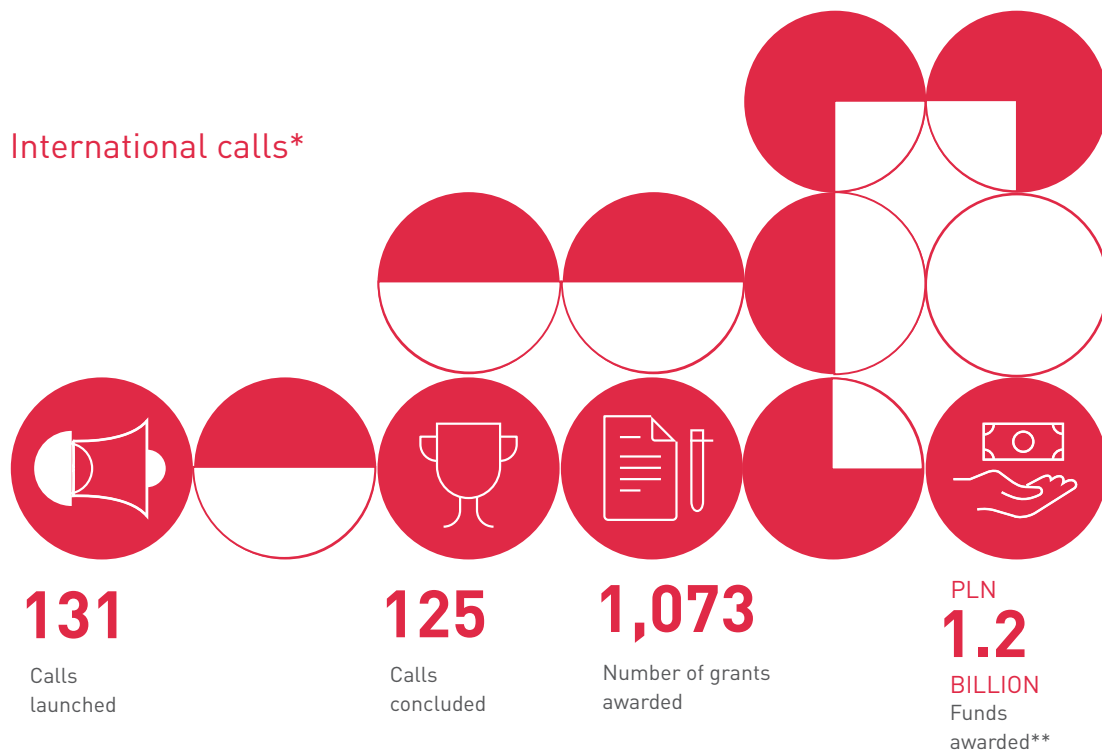
Domestic calls\*



\* 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 2025.

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

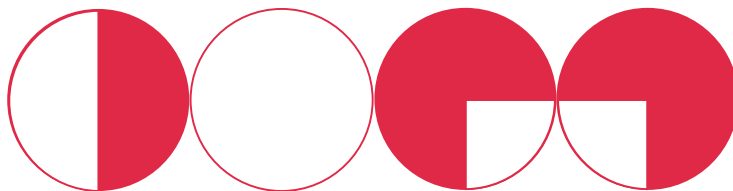
## International calls\*



\* 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. Calls carried out on an ongoing basis, i.e. Weave-UNISONO and IMPRESS-U are not included in the number of concluded calls, although projects funded thereunder are reflected in the total number of awarded grants and total amount of allocated funding.

\*\* The figure includes the contribution of the NCN, the funds provided by the European Commission and grants awarded under the Dioscuri call. The figure includes funding awarded pursuant to the decision, without withdrawals and appeals.

# Organisational Structure



## The NCN Director

The Director manages the National Science Centre, supervises its tasks and financial management and represents it to the outside world.



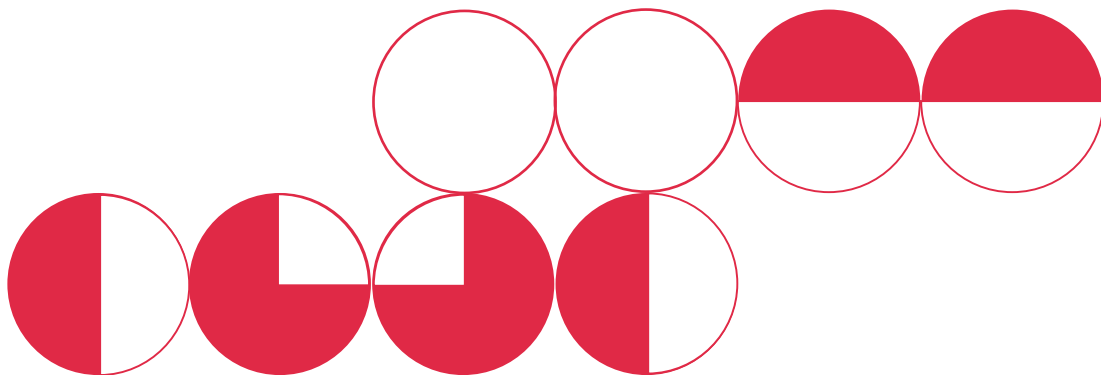
NCN  
MANAGEMENT

## 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.



NCN COUNCIL  
MEMBERS



## 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: Humanities, Social Sciences and Art Sciences, Physical Sciences and Engineering, and Life Sciences.



NCN  
COORDINATORS

## 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.



CONTACT  
NCN OFFICERS

# NCN Calls

The National Science Centre supports basic research conducted within the framework of research projects and research activities selected in a competitive procedure. Calls for proposals are open to all, Polish and foreign researchers irrespective of their age or experience. 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, partnerships and networks (e.g., ERA-NET) that include the National Science Centre as its member.

Proposals may be submitted in three research areas:



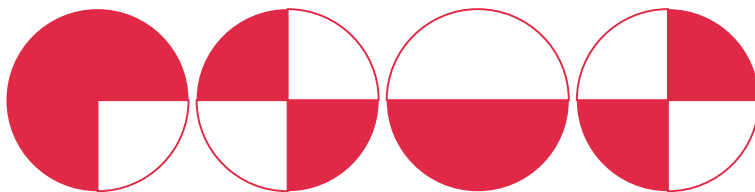
Humanities, Social Sciences  
and Art Sciences



Physical Sciences  
and Engineering



Life Sciences



## 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



SONATA BIS

PRELUDIUM



OPUS

SONATINA



MAESTRO

SONATA



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

- NAWA POLISH RETURNS

## International

### BILATERAL

Calls launched in cooperation with foreign research funding institutions and organisations

SHENG



DAINA

### 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



The terms and conditions of each programme may vary between different editions. The latest information on the calls is published on [www.ncn.gov.pl](http://www.ncn.gov.pl).



## MINIATURA

A call for research activities for the purposes of future research projects that may be carried out in the form of preliminary studies, library and archive searches or research visits. 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.



## PRELUDIUM

A call for research projects carried out by non-PhD holders. Projects are carried out over a period of 1-3

years and are supervised by a research supervisor or a mentor. Projects submitted to the call do not have to be a part of a doctoral dissertation.



## SONATINA

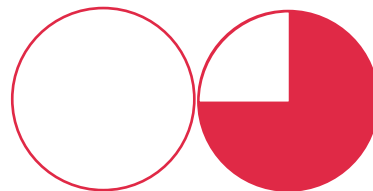
A call for research projects addressed to researchers who earned their PhD within 3 years prior to the proposal submission date. The call includes full-time employment as a researcher. Winners are granted funds for research projects carried out at their place of employment and for fellowships at a foreign research institution.



## SONATA

A call for research projects carried out by researchers with a PhD degree conferred within 2 to 7 years before the proposal submission year. The purpose of the call is to support principal investigators in their

basic research projects, sometimes involving modern equipment and/or methodology.



## SONATA BIS

A call for research projects aimed to create a new research team carried out by researchers with an academic degree or title, whose PhD was conferred within 5 to 12 years before the proposal submission year. It is addressed to outstanding early-career researchers intending to create their own research teams to carry out pioneering research projects.



## 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 2026, we will launch the 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 Bel-

gium-Flanders. Research projects will be 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.



## MAESTRO

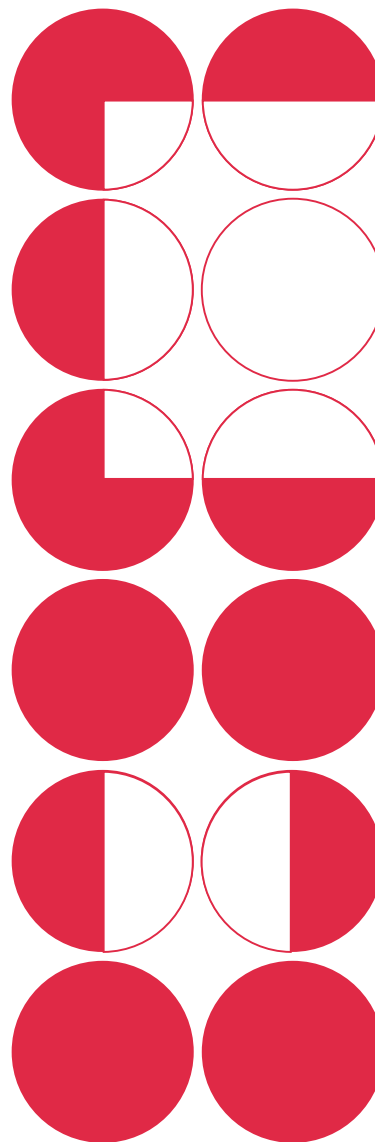
A call targeted at experienced researchers intending to conduct pioneering research projects, often with an interdisciplinary perspective, which are essential for scientific progress, expand the current state of knowledge and may likely lead to significant scientific discoveries. The call is open to 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.

## **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 NAWA Polish Returns call (as of the third edition) targeted at Polish researchers working abroad, who wish to return to Poland and work in Polish research centres.

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.



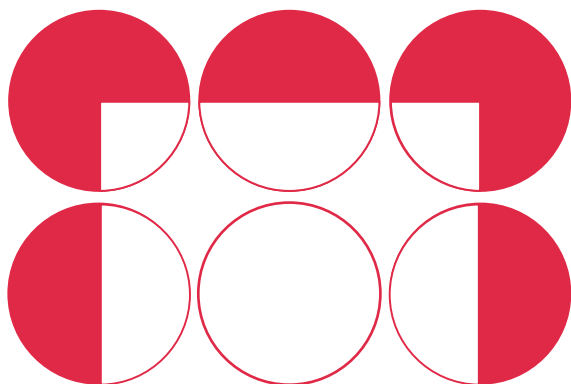
# International Collaboration



NCN's statutory tasks include internationalisation of research. Ever since its inception, the National Science Centre has collaborated with foreign research funding agencies to launch joint calls for international research projects to promote Polish researchers' cooperation with foreign partners.

The National Science Centre also cooperates with other agencies to shape the European research policy and engages in the operations of Science Europe, efforts to promote open access to research data (the European Open Science Cloud) and 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 to support incoming researchers with the support of Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions COFUND (MSCA).



# International networks engaging the National Science Centre in 2026 and 2027

| Name                           | Number of organisations                | Number of countries                    | Research area supported by the network                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Biodiversa+                    | 83                                     | 41                                     | Conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity                                                                                              |
| OHAMR                          | 53                                     | 30                                     | Antimicrobial resistance                                                                                                                             |
| M-ERA.NET                      | 49                                     | 35                                     | Materials science and engineering, low carbon energy technologies and materials for future batteries technologies supporting the European Green Deal |
| QuantERA                       | 42                                     | 32                                     | Quantum technologies                                                                                                                                 |
| Trans-Atlantic Platform (T-AP) | 16                                     | 12                                     | Humanities and Social Sciences                                                                                                                       |
| LUKE                           | 20                                     | 13                                     | Unlocking and strengthening Ukrainian research capacity                                                                                              |
| WEAVE                          | 12 (NCN – cooperation with 7 agencies) | 11 (NCN – cooperation with 7 agencies) | All research areas                                                                                                                                   |

## International networks coordinated by the National Science Centre



The QuantERA programme coordinated by the National Science Centre associates research-funding agencies from over 30 countries, creating one of the largest networks supporting the development of quantum technologies in Europe and beyond. QuantERA is highly regarded by its partners, the European Commission and scientific environment, which is why it has already been launched three times.

QuantERA aims to organise calls for research projects carried out by international research consortia. Since 2017, 101 projects have been awarded under QuantERA calls, which have been implemented by 544 research teams, including 37 teams from Poland. The fifth QuantERA Call 2025, which received a record number of 287 international proposals, will be concluded in 2026. The consortium will discuss the organisation of another call in the future.

QuantERA actively operates in many fields, thereby increasing the reach, impact and prestige of the Programme that supports scientific excellence by project funding, promotion of science and innovation, and presentation of research results. Partners from the

Widening Countries are encouraged to engage in scientific collaboration with research centres that have been more successful in the Framework Programmes. The Programme continues to promote greater female representation in research consortia.



CHANSE (Collaboration of Humanities and Social Sciences in Europe) is an ERA-Net Co-funded programme coordinated by NCN (2021-2026). The CHANSE Consortium has received EUR 10 million from the European Union's Horizon 2020.

In three CHANSE calls, funding has been awarded to 46 projects, including 18 projects involving Polish researchers. The CHANSE-funded research projects involved 225 research teams, whose principles and achievements have been described on [projects' individual websites](#), in catalogues and in the publication "[Stories of Change](#)".

## Other international programmes

On a national level, the National Science Centre coordinates two European Partnerships associating various organisations that support selected research fields. NCN participates in the calls for research projects that each Partnership launches once a year, and funds projects covering a wide range of basic and applied research.



The European Biodiversity Partnership 'Rescuing Biodiversity to Safeguard Life on Earth (Biodiversa+) is a European platform for national and regional research and innovation programmes aimed at protecting and enhancing biodiversity.

Biodiversa+ aims to connect science, policy and practice for transformative changes and is a part of the European Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. The Biodiversa+ partnership has launched 4 calls for international research projects in which funding has been awarded to 103 projects, including 18 with Polish participation.

Biodiversa+ was funded by the European Commission under Horizon Europe – EU's funding programme for research and innovation.



The EUP OH AMR is a 10 year programme (2025-2035) that brings together 53 organisations from 30 countries under the Horizon Europe Programme, coordinating and providing joint support to research and innovation with a One Health interdisciplinary approach to address the challenges of antimicrobial resistance.

The EUP OH AMR is expected to launch six calls for international research projects to develop new innovative methods of antimicrobial treatment.



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 com-

petent 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.

## BILATERAL COOPERATION

The National Science Centre launches regular calls for bilateral cooperation with the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and the Research Council of Lithuania (LMT).

DAINA calls for Polish-Lithuania research projects are open to all research fields. Since 2017, NCN launched three calls for proposals in collaboration with LMT. The fourth edition of the call was launched on 15 June 2026 and will remain open until 22 September 2026. The call is expected to be completed in March 2027.

4 Polish-Chinese SHENG calls for proposals have been launched since 2018, when the first one was organised. Every two years, a call is announced for selected panels in physical sciences and engineering as well as economic and related sciences, followed by a call for other panels of physical sciences, life sciences and selected panels of psychology and social sciences. Proposals undergo a merit-based evaluation performed by the NCN and the NSFC acting independently, and successful proposals are recommended for funding. NCN and NSFC are discussing launching another SHENG call at the end of 2026 and beginning of 2027.



## DIOSCURI

DIOSCURI is a programme devised by the Max Planck Society (MPG) and the National Science Centre to establish and monitor Centres of Scientific Excellence in Poland. The programme promotes balanced distribution of scientific excellence in the European Economic Area (EEA).

In the four calls completed to date, eight DioscURI Centres have been established at the Polish host institutions with different specialisation. Each Centre cooperates with the German research partner and is financed by the National Science Centre through funding provided by the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education and MPG through funding provided by the German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space. Leaders of the DioscURI Centres of Scientific Excellence establish outstanding internationally competitive research teams in the host institutions and secure research funding within their Centres.

In 2026, the National Science Centre and the Max Planck Society will invite outstanding researchers to establish two international DioscURI Centres of Scientific Excellence, the scientific impact of which

will extend to at least two out of three research areas: Humanities, Social Sciences and Art Sciences; Life Sciences; and Physical Sciences and Engineering.



## FULBRIGHT SENIOR AWARD – RESEARCH COMPONENT

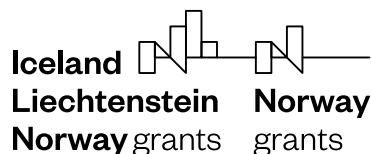
The Fulbright Senior Award is organised by the Polish-American Fulbright Committee. Fulbright Senior Award fellows can continue cooperation with US researchers upon their return to Poland, owing to the NCN funding. Applicants submitting basic research projects to the Fulbright Senior Award can request funding of the so-called “research component” once they finish their Fulbright fellowship and return to their home institutions. In performing a research component, scientists can continue cooperation with their US partners in the form of joint visits, visits to the partner institutions, hosting their representatives, promoting projects and their results, etc.

## SOCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS AND RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP

In 2025, the National Science Centre was appointed coordinator of the European Partnership on Social Transformations and Resilience (STR). The purpose of the STR Partnership is to address critical societal challenges, including climate change, demography shifts, digitalisation and unexpected shocks, development of knowledge and tools to address contemporary social challenges in a collaborative, inter- and trans-disciplinary and systematic way. The STR Partnership will foster evidence-based policy in four impact areas:

- supporting the modernisation of social protection systems and essential services,
- shaping the future of work,
- fostering education and skills development, and
- contributing to a fair transition to climate neutrality.

The Partnership will be officially launched in 2027 and will operate for a period of 7 to 10 years. The Partnership will launch annual calls for international research projects in its four impact areas, and will implement training programmes, workshops and events promoting collaboration between academic actors and a wide range of stakeholders, including public policymakers, business, NGOs and social partners. Actions will be taken to promote open science, open data and access thereto, as well as the use of research infrastructure.



## EEA AND NORWAY GRANTS 2021-2028

NCN is once again the Basic Research Programme operator under the fourth edition of the EEA and Norway Grants 2021-2028. The Programme supports basic research in all research domains, structured around three overreaching priorities of the current edition: green transition, democracy, rule of law and human rights, and social inclusion and resilience. Each research project must fall within at least one of them. The programme supports research in social sciences and humanities, polar research as well as interdisciplinary and cross-domain cooperation. A major emphasis is also placed on the increased participation of early-career researchers and female researchers in the international research environment, including strengthening their competencies as research team leaders. The development of research cooperation with entities from Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein is also emphasised.

The future calls and initiatives:

- **GRIEG BIS call** for bilateral research projects in all research domains. The call promotes projects addressing the challenges of the contemporary world, with particular emphasis on international cooperation and interdisciplinarity;

- **Coordination & Capacity (C&C)** Kick-off call to support the formation of international and interdisciplinary research teams and enable the development of proposals for the upcoming LANGSPIL call;
- **LANGSPIL – INTERDISCIPLINARY:** call for interdisciplinary research projects combining various research domains to better understand and address complex social and environmental challenges.
- **C&C Follow-up:** call to support the use and dissemination of research findings, including cooperation with the stakeholders and measures to support the social, economic and environmental impact of research;
- **Pre-defined polar research project** to strengthen international cooperation and polar research development, with a particular focus on the partnerships with donor countries.

Under GRIEG BIS and LANGSPIL, NCN will support initiatives aimed at strengthening the synergy with the EU Framework Programmes, European Partnerships (such as the NCN-coordinated European Partnership on Social Transformations and Resilience) and research initiatives carried out in other beneficiary countries of the EEA and Norway Grants.



## THE EUROPEAN OPEN SCIENCE CLOUD (EOSC)

The European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) is a European Partnership formed by the European Commission and the EOSC Association with one of its main objectives being the formation of the EOSC Federation — an infrastructure connecting European research resources, including data, services and tools. The Federation means that resources are not collected in a single location but remain with their custodians. Through common standards, interoperative solutions and user-friendly interconnected platforms developed by national and thematic Nodes, the resources are meant to be easily accessible to researchers across borders and disciplines.

NCN has coordinated Polish EOSC-related operations since 2021. The NCN representative represents Poland in the EOSC Steering Board which is an expert group of the European Commission to advise on EU policy that associates representatives of the Member States and associated countries, and in the EOSC Association as the national representative organisation. Since 2025, NCN has coordinated the Polish EOSC National Node that contributes to the EOSC Federation.

## eOSC Node | Poland

### THE EOSC-PL NOD

The EOSC-PL Nod is formed through close cooperation of NCN, ACK Cyfronet AGH, the Interdisciplinary Centre for Mathematical and Computational Modelling at University of Warsaw, the Institute of Oceanology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and the Gdańsk University of Technology. In 2025, the EOSC-PL Nod was appointed to take part in the pilot stage of the establishment of the EOSC Federation, under which it has cooperated with national nodes from other European countries, such as Germany, Slovenia, the Netherlands, Finland and Italy, and with the thematic Nodes, such as CERN, BBMRI, Digital Twin Ocean and Life Science Research Infrastructures. EOSC-PL aims to develop the national access points to EOSC services, integrate Polish resources and services into the Federation, and support the interoperability of data and research tools.

More information:



Domestic  
activity



EOSC  
Federation



EOSC-PL  
Nod platform



Use of eosdc.pl resources  
(example – demo)

## eOSC | GRAVITY

### EOSC Gravity

The National Science Centre is also a partner of the Horizon Europe [EOSC Gravity](#) aimed to develop the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC). The project supports the development of a new EOSC governance model in the context of the EOSC Federation, by strengthening cooperation between institutions, INFRAEOSC projects and stakeholders. NCN plays an important role in the consortium, contributing both its expertise and organisational support. NCN coordinates Pillar 5 “Monitoring, Reporting, Impact”, and is responsible for coordinating EOSC Partnership-level activities related to progress monitoring, results reporting and assessing the impact of EOSC. NCN supports the participation of national communities and stakeholders in the development of the EOSC Federation, and participates in the development of the EOSC Academy aimed to strengthen competencies, knowledge exchange and training at European, national and institutional levels.

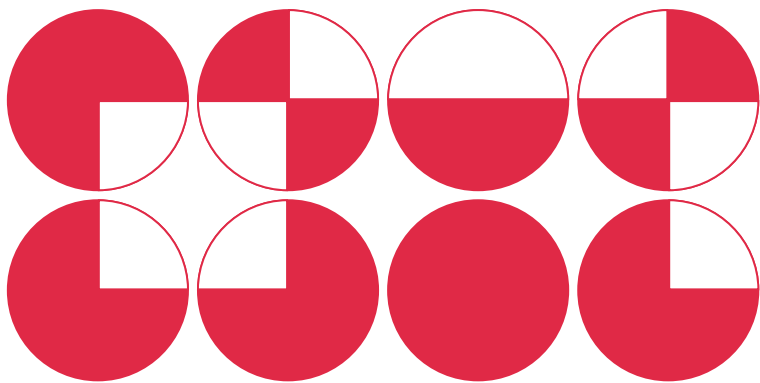
# Call Timeline



Timeline of 2026 domestic  
and international calls:  
bilateral and based on the  
Lead Agency Procedure



Timeline of calls launched by  
international networks and part-  
nerships, with the participation  
of NCN



# 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.

Funding proposals submitted to the NCN are evaluated by Polish and foreign experts' reviewers who are appointed based on their scientific excellence and no conflict of interest.

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

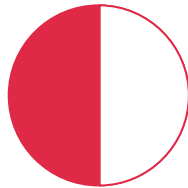
each proposal at meetings and jointly decide on the future of the proposals, e.g. whether or not a proposal will be recommended for funding;

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 2025, 2,092 appointed expert team members reviewed a total number of over 11.2 thousand proposals at the first stage of evaluation. Over 7.5 thousand external experts participated in the second stage of evaluation, delivering over 10 thousand reviews. The percentage of foreign reviews was over 99%.

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.

In 2025



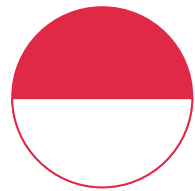
1



**2,092**

expert team members  
were appointed

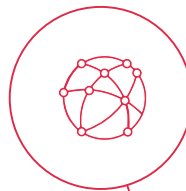
2



who reviewed a total number  
of almost

**11.2 thousand**

proposals at the first  
stage of evaluation



almost

**7.5 thousand**

external experts participated  
in the second stage of evaluation

The percentage of foreign  
reviews was over



**99%**

delivered over

**10 thousand**

reviews

# 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. The NCN Council generally reviews, in carefully considered proportion, both the quality of the project as such, and the 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 call (a single stage merit-based evaluation).

## STAGE 2

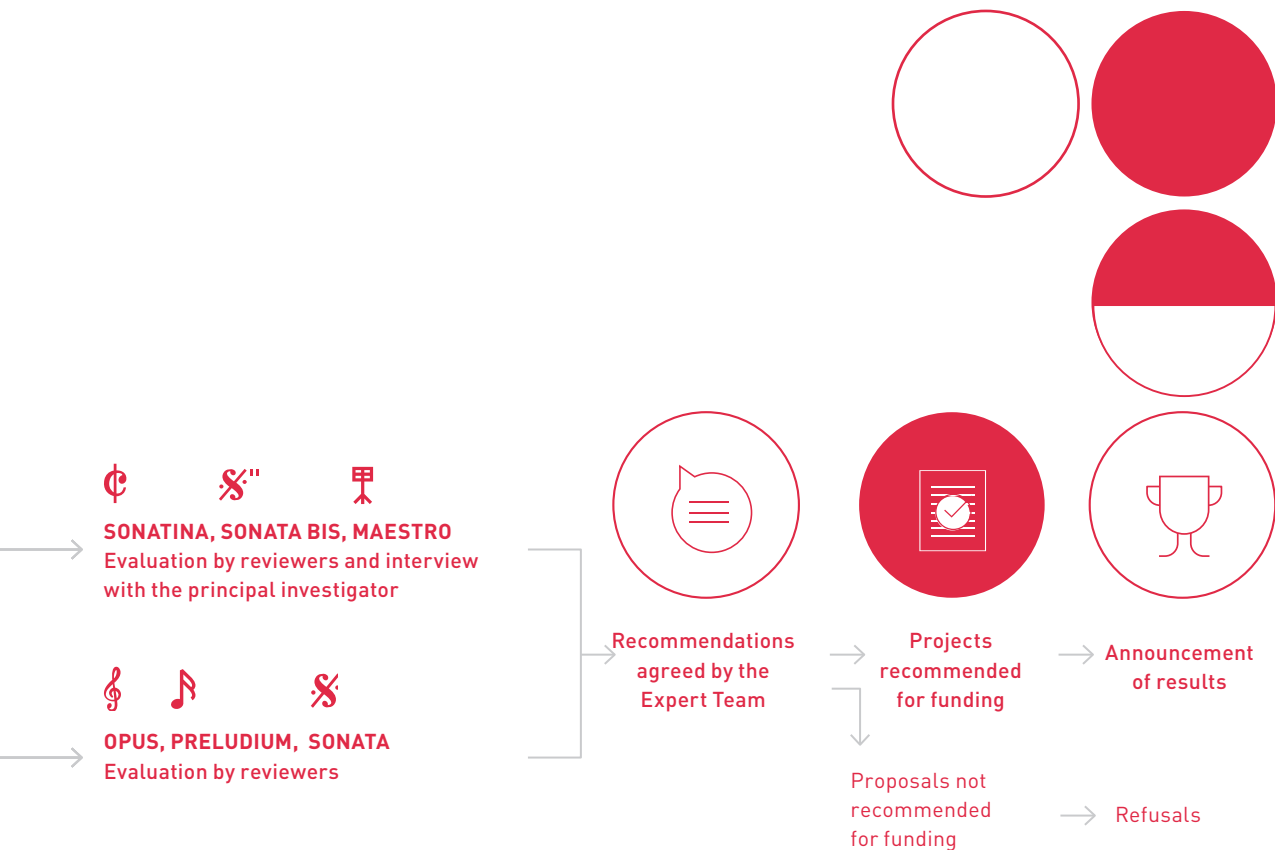
Stage two may be conducted in one of two ways, depending on the type of call. Proposals submitted to the OPUS, PRELUDIUM, SONATINA, SONATA, SONATA BIS and MAESTRO calls are reviewed by at least two, often foreign, experts (reviewers), working independently, whose reviews are later discussed by the expert team during the second panel session. Reviewers 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 also calls 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





## STAGE 2

# Early-Career Researchers

One of the priorities of the National Science Centre is to support the growth of early-career researchers who have not yet earned their PhD, or have done so within the last 7 years. The PRELUDIUM, SONATINA, SONATA calls, under which they can compete against researchers on the same career stage are specifically designed for this group. In 2011-2025, a total of 73 calls addressed to early-career researchers were announced.

**NCN supports the development of early-career researchers by funding their research projects. In NCN calls\* concluded in 2025:**

27%

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

50%

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

55%

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

\*Except for the TANGO call, the EXPRESS CALL TO FUND RESEARCH ON COVID-19 as well as the special scheme allowing researchers from Ukraine to continue research in Poland.

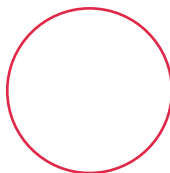
# NCN Award



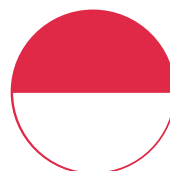
The NCN Award is a distinction for researchers with a PhD degree conferred within the past 12 years and significant research achievements evidenced by publications affiliated with Polish research institutions.

The NCN Award celebration was held thirteen times. On 15 October 2025, the 2025 NCN Award ceremony took place in the Manggha Museum of Japanese Art and Technology.

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: Humanities, Social Sciences and Art Sciences; Life Sciences; and Physical Sciences and Engineering.



Humanities, Social  
Sciences and Art  
Sciences

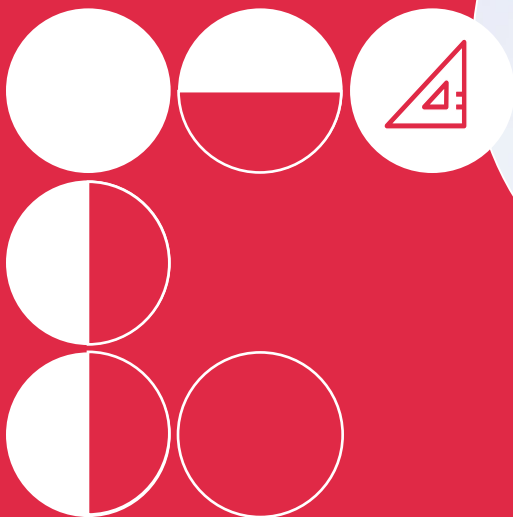


Physical Sciences  
and Engineering



Life  
Sciences

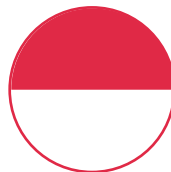
# 2025 NCN Award Winners



## **Bartosz Szyszko**

NCN Award winner in Physical Sciences  
and Engineering.

**Award-winning scientific achievement:** Development and synthesis of next-generation supramolecular compounds acting as receptors, molecular machines, and conformational and stereochemical switches



**Łucja Kowalewska**

NCN Award winner in Life Sciences

**Award-winning scientific achievement:**

Nanomorphology of periodic plastic membrane systems as a source of biological functions and an inspiration for the design of synthetic membrane phases with broad technological applications



**Maciej Stolarski**

NCN Award winner in Humanities, Social Sciences and Art Sciences

**Award-winning scientific achievement:** Research on time perspective as a mechanism of emotional and social (self-)regulation

# Examples of Funded Projects





## ABOUT THE PROJECT

### Principal investigator:

**Margaret Ohia-Nowak**

Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin

**Project title:** Multimodal Racializing Discourses in Polish Large Language Models

**Panel:** HS2

**Call for proposals:** SONATA 20, launched on 16 September 2024



## ABOUT THE PROJECT

### Principal investigator:

**Grigor Sargsyan**

Institute of Mathematics, Polish Academy of Sciences

**Project title:** Forcing Axioms, Inner Models and Determinacy

**Panel:** ST1

**Call for proposals:** MAESTRO 15, launched on 15 June 2023



ABOUT  
THE PROJECT

**Principal investigator:**

**Katarzyna Piwosz**

National Marine Fisheries Research Institute

**Project title:** Eutrophication and AAP Bacteria:  
Changes in the Contribution of AAP Bacteria to  
Microbial Dynamics and Carbon Cycle in Response to  
Trophic Status

**Panel:** NZ8

**Call for proposals:** Weave-UNISONO, launched  
on 4 January 2021



ABOUT  
THE PROJECT

**Principal investigator:**

**Mikotaj Czajkowski**

University of Warsaw

**Project title:** Incentive Compatibility in Stated  
Preference Studies

**Panel:** HS4

**Call for proposals:** OPUS 13, launched  
on 15 March 2017



## ABOUT THE PROJECT

### Principal investigator:

**Agnieszka Józefowska**

University of Agriculture in Krakow

**Project title:** SoilRise: Raising Awareness of Soil Biodiversity and Increasing the Number of Monitored Sites Through Citizen Science (BiodivMon)

**Panel:** ST10

**Call for proposals:** BiodivMon, launched on 8 September 2022



## ABOUT THE PROJECT

### Principal investigator:

**Damian Rolbiecki**

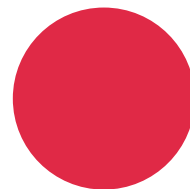
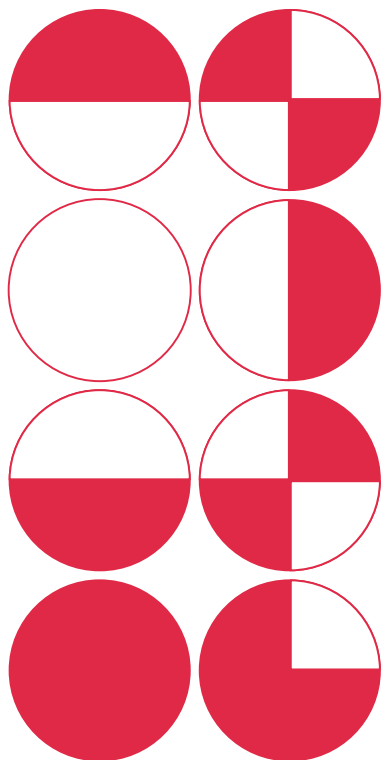
University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn

**Project title:** Hospital Wastewater Metagenome – the Impact of Wastewater Disinfection on the Wastewater Microbiome and Resistome

**Panel:** NZ9

**Call for proposals:** PRELUDIUM 20, launched on 15 March 2021

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**2026**