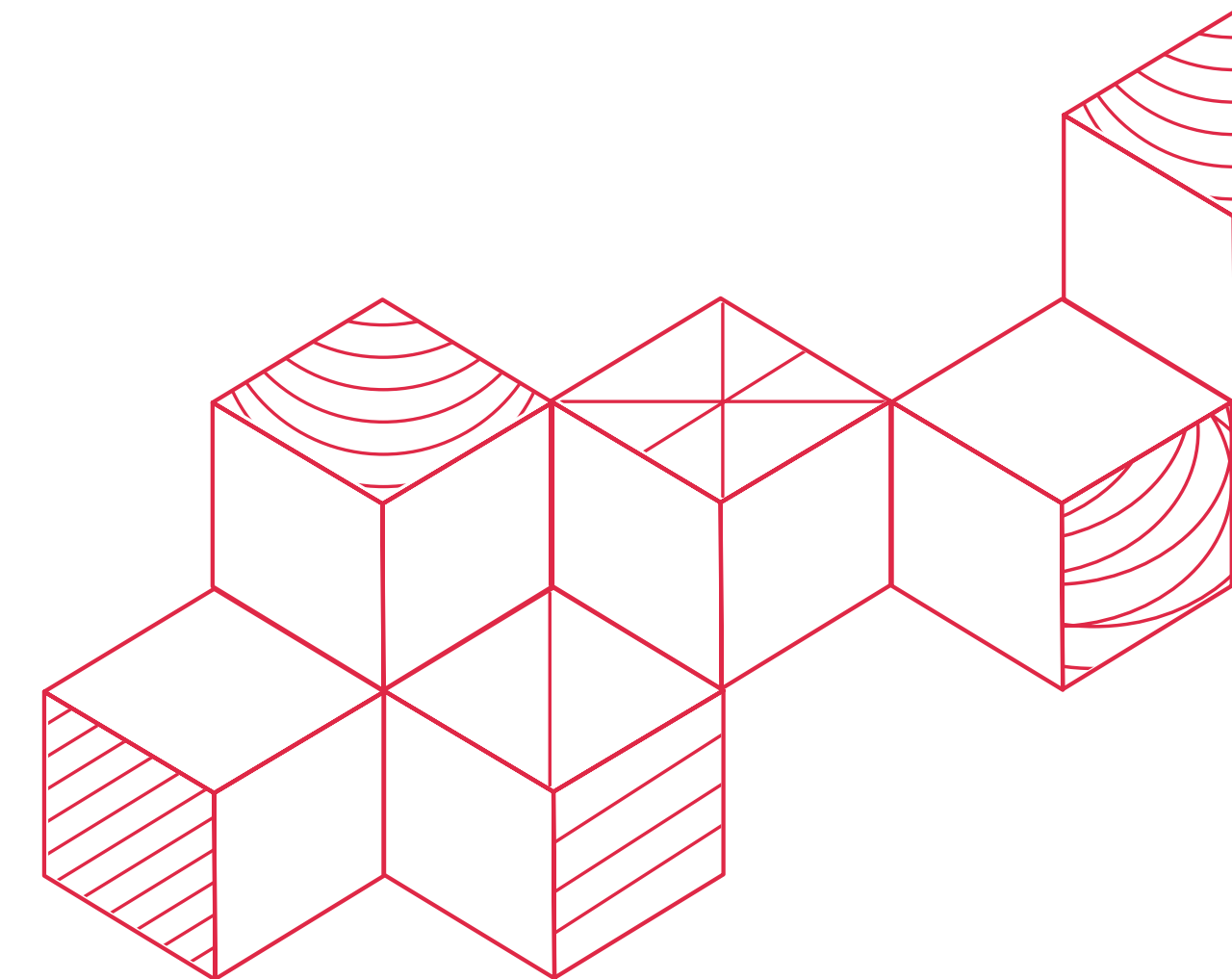


Annual Report 2023



Performing for Polish research



National Science Centre in Poland

ul. Twardowskiego 16
30-312 Kraków
tel. +48 12 341 90 03
e-mail: biuro@ncn.gov.pl
www.ncn.gov.pl

 @NarodoweCentrumNauki

 @ncn_gov_pl

 NCN National Science Centre

 @NCN_PL

 @ncngovpl

Editors: Communications Team

Layout Design and typesetting: PAPER CUT

Photos: Michał Łepecki

#peoplenotbuildings

Basic research
is the essence
of all science

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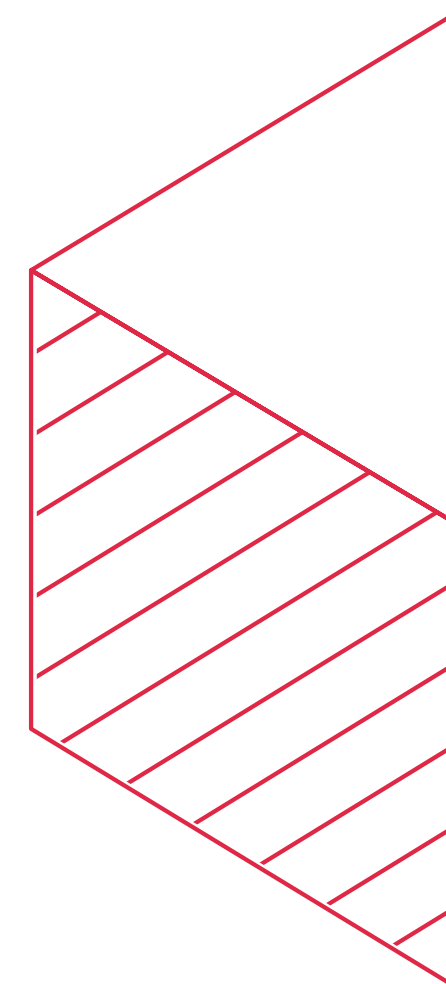
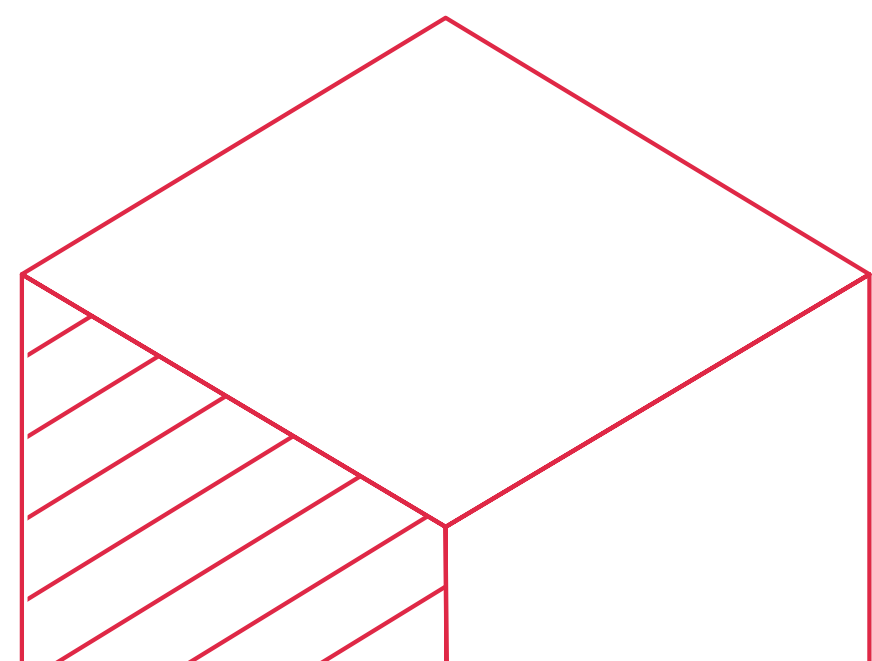
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About the National Science Centre



General information

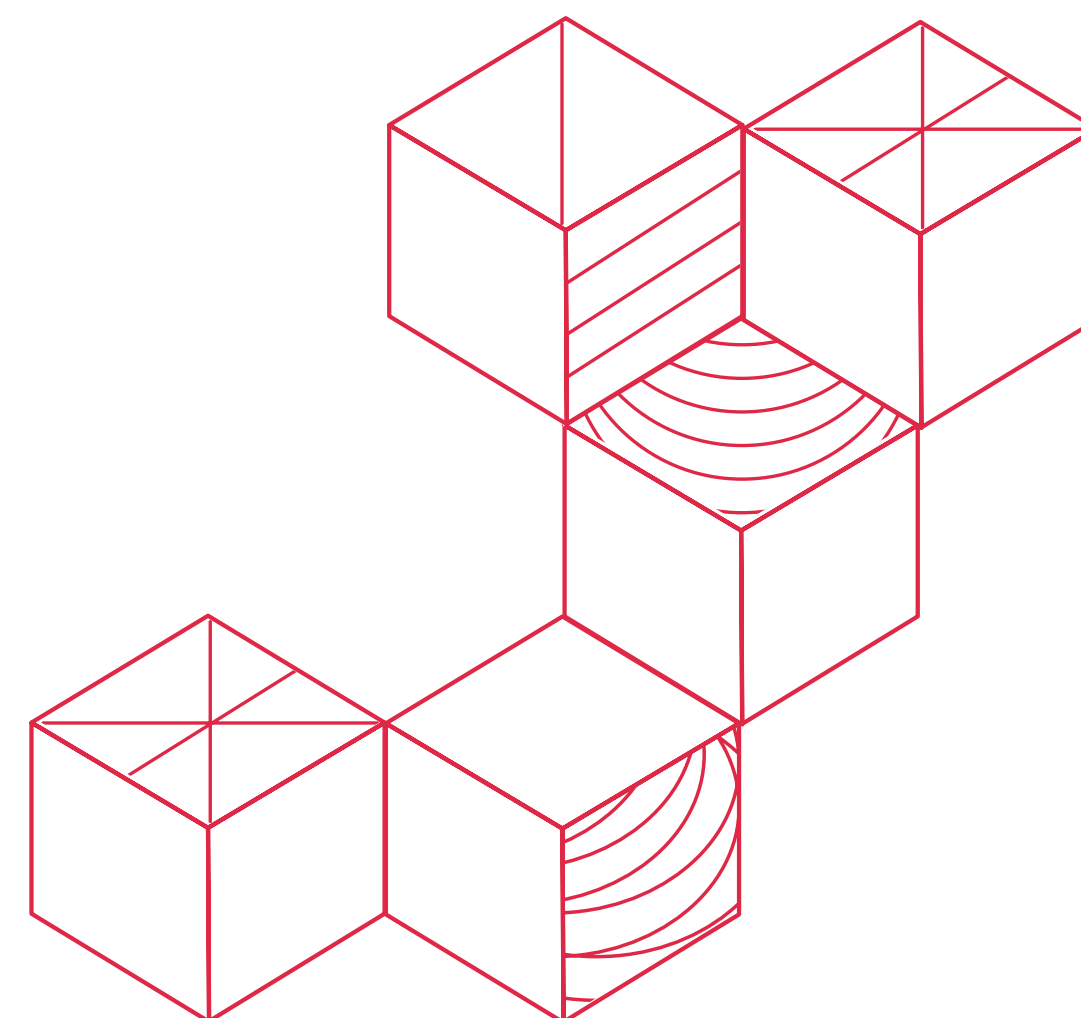
The National Science Centre (NCN) is a government executive agency funding basic research carried out at Polish research institutions. Basic research is defined as empirical or theoretical work seeking to expand knowledge of the fundamentals of phenomena and observable facts without any direct commercial use.

We have a rich offer of calls for proposals to fund projects and single research activities. We also fund fellowships and scholarships. Every researcher, regardless of their age, level of achievement, academic degree or title, or field of interest, will find a funding scheme matching their needs.

The funding is awarded to the best proposals, selected in the course of a two-stage peer review. The expert reviewers evaluate both the quality of the research and the applicant's achievements. We monitor the proper implementation of ongoing grants, we accept and verify annual reports on the projects under implementation and we carry out audits at the host institutions for the projects.

Another area of our activities consists in inspiring funding of basic research from non-state sources, propagating information on the funding opportunities we launch and initiating international cooperation. We are a co-ordinator of the QuantERA programme – a network of 41 agencies funding scientific research in the field of quantum technologies, and CHANSE, a programme organised by 27 institutions that fund research in Humanities and Social Sciences. Both programmes are funded from the resources of the EU Horizon 2020 Programme. We are also the operator of the Research

area in the scope of basic research funded by the EEA and Norway Grants. We also coordinate domestic activities within the framework of the European Biodiversity Partnership – Biodiversa+ co-financed by the European Commission under Horizon Europe.



Mission

Leveraging the quality and effectiveness of research through a competitive grant system and supporting the development of Polish research on the international stage.

Rules

- identifying and funding the best research projects
- global openness of science, internationalisation
- inclusive call portfolio and avoiding imposing research themes
- appreciating young researchers
- impartiality, transparent procedures, strict conflict of interest policy
- independence and political impartiality
- serving the scientific community

Highlights 2023



7 February

release of our [first podcast](#) in a series of talks about the key issues for the scientific community and science in Poland



10-11 May

ninth edition of [the NCN Days in Wrocław](#)



2 August

prestigious [IMPRESS-U call](#) launched, aimed at supporting Ukrainian scientific potential and opening up new opportunities for cooperation between researchers from Poland, Ukraine, the USA and the Baltic states



6-7 November

second [EOSC Festival: The National Tripartite Event Poland](#) held at our headquarters and broadcast online

16 November

[Conference promoting Basic Research Programme](#) financed under the third edition of the EEA and Norway Grants held at our headquarters in Krakow

16 February

[Prof. Krzysztof Józwiak from the Medical University of Lublin](#) nominated as the candidate for NCN Director. The NCN Council passed a resolution to present his nomination to the Minister of Education and Science for approval



19-20 June

[POLONEZ BIS Kick-Off Meeting](#) held at our headquarters in Krakow

1-2 June

[CHANCE Kick-Off Conference](#) in Tallin on Social and Cultural Transformations in the Digital Age



31 October

[Prof. Krzysztof Józwiak](#) appointed NCN Director

11 October

[2023 NCN Awards](#) presented to Katharina Boguslawski, Karolina Cwiek-Rogalska and Łukasz Opaliński at the event in the Krakow Cloth Hall (*Sukiennice*)



30 November - 1 December

over 100 researchers participated in the third and [final POLONEZ BIS Kick-Off Meeting](#)

22-23 November

[Madrid Conference on Quantum Technologies in Europe](#) organised by the QuantERA consortium, the work of which is coordinated by the NCN

NCN Structure

NCN Director

The National Science Centre's executive officer is its director, selected in a competition by the Council of the NCN, and appointed by the Minister of Science and Higher Education. The director is the NCN's representative and is in charge of the NCN's statutory tasks and financial policy. Prof. Dr hab. Zbigniew Błocki served as the NCN Director between March 2015 and March 2023, and continued as acting director until the new director was appointed by the Minister. Prof. Krzysztof Józwiak was appointed NCN Director on 31 October 2023.

NCN Council

The NCN Council is a policy body consisting of twenty-four distinguished researchers representing different academic fields. The Council sets priority areas in basic research, decides on the type of programmes and specifies the call regulations. Its range of competencies also includes electing members of the expert teams responsible for evaluation of proposals.

NCN Office

The NCN Office is composed of departments and teams in three major divisions in charge of organisation, finances and grant management. On a daily basis, the Office is responsible for processing calls for proposals and organising meetings for experts at the peer review evaluation stage. Furthermore, the Office workers provide day-to-day support to the grantees who carry out projects; they manage the process of signing funding agreements, oversee their implementation, initiate international co-operation in the scope of research funding in co-operation with the Council and Coordinators. They also disseminate information among the research community on NCN calls, open science and other tasks requested by the Ministry of Science.

NCN Coordinators

The Coordinators organise the work of the Expert Teams and conduct calls for research projects, making sure that they are correct, impartial and fair. They are selected in an open call and must be at least PhD holders. They work in three groups: Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; Life Sciences; and Physical Sciences and Engineering.

The Coordinators perform eligibility checks of proposals and analyse experts' reviews to make sure that they are accurate and impartial. They cooperate with the NCN Council on research policy matters. The Coordinators organise information meetings and training courses for potential applicants to disseminate information on the calls for proposals among the research community.

NCN Council in 2022-2023

Prof. Dr hab. Robert Hasterok – President of the Council

Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (HS)

Prof. Dr hab. Krystyna Bartol

Prof. Dr hab. Wojciech Dajczak

Prof. Dr hab. Justyna Chodkowska-Miszczuk

Prof. Dr hab. Piotr Kopiec

Dr Diana Dajnowicz-Piesiecka

Dr hab. Joanna Golińska-Pilarek

Prof. Dr hab. Mariola Łaguna

Dr hab. Bogusław Przywora

Rev. Prof. Dr hab. Piotr Roszak

Dr hab. Bogumił Szady

Prof. Dr hab. Tomasz Zaleśkiewicz

Physical Sciences and Engineering (ST)

Prof. Dr hab. Tomasz Dietl (from 8.03.2023)

Prof. Dr hab. Stefan Dziembowski

Dr hab. inż. Krzysztof Fic

Prof. Dr hab. Grzegorz Karch

Dr hab. inż. Alicja Kazek-Kęsik

Prof. Dr hab. Bronisław Rudak

Life Sciences (NZ)

Prof. Dr hab. inż. Monika Kaczmarek

Prof. Dr inż. Stanisław Karpiński

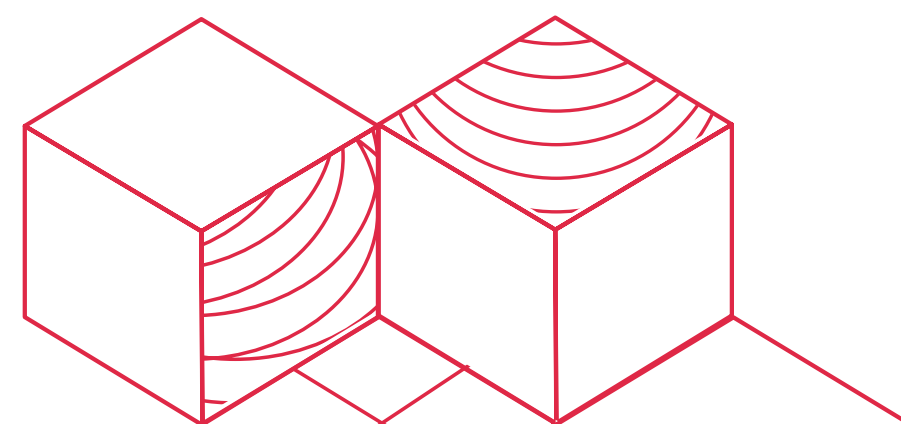
Prof. Dr hab. inż. Barbara Klajnert-Maculewicz

Dr hab. inż. Krystian Marszałek

Prof. Dr hab. n. med. Piotr Skarżyński

Prof. Dr hab. n. med. Anetta Undas

Prof. Dr hab. Adam Zając (until 12.01.2023)



NCN Structure

National Science Centre's Council

NCN Director
NCN Deputy Director

Organisational Division

supervised by head of Administration Department

- Administration Department
- IT Team
- ICT Systems Analyst
- Communications Team

Financial Division

supervised by Chief Accounting Officer

- Finance and Accounting Department

┌ Finance Team
└ Accounting Team

- Project Monitoring Department
- Audit and Compliance Team
- Independent position: Controlling Officer

Project Division

supervised by Deputy Director

- Research Projects Administration Department

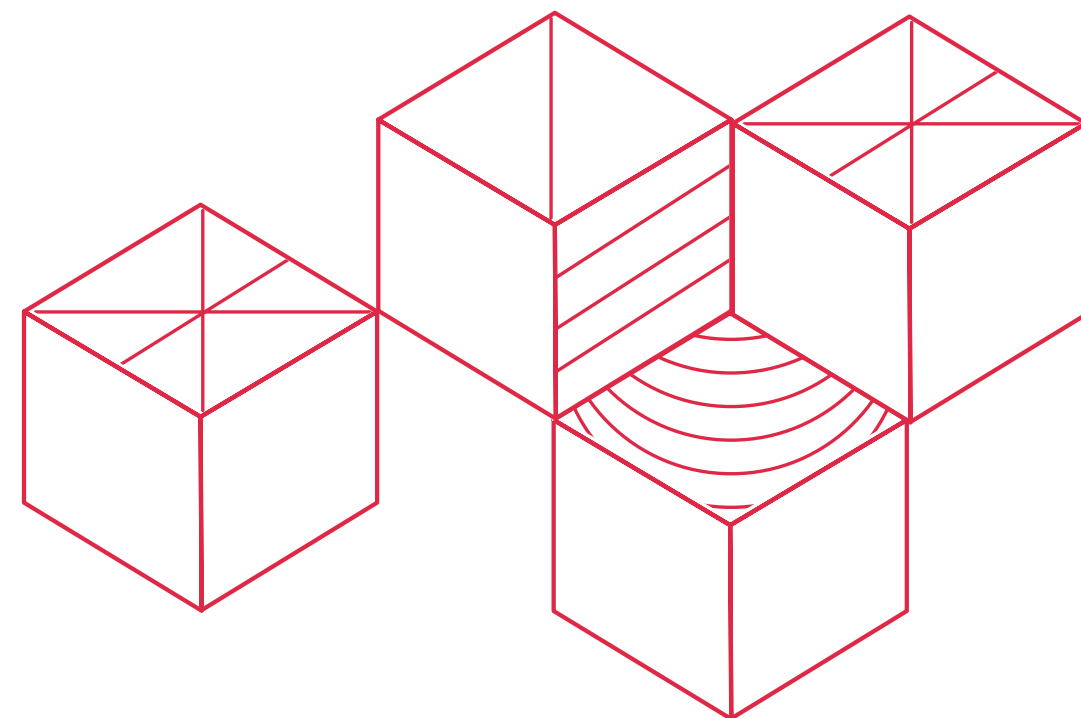
┌ The Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
├ The Physical Sciences and Engineering
└ The Life Sciences

- Proposal Processing Department
- International Cooperation Department
- Evaluation Team
- Expert Support Team
- Electronic Submission System Team
- EEA and Norway Grants Team
- Open Science Team
- Commissioner for State Aid

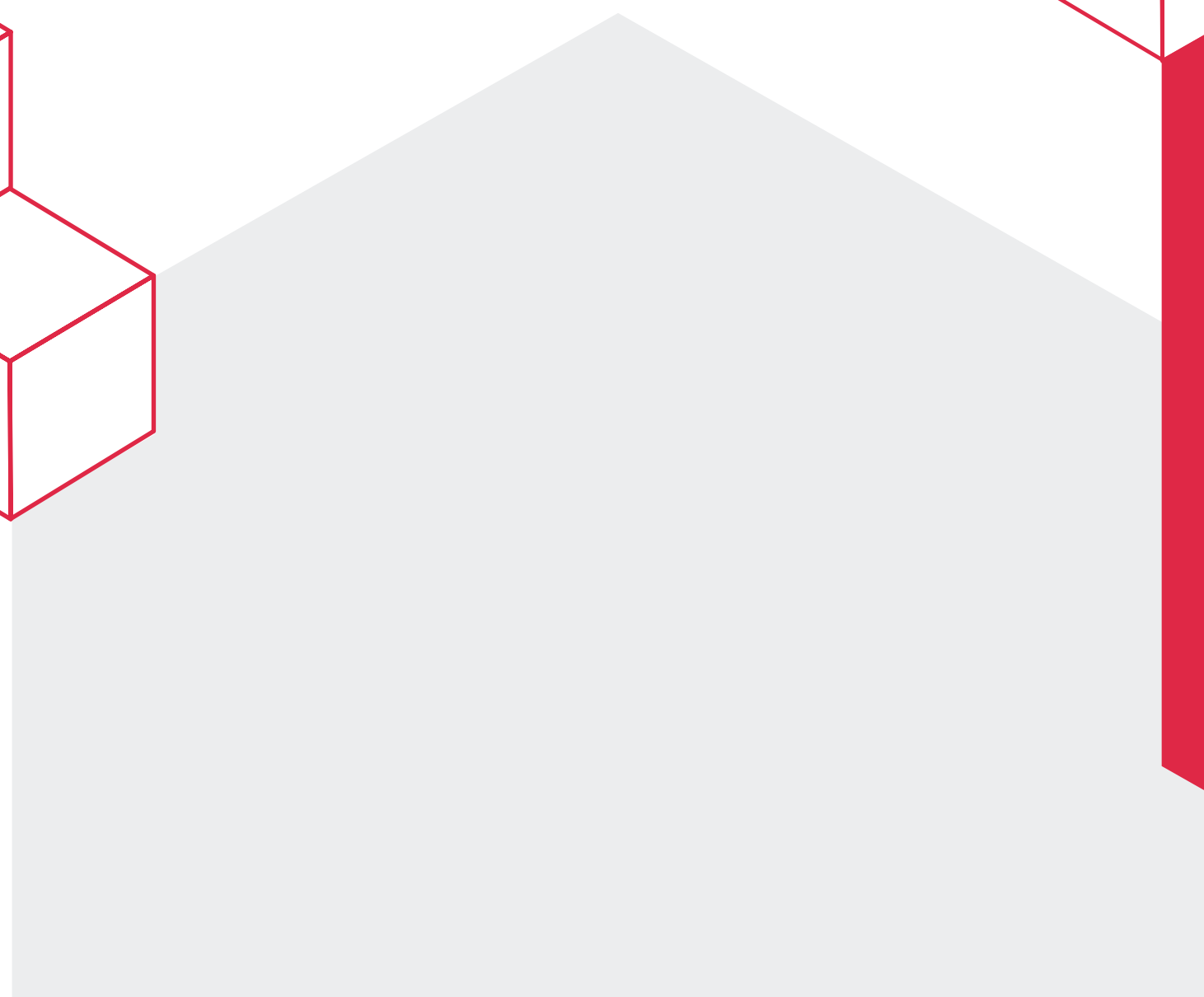
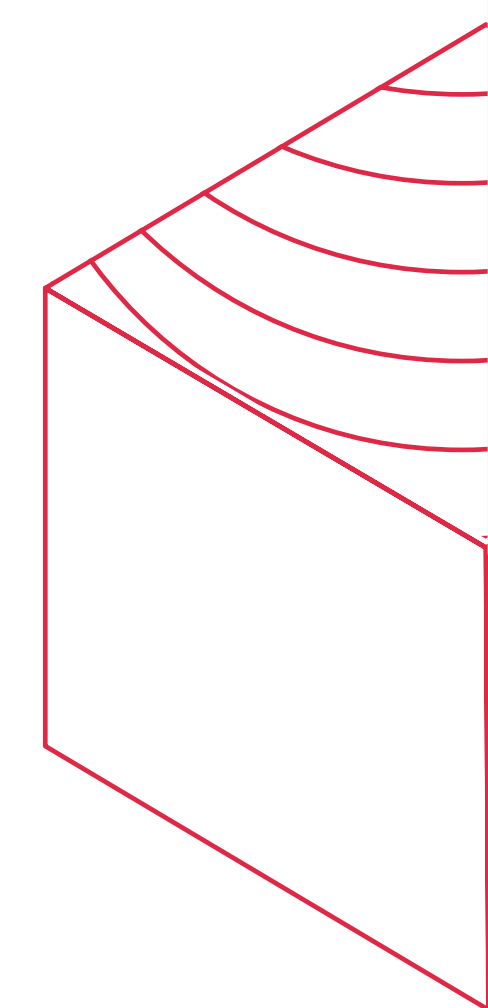
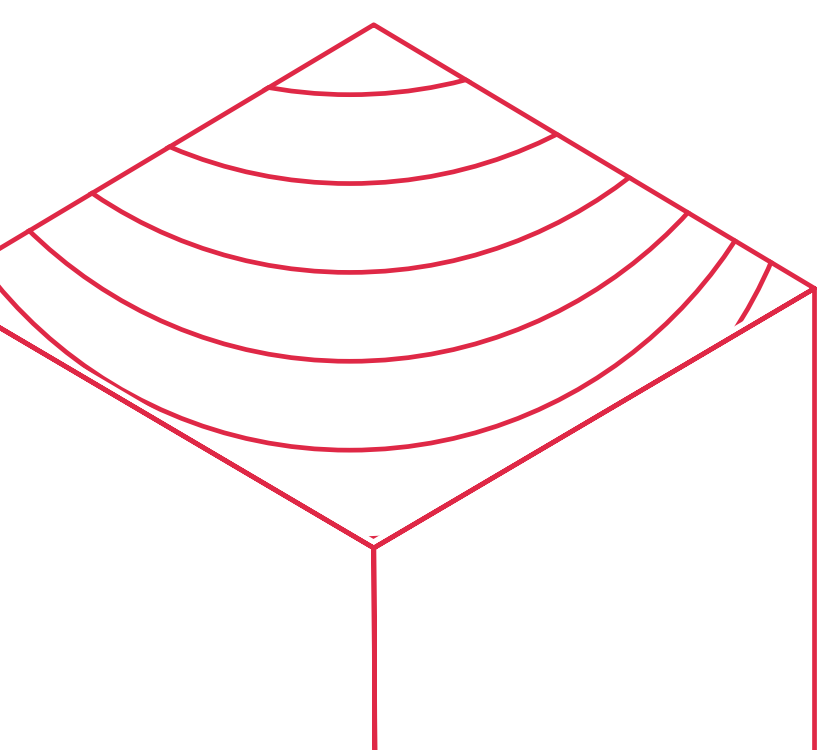
- Coordinators

┌ The Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Coordinator Unit
├ The Physical Sciences and Engineering Coordinator Unit
└ The Life Sciences Coordinator Unit

- Legal Team
- Office of the NCN Council
- HR Department
- Independent position: Chief Accounting Officer
- Independent position: Media Relations and Publicity Officer
- Independent position: Protection of Classified Information Officer
- Independent position: Data Protection Officer
- Independent position: Health and Safety Officer
- Independent position: In-House Auditor

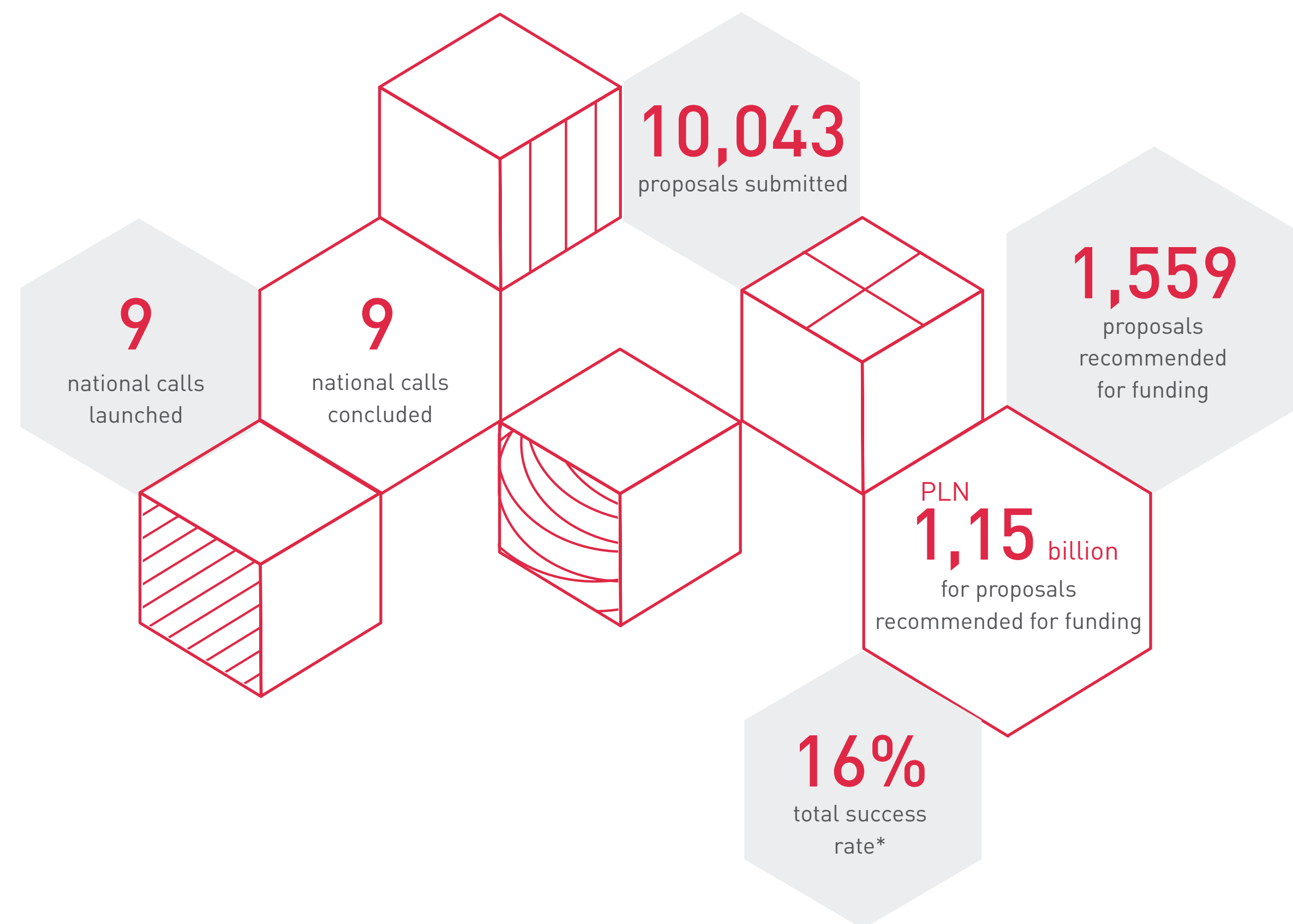


NCN Performance in 2023

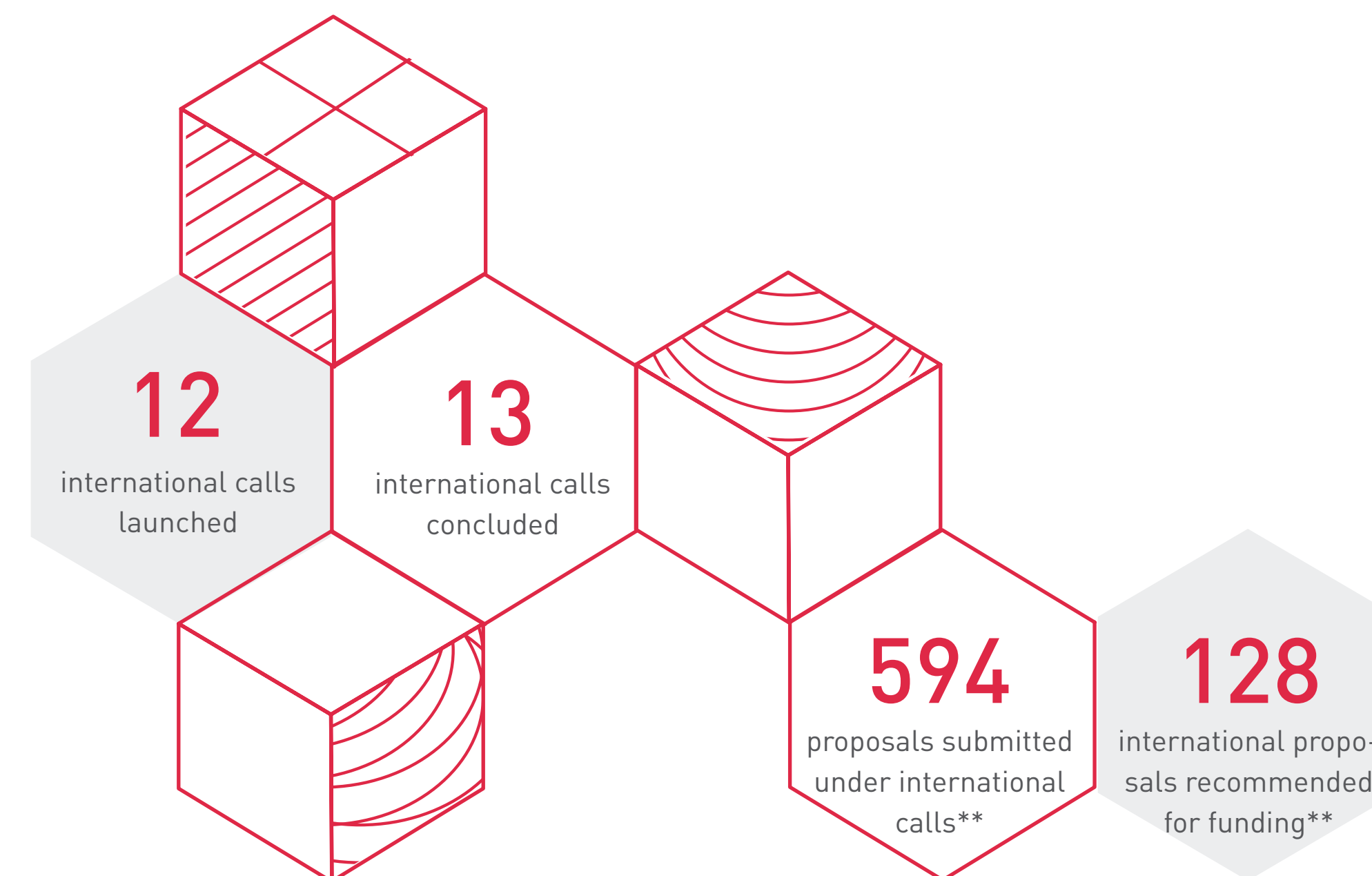


NCN in figures

National calls concluded in 2023



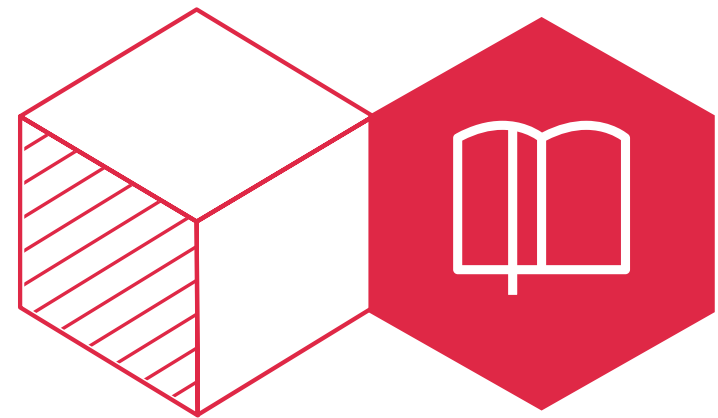
International calls concluded in 2023



* Success rate is the ratio of the number of the proposals recommended for funding against the number of proposals submitted, expressed as a percentage.

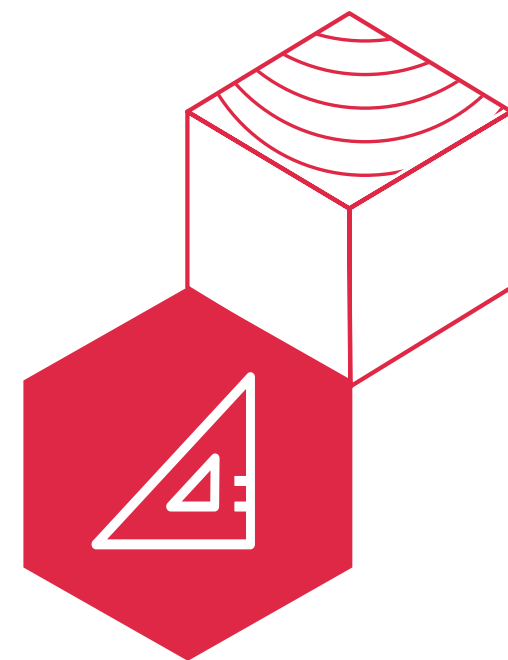
** The number of submitted proposals and projects recommended for funding, excluding calls launched in tandem with the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA). For ongoing Weave-UNISONO calls, state of affairs as at 31 December 2023.

NCN Panels



Arts, humanities and social sciences

- HS1** Fundamental questions of human existence and the nature of reality
- HS2** Culture and cultural production
- HS3** The study of the human past
- HS4** Individuals, institutions, markets
- HS5** Norms and governance
- HS6** Human nature and human society



Physical sciences and engineering

- ST1** Mathematics
- ST2** Fundamental constituents of matter
- ST3** Condensed matter physics
- ST4** Chemistry
- ST5** Synthetic Chemistry and Materials Science
- ST6** Computer science and informatics
- ST7** Systems Engineering
- ST8** Production and processes engineering
- ST9** Astronomy and space science
- ST10** Earth sciences
- ST11** Materials Engineering



Life sciences

- NZ1** Molecular biology, structural biology, biotechnology
- NZ2** Genetics, genomics
- NZ3** Cellular and developmental biology
- NZ4** Biology of tissues, organs and organisms
- NZ5** Human and animal non-infectious diseases
- NZ6** Human and animal immunology and infection
- NZ7** Diagnostic tools, therapies and public health
- NZ8** Evolutionary and environmental biology
- NZ9** Fundamentals of applied life sciences and biotechnology




NCN national schemes 2023


We finance basic research conducted as projects, single research activities, scholarships and post-doc fellowships. The funding schemes on offer match the diverse needs of the research community, from scholars embarking on their careers in research to the most accomplished researchers. The funding is granted to the best research teams, whose principal investigators and members have the required experience and facilities prerequisite to the implementation of their projects. The NCN accepts proposals from all research disciplines on the NCN panels' list.


PRELUDIUM

Call for research projects

 **Applicants:** early-stage researchers who are not PhD holders; applicants do not have to be doctoral school students and their projects do not have to be related to their PhD dissertation

 **Duration:** 12, 24 or 36 months


 **Funding:** PLN 70,000, PLN 140,000 or PLN 210,000 depending on the project's duration


 **Requirements:** carried out under mentor's supervision


 **Open:** once a year


PRELUDIUM BIS

Call for research projects carried out by PhD students at doctoral schools

 **Applicants:** for entities operating doctoral schools; only researchers who meet the statutory requirements of a mentor may act as principal investigators

 **Duration:** 36 or 48 months, including foreign fellowships of 3-6 months

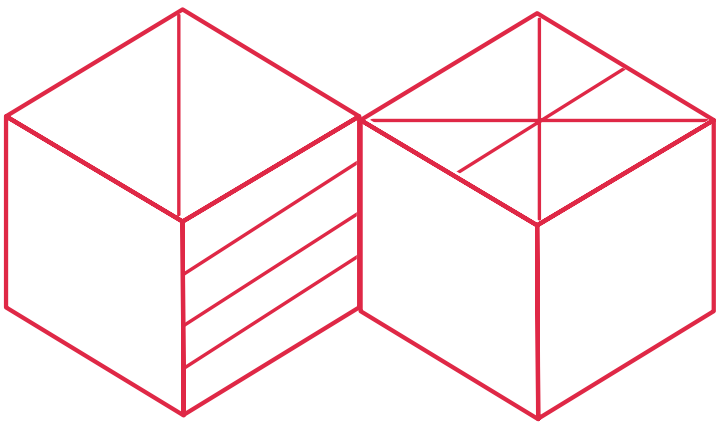
 **Funding:** up to PLN 300,000 for a research project, whereas the principal investigator may be a beneficiary of up to PLN 40,000; the project budget also covers doctoral scholarships and foreign fellowship costs are funded by the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA)

 **Requirements:**

- PhD students must be selected in an open call procedure and enrolled in a doctoral school
- research projects are carried out by PhD students as part of their doctoral dissertations


- foreign fellowships for PhD students for a period of 3 to 6 months in a foreign research institution, the funding of which shall be requested by PhD students under programmes operated by the NAWA
- PhD degree is not required as the project outcome


 **Open:** until 2023 – once a year; call suspended in 2024





SONATA

Call for research projects: innovative research using state-of-the-art equipment or original methodology

 **Applicants:** researchers with a doctorate received within 2 to 7 years of submitting the proposal

 **Duration:** 12, 24 or 36 months


 **Funding:** no cap on funding research projects

 **Research team:** extra investigators may be involved in the project, e.g. students, PhD students and post-docs selected in an open call.


 **Open:** once a year


SONATA BIS

Call for research projects: establishing a new research team

 **Applicants:** researchers who have received their doctorate 5 to 12 years before submitting the proposal

 **Duration:** 36, 48 or 60 months

 **Funding:** no cap on funding research projects


 **Research team:**


- apart from the principal investigator, the project team must not include any other members with a scientific degree, the title of professor, the scientific degree of habilitated doctor or any equivalent qualification, or members who have already collaborated with one another under a research project funded through the call system
- PhD holders/candidates must be hired for a period of minimum 36 months
- extra investigators may be involved in the project, including post-docs, persons in special auxiliary posts and students


 **Open:** once a year

SONATINA

Call for research projects: employment at research institutions, funding for research projects and fellowships abroad

 **Applicants:** researchers with a doctorate received within 3 years of submitting the proposal or those who will receive the degree by 30 June of the year of the call


 **Duration:** 24 or 36 months, fellowship at a research centre abroad of 3 to 6 months


 **Funding:** no cap on funding research projects, costs of the fellowship abroad and travel allowance


 **Open:** once a year


OPUS

Call for research projects

 **Applicants:** all researchers, regardless of academic degree

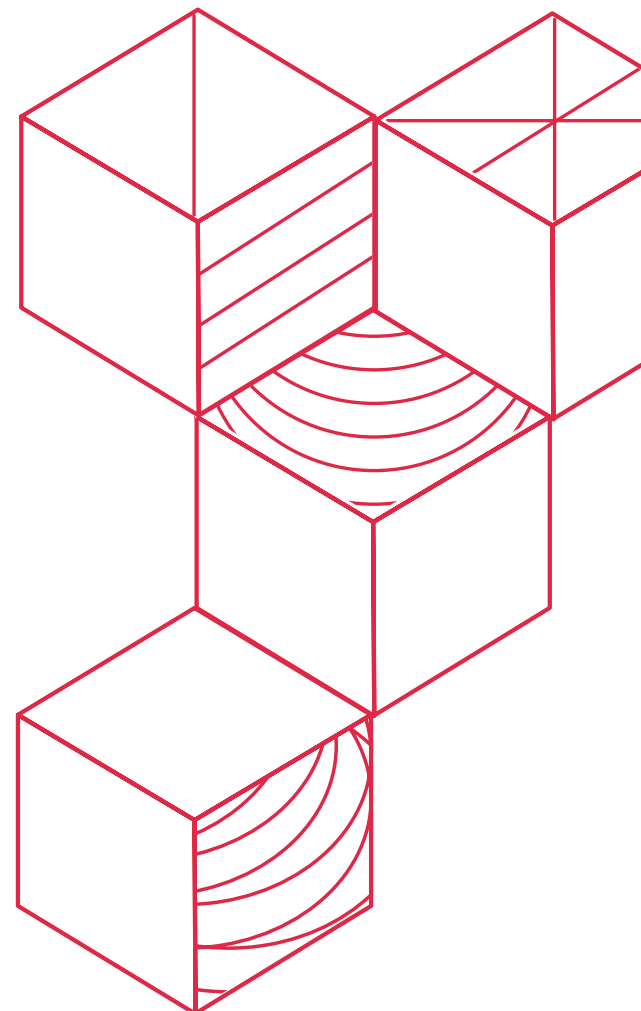
 **Duration:** 12, 24, 36 or 48 months

 **Funding:** no cap on funding research projects

 **Requirements:** extra investigators may be involved in the project, e.g. students, PhD students, post-docs or senior researchers

 **Open:** twice a year

OPUS call launched in September 2023, was also open for research projects carried out by teams from Poland in cooperation with their partners from Austria, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Switzerland, Germany, Luxembourg and Belgium-Flanders whose tasks were 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.





MAESTRO

Call for ground-breaking research projects, including interdisciplinary research, offering a substantial contribution to the advancement of science, seeking to go beyond that which is known, which may result in new discoveries.

 **Applicants:** advanced researchers who are at least PhD holders and have met the terms of the call text in the period of 10 years prior to the proposal submission year, concerning publications, research project management, participation in conferences, awards and prizes, participation in scientific organisations and other scientific activities

 **Duration:** 36, 48 or 60 months


 **Funding:** no cap on funding research projects

 **Requirements:** the project team must include at least one investigator with a PhD degree or at least one PhD student for a total period of 72 months

 **Open:** once a year

MINIATURA

The call for research activities for the purposes of future research projects submitted to the NCN calls or other national or international calls


 **Applicants:** researchers who earned their PhD up to 12 years before submission of the proposal, who have not acted as the principal investigator in any of the projects funded by the NCN, who are not winning applicants of a call for doctoral scholarships or fellowships funded by the NCN, who are not an applicants, principal investigators or fellowship candidates under proposals submitted or recommended for funding under other NCN calls and whose scientific achievements include at least one paper published or at least one artistic achievement or achievement in research in the art

 **Duration:** up to 12 months

 **Funding:** PLN 5,000 to PLN 50,000

Requirements:

- applicants must be employed by the host institution under an employment contract
- funding may be granted for the following activities: preliminary research, pilot studies, library and archive searches, fellowships, exploratory visits, consultancy visits
- applicants may not seek funding for employment costs or scholarships, with the exception of personnel costs of collective investigators who are not employees of the MINIATURA host institution

 **Open:** continuous call, fast track evaluation process

Strengthening Poland's scientific potential: NCN's collaboration with other entities

In 2023, we continued to cooperate with the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA) under two NAWA programmes: NAWA Polish Returns and NAWA Chair. The purpose of the programmes was to encourage returning researchers to work in Poland. The NCN provides funding for other direct costs of basic research (the so-called research components) in the projects recommended for funding under the NAWA calls for proposals. Cooperation is also pursued through PRELUDIUM BIS, under which PhD students must submit proposals for foreign fellowships under the NAWA programme and complete the fellowship during the PRELUDIUM BIS project duration.

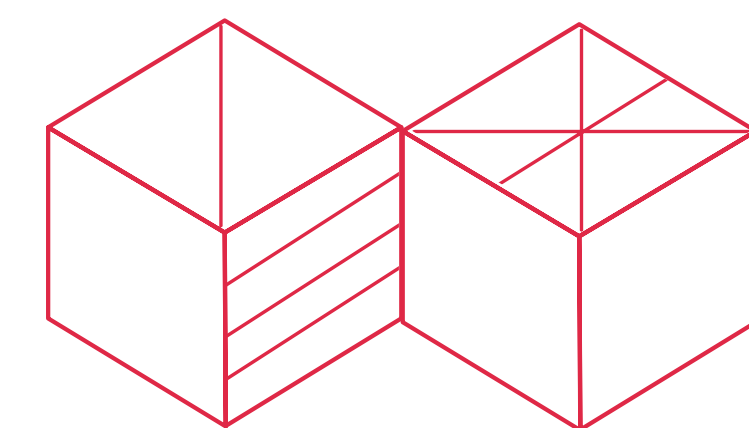
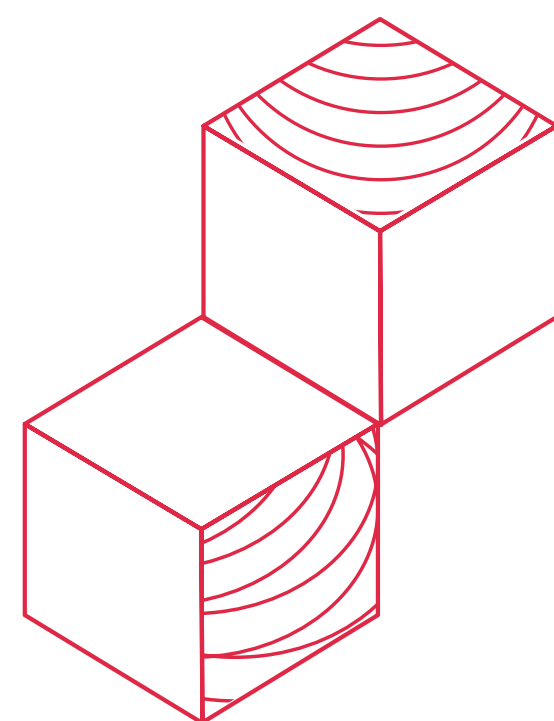
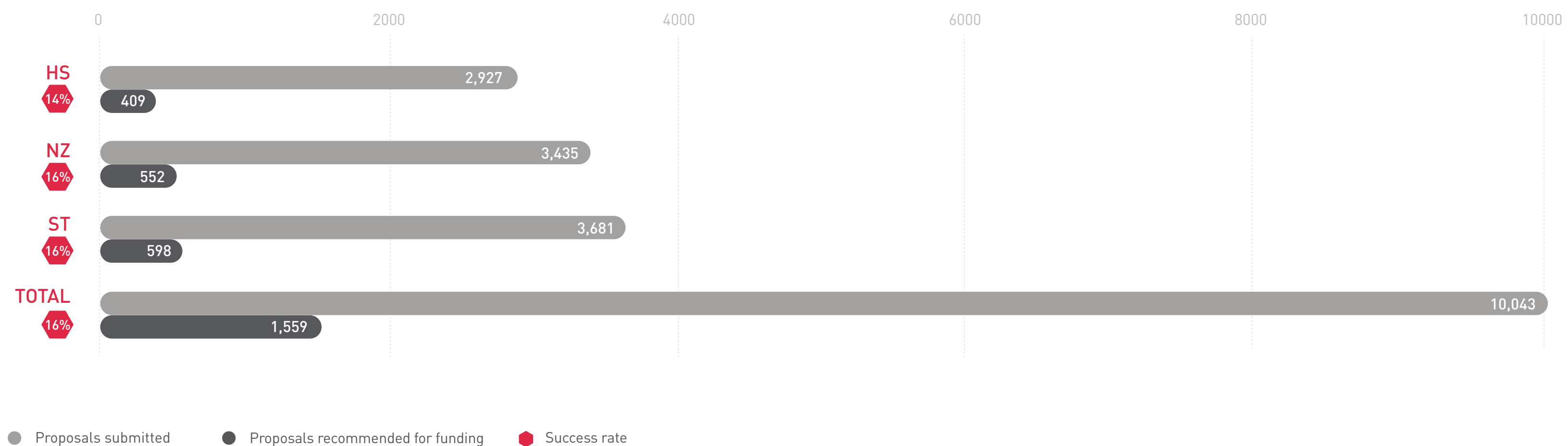
We have established cooperation with the Polish-U.S. Fulbright Commission within the framework of the Fulbright Senior Award which will allow us to fund basic research performed by the winning applicants of the Fulbright Senior Award in collaboration with the American partners.

Funding of basic research

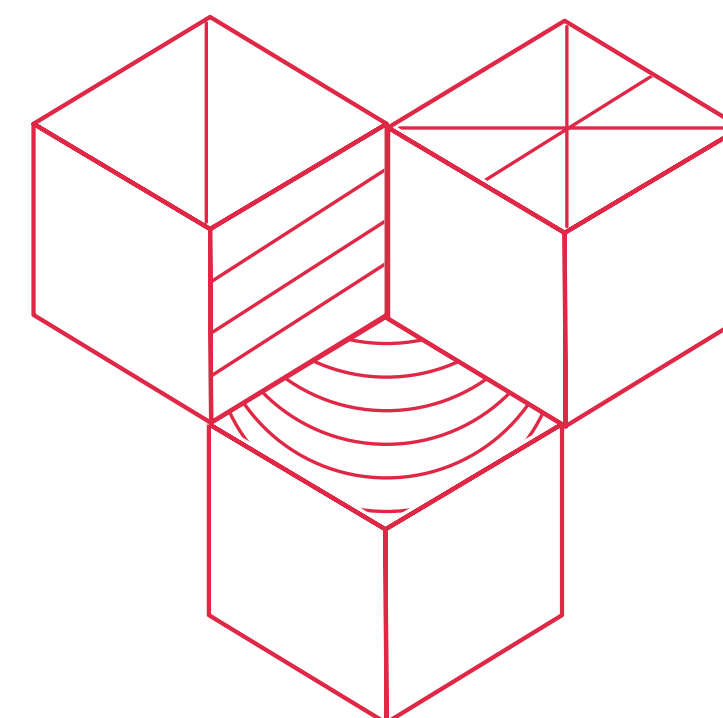
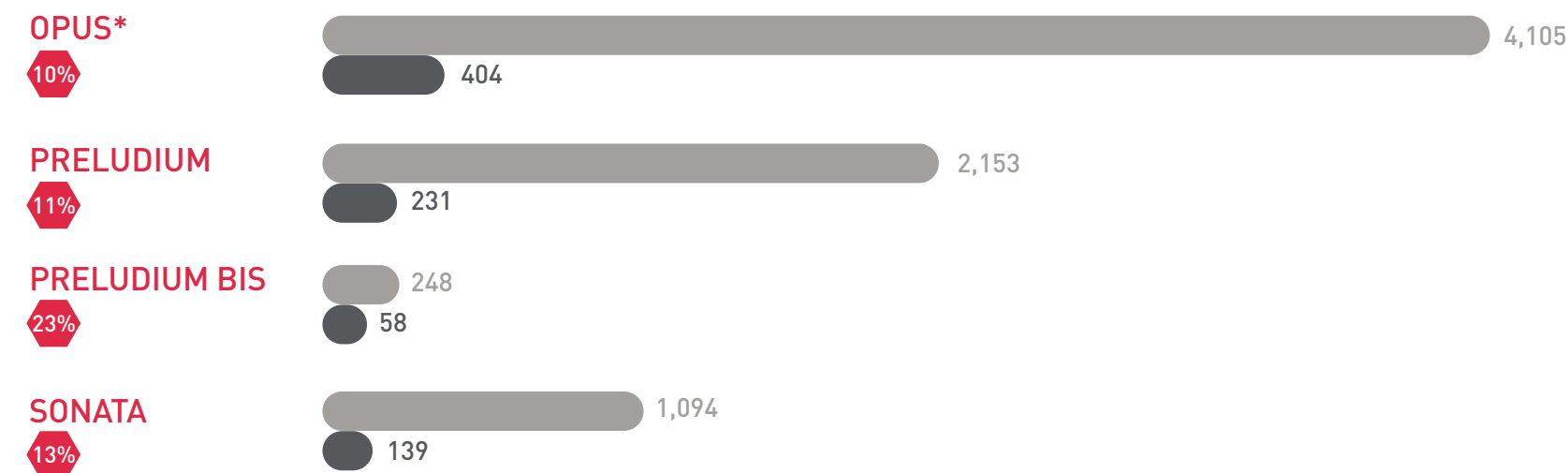
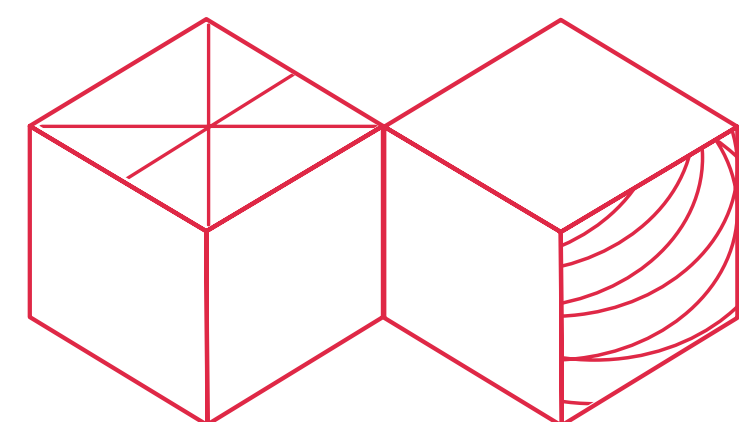
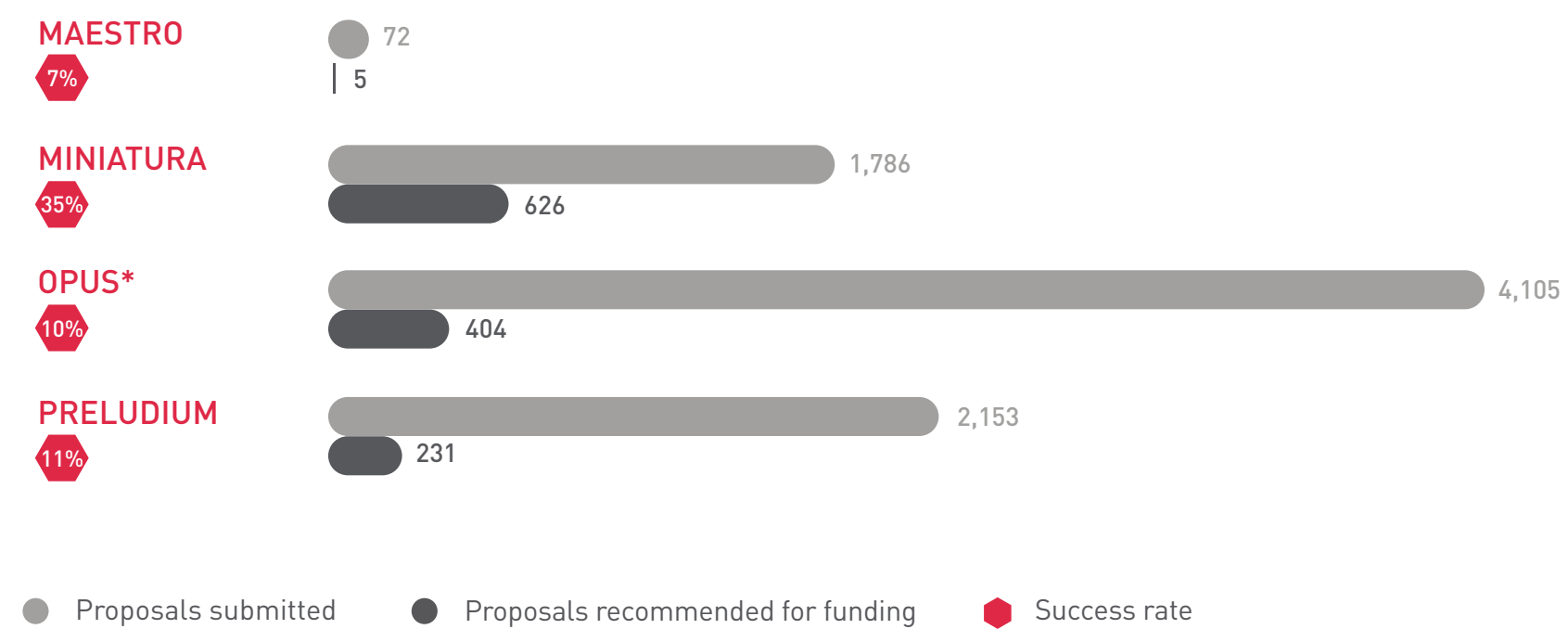
In national calls published in 2023, we received 10,090 proposals worth in total PLN 8.99 bln.

In calls concluded in 2023, funding was granted to 1,559 projects worth almost PLN 1.15 bln.

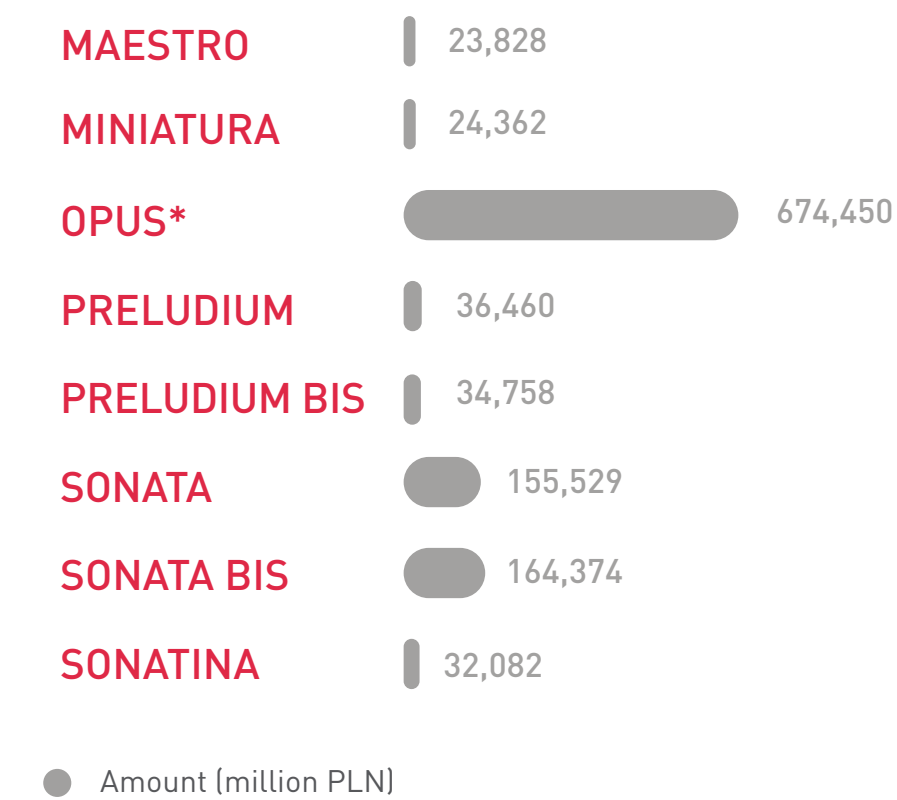
Number of proposals submitted and recommended for funding under the national calls concluded in 2023, broken down by discipline group, alongside their respective success rates.



Number of proposals submitted and recommended for funding under the national calls concluded in 2023, broken down by call type, alongside their respective success rate.



Funding awarded in national calls concluded in 2023, broken down by call types



* Together with OPUS LAP/Weave (PLN 73.776 M)

Leaders of the national call rankings in 2023

The chief beneficiaries of the national calls concluded in 2023 were:

- public and non-public higher education institutions (79% of all beneficiaries)
- research institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences (16% of all beneficiaries)
- research institutes (3% of all beneficiaries)

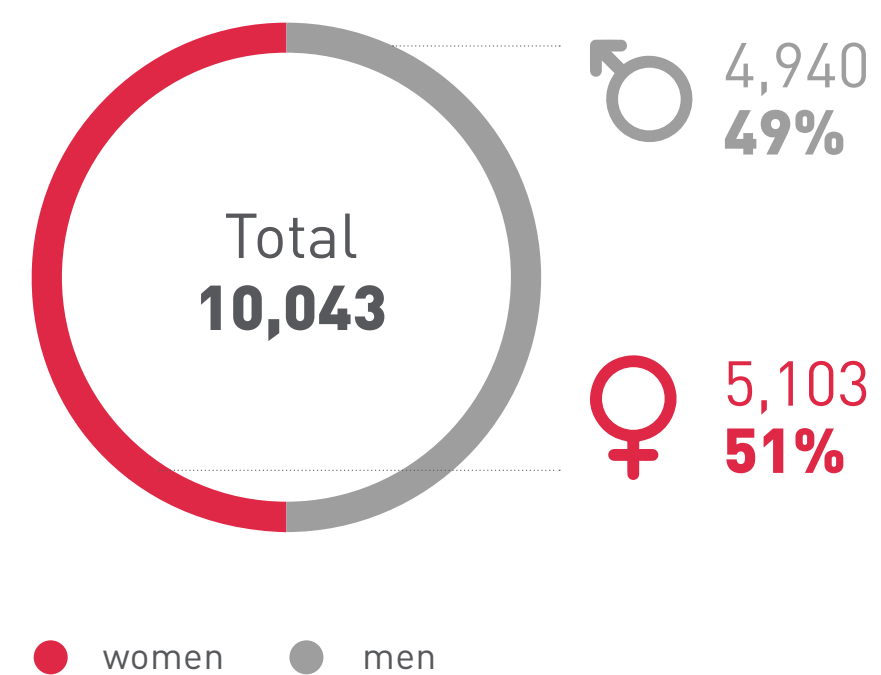
The table presents a ranking list of institutions that received more than PLN 10 million in funding from the NCN in 2023. Once again, the leaders, both in terms of funding and the number of projects and other research activities, were the Jagiellonian University with 143 funded projects and the University of Warsaw with 133 funded projects. The success rate given in the table corresponds to the ratio of successful projects that were recommended for funding to the total number of proposals. The highest success rate among those who won grants of more than PLN 10 million in 2023 was 53%, achieved by the International Institute of Molecular Mechanisms and Machines, Polish Academy of Sciences, followed by the Institute of Organic Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences with a 41% success rate. Among universities, the highest rates were recorded by Gdańsk University of Technology (24%) and the University of Wrocław together with Wrocław University of Science and Technology – both with 21% success rate.

Host Institution	Funding granted (million PLN)	Proposals recommended for funding	Success rate
Jagiellonian University	140,710	143	19%
University of Warsaw	131,577	133	20%
Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań	59,258	80	19%
University of Wrocław	48,237	55	21%
Wrocław University of Science and Technology	44,242	62	21%
Institute of Physical Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences	41,868	21	31%
Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology, Polish Academy of Sciences	32,859	19	29%
University of Gdańsk	31,995	38	16%
The International Institute of Molecular Mechanisms and Machines, Polish Academy of Sciences	28,631	8	53%
Gdańsk University of Technology	21,101	42	24%
AGH University of Science and Technology	20,023	30	12%
Warsaw University of Technology	18,925	27	9%
University of Lodz	17,727	46	20%
Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń	16,810	29	10%
Institute of Organic Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences	16,548	7	41%
University of Silesia in Katowice	15,648	36	10%
International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology in Warsaw	15,366	6	35%
Poznań University of Life Sciences	15,351	21	17%
Warsaw University of Life Sciences	14,265	34	14%
Łukasiewicz Research Network – PORT Polish Center for Technology Development	14,214	6	26%
Medical University of Gdańsk	14,008	21	18%
Institute of Animal Reproduction and Food Research, Polish Academy of Sciences	14,002	10	25%
Silesian University of Technology	12,124	17	10%
Lodz University of Technology	11,652	15	13%
Centre of Molecular and Macromolecular Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences	11,580	6	15%

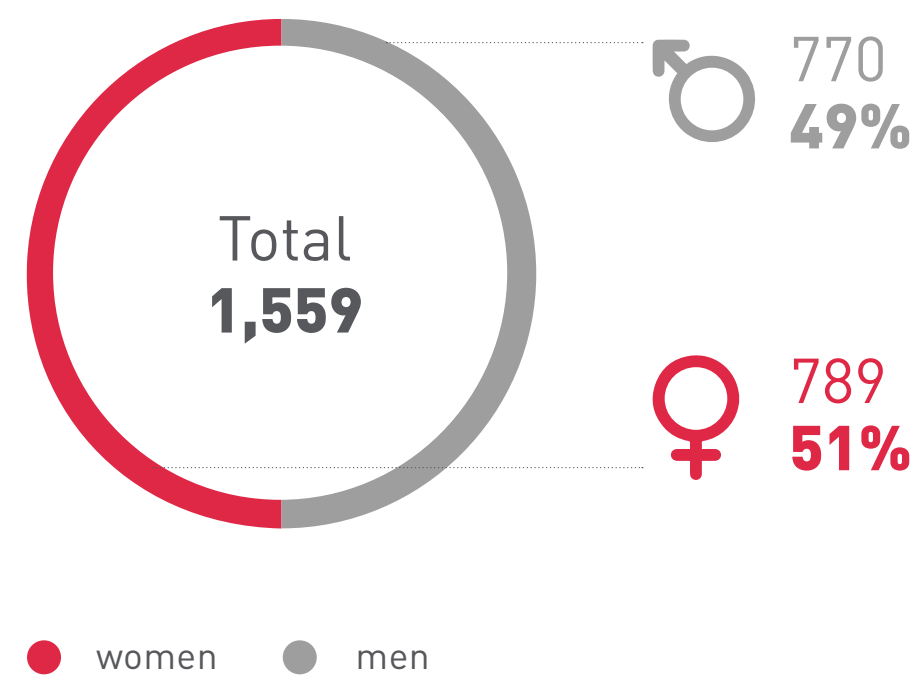
Principal investigators

In 2023, proposals submitted by women made up 51% of all applications. Women and men acquired funds for research projects equally effectively; the success rates for the two groups were 15.5% and 15.6%, respectively. Of the projects awarded funding in 2023, 51% had a female principal investigator.

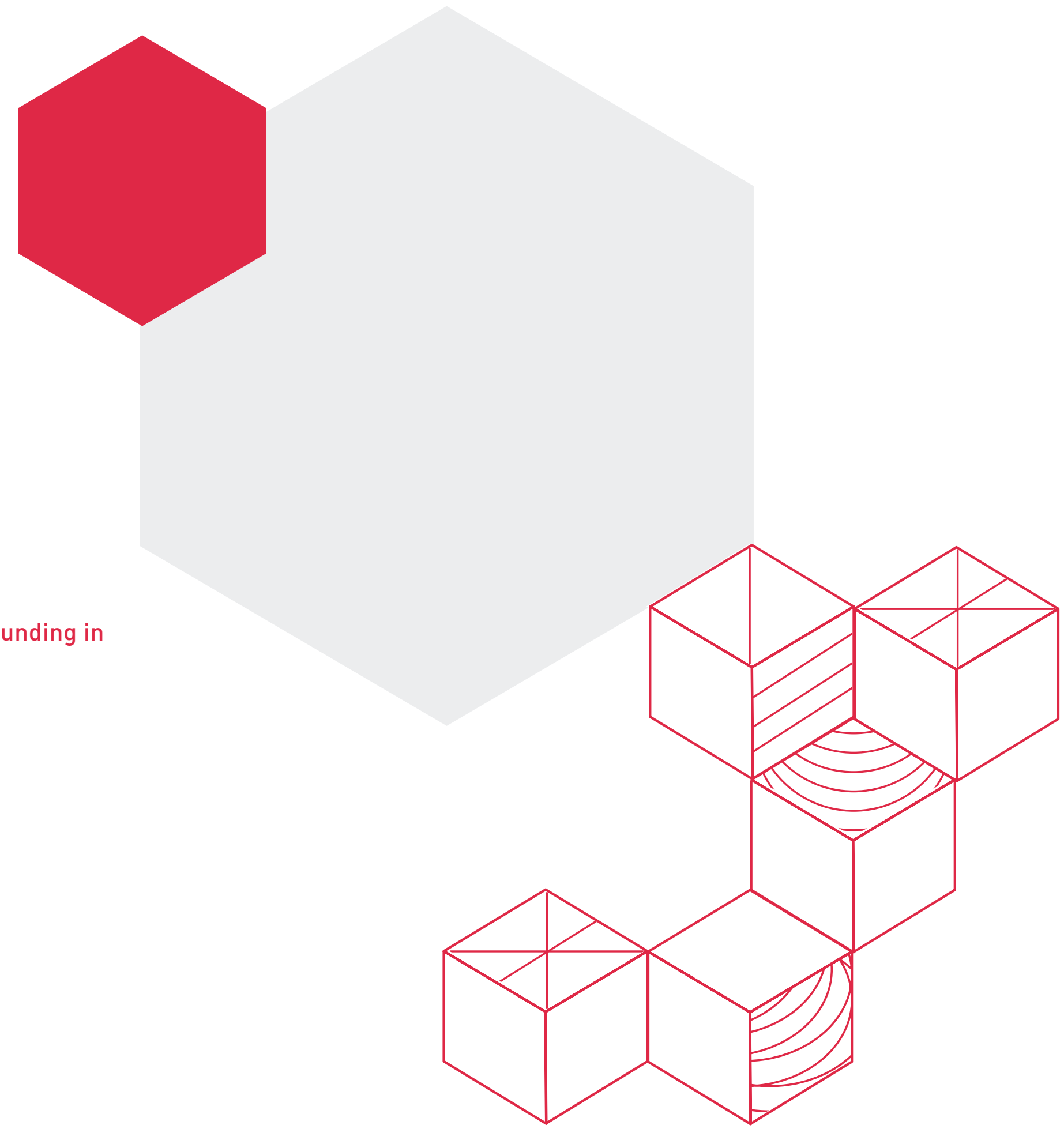
The number of proposals submitted for funding in 2023, broken down by gender of the principal investigator:*



The number of proposals submitted and recommended for funding in 2023, broken down by gender of the principal investigator:*



* Gender data based on the applicants' PESEL numbers. The data do not include principal investigators without PESEL numbers (foreigners).



Early-stage researchers

We are very serious about supporting early-stage researchers who have not yet earned their PhD or have done so within the last 7 years. The PRELUDIUM, PRELUDIUM BIS, SONATINA and SONATA calls, where 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 were announced.

The NCN supports early-stage researchers by funding their research projects. In the national calls concluded in 2023:

32%

of the overall amount disbursed on funding research projects constituted the amount allocated for the funding of projects, fellowships and scholarships by researchers at the outset of their career

51%

of all proposals were submitted in calls targeted at early-stage researchers and other NCN calls, in which the principal investigator met the definition of an early-stage researcher

59%

of the proposals recommended for funding, the principal investigator was an early-stage researcher**

** No data available for TANGO, calls launched in tandem with the NAWA and EXPRESS CALL TO FUND RESEARCH ON COVID-19



Dr Zofia Boni



[Read more](#)



Dr inż. Joanna Fedorowicz



[Read more](#)

M-ERA



Dr inż. Sebastian Wachowski



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Evaluation process

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

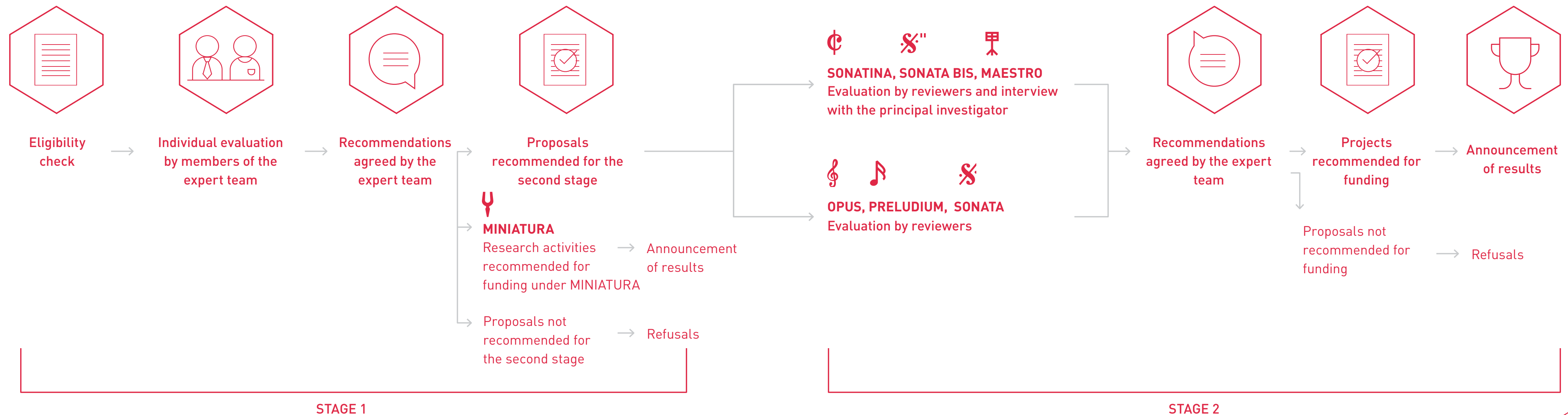
The review procedure begins with an eligibility check performed by NCN Coordinators, which involves checking the completeness and correctness of the submission. The proposals then undergo a two-stage peer review by dedicated expert teams (groups of experts selected by the NCN Council among distinguished academics appointed by the NCN Director for the purpose of proposal evaluation).

STAGE 1

The proposals are first reviewed individually by the members of expert team 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 of the peer review process or projects recommended for funding in the MINIATURA or PRELUDIUM BIS calls (there is single stage merit-based evaluation in 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, 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 calls includes an interview with the principal investigator.



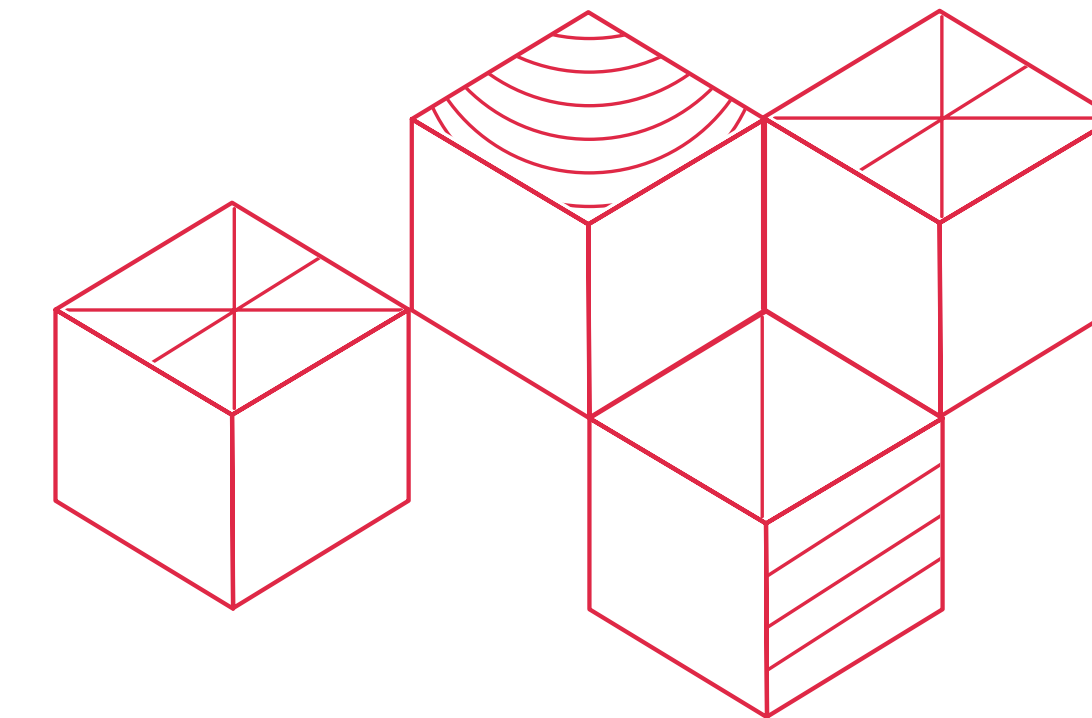
Experts

In 2023, as many as 2,207 reviewers were appointed, who reviewed a total of 10,398 research proposals in the first stage of evaluation. Expert teams are appointed from among experts representing three research domains (ST, HS and NZ). Proposals may be evaluated by inter-domain teams (all domains represented in one team), by inter-panel teams (each domain has its own team) or by panel teams dedicated to specific thematic panels (ST 1-11, HS 1-6, NZ 1-9). Each team may review proposals in one or more calls of a given edition (the term edition refers collectively to all calls for proposals with the same submission deadline). This means that for a specific thematic panel, one or more expert teams may be appointed. See the table below for more details.

Number of expert teams and number of proposals reviewed under the calls concluded in 2023

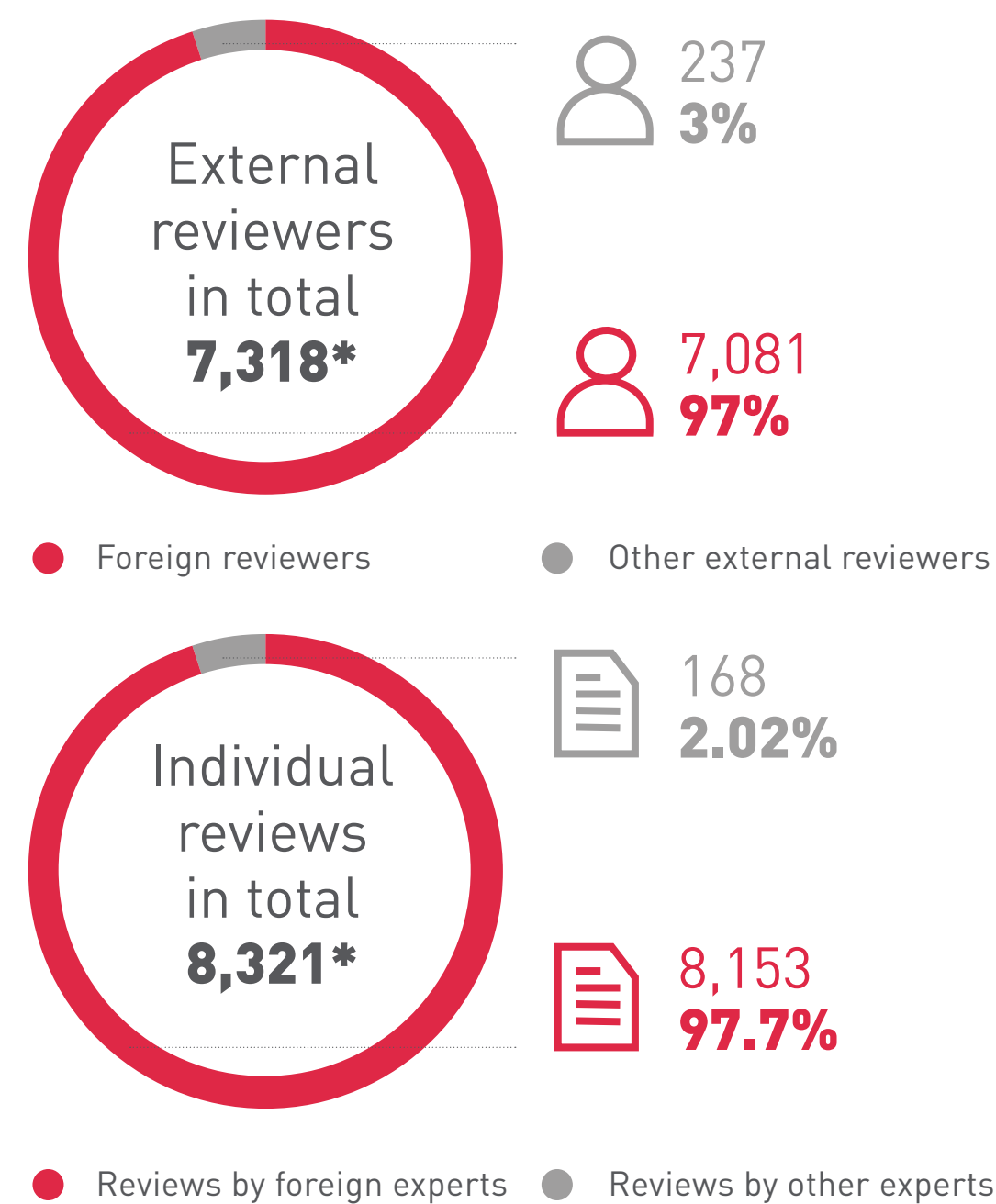
Call announcement	Number of expert teams	Reviewers in expert teams	Proposals reviewed
15 June 2022	6	114	472
15 September 2022	40	699	3,493
15 December 2022	5	78	310
1 February 2023	1	553	1,786
15 March 2023	39	763	4,337
Total	91	2,207	10,398

Source: NCN Coordinators, based on own data.



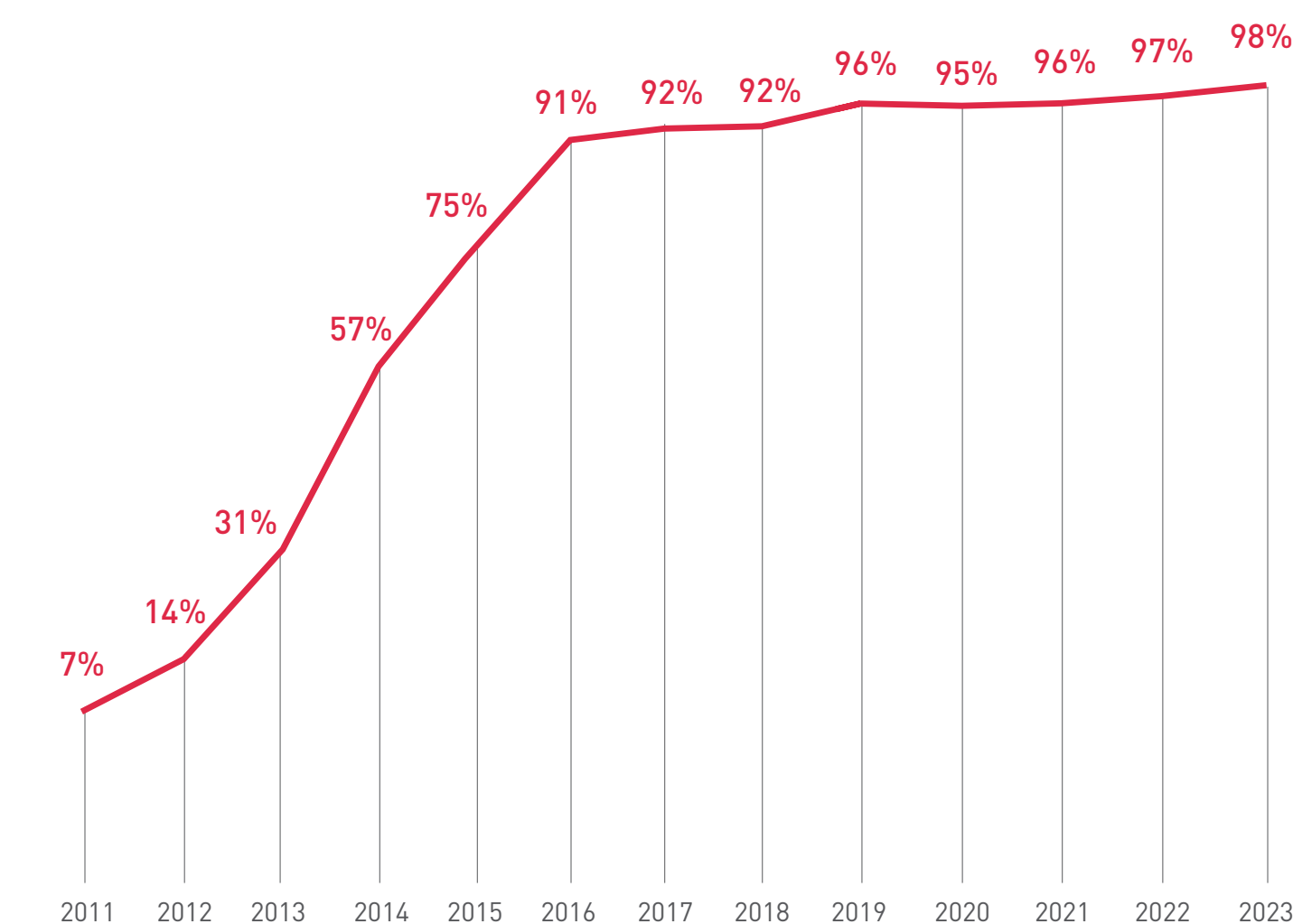
In the second stage of peer review, 7,318 external reviewers performed 8,321 individual evaluations. Almost 98% of the external reviewers were experts from abroad, who performed 8,153 reviews.

Number of external reviewers and number of reviews they provided in 2023*



* Data does not include MINIATURA due to different evaluation procedure.

Percentage of foreign reviews in the years 2011-2023

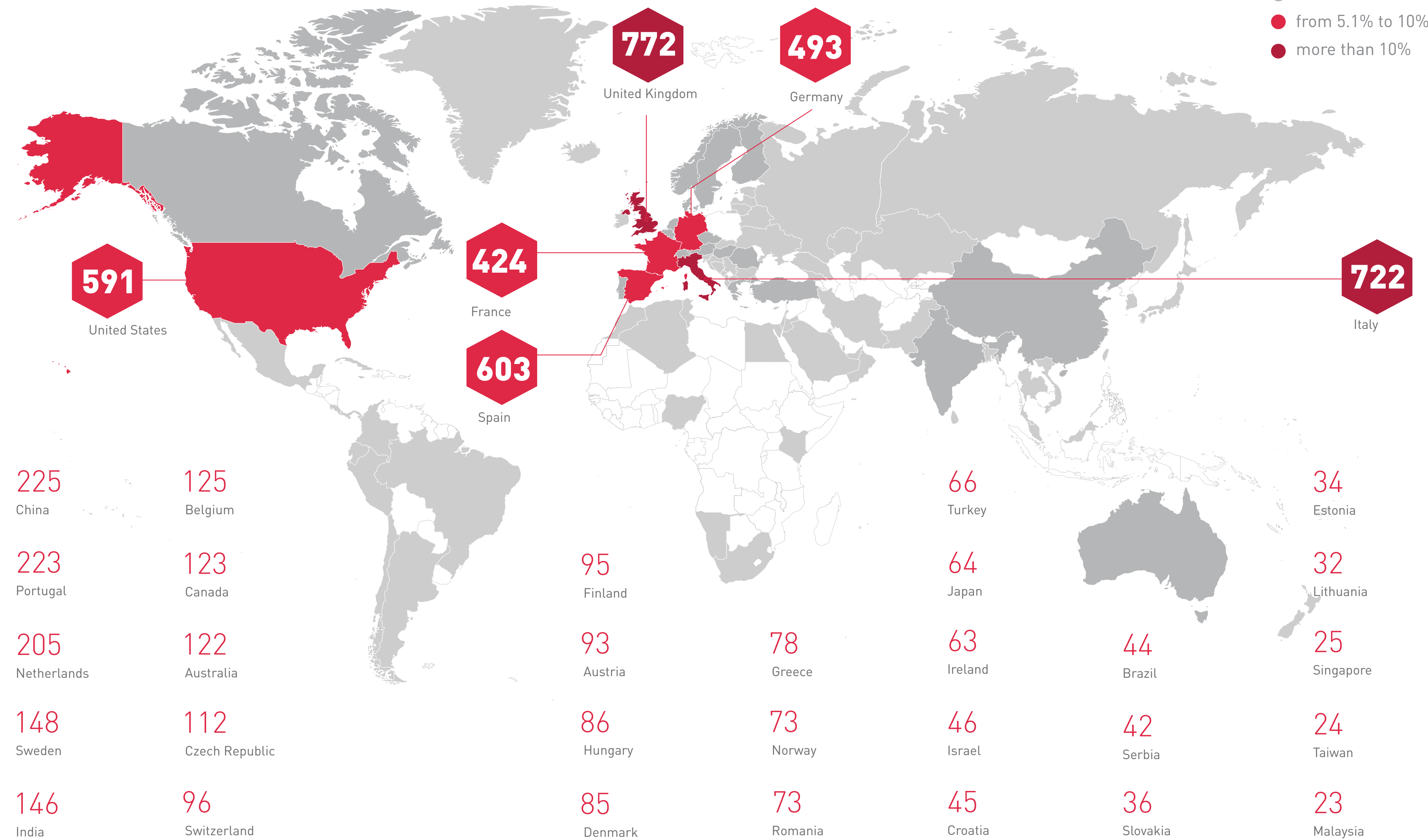


Source: NCN Coordinators, based on the data in the ZSUN/OSF system.

NCN foreign reviewers in 2023 by country of affiliation

- less than 1%
- from 1% to 5%
- from 5.1% to 10%
- more than 10%

23	Mexico
23	Slovenia
21	New Zealand
18	Republic of Korea
17	South Africa
16	Chile
16	Hongkong
15	Argentina
14	Ukraine
11	Luxembourg
11	Latvia
9	Cyprus
9	Egypt
8	Pakistan
8	Thailand
7	Saudi Arabia
6	United Arab Emirates
5	Bulgaria
5	Iceland
5	Malta
5	Morocco
4	Bangladesh
4	Nigeria
3	Russian Federation
3	Georgia
3	Iran (Islam Republic)
3	Columbia
3	Tunisia
2	Albania
2	Ecuador
2	Greenland
2	Qatar
2	Lebanon
2	Makau
1	Algeria
1	Belarus
1	Bosnia and Herzegovina
1	Botswana
1	Montenegro
1	Jamaica
1	Jordan
1	Kazakhstan
1	Kenya
1	Costa Rica
1	Cuba
1	Kuwait
1	North Macedonia
1	Mauritius
1	Namibia
1	Oman
1	Panama
1	Peru
1	Sri Lanka
1	Vietnam



NCN Appeal Committee

Applicants (institutions or natural persons) may appeal against decisions of the NCN Director which refuse funding within 14 days of the date of receiving the decision. The appeals are considered by the Appeal Committee, appointed by the Council of the NCN.

In 2023 the Committee:

181

considered appeals

13

granted funding of more than **PLN 5.6 million** to 13 projects

25

cases required additional inquiries

29

cases the director's decision was annulled and the proposals were submitted for re-evaluation



Supervising the research

Reports on the projects' completion

Our tasks include supervising the implementation of research projects, fellowships, scholarships and research activities and the disbursement of the awarded funding. This consists in evaluating interim, annual and final reports on the completion of research projects, on-site audits at grantees' host institutions, and in the director's power to suspend or discontinue funding of an improperly implemented project. The procedure of evaluating and verifying the reports consists in examining the implementation of the project for formal and financial correctness, as well as the scientific evaluation of the project's results.

Final reports verified in the NCN in 2023:

5,208

annual reports
for 2022

2,974

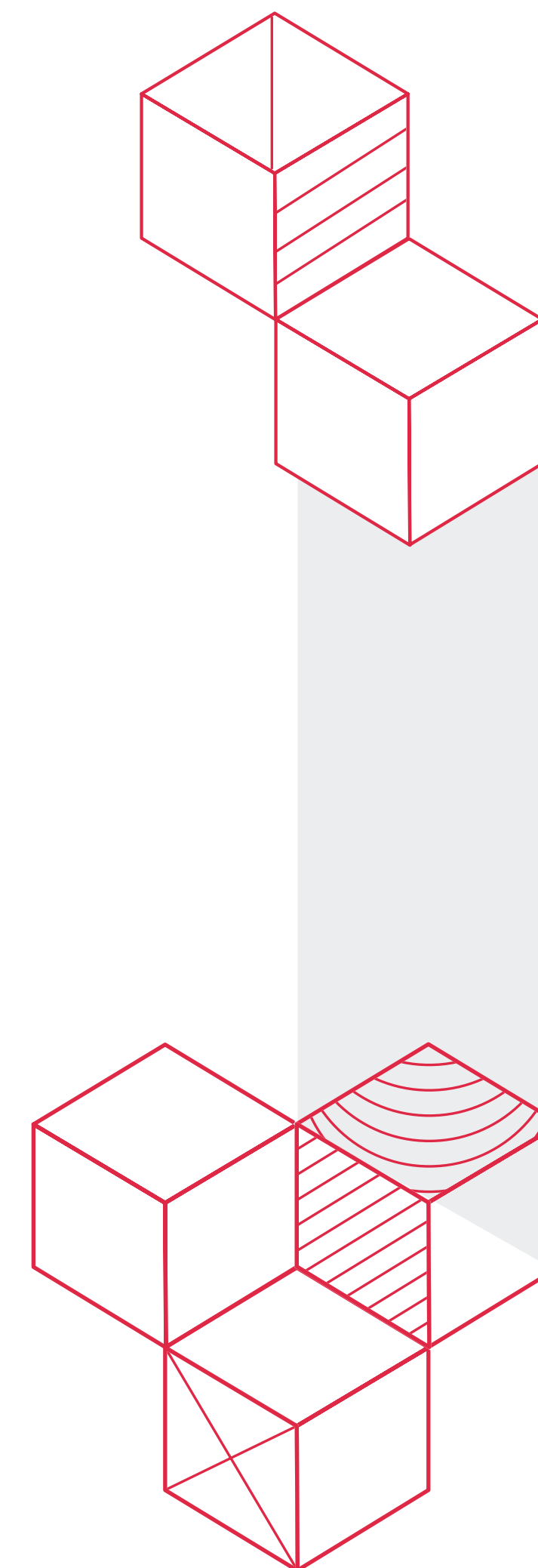
final reports

On-site audits

As another tool serving a supervisory function, the NCN may conduct on-site audits to verify the compliance of the project with the funding agreement. The audits are carried out by the Audit and Compliance Team in accordance with an annual audit plan. Our selection of the grants to be examined follows an analysis of risk factors involved in their implementation. Information on possible risks and alarming signals regarding the projects funded is collected and shared by the personnel of the Research Projects Administration Department, Finance and Accounting Department and NCN Coordinators.

The audit plan may, however, be extended to projects selected at random. Audits of such projects may be conducted in an ad hoc manner. Normally we take this measure when a project is reported to be carried out inappropriately, and such audit is usually limited in scope. The auditing team always comprises an officer of the Audit and Compliance Team and, depending on the programme and scope of the audit, may also include an NCN financial officer and an NC Coordinator.

66 audits were completed in 2023. Following the detection of various irregularities, the NCN demanded the reimbursement of more than PLN 49 thousand in total from the institutions in question.



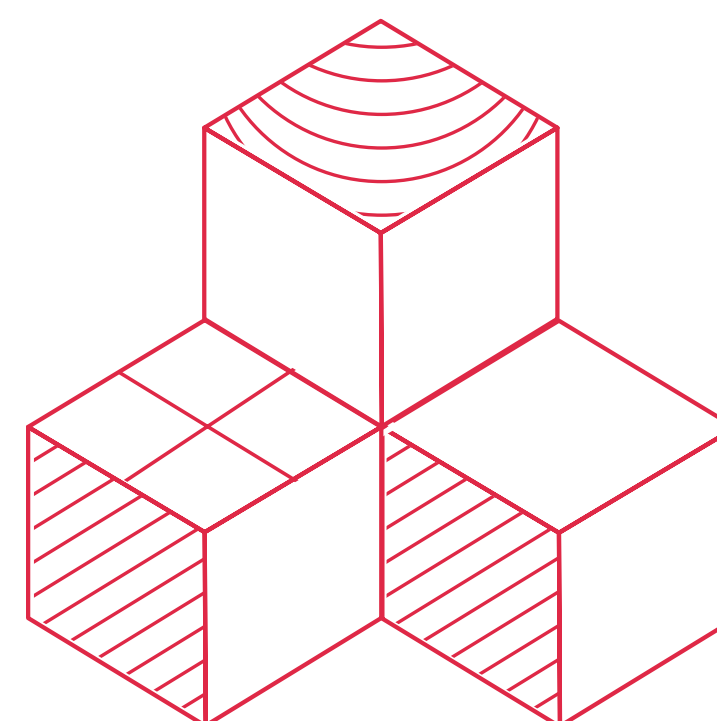
International cooperation

In 2023, the National Science Centre launched one bilateral call with Lithuanian partners and nine multilateral calls (ERA-Net, European Partnerships, etc.), two of which were organised by the CHANSE consortium (Collaboration for Humanities and Social Sciences in Europe) and coordinated by the NCN, addressed to researchers in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. QuantERA, the network coordinated by the NCN operating within quantum technologies also launched its call for proposals in 2023. Cooperation under the multilateral Weave programme was continued, co-organised with Austria, Czechia, Slovenia, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium-Flanders and Luxembourg pursuant to the Lead Agency Procedure (LAP). IMPRESS-U (International Multilateral Partnerships for Resilient Education and Science System in Ukraine) is a brand-new scheme in the NCN portfolio, organised pursuant to the Lead Agency Procedure. The call was launched in August 2023 and aimed at supporting Ukrainian researchers in cooperation with the partner institutions from the US, as well as Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. In 2023, POLONEZ BIS was concluded for the third and final time. With this programme, 132 talented foreign researchers were invited to pursue their careers in Poland.

Bilateral cooperation

We regularly launch bilateral calls organised in cooperation with foreign research-funding organisations. The best among the research proposals prepared and submitted jointly by Polish and foreign teams are selected according to the terms agreed on by all partner agencies.

On 15 December 2023, DAINA was launched for the fourth time. The call is organised jointly with the Research Council of Lithuania (RCL) and is open to all scientific disciplines. The evaluation procedure performed by the NCN and RCL, acting jointly will end in the second half of 2024.



Multilateral cooperation

Every year, we also announce multilateral calls organised in partnership with foreign research-funding agencies within the framework of international networks that support specific disciplines. In ERA-NET Cofund programmes, for instance, the budget consists of national funds and sources provided under the EU Horizon 2020 Framework Programme.

The calls for multilateral cooperation co-funded by the European Commission are also carried out within the framework of the European Biodiversity Partnership Biodiversa+ and under ForestValue2 (HORIZON EUROPE Coordination and Support Action).

Other initiatives are funded exclusively from the national sources of individual agencies.



Projects funded under the "Horizon 2020" EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation:

CHANSE – grant agreement no 101004509; CHIST-ERA III – grant agreement no 768977; CHIST-ERA IV – grant agreement no 857925; JP-cofuND2 – grant agreement no 825664; ForestValue – grant agreement no 773324; JPIAMR-ACTION – grant agreement no 963864; NORFACE Governance – grant agreement no 822166; QuantERA II – grant agreement no 101017733; InCoQFlag – grant agreement no 952223; BiodivClim – grant agreement no 869237; BiodivRestore – grant agreement no 101003777; EN-UAC – grant agreement no 875022; EN-UTC – grant agreement no 101003758; M-ERA.NET 3 – grant agreement no 958174; ERA-LEARN – grant agreement no 811171; POLONEZ BIS Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions – grant agreement no 945339

Projects funded under "Horizon Europe" EU Research and Innovation Funding Programme:

Biodiversa+ – grant agreement no 101052342, ForestValue2 – grant agreement no 101094340, ERA-Learn – grant agreement no 101102316.

International networks in which the NCN participates

Name	Number of organisations	Number of countries	Network supports:
BiodivERsA	39	25	research into environmental protection and sustainable management of biodiversity
Biodiversa+	81	40	support for the development and implementation of a new biodiversity protection policy in Europe, biodiversity monitoring
CHANSE	27	24	humanities and social sciences
CHIST-ERA	32	28	research in the scope of information and communication technologies
ForestValue2	14	12	research in the scope of forest management; promoting increased innovation and competitiveness of the forest-based sector in Europe
HERA	26	25	research in the area of humanities responding to the social, cultural and political challenges of modern Europe
InCoQFlag	4	4	quantum technologies – by developing an international cooperation strategy in the field
JPIAMR	31	29	research into 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 identifying causes of neurodegenerative diseases, early detection of their symptoms and appropriate forms of therapy
M-ERA.NET	49	35	research in the area of material science and material engineering
NORFACE	25	19	research in the area of social sciences (until now devoted, among others, to migration, future of the welfare state and social inequalities)
QuantERA	41	31	research in quantum technologies
Trans-Atlantic Platform (T-AP) for Social Sciences and Humanities	18	13	humanities and social sciences

QuantERA

QuantERA is a network of research funding organisations promoting and actively supporting the development of quantum technologies. The network is composed of 41 organisations from 31 countries and has been coordinated by the National Science Centre since its formation in 2016.

In 2023, the fourth QuantERA Call 2023 was launched and concluded. 34 partners from 28 countries participated in the call and funding was awarded to 24 projects, 8 of which will be carried out with the participation of Polish researchers and 5 will be funded by the NCN. The winning applicants include over five hundred European research teams.

In spring, the network published its Impact Overview Report on QuantERA's Developments in Quantum Area in Europe, which provides an assessment based on the first edition of the programme and describes the impact of the programme on the development of quantum technologies in Europe. In September, the Quantum Technologies Public Policies Report was published, offering a snapshot of European policies and funding instruments and presenting a dynamic development of quantum physics in the EU. The report may be used as a diagnostic tool to plan a long-term funding strategy for quantum research in Poland.

The network continued to disseminate the outcome of funded projects and promote female representation in research on quantum technologies by publishing interviews with active female researchers pursuing research in quantum technologies.

In November, Madrid hosted a conference on Quantum Technologies in Europe, organised by the QuantERA network under the auspices of the European Commission and EU Quantum Flagship programme. The panellists discussed the development pathways of quantum technologies in Europe, including in the context of geopolitical and economic challenges. The conference was attended by distinguished guests, Prof. Serge Haroche and Prof. Anton Zeilinger, Nobel Prize winners in physics and members of the European Commission and QuantERA's Strategic Council.

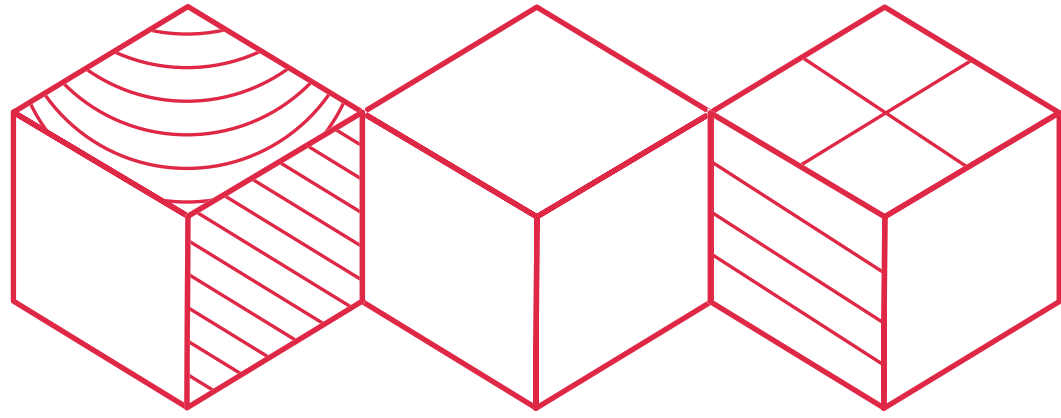


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InCoQFlag – Coordination and Support Action

The purpose of InCoQFlag (International Cooperation in Quantum Technologies) is to develop a strategy of cooperation with non-European countries in the field of quantum technology research. The project is coordinated by the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA), and the National Science Centre acts as a partner responsible for the analysis of quantum technology funding schemes and public policies in Europe, Canada, the United States and Japan. The report in this respect was drafted in 2023.

CHANSE

Collaboration of Humanities and Social Sciences in Europe (CHANSE) is an ERA-Net Cofund programme coordinated by the NCN. CHANSE is a network of 27 research-funding institutions from 24 European countries established with the goal of launching international calls for research proposals. The mission of CHANSE is to fund high-quality international research projects, inspire collaboration between scientists and various stakeholder groups, promote gender equality in science and strengthen the European Research Area, especially in countries with a less successful track record within EU Framework Programmes (known as the “widening countries”).

In 2023, the CHANSE consortium launched two calls. 22 countries participated in the Crisis – Perspectives from the Humanities Call (organised jointly with the HERA network) and 18 countries were involved in the Enhancing Well-Being for the Future Call (organised jointly with the NORFACE network). The results will be published in autumn 2024.

In May 2023, the network selected its Knowledge Exchange Facilitator (KEF) responsible for pulling together the different projects and supporting knowledge exchange between researchers involved in the projects and stakeholders outside the academic environment. CHANSE Kick-off Conference held in Tallin on 1-2 June 2023 was the first great opportunity for interactions between researchers involved in 26 research projects selected in 2022 under the CHANSE Transformations – Social and Cultural Dynamics in the Digital Age Call.

In 2023, the CHANSE network supported actions to create the European Partnership on Social Transformations and Resilience under Horizon Europe Framework Programme.



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European Biodiversity Partnership (Biodiversa+)

In 2023, the National Science Centre represented Poland under the Biodiversa+ Partnership (Rescuing Biodiversity to Safeguard Life on Earth) co-funded under EU Horizon Europe programme. Biodiversa+ is a European platform connecting national and regional research & innovation programmes supporting protection of biodiversity on Earth. Biodiversa+ has already launched three calls for research projects, two of which have already been concluded to ensure funding to 69 research projects. The results of the third call, launched in 2023 (BiodivNBS: Nature-based solutions for biodiversity, human well-being and transformative change), will be published in October 2024.

Since the first call launched by the Biodiversa+ Partnership, the National Science Centre and the French Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR) have served as the Call Secretariat to coordinate the call and perform a merit-based evaluation of proposals submitted to the calls at international level. In 2023, the National Science Centre continued to cooperate with the Advisory Group created in 2021 and comprising national experts. Following the Group’s recommendations, the NCN contributed to the update of the Partnership’s Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, including identification of the main research gaps and needs in Poland.



Calls announced under multilateral co-operation

Polish scientists in multilateral calls are awarded grants to carry out research projects in collaboration with foreign research teams. Institutions announcing a call jointly evaluate proposals and then provide funding to teams from their countries. Such projects are distinguished not only by their high scientific level, but also by collaboration in international consortia which often paves the way for yet further joint projects.

Calls for proposals concluded in 2023

Area	Network	Subject	Projects cofinanced by the NCN	Partner countries in projects with the participation of Polish researchers
INTERDISCIPLINARY	Biodiversa+ BiodivMon (Call 2022)	Improved transnational monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem change for science and society	6	Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Spain, Netherlands, Ireland, Germany, Norway, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, Hungary, Italy
	BTC ENUTC (Call 2023)	Building Transformation Capacities through Arts & Design	2	Latvia, Romania, Sweden
	ForestValue2 (Call 2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resilient sustainable forest systems and management Sustainable timber building systems 	3	Estonia, Finland, Spain, Ireland, Latvia, Norway, Slovenia, Italy
NZ – Life Sciences	JPND – JPco-fuND2 (Call 2023)	Large scale analysis of OMICS data for drug-target finding in neurodegenerative diseases	3	France, Spain, Netherlands, Ireland, Israel, Luxembourg, Germany, Turkey, Italy
	JPI HDHL (Call 2023)	New food resources and technologies to improve public health and food security (FOODRETEC)	2	Austria, France, Ireland, Norway, Romania
	JPIAMR-ACTION (Call 2023)	Development of innovative strategies, tools, technologies and methods for diagnostics and surveillance of antimicrobial resistance (DISTOMOS)	4	Austria, Estonia, France, Spain, Netherlands, Ireland, Lithuania, Germany, Sweden, Great Britain
ST – Physical Sciences and Engineering	CHIST-ERA IV (Call 2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security and Privacy in Decentralised and Distributed Systems (SPiDDS) Machine Learning-based Communication systems, towards Wireless AI (WAI) 	3	Finland, France, Spain, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Hungary
	CHIST-ERA IV	Open&Re-usable Research Data and Software Call	5	Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Czech Republic, Netherlands, France, South Korea, Romania, Switzerland, Turkey, Great Britain
	M-ERA.NET 3 (Call 2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable advanced materials for Energy Innovative surfaces, coatings and interfaces High performance composites Functional materials Advanced materials and technologies for health applications Next generation materials for advance electronics 	10	Austria, Brazil, Denmark, Estonia, France, Spain, Lithuania, Latvia, Israel, Germany, Turkey
	QuantERA (Call 2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantum Phenomena and Resources Applied Quantum Science 	5	Czech Republic, Finland, France, Spain, Germany, Sweden, Italy



Calls for proposals launched in 2023

Area	Programme	Topic	Call for proposals	Application deadline (pre-proposals)	Application deadline (full proposals)
INTERDISCIPLINARY	Biodiversa+ BiodivNBS	<i>Nature-Based Solutions for biodiversity, human well-being and transformative change</i>	11 September 2023	10 November 2023	9 April 2024
	JPI Urban Europe BTC EN-UTC (Call 2023)	<i>Building Transformation Capacities through Arts and Design</i>	22 February 2023	–	25 April 2023
	ForestValue2 (Call 2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilient sustainable forest systems and management • Sustainable timber building systems 	4 May 2023	–	1 September 2023
NZ – Life Sciences	JPND (Call 2023)	<i>Large scale analysis of OMICS data for drug-target finding in neurodegenerative diseases</i>	4 January 2023	7 March 2023	27 June 2023
	JPI HDHL (Call 2023)	<i>New food resources and technologies to improve public health and food security (FOODRETEC)</i>	21 February 2023	–	21 April 2023
	JPIAMR-ACTION (Call 2023)	<i>Development of innovative strategies, tools, technologies, and methods for diagnostics and surveillance of antimicrobial resistance (DISTOMOS)</i>	16 January 2023	7 March 2023	4 July 2023
ST – Physical Sciences and Engineering	M-ERA.NET 3 (Call 2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable advanced materials for energy • Innovative surfaces, coatings and interfaces • High performance composites • Functional materials • Advanced materials and technologies for health applications • Next generation materials for advance electronics 	1 March 2023	16 May 2023	21 November 2023
	QuantERA (Call 2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantum Phenomena and Resources • Applied Quantum Science 	26 January 2023	–	11 May 2023
HS – Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences	CHANSE & HERA CHANSE & NORFACE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crisis – Perspectives from the Humanities • Enhancing Well-being for the Future 	26 May 2023	21 September 2023	26 March 2024
	T-AP DGT (Call 2023)	<i>Democracy, Governance and Trust</i>	15 June 2023	–	6 November 2023

Multilateral co-operation based on the Lead Agency Procedure

In tandem with other European research-funding agencies, the NCN announces multilateral calls based on the lead agency procedure, which takes advantage of national calls organised by each partner institution in order to assess international projects. Bilateral and trilateral research proposals undergo merit-based evaluation at only one institution, the lead agency, appropriate for one of the project teams, and compete against other proposals submitted to the same call. Not unlike in other cases of cooperation between the NCN and its foreign partners, each agency funds the part of the project that will be carried out by the national team from its country.

Weave

In 2023, the National Science Centre continued to cooperate within the framework of the Weave initiative with agencies from Austria, Belgium-Flanders, the Czech Republic, Luxembourg, Germany, Slovenia and Switzerland.

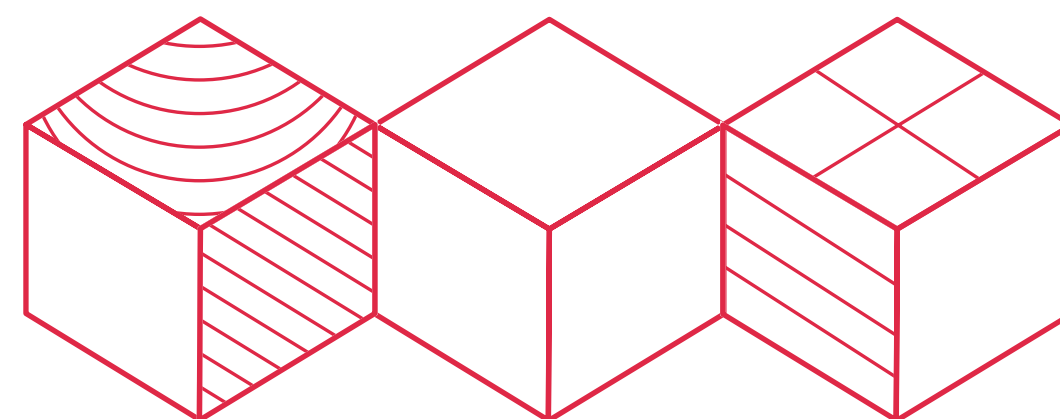
Bilateral or trilateral Weave proposals in all research disciplines may be submitted to the NCN under two calls, depending on the lead agency (foreign partner agency or the NCN):

- under Weave-UNISONO for proposals submitted and evaluated by foreign partner agencies acting as the lead agency (in 2023: FWF, FWO, GAČR, FNR, DFG, ARIS or SNSF)

- in the September edition of the OPUS call (in 2023: OPUS 26 + LAP/Weave) for proposals submitted by the NCN. OPUS LAP proposals are evaluated together with domestic proposals

The results of Weave-UNISONO are published on a rolling basis, as the proposals are evaluated at lead agencies and depend on how long it takes for the evaluation to be approved by partner agencies. In the case of OPUS LAP, the results are published as and when the outcome of NCN's merit-based evaluation is approved by the partner institutions competent for the foreign research teams.

The group of foreign agencies cooperating with the NCN is expected to be further expanded.



IMPRESS-U

Pursuant to the agreement concluded in July 2023 by the National Science Centre, American National Science Foundation, National Academy of Sciences and Office of Naval Research Global as well as the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange, National Research Foundation of Ukraine, Latvian Council of Science, Research Council of Lithuania and Estonian Research Council, the NCN joined the International Multilateral Partnerships for Resilient Education and Science System in Ukraine (IMPRESS-U) which aims to support excellence in science and engineering research, education and innovation through international collaboration and promote and catalyse integration of Ukrainian researchers in the global research community.

IMPRESS-U launched by the National Science Centre is addressed at Polish research teams who will work in tandem with research teams from Ukraine and the United States (optionally from Lithuania, Latvia and/or Estonia) within the framework of a joint research project. The NSF acts as the lead agency in charge of a merit-based evaluation of proposals.

POLONEZ BIS PROGRAMME

In 2023, the National Science Centre continued the Marie Skłodowska Curie POLONEZ BIS programme co-funded from the resources of the EU Horizon 2020 Programme for research and innovation. The programme was addressed at experienced foreign researchers willing to conduct their basic research in Poland for 24 months at the research institutions of their choice.

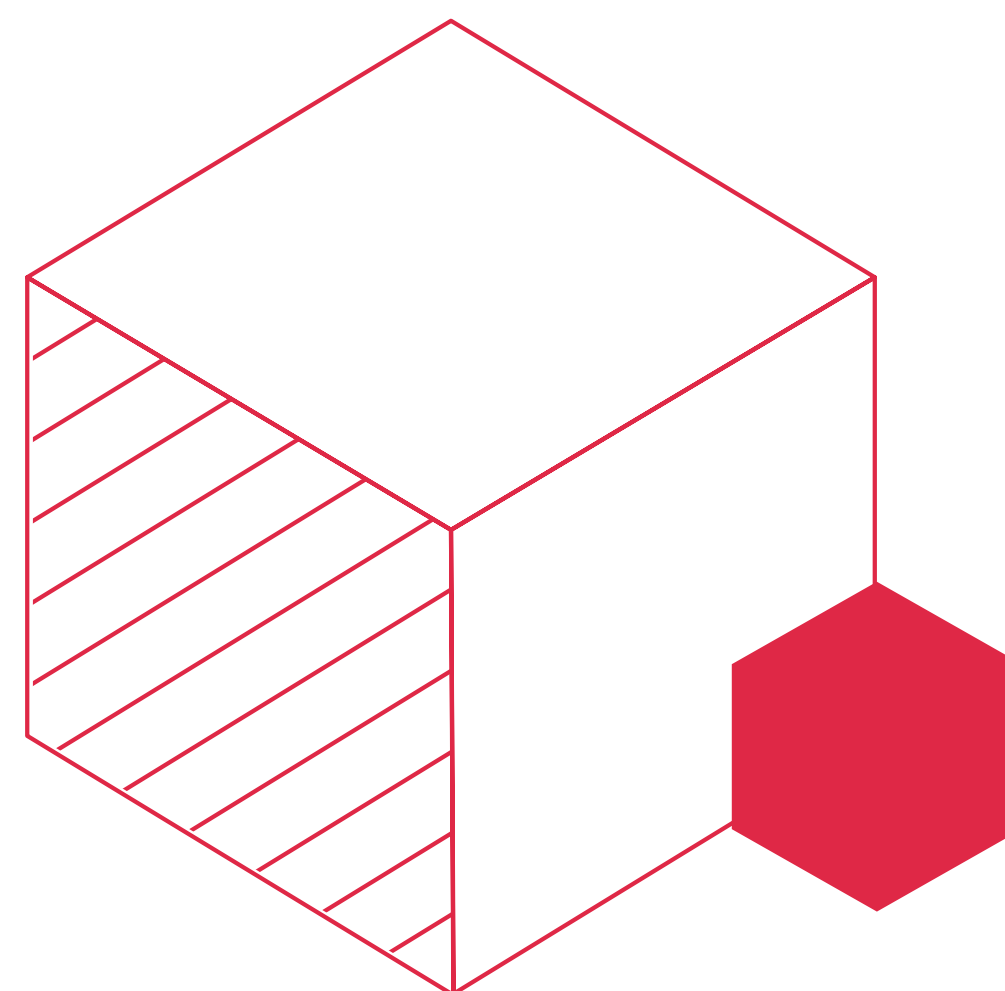
In spring 2023, the NCN evaluated proposals submitted to the latest POLONEZ BIS 3 concluded on 15 December 2022. The results were published in May 2023 and the first projects selected under the call were launched in September. In spring 2023, projects funded under POLONEZ BIS 2 were launched, as scheduled. The NCN organised two Kick-Off Meetings for the winning applicants of POLONEZ BIS 2, POLONEZ BIS 3 and their mentors. The first meeting was held on 19 and 20 June and the second on 30 November and 1 December. During the meetings, researchers were able to establish contacts with other winning applicants and participated in the career development workshop organised by the training company CRAC-Vitae from the United Kingdom, one of POLONEZ BIS's partners. They could also enhance their knowledge of open access to publications and research data.

In 2023, as scheduled, the NCN ended recruitment of researchers under POLONEZ BIS, in which 132 talented foreign researchers were invited to Poland, of which 110 launched their projects in the Polish research institutions before the end of 2023.



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Calls for proposals funded under The EEA and Norway Grants

In 2023, we continued work on the implementation of the Mechanism of the European Economic Area and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 under the agreement signed in December 2017 between Poland and Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. Under the 3rd edition of the Basic Research Programme within the framework of the EEA and Norway Grants, three calls for proposals have been conducted:

-  **GRIEG** – call for research projects carried out by Polish-Norwegian teams, with a budget of EUR 37.34 million
-  **IdeaLab** – call for innovative, interdisciplinary research projects that are a response to important social challenges and which are carried out by teams from Poland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, with a budget of EUR 4.43 million
-  **POLS** – call for proposals supporting researcher mobility with small grants, targeting foreign researchers wishing to carry out research in Poland, with a budget of EUR 7 million

Under the GRIEG call, funding was awarded to 35 Polish-Norwegian research projects for a total of over PLN 198 million, while under the IdeaLab call, three projects for a total of PLN 17.5 million were recommended for funding. Under the POLS call, funding of PLN 28 million was awarded to 37 projects.

On the initiative of the National Science Centre as the Basic Research Programme operator, a scholarship programme was launched in July 2022

to support Ukrainian students and researchers without a PhD degree. Allocation for the programme was from the bilateral fund from which PLN 2.18 million was paid to finance scholarships for 36 students and early-stage researchers.

In 2022, EUR 1.27 million was allocated under the EEC Financial Mechanism to finance the pre-defined polar project CRIOS “Cryosphere Integrated Observatory Network on Svalbard”.

Since the beginning of 2024, the HarSval initiative has been underway, scheduled for a period of 12 months under the Bilateral Cooperation Fund. A consortium of 25 Polish and Norwegian research institutions has a budget of Euro 1.58 million to coordinate polar research and support Polish and Norwegian researchers.

Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway grants



Norway
grants

European Open Science Cloud

In 2023, the National Science Centre continued to coordinate the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC). The EOSC is formed by an ecosystem of various infrastructures to keep and process research results in line with the EU’s Policy of Open Science. The main aim of the EOSC initiative was to develop a trusted, virtual, federated environment that cuts across borders and scientific disciplines to store, share, process and reuse research digital objects, such as publications, data and software, following FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable).

In 2023, the National Science Centre represented Poland as a mandated organisation in the European Open Science Cloud Association and the EOSC Steering Board, which served in an advisory role to the European Commission.

NCN’s contribution in the development of EOSC in 2023:

1. [four MOOC online courses](#) on research data management, addressed at researchers working with research data and data stewards supporting researchers, available at basic and intermediate levels.
2. Domain-specific webinars on research data management in the area of:
 - [Linguistics](#),
 - [Life Sciences and Environment](#),
 - [Social Communication and Media Sciences](#),
 - [Medical, Pharmaceutical and Health Sciences](#),
 - [Qualitative Data in Sociological Sciences](#)
3. [2023 EOSC Festival: The National Tripartite Event Poland](#) (more on p. 35)

4. [EOSC.PL website created](#) to support the development of EOSC and promote open science-related activities of Polish entities, including good practices in research data management and implementation of EOSC in Poland, and to present Polish open data experts.
5. Coordination of the EOSC Poland Network, the national structure of EOSC, established to support the development of EOSC, coordinate and strengthen EOSC-related activities at the national level and embed them in the international context of EOSC.

In 2023, the NCN continued the EOSC Focus project to support the EOSC Partnership in delivering its mission of establishing Open Science as the “new normal”. The project has been awarded by the European Commission through the Horizon Europe call “Supporting the development and coordination of activities of the EOSC Partnership”.



NCN Award 2023

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. 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. Nominees are selected by the Chapter, which includes the NCN Director and Council members.

On 11 October 2023, the eleventh NCN Award ceremony was held at the Gallery of 19th-Century Polish Art in Sukiennice (branch of the National Museum). On that day, the winners of the NCN Award were officially announced, including Karolina Ćwiek-Rogalska in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Łukasz Opaliński in Life Sciences and Katharina Boguslawski in Physical Sciences and Engineering. There were videos on, and speeches in honour of, the winning researchers who were then presented with the awards and diplomas. The event featured a concert by the Szymon Mika Trio and was streamed online on NCN channels and made available online. The award winners received PLN 50,000 each for outstanding basic research achievements.



**Dr Karolina
Ćwiek-Rogalska**



See the video



**Dr hab. Łukasz
Opaliński, prof. UW**



See the video



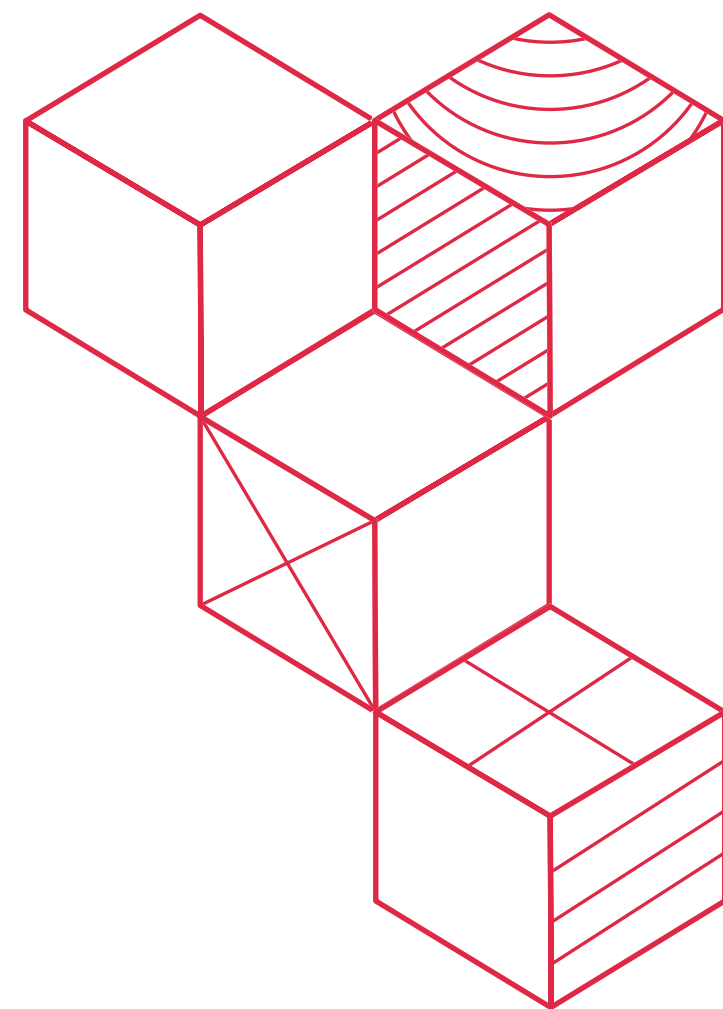
**Dr hab. Katharina
Boguslawski, prof. UMK**



See the video

Promoting our work

An important section of our efforts is oriented towards disseminating information on our funding opportunities in the research community. In 2023 we worked on that objective through a number of actions at home and abroad. We spread the news of the announced and concluded calls and NCN's initiatives both online and by means of traditional media; we organised and actively participated in a variety of initiatives for improving the publicity reach of science.



The NCN Open Days 2023 in Wrocław

On 10 and 11 May, the ninth NCN Days were held in Wrocław, hosted by the Wrocław University of Science and Technology and co-organised by other research institutions from south-western Poland, represented by the College of Vice-Rectors for Science of Wrocław and Opole (KRUWiO).

On the first day, representatives of the scientific community met the Directors and Council of the National Science Centre. In addition to commemorative speeches, the winning applicants of NCN calls spoke of their research funded by the NCN.

As part of the event, an open meeting "We Can Do It!" was also held, during which the NCN Council met with the scientific community to discuss the NCN grant system, call and appeal procedures, and recent amendments to the regulations in view of Europe's current economic and geopolitical situation. At the same time, a workshop was held for administrative staff of research institutions in charge of NCN grant administration.

Participants of the proposal evaluation workshop held on 11 May played the part of experts evaluating funding proposals. A mock panel evaluated real proposals whose authors agreed for them to be used for training purposes. The workshop was divided into three groups (HS, ST and NZ) in order to simulate the proposal evaluation procedure and to share knowledge of NCN's call processes and principles. There was also a briefing on open data in the policy and practice of the National Science Centre. As usual, the NCN Days included a workshop for administrative staff of universities and research institutions.



Events promoting international programmes and partnerships

On 1 and 2 June 2023, a **CHANSE Conference: Transformations – Social and Cultural Dynamics in the Digital Age** was held in Tallin. The conference was coordinated by the National Science Centre and featured representatives of projects funded under the CHANSE call as well as representatives of the European Commission, agencies co-forming the network, and science, culture and business stakeholders. The conference was opened by keynote speeches from Prof. Marju Lauristin from the University of Tartu and Dr Taras Fedirko from the University of Glasgow. The purpose of the conference was to create a unique platform for international research teams, winners of the CHANCE Transformations call, to exchange research experience. Participants had the opportunity to attend panel discussions on artificial intelligence, and the role of humanities in the digital age, as well as in a workshop on knowledge exchange between researchers and non-academic stakeholders, such as representatives of business, culture and non-governmental organisations.

During **two POLONEZ BIS Kick-Off Meetings** on 19 and 20 June and between 30 November and 1 December, we hosted researchers launching their POLONEZ BIS projects. The two-day event was an opportunity for the scientists to get to know other Fellows, take part in a workshop on career development and find out more on open access to publications.

On 16 November, the National Science Centre hosted a **conference promoting the Basic Research Programme carried out under the third edition of EEA and Norway Grants**. The conference brought together high-profile researchers,

innovators and stakeholders from Poland and Norway and focused on Humanities and Social Sciences. During the conference, project teams and individual researchers from Polish and Norwegian academic centres also presented their research projects and detailed the findings they had obtained in grants awarded under calls such as GRIEG, POLS and IDEALAB. The conference also featured an expert panel entitled Social Transformations in the Age of Polarization, moderated by Prof. Nina Witoszek from the University of Oslo. Its panellists discussed the challenges of mounting social polarisation, shared their observations and recommended possible measures. The panellists included researchers working on Polish-Norwegian projects under the GRIEG call: Dr Katarzyna Jaśko from the Jagiellonian University, Dr hab. Jarosław Michałowski from the SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities and Dr Paweł Marczewski from the Stefan Batory Foundation, operator of the Active Citizens programme under the third EEA and Norway Grants. They presented their research findings from projects focused on social challenges in the age of polarisation.

On 6 and 7 November, the second **EOSC Festival: the National Tripartite Event Poland** was held at the headquarters of the National Science Centre and online. The event attracted a total of 260 participants (both in-person and online), representatives of Polish Open Science, including the key infrastructures and EOSC service providers, research funding and implementing organisations as well as all those involved in the research data management, i.e. researchers, PhD students and data stewards. Open Science (OS) was discussed as well as the future of EOSC in Europe. The focus was on key issues related to OS policy and implementation and EOSC development in Widening Countries and beyond. Over 40 contributors from 13 countries presented the European perspective as well as the perspectives of individual member states and associated countries.





Training courses and workshops

We organised **training courses, workshops and webinars** for applicants of national and international calls of the National Science Centre, administrative staff of research institutions involved in grant management, as well as training courses for data stewards and officers of research institutions in charge of open access to publications and research data.

In 2023, we organised:



training courses for officers of research institutions involved in the administrative management of research



meetings on NCN call portfolio



training courses on open science, European Open Science Cloud (EOSC), research data management and data stewardship

Informing the public about the NCN

The mainstay of our public communication is our website (www.ncn.gov.pl), featuring comprehensive information on programmes and all key data concerning the NCN and our activities. The service has versions in Polish and English.

Apart from updated information on national and international calls available in the NCN portfolio, the website also features data on all NCN-funded projects ([NCN Project Database](#)), as well as a listing of open positions in research projects funded by the NCN ([Job Offer Database](#)).

Information on new calls and top events was also disseminated via social media channels, including [Facebook](#) (almost 18 thousand fans), [Instagram](#) (over 1.4 thousand followers), [Youtube](#) (over 400 subscribers), [Twitter](#) (almost 6 thousand followers) and [LinkedIn](#) (almost 15.4 thousand followers) as well as our newsletter, KODA NCN (430 subscribers).

The National Science Centre maintained separate websites and ran social media for EU co-funded programs coordinated by the NCN, i.e. CHANSE (www.chanse.org), QuantERA (www.quantera.eu) and POLONEZ BIS (www.polonezbis.eu). The POLONEZ BIS website (in two language version) provided information for applicants, host institutions and researchers carrying out the winning projects.

Apart from actively promoting our work online, we printed official publications: brochures with information on the NCN call portfolio and its activities in two language versions, Polish and English; publication of QuantERA programme

Mapping of Public Policies in QuantERA and a set of NCN call leaflets in Polish and English. The NCN also published a 2024 wall calendar with photographs of NCN call winners at their workplaces or sites related to their research projects. The calendar is yet another way to promote the NCN call portfolio and the research projects it has allowed to fund. The above-mentioned publications are also available online. An electronic version of the Annual Report 2022 (in Polish and English) and Call Statistics 2022 (in Polish) are published on our website.

Last year, we also recorded eight films about the activities of the National Science Centre:

- a video report on the NCN Open Days 2022 in Wrocław,
- 3 videos about the 2023 NCN Award winners,
- a video report on the 2023 NCN Awards ceremony,
- promotional video for the Basic Research program financed under the EEA and Norway Grants,
- promotional video/ video report for QuantERA,
- video report on the EOSC Festival: The National Tripartite Event Poland, held on 6 and 7 November 2023.

The videos were made in two language versions: in Polish and in English and had subtitles.

Together with the Copernicus Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies at the Jagiellonian University we organised lectures by the 2023 NCN Award winners on their scientific discoveries:

- 14 November: lecture by Dr Karolina Ćwiek-Rogalska, NCN Award winner in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences entitled “Things acting as “ghosts”. Displacements and emergence of new cultures in Central Europe”;
- 28 November: lecture by Dr hab. Łukasz Opaliński, NCN Award winner in Physical Sciences and Engineering entitled “Multivalency in biology and biomedicine: how to harness natural cellular processes to develop innovative cancer therapies”;
- 14 December: lecture by Dr hab. Katharina Boguslawski, NCN Award winner in Life Sciences entitled “The quantum path to chemistry”.

In February, the first NCN podcast entitled “Science is All About People” was released. We launched a series of talks about important issues facing the scientific community and science in Poland. In 2023, we launched ten episodes in total, covering themes such as NCN grant system, proposal submission and evaluation procedure, grant geography, international calls, NCN’s support for early-stage researchers, NCN Award and the situation of women and men in science. NCN podcasts are available on Spotify and Spotify for Podcasters, Apple Podcast, Google Podcast and on our YouTube channel.



NCN in the media

In 2023, the National Science Centre pursued an intensive media strategy, involving meetings with Polish and foreign journalists to discuss the situation of the NCN, e.g. potential interference and underfunding. 23 press releases on the current operation of the NCN (calls launched and concluded) were published in national, local, academic, and scientific media outlets which had been sent to approx. 700 journalists and staff of university promotion departments.

The national and international media, local press and academic and scientific media outlets (e.g. Research Professional News, Science Business, Times Higher Education, Polish Press Agency (PAP), Gazeta Wyborcza, Forum Akademickie) published many articles about the NCN, penned either by journalists or NCN staff. 9.4 thousand publications were released, reaching 270.2 million people, including nearly 500 references in the press, on radio and television, 4.4 thousand on the websites and 4.5 thousand on social media.

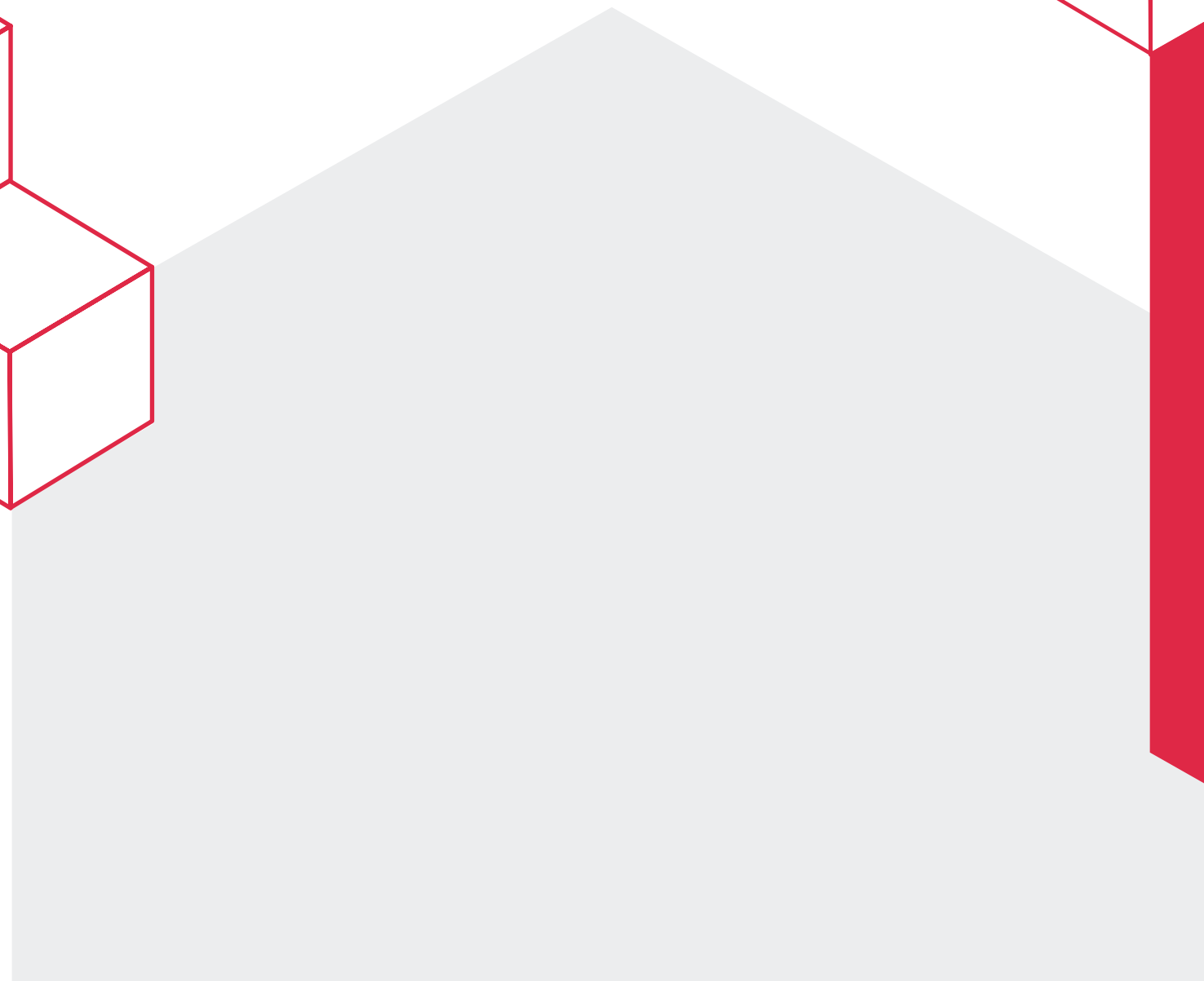
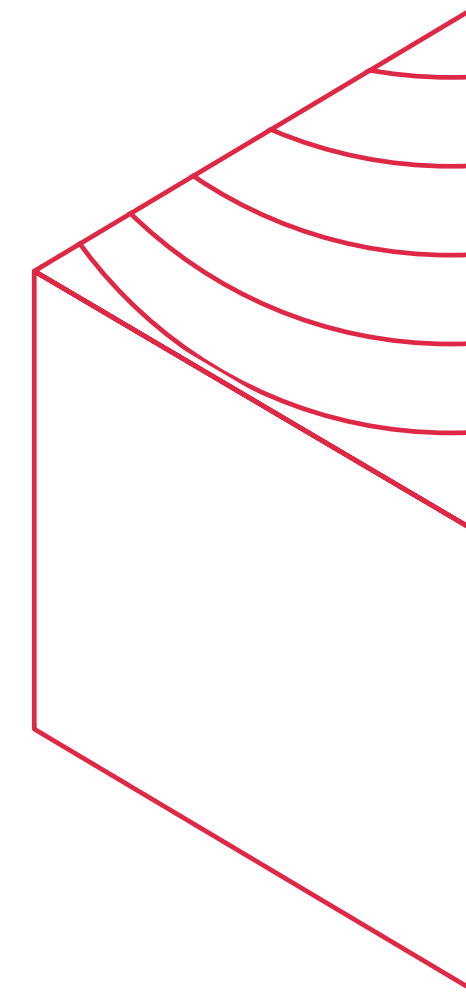
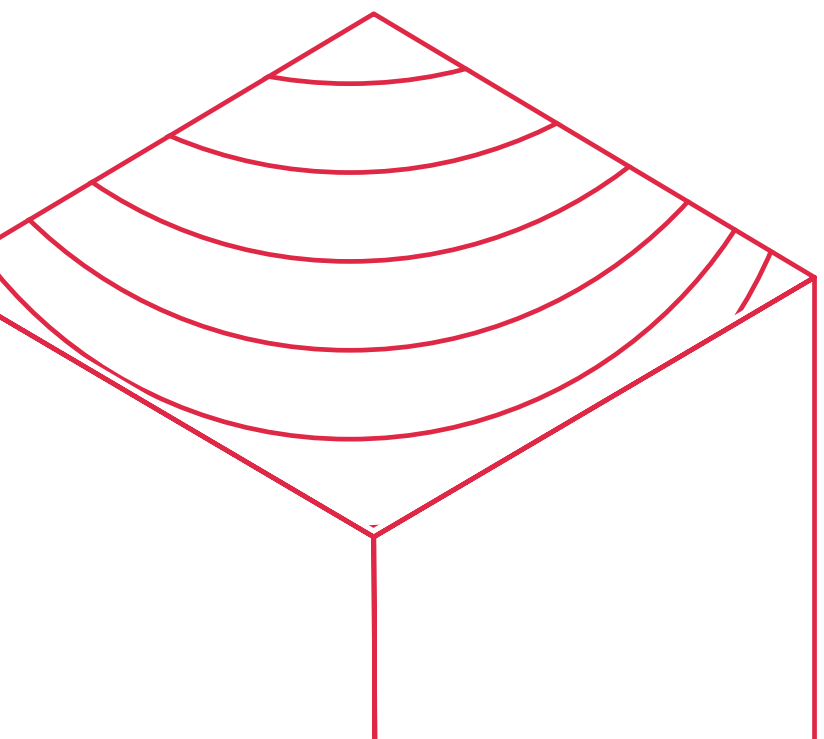
In 2023, the NCN Director gave 4 interviews on the NCN's operations and grant portfolio, grant allocation principles and open science. The NCN Council President was interviewed twice.

Budget

In 2023, we spent PLN 1.5 billion of which PLN 1.39 billion in grant-in-aid was allocated for the calls. The subsidy for management and operations of nearly PLN 38.2 million was used to cover the running management cost.



Research projects





 [Read more](#)



Principal Investigator:

Dr Sam Poppe

The Space Research Centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences

Project title:

DeMo-Planet: Modelling magma intrusions on the Moon, Mars and Earth

NCN panel: ST10

Call for proposals: POLS, announced on 16 March 2020



 [Read more](#)



Principal Investigator:

Dr Martyna Molak-Tomsia

Museum and Institute of Zoology Polish Academy of Science


Project title:

Tiwanaku: using genetic methods to explore the origin, characteristics and population changes of a pre-Columbian Lake Titicaca culture

NCN panel: NZ8

Call for proposals: SONATA 8, announced on 15 September 2014



 [Read more](#)



Principal Investigator:

Dr Krystian Szadkowski

Adam Mickiewicz University Poznań

Project title:

Origins and development of peripheral academic capitalism in Poland (1990-2021)

NCN panel: HS6

Call for proposals: SONATA BIS 12, announced on 15 June 2022



 [Read more](#)



Principal Investigator:
Dr hab. inż. Beata Bochentyn
Gdańsk University of Technology

Project title:
Tailoring multicomponent nanometric alloys formed on active support for designing the stable anodes of Solid Oxide Fuel Cells

NCN panel: ST5

Call for proposals: SONATA BIS 11, announced on 15 June 2021



 [Read more](#)



Principal Investigator:
Prof. Dr hab. Karol Fijałkowski
West Pomeranian University of Technology in Szczecin

Project title:
Analysis of mechanisms of increased effectiveness of antimicrobial substances against biofilms in the presence of a rotating magnetic field

NCN panel: NZ6

Call for proposals: OPUS 14, announced on 15 September 2019



 [Read more](#)



Principal Investigator:
Dr hab. Dorota Merez-Kot
University of Lodz

Project title:
New challenges for occupational safety and health in times of the digital transformation in Europe: the role of digital labour platforms

NCN panel: HS6

Call for proposals: CHANCE, announced on 9 March 2021



Performing for Polish research

ncn.gov.pl