

ADDENDUM

to

EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021

PROGRAMME AGREEMENT

on the financing of the Programme “Basic Research”

hereinafter referred to as the “Agreement”

between

The Financial Mechanism Committee
hereinafter referred to as the “FMC”
The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
hereinafter referred to as the “NMFA”

and

The Department of Assistance Programmes,
Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy
hereinafter referred to as the “National Focal Point”,
representing Poland,
hereinafter referred to as the “Beneficiary State”
together hereinafter referred to as the “Parties”

Article 1

1. The Annexes to the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanism Programme Agreement for the financing of the Programme PL-Basic Research are replaced by the Annexes sent with this addendum.
2. The modifications contained in the new versions of the Agreement entered into force on 26/08/2022.

Signed in Brussels on 6 September 2022..... Signed inon

For the FMC and NMFA

For the National Focal Point

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Henning Stirø
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Henning Stirø
Managing Director
Financial Mechanism Office

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Mr Maciej Aulak
Director
Department of Assistance Programmes

Annex I to the Programme Agreement

Programme Operators and Partners	
Programme Operator:	National Science Centre
Donor Programme Partner:	Research Council of Norway (RCN)
IPO:	-
Other Programme Partner(s):	The National Centre for Research and Development

Programme Objective	Enhanced research-based knowledge development						
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PA	Outcome/Output	Expected programme results	Indicator	Disaggregation	Unit of measurement	Source of verification	Frequency of reporting	Baseline values	Baseline year	Target value
PA02	Outcome 1	Enhanced performance of Polish basic research	Number of peer-reviewed scientific publications submitted Number of joint, peer-reviewed scientific publications submitted in basic research	Type of scientific publication Donor State, Type of scientific publication	Cumulative number	Proof of submission	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	250
	Output 1.1	Support to researchers conducting basic research provided	Number of Polish researchers supported	Gender	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' and Project Partners' records	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	230
	Output 1.2	Support to young researchers provided	Number of mentor-mentee relationships established for young researchers	N/A	Cumulative number	Project Promoters' and Project Partners' records	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	90

	Output 1.3	Support for collaboration between science and society implemented	Number of public organisations, NGOs or other public benefit organisations involved	N/A	Cumulative number	Copies of contracts concluded with Project Promoters, letters of intent	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	48	
PA02	Bilateral Outcome	Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme	Level of trust between cooperating entities in Poland and donors states	State type	Scale 1-7	Survey results	Annually (APR)	6.84 ¹	2021	4.5 ²	
			Level of satisfaction with the partnership	State type	Scale 1-7	Survey results	Annually (APR)	6.59 ³	2021	4.5 ⁴	
			Share of cooperating organisations that apply the knowledge acquired from bilateral partnership	State type	Percentage	Survey results	Annually (APR)	N/A	N/A	N/A	50 ⁵
			Number of joint applications for further funding	Donor State	Cumulative number	Copies of the application for funding	Annually (APR)	0	N/A	N/A	5
			Number of projects involving cooperation with a donor project partner	Donor State	Number	Copies of contracts concluded with Project Promoters, Partnership agreements between Project Promoters and project partners	Semi-annually (APR and September IFR)	0	N/A	N/A	35

¹ Survey to be carried out by the FMO

² Target is ≥ 4.5 , and an increase on the baseline value

³ Survey to be carried out by the FMO

⁴ Target is ≥ 4.5 , and an increase on the baseline value

⁵ Target is minimum 50%

Conditions

General

1. The National Focal Point shall ensure that pursuant to Article 1.5.2 of the Regulation that the Programme Operator shall ensure that any additional provisions to the implementation of the Programme shall be kept to a minimum, and to this end the Donor Programme Partner shall be closely involved in and effectively contribute to the development of the project contract template and other templates of document(s) relevant to the implementation of the programme, especially those affecting the relation of the project promoter and partner(s).
2. The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator closely cooperates during the implementation of the programme with the Programme Operator of the Applied Research Programme in Poland.
3. The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator, before publishing the SGS 'POLS' presents to the Programme Committee a thorough assessment of the added value of this measure vis-à-vis similar national initiatives (offered by the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA)) and other European initiatives, in order to establish whether there is a justifiable funding gap for the activities proposed by the SGS 'POLS'. Further provisions on the implementation of this condition are specified in section 8. Miscellaneous in Annex II of this agreement.

Pre-eligibility

Not applicable

Pre-payment

Not applicable

Pre-completion

Not applicable

Post-completion

Not applicable

Eligibility of costs - period	First date	Final date
Eligibility of costs	21/12/2017	31/12/2024
Grant rate and co-financing		
Programme eligible expenditure (€)		€ 60,600,332
Programme grant rate (%)		85.00 %
Maximum amount of Programme grant - EEA Financial Mechanism (€)		€ 4,000,000
Maximum amount of Programme grant - Norwegian Financial Mechanism (€)		€ 47,510,282
Maximum amount of Programme grant - Total (€)		€ 51,510,282

PA	Budget Heading	EEA Grants	Norway Grants	Total grant	Programme grant rate	Programme co-financing	Programme eligible expenditure	Advance payment
PA02	Programme management	€ 231,091	€ 2,310,909	€ 2,542,000	85.00 %	€ 448,588	€ 2,990,588	€ 850,000
PA02	Outcome 1 (EEA Grants)	€ 3,768,909		€ 3,768,909	85.00 %	€ 665,102	€ 4,434,011	€ 0
PA02	Outcome 1 (Norway Grants)		€ 45,199,373	€ 45,199,373	85.00 %	€ 7,976,360	€ 53,175,733	€ 0
Total		€ 4,000,000	€ 47,510,282	€ 51,510,282	85.00 %	€ 9,090,050	€ 60,600,332	€ 850,000

Retention of management costs	
Retention of management costs - Percentage of the management costs	5.00 %
Retention of management costs - Planned Euro value	€ 149,529

Research

Operational rules (Annex II)

1. Programme summary

This Annex sets out the operational rules for the programme. The programme agreement is based on the MoUs, the concept note, and comments made by the Donors. Commitments, statements and guarantees, explicit as well as implicit, made in the concept note, are binding for the National Focal Point and the Programme Operator unless otherwise explicitly stipulated in the annexes to this programme agreement.

The Programme Operator (PO) is the National Science Centre (NCN). The Research Council of Norway is the Donor Programme Partner (DPP).

The Programme objective: **“Enhanced research-based knowledge development”** shall be attained through projects to be selected within **one outcome, “Enhanced performance of Polish basic research”** as a result of two calls for proposals, ‘GRIEG’ and ‘IdeaLab’ and one small grant scheme (SGS) ‘POLS’ and one pre-defined project CRIOS – Cryosphere Integrated Observatory Network on Svalbard.

In accordance with the Guideline for Research Programmes, the programme shall follow the principles and practice of European framework programmes (i.e. Horizon 2020 and to Horizon Europe) and the international best practice for research and innovation. The programme will pay particular attention to the implementation of principles and provisions on Open Science.

2. Eligibility

2.1 Eligible applicants:

The provisions of Chapter 8 of the Guideline for Research Programmes contain the rules on eligibility of applicants and project partners. The following limitations to these provisions shall be placed:

1. Eligible project promoter (applicant):

- Research organisations, as defined in the Commission Regulation (Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty), and as specified in the relevant articles⁶ of the Act on the National Science Centre, established as a legal person in Poland are eligible in the open calls and the small grant scheme.
- Enterprises as defined in the Commission Regulation (Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty), established in Poland are eligible in the small grant scheme.

1. Eligible project partners:

- Any public or private entity, commercial or non-commercial as well as non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person in Poland or Norway are eligible in the ‘GRIEG’ call.
- Any public or private entity, commercial or non-commercial as well as non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person in Poland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein are eligible in the IdeaLab call.
- Partnerships are not eligible in the SGS ‘POLS’.

⁶ Currently article 27 section 1, point 1, 3-6.

Minimum conditions for the composition of partnerships (type and number of participant) in the GRIEG call shall be specified in the call for proposal, following the advice of the Programme Committee. However, the lead Norwegian partner shall be approved by the RCN (DPP) in accordance with the provisions of the RCN (DPP) guidelines for approval of research organisation.

2.2 *Special rules on eligibility of costs:*

Chapter 8 of the Regulation contains the rules on eligibility of costs. The following exceptions are made:

- Article 10.8 of the Guideline for Research Programmes concerning indirect costs shall apply. Alternatively, Norwegian entities classified as ‘Research Institutes’ may use standard scales of unit costs in accordance with Article 8.4.1 (b) of the Regulation. According to the Research Council of Norway's procedure for ‘Payroll and indirect costs’, the Norwegian entities classed as ‘Research Institutes’ calculate the payroll and indirect costs together, as hourly rates for the staff participating in a project. The RCN will facilitate the verification of conformity of unit scales used by the project participants.
- Remuneration for Polish members of the scientific team and additional staff supporting the implementation of the project shall not exceed per year:
 - 190,000 PLN – principal investigator
 - 170,000 PLN – project partner
 - 120,000 PLN - researcher
 - 100,000 PLN - person employed at a specialist auxiliary post / administrative project manager.
- A full-time employment contract for a person newly employed at the post-doc post shall be awarded in accordance with the relevant Resolution of the Council of the NCN. Indicative minimum amount of scholarships⁷: PLN 3,500/month. Additionally, the total budget of scholarships for each month of the project implementation may amount to 30,000 PLN.
- The entire purchase price of equipment, not exceeding 500,000 PLN according to the Law on higher education and science of 20 July 2018, shall be eligible cost in accordance with Article 8.3.1 c) of the Regulation.
- The purchase of real estate and/or land shall not be eligible.

3. **Bilateral relations**

3.1 *Bilateral relations*

The Programme shall contribute to strengthening bilateral relations between Poland and the Donor States.

The Programme shall as appropriate facilitate donor partnership projects by carrying out, inter alia, match-making events and activities in conjunction with launching the call for proposals, as well as by encouraging donor partnership projects in call texts.

The use of the funds for bilateral relations allocated to the programme shall be agreed between the Programme Operator and the Research Council of Norway. The NFP shall be involved in the process as observer. Parties of the bilateral initiatives might be specifically designated jointly by the Programme Operator and the Research Council of Norway or selected through an open call procedure.

4. **Selection of projects and financial parameters**

4.1 *Open calls and availability of funds (including number of calls, duration of calls, and estimated size):*

The Programme will be implemented through:

1. one call for collaborative research projects, ‘GRIEG’, in the following areas: (1) Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, (2) Physical Sciences and Engineering, and (3) Life Sciences. In addition, polar research shall be supported;

⁷ Scholarships shall be awarded in accordance with the relevant Resolution of the Council of the NCN.

2. one call for ground-breaking, interdisciplinary research projects, ‘IdeaLab,’ targeting challenges facing European societies today and in the future, and;
3. one SGS ‘POLs’ that shall support incoming mobility of researchers from abroad, who are residents and working outside Poland.

An additional call(s) will be considered if there is not sufficient demand within the first call and there is enough funding left from the first call and the time scope is still sufficient. Such potential additional call(s) may be thematically restricted according to the advice of experts of the Programme Committee.

All the unspent funds remaining further to the SGS ‘POLs’ may be reallocated to projects from the reserve list of the ‘GRIEG’ call, if still feasible considering the timeframe of the Programme. Such a reallocation does not require an amendment to the Programme Agreement.

Call	Outcome	Estimated timing of the call	Total available amount	Planned minimum grant applied for	Planned maximum grant applied for
Call 1 (GRIEG)	Outcome 1	Q2 2019	€ 46,175,733	€ 500,000	€ 1,500,000
Call 2 (IdeaLab)	Outcome 1	Q2 2019	€ 3,162,386	€ 500,000	€ 1,500,000
SGS 1 (POLs)	Outcome 1	Q1 2020	€ 7,000,000	€ 100,000	€ 200,000

The ‘IdeaLab’ call shall be financed by the EEA FM, the other calls by the Norway FM.

4.2 Selection procedures:

The Programme Operator shall follow the selection procedure described in the Guideline for Research Programmes for the ‘GRIEG’ call and the SGS ‘POLs’. The call documents shall be prepared in cooperation with the DPP and reviewed and approved by the Programme Committee (PC).

The ‘IdeaLab’ call is a new activity based on the RCN experience and is modelled on calls conducted by the RCN. It is agreed that the selection procedure for ‘IdeaLab’ call meets the minimal requirements stipulated in the Guidelines for Research Programmes. The call documents shall be prepared in cooperation with the DPP and reviewed and approved by the Programme Committee (PC).

‘GRIEG’ and ‘POLs’ calls:

The Programme Operator shall be responsible for reviewing the applications for compliance with administrative and eligibility criteria. The Programme Committee shall be informed about the result of the administrative and eligibility assessment. Applicants whose applications is rejected at this stage shall be informed of the reasons for rejection in writing and given 14 working days to appeal that decision to the Appeal Committee of the Council of the National Science Centre.

Each application that meets the administrative and eligibility criteria shall be reviewed by three international experts who will independently and separately score the proposal according to the evaluation criteria published with the call for proposals. International experts shall be residents and

working outside Poland and the Donor States. The pool of experts is established in cooperation with the RCN (DPP).

The individual evaluation of application within the 'POLS' call shall follow a two-step procedure. First the experts shall assess the scientific excellence of the principal investigator, his or her project implementation capacity and competence as well as quality of the proposed work plan. Only applications achieving the threshold score published in the call for proposal shall be submitted for review of the full proposal in the second step.

The selection criteria in the 'GRIEG' call and in the second step of the 'POLS' call shall be based on section 8.14 of the Guideline for Research Programmes.

The three panels (Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Panel, Life Sciences Panel and the Physical Sciences and Engineering Panel) shall consist of international experts who prepared the individual evaluation reports in the previous step. The consensus report, representing the common view of the three experts, including their scores and comments shall be prepared and submitted to the Programme Operator for quality assurance. The experts shall approve (sign) the consensus report.

Following the panel review an Evaluation Summary Report for each proposal is prepared, as well as a preliminary ranking list to the Programme Committee.

The Programme Committee shall consist of the Chair and members selected by the Programme Operator and Donor Programme Partner. Three members appointed by the Programme Operator shall be from Poland, two members and one vice member appointed by the DPP from the Donor States. Representatives of the Programme Operator and the Donor Programme Partner shall take part in the meetings, without voting rights. The Programme Operator shall invite the NFP, and the representatives of the Donors to participate in the Programme Committee as observers.

The Programme Committee shall review the ranked list of projects. The Programme Committee may modify the ranking of the projects in justified cases. The justification for modifications shall be detailed in the minutes of the meeting of the Programme Committee. The Chair of the Programme Committee shall submit the minutes and the list of recommended projects, together with a reserve list and the list of rejected project applications and the reason for their rejection to the Programme Operator.

The Programme Operator shall verify that the selection process has been conducted in accordance with the Regulation and the Guideline for Research Programmes and that the grant award recommendation of the Programme Committee complies with the rules and objectives of the Programme. Following such verification, the Programme Operator shall make a decision on which projects shall be supported. The applicants are granted access to the reviews of the experts through the electronic proposal submission system of the NCN.

The project grants are awarded by the Director of the Programme Operator, who issues decisions concerning project financing. The Decision of the Director may be appealed against to the Appeal Committee of the Council of the National Science Centre. The opinions and scores given by experts and panels will not be subject to appeals. Grounds for appeals may include errors in procedure or other formal infringements.

All applicants (successful and unsuccessful) have access to the evaluation of their projects in the EPSS of the NCN.

‘IdeaLab’ call:

The selection process, including the content of the call for proposals shall be organized and developed in close cooperation between the Programme Operator, Programme Committee and the DPP, especially the topic of the call.

Selection of cross-disciplinary participants of the ‘IdeaLab’ workshop

The application for participation shall present the skills and knowledge of an individual participant which shall include open and closed questions regarding i.a.:

1. Participant’s knowledge and experience in the field,
2. Soft skills & personal characteristic,
and contain a statement of the organisation planned as the place of the implementation of research tasks.

The applications shall be evaluated by the ‘IdeaLab’ director and mentors (expert panel). Each application shall be reviewed by at least three international experts, who shall be residents and working outside Poland and the Donor States. The list of experts shall be established in cooperation with the DPP.

Evaluation will include:

1. Individual assessment by experts,
2. Panel meeting with consensus assessment to select workshop participants.

A group of approx. 20-30 participants shall be selected, and an additional group of approx. 5-10 substitutes, who are invited to the workshop if another participant resigns from attendance shall also be listed.

The applicants shall be informed by e-mail about the results of the assessment.

Development and evaluation of projects during the ‘IdeaLab’ workshop

The ‘IdeaLab’ workshop brings together participants selected in the previous stage, with the director and mentors (expert panel) with cross-disciplinary expertise. Collaborative projects are developed by cross-disciplinary participants seeking to find radical new solutions to existing and future challenges to society in areas where collaboration between different

relevant actors is hindered.

The participation of experts shall ensure that the projects involve ground-breaking ideas, facilitating discussions, challenging the solutions and ideas presented by the participants, and advising and commenting the results. The aim of the event is to develop project ideas by the selected participants.

Project evaluation and selection are embedded in the 'IdeaLab' workshop procedure. The project proposals are submitted at the end of the workshop to international peer evaluation conducted by the director and mentors (expert panel). Proposals shall be selected on the basis of the selection criteria and scoring in accordance with the provisions of the Guideline for Research Programmes. In the initial phase of the evaluation each expert works individually and gives scores and comments for each criterion. Once all the experts have completed their individual assessments, the evaluation progresses to a consensus assessment, representing their common views. The outcome of the consensus step is the consensus report, approved by all experts. Scores and comments are set out in the consensus report. The list of the assessment of project ideas is available at the end of the workshop.

Full proposals submission:

All eligible project ideas submitted for evaluation during the workshop shall be eligible to submit full proposals. The deadline for full proposals submission shall not be earlier than one month from the end of the 'IdeaLab' workshop.

The Programme Operator shall carry out the eligibility assessment of the full proposals as described in section 8.7 of the Guideline for Research Programmes. The expert assessment shall be conducted by experts, who shall review the consistency of the full proposal with the project idea developed during the workshop and any recommendations. Following the assessment, the Programme Operator shall prepare a preliminary ranking list.

Finalization of evaluation and award of project grants

The Programme Operator submits the preliminary ranking list to the Programme Committee. The Programme Committee shall review the ranked list of projects and may modify the ranking of the projects in justified cases. The justification for modifications shall be detailed in the minutes of the meeting of the Programme Committee. The Chair of the Programme Committee shall submit the minutes and the list of recommended projects, together with a reserve list and the list of rejected project applications and the reason for their rejection to the Programme Operator.

The project grants are awarded by the Director of the Programme Operator, who issues decisions concerning project financing. The decision of the Director may be appealed against to the Appeal Committee of the Council of the National Science Centre.

4.3 Project grant rate:

Grants to all projects from the programme may be up to 100% of total eligible expenditure of the project. The project grant rate shall in all cases be set at a level that complies with the State Aid rules in force and takes into account any and all other forms of public support granted to projects. The remaining costs of the project shall be provided or obtained by the Project Promoter and/or Project Partner(s).

It is expected that the eligible costs claimed by the Norwegian or Lichtenstein, Islandic and Norwegian entities participating in the project shall normally not exceed 40% of the total eligible costs of the project.

5. Additional mechanisms within the Programme

5.1 Pre-defined projects

1) "CRIOS – Cryosphere Integrated Observatory Network on Svalbard"

Project Promoter:	University of Silesia in Katowice (UoS) / Centre for Polar Studies (CSP)
Donor project partner(s):	Norwegian Polar Institute University Centre in Svalbard Norwegian Meteorological Institute Svalbard Integrated Arctic Earth Observing System (SIOS)
Other project partner(s):	Institute of Geophysics Polish Academy of Sciences, Polish Academy of Science University of Wrocław (UWr) Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun Maria Curie Skłodowska University Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan Warsaw University of Technology
Total maximum eligible costs:	€ 1,271,625
Project grant rate:	100.00 %
Maximum project grant amount:	€ 1,271,625
Estimated duration:	18 months

The pre-defined project CRIOS – Cryosphere Integrated Observatory Network on Svalbard aims to establish a large, standardised and automated monitoring network focused on the cryosphere of Spitsbergen as a calibration/validation system providing high-quality data with real-time transfer to the open repositories respecting the FAIR (Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, Reusability) principles according to the Open Science policy promoted by the National Science Centre in Poland and the Research Council of Norway as the signatories of the San Francisco Declaration of Research Assessment (DORA) since 2018.

The high-quality measurements transferred in real-time to the open repositories respecting the FAIR principles will allow for the publication of scientific papers and reports to the authorities responsible for environmental policy and climate protection. Exceptional training for the young researchers will result in boosting their careers and international visibility in the polar scientists' community.

The Program outcome of the project contributes to: "Enhanced performance of Polish basic research"

The pre-defined project will focus on the development and internationalisation of Polish basic research through related topics. The activities include:

- Modernisation and developing/expansion of an automated monitoring network in Svalbard in cooperation with Norwegian partners;
- Preparing the standardised measurements protocols developed as part of joint workshops and training sessions based on the Svalbard Integrated Earth Observing System (SIOS) Core Data process and World Meteorological Office standards;
- Real-time data transfer to the open repositories, following the FAIR principles, for researchers and stakeholders. The collected, common accessible data will allow for the publication of scientific papers and reports to the authorities responsible for environmental policy and climate protection;
- Excellent training for young researchers allowing them to boost their careers and improve international visibility by close cooperation with Polish and Norwegian doctoral schools.

Additionally, the results of the CRIOS pre-defined project allow for increasing societal awareness about the effects of climate change and the processes taking place in the Arctic.

5.2 *Financial Instruments*

Not applicable

6. **Programme Management**

6.1 *Payment flows*

The payments towards the projects shall be in the form of an advance payment and interim payment(s). The Programme Operator shall ensure timely transfer of those payments.

Payments of the project grant shall take the form of advance instalments and provide the projects with a positive cash flow. The first advance instalment will be transferred to the Project Promoter within 30 days from the signature of the project contract. Further advance instalments (interim payments) will be transferred to the project in accordance with an individual pre-defined schedule of payments based on the project budget, as stipulated in the project contract. These interim payments are made twice a year, each corresponding to 50% of the planned annual project budget. The interim payments may be paid when at least 70% of the previous advance instalment(s) has been reported as incurred in the form of a certified statement. The Programme Operator shall monitor the level of incurred expenditure and amend the annual budget annexed to the project contract when appropriate.

The amount of the final balance due by the Project Promoter to the Programme Operator shall be established on the basis of the final financial report and a certificate on the financial statements accompanying the final project report.

The Project Promoter shall ensure that all payments to the other project partners are made without unjustified delay, and not later than 15 days after the Project Promoter has received payment from the Programme Operator.

The system of payments based on fixed pre-defined payment schedules, or any exception to these, as well as any requirements for the financial guarantees, will be further detailed in the description of the Programme Operator's management and control systems.

6.2 *Verification of payment claims*

The Project Promoter shall submit an annual report within 60 days of the end of each reporting period as set out in the project contract. Requirements for annual reporting and a final project report shall be complied with the Guideline for Research Programmes.

In line with point i) of Article 5.6.2 of the Regulation incurred expenditure reported through the annual reports will be subject to administrative verifications before the report is approved. Verifications to be carried out shall cover administrative, financial, technical and physical aspects of projects, as appropriate, and be in accordance with the principle of proportionality.

Requirements for the submission of proof of expenditure in the form of a certificate on financial statements shall be set in the project contract and the partnership agreement, where relevant, and shall be complied with the requirements set in the Guideline for Research Programmes.

The following exception is made: in line with the Article 34.5 Law on the National Science Centre, the proof of expenditure by means of a report by an independent auditor described in paragraph 4 of Article 8.12 of the Regulation is mandatory for project partners whose primary location is in Poland and in

research projects awarded with a grant amount equal or superior to PLN 2 million.⁸ Where applicable, this shall be submitted with the final project report.

Additionally, in line with point ii) of Article 5.6.2 of the Regulation on-the-spot verifications of projects, which may be carried out on a sample basis, shall be carried out by the Programme Operator.

The procedure for verification of reports and eligibility of expenditure will be further detailed in the description of the Programme Operator's management and control systems.

6.3 Monitoring and reporting

The Programme Operator shall monitor, record and report on progress towards the programme's outcomes in accordance with provisions contained in the legal framework. The Programme Operator shall ensure that suitable and sufficient monitoring and reporting arrangements are made with the project promoters in order to enable the Programme Operator and the National Focal Point to meet its obligation to the Donor States.

When reporting on progress achieved in Annual and Final Programme Reports, the Programme Operator shall disaggregate results achieved as appropriate and in accordance with instructions and templates received from the FMO.

6.4 Programme administrative structures

Not applicable

7. Communication

The Programme Operator shall comply with Article 3.3 of the Regulations, the Information and Communication Requirements in Annex 3 of the Regulations and the Communication plan for the programme.

8. Miscellaneous

1. Notwithstanding Article 6.9 of the Regulation, and pursuant to section 4.1 of Annex II, the FMC / NMFA shall aim to provide feedback to any proposal regarding reallocation of funds between the 'IdeaLab' call and other calls as specified in section 4.1 of Annex II, within two weeks following the receipt of the proposal.

2. Notwithstanding the above, if the assessment as described in article 3 of the general conditions in Annex I, the added value of the SGS 'POLS' cannot conclusively be established and there is an oversubscription to the 'GRIEG' call, the Programme Committee may decide to reallocate funds from the SGS 'POLS' to the 'GRIEG' call. In case such decision is taken the Basic Research Programme indicators shall be modified accordingly.

⁸ Notwithstanding the applicable national rules and any changes thereof, the threshold (EUR 325,000/promoter, partner) described in section 10.7 of the Guideline for Research Programmes shall prevail in case the national rules would require proof of expenditure for a higher amount.