

Service of decisions of the NCN Director

Under the calls launched by the National Science Centre (hereinafter: "NCN"), proposals shall be submitted electronically via the ZSUN/OSF electronic submission system, available at: <https://osf.opi.org.pl>.

By entering the call, the applicant shall express their consent to have documents served to them by the NCN by means of electronic communication, and they shall be required to indicate in the proposal the address to which they would have the documents served. The applicant shall be required to verify all data entered in the proposal, including the electronic address indicated for service of documents.

If the applicant is an entity described in Article 27 (1) – (7) and (9) of the Act on the National Science Centre of 30 April 2010 (i.e. Journal of Laws of 2019, item 1384), (hereinafter: "NCN Act"), the applicant shall indicate their Electronic Correspondence Register (ESP ePUAP) address (hereinafter: "ESP ePUEAP") as the address for service of documents.

An applicant who is a natural person may indicate the ePUAP address as the address for service of documents, and should they possess no such address, they must indicate their email address. Should the natural person specify in the proposal both the ePUAP and email address, documents shall be served only to the ePUAP address. Documents shall be served to the email address only in the case of failure to indicate the ePUAP address. Additionally, a natural person must indicate the ESP ePUAP address of the entity named in the proposal as the participating entity.

During peer review of their proposal, the applicant shall notify the NCN of all changes to their address, including the electronic address for serving documents. In the event of failure to do so, service of documents to the former address shall have legal effect.

Information of changes made to the address is governed by Article 41 of the Administrative Procedure Code of 14 June 1960 (consolidated text in Journal of Laws of 2021, item 735), (hereinafter: "APC").

The call's results shall be made available through the ZSUN/OSF system and made known by way of the NCN Director's decision.

The National Science Centre shall make available the results and send decisions on completion of each stage of proposal review, i.e.:

- a) eligibility check: the applicant whose proposal has not met the eligibility criteria shall receive the decision in an electronic format, to the electronic address specified in the proposal for service of documents, and justification for the evaluation shall be provided in the ZSUN/OSF system. The information on sending the decisions and uploading justifications to the ZSUN/OSF system for proposals rejected at the eligibility check stage shall be posted on the NCN website: www.ncn.gov.pl;
- b) stage I of merit-based evaluation: the applicant whose proposal has not been approved for the stage II of merit-based evaluation shall receive the decision in an electronic format, to the electronic address specified in the proposal for service of documents, and justification for the evaluation shall be provided in the ZSUN/OSF system. The information on sending the decisions and uploading justifications for proposals rejected at stage I of merit-based review shall be posted on the NCN website: www.ncn.gov.pl;
- c) stage II of merit-based review: the applicant whose proposal has been admitted to stage II of merit-based evaluation shall receive the decision to award or refuse

funding, in an electronic format, to the electronic address specified in the proposal for service of documents, and justification for the evaluation shall be provided in the ZSUN/OSF system. The information on sending the decisions and uploading justifications for proposals recommended and not recommended for funding shall be posted on the NCN website: www.ncn.gov.pl. Additionally, a list of proposals recommended for funding shall be published on the NCN website www.ncn.gov.pl.

Decisions of the NCN Director shall be served to the applicant. Moreover, if the applicant is an entity described in Article 27 (1) – (7) and (9) of the NCN Act, the **funding decisions** of the NCN Director shall be additionally communicated to the principal investigator and, if the applicant is a natural person, also to the participating entity named in the proposal.

The decisions of the NCN Director shall be served to the applicant in an electronic format, to the electronic address specified in the proposal. The decisions of the NCN Director shall bear an electronic signature in PAdES format.

Service of decisions shall be dependent on the applicant's legal status.

If the applicant is an entity described in Article 27 (1) – (7) and (9) of the NCN Act, the decision of the NCN Director shall be served only to their ESP ePUAP address specified in the proposal. If the applicant/ participating entity has been authorized as a public entity, the decisions shall be sent in an Official Confirmation of Submission (*Urzędowe Poświadczenie Przedłożenia*, hereinafter: "UPP"). If the applicant/ participating entity has not been authorized as a public entity, the decisions shall be sent in an Official Confirmation of Service (*Urzędowe Poświadczenie Doręczenia*, hereinafter: "UPD"). **The duty to check the ePUAP mailbox lies with the applicant.**

In the event that the applicant has received the justification of their proposal's evaluation in the ZSUN/OSF system but has not received the decision, it is recommended to check whether the ESP ePUAP address specified in the proposal is correct or contact the NCN Program Officer in charge of the proposal specified in the ZSUN/OSF system.

Should an applicant who is a natural person indicate an ePUAP address in the proposal, the decision shall be sent to that address. Should an applicant who is a natural person fail to indicate the ePUAP address, the service of decisions shall be carried out by means of sending – to their email address – information containing an electronic address from which the NCN Director's decision may be downloaded. The information shall be sent from the address: ewnioski@ncn.gov.pl. In order to download the decision, click on the link in your e-mail and proceed according to the message that will pop up.

If the applicant is a natural person and has access to the justification for the evaluation of the proposal in the ZSUN/OSF system but has not received an email with the link to download the decision, they should check their spam folder for an email from the aforementioned e-address, check if their e-mail address in the proposal is correct or contact the NCN Program Officer in charge of the proposal specified in the ZSUN/OSF system. **The duty to check the ePUAP mailbox/ e-mail address lies with the applicant.**

The decisions sent to the **applicant authorised as a public entity** to their ESP (ePUAP) address shall be deemed served once the NCN has received a UPP, which shall be issued automatically once the document has been served to the ESP ePUAP address of the applicant/ participating entity and shall not require any action on the part of the employees of the NCN. A UPP shall only be issued automatically when the ESP address of the applicant / participating entity is assigned to a public entity. The date of receipt of the UPP shall be deemed as the date of effective service of the decision.

Applicants/ participating entities **not authorized as public entities** are required to sign and return an acknowledgement of receipt. In order to have a UPD issued, one should login to the ESP ePUAP address specified in the proposal, receive the message from the National Science Centre, and sign and return the UPD to the National Science Centre. After the UPD has been returned one may peruse the text of the decision. The date of receipt of the UPD by the NCN shall be deemed as the date of effective service of the decision.

The decision shall be sent to the ePUAP address or e-mail address of the **natural person who the applicant** specified in the proposal. The decision shall be deemed effectively served on the date the UPD was returned to the NCN or the decision was downloaded from the link sent to the email address specified in the proposal.

Should the applicant fail to download the decision in an electronic format within 7 days of the date on which the original decision was sent, the applicant shall be notified again that he/she may download the decision.

If a UPP or UPD has not been received, or the decision in an electronic format sent to the e-mail address has not been downloaded, or a wrong ESP ePUAP address or email address has been specified, the decision of the NCN Director shall be deemed effectively served after the expiry of 14 days of the date on which the original decision was sent.

The NCN shall provide the recipient of the decision at the latter's request, for a period of at least 3 months from the date of finding it served, with access to the decision in an electronic format, information on the date on which the decision was found served and the dates on which notices to that effect were sent.

In addition, on the date of sending the decisions, information shall be posted on the NCN website on the results of each stage of the review of proposals and the availability of justifications in the ZSUN/OSF system.

Decision of the NCN Director Becoming Final and Legally Binding

The deadline for appealing against the Decision of the NCN Director shall be counted from the date of effective service thereof to the applicant .

Decisions that cannot be appealed against in the administrative proceedings and requests for reconsideration of the case are final.

Final decisions that cannot be appealed against are legally binding.

Appealing against Decisions of the NCN Director

Pursuant to Article 33 (2) of the NCN Act, in the event of a breach of the call procedure or other formal infringements, the applicant may appeal against the decision of the NCN Director with the Committee of Appeals of the NCN Council with its registered office at ul. Twardowskiego 16, 31-312 Kraków. The appeal must be lodged within 14 days of the date of effective service of the decision, i.e. receipt of the UPP or UPD by the National Science Centre or confirmation of downloading the decision from the link in the e-mail, and in the absence thereof, after the expiry of 14 days of the date on which the original decision.

The appeal shall be lodged via the NCN Director, in writing, and sent to the following address: 30-312 Kraków, ul. Twardowskiego 16, or electronically, to the address of the Electronic Delivery Box of the National Science Centre (/ncn/SkrytkaESP).

Pursuant to Article 127 (a) of the Administrative Procedure Code, a party may waive their right to appeal against the public administration authority issuing the decision within the time allowed for appeal. The decision shall become final and binding on the date the public administration authority has been served a waiver of the right to appeal by the last party to the proceedings.