



Council
of the National Science Centre
KR.0003.47.2019

RESOLUTION NO 47/2019
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE
of 18 April 2019
on the terms of the MAESTRO call

Pursuant to Article 18 (4) of the Act on the National Science Centre of 30 April 2010 (Journal of Laws of 2018, item 947, as amended), hereinafter the “NCN Act”, the Council of the National Science Centre hereby lays down the terms of the **MAESTRO call for research projects**.

I. Addressees of the call

The call is addressed at advanced researchers aiming to conduct pioneering research, including interdisciplinary research, which is significant for the development of science, goes beyond the current state of knowledge and may result in ground-breaking scientific discoveries.

II. Eligible applicants

- §1. Proposals for funding of research projects, hereinafter “proposal”, may be submitted by entities referred to in Article 27 (1) of the NCN Act, hereinafter “applicants”.
- §2. Proposals may also be submitted by entities specified in Article §1, for whom funding of the project will constitute state aid granted pursuant to the Regulation on the terms and mode of granting state aid via the National Science Centre adopted by the Minister of Science and Higher Education on 9 September 2015 (Journal of Laws of 2015, item 1381).
- §3. Where the applicant is a group of entities defined in Article 27 (1) (2) of the NCN Act, the proposal shall be submitted by the leader. PI’s employer shall act as the leader of the group of entities.
- §4. Where the applicant is a natural person, the research project cannot be conducted by a group of entities or entity for whom project funding will constitute state aid.
- §5. An entity that is under receivership, in liquidation or subject to bankruptcy proceedings cannot be an applicant or host institution for a research project.

III. Terms of entry

- §6. Under the call, proposals may be submitted in which the principal investigator is at least a PhD holder and in the proposal submission year or over the period of 10 years prior to the proposal submission year:
 - 1) has had at least five publications published in renowned Polish or international academic press/journals,
 - 2) has acted as the principal investigator¹ in at least two research projects funded in national or international competitive calls for proposals,

¹ Acting as a principal investigator also means managing/ coordinating the work of a research group in international research projects or programs.



- 3) fulfils at least three of the criteria below:
- a) has been a member of a scientific committee of at least one renowned international conference,
 - b) has published at least one monograph,
 - c) has presented papers at renowned international conferences,
 - d) has received an international award or prize,
 - e) has been or was a member of renowned associations, international scientific organisations or academia,
 - f) has other significant scientific achievements,

and in the case of research in the field of arts, a person who is an author of works of art of international significance or works significant for the Polish culture and has actively participated in international exhibitions, festivals, artistic events in fine arts, music, theatre and film.

§7. The following proposals may be submitted under the call:

- 1) to carry out research that neither is nor was funded by the NCN nor from any other sources,
- 2) which comprise basic research laid down in Article 2 (1) of the NCN Act in any of the academic disciplines defined in the NCN panels adopted by the NCN Council,
- 3) which covers a research project planned for the period of 36 months, 48 months or 60 months,
- 4) which meet the terms of the *Regulations on awarding funding for research tasks funded by the National Science Centre as regards research projects*, as adopted by the NCN Council, hereinafter "Regulations" and
- 5) where the tasks to be performed under the project include:
 - a) creation of new full-time post-doc type post(s) for the total period of at least 36 months pursuant to the Regulations or
 - b) engagement of PhD student(s)² for the total period of at least 36 months pursuant to the Regulations.

§8. Proposals submitted under the call must include:

- 1) research project title (*in Polish and in English*);
- 2) project's abstract (*up to 4500 characters in English*);
- 3) project's abstract for the general public (*1 page in Polish and 1 page in English*);
- 4) description of a research project:
 - a. short (*up to 5 pages in English*);
 - b. full (*up to 15 pages in English*).

Descriptions shall contain: the scientific goal of the project, significance of the project, general concept and work plan, research methodology and project literature applicable to the subject of the project;

- 5) work plan (*in Polish and in English*) presenting research tasks;
- 6) information on the research team (*in English*), including:
 - a) information on the principal investigator, including:
 - academic and research career;
 - 1-10 most important papers published or accepted for publication (letter of acceptance required) in the proposal submission year or over the period of 10 years prior to the proposal submission year³, including at least 5 pursuant to §6. 1-3 most important papers presented above must be attached in pdf format;

for research in art, 1-10 most important artistic achievements of international significance or works significant for the Polish culture and 1-10 most important

² Participants of doctoral programmes defined in the Act on Higher Education of 27 July 2005 or PhD students at doctoral schools defined in the Act on Higher Education and Science of 20 July 2018.

³ This period may be extended by the time of long-term (in excess of 90 days) evidenced sickness benefits or physiotherapy benefits on account of unfitness for work. In addition, this period may be extended by the number of months of a child care leave granted pursuant to the Labour Code and in the case of women, by 18 months for every child born or adopted, whichever option is more advantageous. Does not apply to publications referred to in §6.



- papers published or accepted for publication (letter of acceptance required) in the proposal submission year or over the period of 10 years prior to the proposal submission year³. Annex 1-3 publications (if any) in pdf format;
- information of research project management or other funding awarded under NCN calls in the proposal submission year or within 10 years prior to the proposal submission year³ and of research project management in that period funded under other domestic calls and international calls;
 - description of up to three most important research achievements;
 - research experience gained in Poland or abroad;
 - the most important national or international distinctions resulting from conducting scientific research and other scientific and artistic activity;
 - keynote speeches and presentations delivered at renowned international conferences and in the case of arts, active participation in international exhibitions, festivals, artistic events and projects in fine arts, music, theatre and film;
 - membership and invited membership in renowned associations as well as Polish and international research or academic organizations;
 - membership in scientific committees of renowned international conferences, exhibitions, festivals, artistic events and projects in fine arts, music, theatre and film;
- b) information on the required qualifications and forecasted scope of work of each investigator in the research project;
- 7) research project budget (*in English*) drafted according to the Regulations;
 - 8) in the case of a research project to be carried out in cooperation with a partner from a foreign research institution, information on international cooperation as well as description of advantages of international cooperation (*in English*);
 - 9) information on the data management plan concerning data generated or used in the course of a research project, as required by the proposal (*in English*);
 - 10) information on the ethical aspects of the project, including any consents, opinions, permits and/or approvals necessary to carry out the project in compliance with generally applicable laws and best practices adopted for a specific academic discipline (*in English*);
 - 11) in the case of research projects which include clinical trials with a medicinal product or a medical device, a detailed justification of the non-commercial nature of the trials (*in English*);
 - 12) in the case of research projects covering research being performed or completed by the principal investigator, or with respect to which the principal investigator applies for funding under other NCN calls or from other sources, description of similar research tasks with reasons justifying the need to have them funded under the project (*in English*);
 - 13) in the case of research projects to be carried out in host institutions that do not receive any operating support for research, information on research carried out over the last 2 years, together with a list of publications and information on research equipment and other instruments crucial to research (*in English*);
 - 14) in the case of research projects to be carried out by a group of entities, an agreement on collaboration for the purposes of completion of the requested research project containing, *inter alia*, the following elements: identification of the parties to the agreement and its leader; identification of the subject-matter and term of the agreement covering the performance period of the research project; authorisation of leader's representative to act on behalf of the entire group of entities in the procedure for the allocation of funding and performance of the research project; obligation of the leader to provide the other parties



with information received from the NCN; signatures of the authorised representatives of all members of the group of entities (*in Polish*);

- 15) administrative declarations by the principal investigator and the host institution, as required by the proposal and
- 16) in the case of entities for which project funding will constitute state aid, a specific cost breakdown as well as other documents and declarations related to the proposal for State aid via the NCN, as required by the proposal (*in Polish*).

IV. Evaluation of proposals

§9. Proposals are evaluated pursuant to the Regulations.

§10. In the evaluation of proposals, the following criteria shall be reviewed in particular:

- 1) whether or not the criterion of basic research has been met, as laid down in Article 2 (1) of the NCN Act,
- 2) whether or not the principal investigator fulfils the criterion of advanced researcher laid down in §6 hereof,
- 3) quality of research or tasks to be carried out,
- 4) innovative nature of the research problem addressed,
- 5) project's impact on the advancement of the scientific discipline,
- 6) scientific achievements of the principal investigator, including publications in renowned academic press/ journals,
- 7) evaluation of other projects carried out by the principal investigator and funded by the NCN or from other sources,
- 8) evaluation of feasibility of the project's completion,
- 9) relevance of the planned costs to the subject and scope of the research and
- 10) development of the proposal and fulfilment of other requirements of the call announcement.

V. Funding decision

§11. The call shall be concluded within 6 months of the proposal submission date.

§12. The results of the call shall be announced by way of a decision of the NCN Director.

Prof. dr hab. Małgorzata Kossowska
Chairwoman of the Council of
the National Science Centre

The English version of this Resolution does not constitute a sworn translation and has been prepared as an auxiliary document for your convenience. In case of any doubts as to the interpretation of its provisions, the Polish version shall prevail.