

Council
of the National Science Centre
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RESOLUTION NO 46/2020
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE

of 29 April 2020

on the terms of the ALPHORN–COVID-19 call for international research projects

Pursuant to Article 18 (4), in conjunction with Article 20 (1) (4) of the Act on the National Science Centre of 30 April 2010 (consolidated text in Journal of Laws of 2018, item 947, as amended), hereinafter the “NCN Act” and pursuant to the Agreement on Collaboration entered into by and between the National Science Centre (the “NCN”) and the Swiss National Science Foundation (the “SNSF”) on 22 November 2018, as amended, the Council of the National Science Centre hereby lays down the terms of the **ALPHORN–COVID-19 international call for research projects on COVID-19**.

1. General provisions

- 1.1. The ALPHORN–COVID-19 call shall be held pursuant to the Lead Agency Procedure. Under the ALPHORN–COVID-19 call, the SNSF shall act as the Lead Agency in charge of merit-based evaluation of proposals under the SNSF National Research Programme NRP 78 - COVID-19.
- 1.2. Under the call, research projects shall be carried out jointly by research teams¹ from Poland and Switzerland, for which cooperation is indispensable.
- 1.3. Under the call, funding shall also be awarded to research projects carried out jointly by research teams from Poland and Switzerland, with the participation of research teams from one of the following countries: Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Luxembourg and South Tyrol that submit funding proposals to the relevant foreign research funding institutions, i.e. the *German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG)* or *Austrian Science Fund (Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung, FWF)* or *Czech Science Foundation (Grantová agentura České Republiky, GAČR)* or *Slovenian Research Agency (Javna agencija za raziskovalno dejavnost Republike Slovenije, ARRS)* or *Luxembourg National Research Fund (FNR)* or *Provincial Administration South Tyrol/Alto Adige*, under bilateral or multilateral programmes launched by the SNSF in cooperation therewith pursuant to the Lead Agency Procedure.
- 1.4. This Resolution sets forth the terms and conditions of the ALPHORN–COVID-19 call and NCN funding of the research projects to the extent they are performed by the Polish research teams.

¹ A research team means the principal investigator alongside members of research team, if applicable in the proposal.

- 1.5. The principles for awarding funding for the tasks to be funded by the NCN under the ALPHORN–COVID-19 call are set forth in the “Regulations on awarding funding for research tasks funded by the National Science Centre under the ALPHORN–COVID-19 call carried out as bilateral cooperation pursuant to the Lead Agency Procedure”, adopted by the NCN Council, hereinafter the “Regulations”.
- 1.6. The SNSF and foreign research funding institutions specified in Point 1.3. hereof shall set forth the terms and conditions of the calls organised thereby to fund research projects to the extent they are performed by foreign research teams.

2. Terms of entry

- 2.1. Under the call, the following proposals may be submitted for NCN funding of the Polish part of the research project under the ALPHORN–COVID-19 call, hereinafter the “NCN proposals”:
 - 1) to carry out research that neither is nor was funded by the NCN nor from any other sources;
 - 2) which constitute basic research as defined in Article 2 (1) of the NCN Act in any of the disciplines covered by the NCN panels;
 - 3) for the Polish part of the research project planned for a period of 24 months, whereas the project duration period must be identical for all research teams involved in the project;
 - 4) in which the principal investigator who is at least a PhD holder shall manage the work of the Polish research team;
 - 5) in which the requested funding for the entire duration of the Polish part of the research project is no less than PLN 150,000;
 - 6) in which the budget of the Polish part of the project in a joint proposal² is drafted pursuant to the Regulations and calculated on the basis of the exchange rate as at the date this Resolution is adopted by the NCN Council, i.e. EUR 1 = PLN 4,5432;
 - 7) which meet the terms of the Regulations; and
 - 8) which comprise all the elements specified in Point 2.2. hereof.
- 2.2. NCN proposals must specify:
 - 1) title of the research project included in the joint proposal (*in Polish and in English*);
 - 2) joint proposal in pdf format, **including** all documents required by the SNSF in compliance with the principles applicable in the SNSF National Research Programme NRP 78 - COVID-19, identical to the ones submitted to the mySNF submission system, including:
 - a) research project description in compliance with the principles applicable in the SNSF National Research Programme NRP 78 - COVID-19 (*in English*);
 - b) CV with a list of publications by principal investigators of the research teams participating in the performance of the research project, in compliance with the principles applicable in the SNSF National Research Programme NRP 78 - COVID-19 (*in English*).Persons who are to be selected in an open call procedure, including persons to be employed as post-docs and remunerated from the NCN budget cannot be named in NCN proposals and/or joint proposals.

² A joint proposal means a proposal drafted by a Polish research team/s in cooperation with a foreign research team/s, submitted by the Swiss research team in the SNSF's mySNF system, comprising all documents required by the SNSF in compliance with the terms of the SNSF National Research Programme NRP 78 – Covid – 19. A joint proposal may be annexed only to one NCN proposal; the information in an NCN proposal must be identical to the information in a joint proposal.



- 3) research project's abstract for the general public (*no more than 1 page in Polish and no more than 1 page in English*);
- 4) research plan (*in Polish and in English*) presenting the research tasks to be carried out by the Polish research team;
- 5) information on the required qualifications and expected scope of work to be performed by each co-investigator in the research project on the Polish part (*in English*);
- 6) budget of the Polish part of the research project (*in English*) drafted in compliance with the Regulations;
- 7) information on expected international cooperation in the research project, including foreign research institutions to be involved in such cooperation (*in English*);
- 8) 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*);
- 9) information on the ethical aspects of the project, including 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, as required by the proposal (*in English*);
- 10) 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*);
- 11) 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 applied for (*in English*);
- 12) in the case of research projects to be carried out in entities that do not receive any institutional core funding for research activity, information on research carried out in the last 2 years with a list of publications and information concerning research equipment and other instruments crucial to research (*in English*);
- 13) in the case of research projects to be carried out by a group of Polish entities specified in Article 27 (1) (2) of the NCN Act, an agreement on collaboration for the performance of the proposed research project, *including (inter alia)*: identification of the parties to the agreement and its leader; subject-matter and term of the agreement covering the research project duration period; authorisation for a representative of the leader 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*); and
- 14) administrative declarations of the principal investigator and the applicant, as required by the proposal.

3. Submission of NCN proposals

- 3.1. Under The ALPHORN-COVID-19 call, NCN proposals accompanied by joint proposals shall be submitted pursuant to the proposal submission procedure laid down in the Regulations.
- 3.2. Swiss research teams shall submit joint proposals drafted pursuant to the terms of the SNSF National Research Programme NRP 78 - COVID-19 to the SNSF, by **25 May 2020, 5 p.m.**

- 3.3. Polish research teams shall submit NCN proposals to the NCN via ZSUN/OSF (*Zintegrowany System Usług dla Nauki /Obsługa Strumieni Finansowania*) available at <https://osf.opi.org.pl> as soon as soon as possible following submission of the joint proposal to the SNSF, **by 26 May 2020, 4 p.m. at the latest.**
- 3.4. Due to the special nature of this call and in order to evaluate the proposals and complete the call as soon as possible, the submission deadline for proposals laid down in Article 25 (2) of the NCN Act has been shortened to less than 3 months.
- 3.5. In addition, in the case of projects specified in Point 1.3. hereof, each foreign research team involved in a project must submit a funding proposal to the relevant foreign research funding institution, including a set of documents required thereby, as required by such institution.

4. Evaluation of proposals

Proposals shall be evaluated pursuant to the Regulations and documents on the merit-based evaluation of joint proposals which apply to the SNSF National Research Programme NRP 78 - COVID-19.

5. Funding decision

- 5.1. The funding decision shall be adopted by the NCN Director by the end of October 2020.
- 5.2. Under the ALPHORN-COVID-19 call, funds shall be awarded only for those research projects carried out by the Polish research teams for which the SNSF and foreign research funding institutions specified in Point 1.3. hereof also award funds to the foreign research teams.

6. Call budget

The NCN Council has decided to allocate PLN **4,000,000** for the tasks to be performed by Polish research teams under the ALPHORN-COVID-19 call.

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