



Council  
of the National Science Centre  
KR.0003.114.2023

**RESOLUTION NO 114/2023**  
**OF THE COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE**

of 7 December 2023

**laying down the terms of and regulations on awarding funding for research tasks carried out by the Polish research teams, funded by the NCN under the DAINA 3 call for Polish and Lithuanian research projects**

Pursuant to Article 18 (4) of the Act on the National Science Centre of 30 April 2010 (consolidated text in Journal of Laws of 2023, item 153, hereinafter: the „NCN Act”) and pursuant to the Cooperation Agreement between the National Science Centre (NCN) and the Research Council of Lithuania (RCL) entered into on 16 November 2016, the Council of the National Science Centre hereby lays down the **terms of and regulations on awarding funding for research tasks carried out by the Polish research teams<sup>1</sup>, funded by the NCN under the DAINA 3 call for Polish and Lithuanian research projects.**

**1. General provisions**

- 1.1 Under DAINA 3, funding is awarded to research projects carried out jointly by Polish and Lithuanian research teams for which international cooperation is essential.
- 1.2 The terms of awarding funding for research tasks carried out by the Lithuanian research teams and funded by RCL under DAINA 3 are laid down by RCL.

**2. Addressees of the call**

The call is addressed at Polish research teams that apply for funding of a research project together with Lithuanian research teams. The Polish part of the research project is managed by the principal investigator in the Polish research team, while the work of the Lithuanian research team is managed by the principal investigator in the Lithuanian research team.

**3. Eligible applicants**

- 3.1 Proposals for NCN funding of the Polish part of a research project under DAINA 3 (hereinafter referred to as an “NCN proposal”) may be submitted by any entities specified in Article 27 (1) (1) – (2), (1) (4) – (5) and (1) (7) – (8) of the NCN Act (hereinafter referred to as the “applicants”), for which funding does not constitute state aid.
- 3.2 If a group of Polish entities defined in Article 27 (1) (2) of the NCN Act applies, a proposal is submitted by the leader. The principal investigator’s employer acts as the leader of the group of entities.

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<sup>1</sup> A research team means the principal investigator and the Research Team members, if applicable in the proposal.



- 3.3 If an individual applies, the project must not be performed by a group of entities or entity for which project funding constitutes state aid.
- 3.4 Entities under receivership, in liquidation or subject to bankruptcy proceedings must not apply or carry out a research project.
- 3.5 If a research project is carried out by at least two Polish entities, they must form a group of entities referred to in Point 3 (2) and only in that legal form may they apply for NCN funding. Each entity in the group of entities must have its own budget, although all entities in the group share the budget for salaries and scholarships referred to in Point 2 (1) of **Annex 1** hereto. NCN proposals submitted by a group of Polish entities must have only one principal investigator. If two or more entities cannot form a group of entities pursuant to Article 27 (1) (2) of the NCN Act, they are not eligible to apply for NCN funding of a joint research project.

#### **4. Terms of entry**

- 4.1 The call is open to proposals:
  - 1) for research tasks that have not been funded by the NCN or from other sources;
  - 2) that cover basic research for the purposes of Article 2 (1) of the NCN Act in any of the academic disciplines covered by the NCN panels adopted by the NCN Council;
  - 3) that cover research based on a balanced and complementary contribution of Polish and Lithuanian research teams;
  - 4) that cover research projects carried out over a period of 36 months;
  - 5) in which the requested funding for the entire duration of the Polish part of the research project is no more than PLN 1,000,000;
  - 6) in which the principal investigator is at least a PhD holder;
  - 7) in which the budget of the Polish part of the project is entered into the OSF submission system and converted on the basis of the exchange rate published by the National Bank of Poland on the date this Resolution is adopted by the NCN Council, i.e., EUR 1 = PLN 4.3334; and
  - 8) that include the documents and information set forth in 6 (3) hereof.

#### **5. Restrictions on proposals**

- 5.1 A person named as the principal investigator in a proposal submitted to DAINA 3 must not be an authorised representative of the host institution for the project.
- 5.2 In each call edition<sup>2</sup>, one can be named as the principal investigator in one proposal only. If the same person is named as the principal investigator in more than one proposal submitted to a call, the proposal submitted to the OSF submission system at an earlier date will be accepted.
- 5.3 The person named as principal investigator in the proposal must not, on the proposal submission date:
  - a) manage<sup>3</sup> three or more research projects funded under NCN calls;
  - b) manage two research projects funded under NCN calls and be named as principal investigator in another proposal under evaluation or recommended for funding;
  - c) manage a research project funded under NCN calls and be named as principal investigator in two other proposals under evaluation or recommended for funding;
  - d) manage three other proposals under evaluation or recommended for funding under NCN calls.
- 5.4 The restrictions referred to in Points 5 (3) (a) - (d) do not include projects funded under PRELUDIUM BIS and/or DIOSCURI or proposals submitted thereto.

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<sup>2</sup> Understood as NCN calls for proposals closed on the same day.

<sup>3</sup> Research project management applies to the period from the date of signing the funding agreement for a project funded under an NCN call until the day of submitting the final report on the completion of the research project.



- 5.5 The principal investigator in a proposal submitted to DAINA 3 must not be identified as engaged in conducting a research activity in a proposal submitted to a MINIATURA call, for which the funding decision has not become final.
- 5.6 The principal investigator must be a person employed by the host institution for the research project under an employment contract at least on a half-time basis for the entire project duration period. The foregoing does not apply to persons receiving pension under the social insurance scheme.
- 5.7 The principal investigator must reside in Poland for at least 50% of the project duration period and be available to the host institution. The foregoing obligation does not apply to evidenced project-related business trips or holiday, time off work and other excused absence from work governed by generally applicable laws.
- 5.8 Proposals comprising overlapping research tasks must not be submitted to the same call edition.
- 5.9 Proposals covering research tasks overlapping tasks specified in another proposal submitted earlier to an NCN call or with respect to which an appeal has been initiated, can only be submitted after the funding decision has become final.

## 6. Submission of proposals (procedure and dates)

- 6.1 The call is open to proposals including research project descriptions drafted jointly by the Polish and Lithuanian research teams.
- 6.2 Proposals must be submitted to the NCN **by 15 March 2024, 16:00 CET**, in an electronic format, via the OSF submission system available at [www.osf.opi.org.pl](http://www.osf.opi.org.pl).
- 6.3 Proposals must include information specified in the proposal form in the OSF submission system, the template of which is included in the call text, such as:
  - 1) research project title (*in Polish and in English*);
  - 2) research project's abstract (*in English*);
  - 3) research project's abstract for the general public (*1 standard page in Polish and 1 standard page in English*);
  - 4) research project descriptions:
    - a. short description (up to 5 pages in English);
    - b. full description (up to 15 pages in English);The descriptions must 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.  
Project literature does not count towards the page limit.
  - 5) research plan (*in Polish and in English*) presenting research tasks carried out by the Polish research team and Lithuanian research team applying for RCL funding;
  - 6) information on the research team (*in English*), including:
    - a) information on the principal investigators of the Polish and Lithuanian research teams, 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 a period of 10 years prior to the proposal submission year<sup>4</sup>, with 1-3 of them attached as PDF files;
      - for research in art, 1-10 most important papers published or accepted for publication (letter of acceptance required) or artistic achievements and achievements in research in art in the proposal submission year or over a period

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<sup>4</sup> In the case of Polish principal investigators, this period may be extended by long term (over 90 days) evidenced sick leaves or physiotherapy leaves granted on account of being unfit to work. This period may be additionally extended by the number of months of childcare leaves granted pursuant to the Labour Code and in the case of women, by 18 months for every child born or adopted, whichever manner of accounting for career breaks is preferable. In the case of Lithuanian principal investigators, the rules of the RCL apply.



- of 10 years prior to the proposal submission year<sup>4</sup>. If more than one paper is listed, 1-3 of them should be attached as PDF files;
- information on research project management or other research funding awarded under NCN calls in the proposal submission year or over the period of 10 years prior to the proposal submission year<sup>4</sup>;
  - information on research project management under other national or international calls in the period referred to above<sup>5</sup> in the proposal submission year or over the period of 10 years prior to the proposal submission year<sup>4</sup> (no more than 5 projects)
  - description of the most important research achievement;
  - research experience gained in Poland or abroad; and
  - information on the most important national and/or international distinctions for research and/or other activity in research in art, and
- b) information on the required qualifications and scope of work planned by each investigator in the research project (*in English*);
- 7) budget of the Polish part of the research project (*in English*) drafted in compliance with **Annex 1** hereto;
  - 8) information on expected international cooperation in the research project, including cooperating foreign research institutions (*in English*);
  - 9) in the case of research projects involving large international research equipment to be used by Polish or Lithuanian research teams or cooperation with partners from foreign research institutions that do not apply for funding for that purpose under DAINA 3, information on international cooperation as well as description of benefits that may result from such cooperation (*in English*);
  - 10) 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*);
  - 11) 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*);
  - 12) 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*);
  - 13) in the case of research projects covering research performed or completed by the principal investigator of the Polish or Lithuanian research teams, or with respect to which the principal investigator of the Polish or Lithuanian research teams 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*);
  - 14) in the case of research projects to be carried out in a host institution that does not receive any operating support for research, 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*);
  - 15) in the case of research projects to be carried out by a group of Polish entities, a research project cooperation agreement, as required by the proposal (*in Polish*); and
  - 16) administrative declarations of the principal investigator and host institution for the project on the Polish part, as required by the proposal.
- 6.4 Only complete proposals that comply with all terms of the call text will be accepted by the NCN.

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<sup>5</sup> Research project management also means managing/ coordinating the work of a research group in international research projects or programs.



## 7. Evaluation of proposals (procedure and criteria)

- 7.1 Proposals are subject to an eligibility check followed by a merit-based evaluation.
- 7.2 The eligibility check is performed by the NCN and the RCL according to their respective terms.
- 7.3 NCN's eligibility check of proposals is carried out by the coordinators.
- 7.4 NCN's eligibility check of proposals comprises:
- 1) verification of proposal's completeness;
  - 2) verification whether the proposal meets the eligibility criteria set forth in the call text; and
  - 3) verification whether the expenditures outlined in the proposal as regards the Polish part of the project are in line with **Annex 1** hereto as regards the costs in research projects funded by the NCN under DAINA 3.
- 7.5 Proposals may also be rejected as ineligible at the stage of a merit-based evaluation.
- 7.6 Only proposals approved as eligible by both the NCN and the RCL are approved for a merit-based evaluation.
- 7.7 Proposals submitted to the OSF submission system are subject to a merit-based evaluation.
- 7.8 Funding proposals undergo a merit-based evaluation performed by the Expert Teams whose members are recommended by the NCN and the RCL, as well as external reviewers who are not members of the Expert Teams, selected pursuant to the procedure set forth in Point 8 hereof.
- 7.9 The Expert Team performs a merit-based evaluation pursuant to the terms of the call and evaluation criteria for DAINA 3 set forth in **Annex 2** hereto.
- 7.10 A merit-based evaluation of proposals submitted to DAINA 3 is performed in two stages:
- 1) Stage I:
    - individual reviews are drafted by two members of the Expert Team. In the case of proposals which are assigned an auxiliary NCN Review Panel specifying disciplines covered by NCN review panels other than the one to which the proposal was submitted, the Chair of the Expert Team may decide to seek another review from a member of another Expert Team;
    - the Expert Team decides on the evaluation of the proposal based on the individual reviews;
    - a ranking long list of proposals recommended for stage II of evaluation is agreed upon; and
    - justifications for the final score are drafted for proposals not recommended for stage II of evaluation.
- At stage I, information in and annexes to the proposal are evaluated, except for the full project description.
- 2) Stage II:
    - individual reviews are made by external reviewers based on information in and annexes to the proposal, except for the short project description;
    - the final evaluation of the proposal is decided upon by the Expert Team, based on the individual reviews of the external reviewers;
    - ranking lists of proposals are compiled, specifying proposals recommended for funding; and
    - justifications for the final score are drafted for proposals not recommended for funding.
- 7.11 The evaluation of proposals submitted to DAINA 3 focuses on:
- 1) compliance with the basic research criteria, set forth in Article 2 (1) of the NCN Act;
  - 2) quality and innovative nature of the research or tasks to be performed;
  - 3) impact of the research project on the advancement of the scientific discipline;
  - 4) assessment of the feasibility of the research;



- 5) balanced and complementary contribution of all research teams applying for funding of a research project within the framework of collaboration;
  - 6) scientific achievements of the principal investigators, including publications in renowned academic press/journals;
  - 7) assessment of the results of other research projects conducted by the principal investigator of the Polish part of the project previously funded by the NCN or from other sources and assessment of the results of other research projects by the principal investigators;
  - 8) relevance of the costs with regards to the subject and scope of the research and
  - 9) preparation of the proposal and compliance with other requirements set forth in the call text.
- 7.12 The following terms apply to the merit-based evaluation of proposals by the Expert Teams:
- 1) proposals are evaluated against other proposals submitted to the call;
  - 2) the budget of the Polish part of the project cannot be modified;
  - 3) the percentage contribution of specific criteria in the individual assessment of proposals is set forth in **Annex 2** hereto;
  - 4) each proposal is allotted a score which is of a supplementary nature and is a starting point to the discussion on the final evaluation by the Expert Team;
  - 5) decisions of the Expert Team on the final evaluation are based on an analysis thereof and a discussion on the legitimacy of funding the proposal against other proposals reviewed in the call;
  - 6) the final evaluation of the proposal at a given stage of the merit-based evaluation is reflected in its position on the ranking long list after stage I or the ranking short list after stage II, both lists being compiled by the Expert Team;
  - 7) proposals with a zero score or “no” decision agreed by the Expert Team in any reviewed criterion (except for the data management and ethics issues) cannot be recommended for funding.
- 7.13 Proposals for which the total funding requested does not exceed the funds allotted by the Council for DAINA 3 within individual disciplines or groups of disciplines, can be recommended for NCN funding by the Expert Team.
- 7.14 The Expert Team may conditionally recommend one proposal for funding which is partially falls within the amount agreed by the Council.
- 7.15 In well-justified instances, the coordinator may, having consulted the Expert Team, change the order of funding proposals on the ranking list. The coordinator must submit such modified ranking list to the NCN Director for his approval with a written justification.
- 7.16 The Director may decide to award funding for a research project which partially falls within the limit of funds designated for research tasks financed by the NCN.

## **8. Selection of experts (criteria and procedure)**

- 8.1 Pursuant to Article 18 (7) of the NCN Act, the NCN Council selects members of the Expert Team in charge of evaluating proposals for funding of the Polish-Lithuanian research projects submitted to DAINA 3. In its selection, the Council follows the following rules:
- 1) candidates are selected from among eminent Polish and foreign researchers who are at least PhD holders, including former winners of NCN calls, considering their research achievements and experience in assessment of research projects in Poland and abroad and experience in performance of research projects funded under calls in Poland and abroad;
  - 2) an important element of the assessment covers information available from bibliometric sources for tracking researchers' achievements, subject to the specific nature of respective research domains and information from available lists of recipients of funds granted in the calls for research projects conducted in Poland and abroad.



8.2 The criteria and procedure for selecting the Expert Teams have been set forth by the Council in the document: "Expert Teams of the National Science Centre – Establishing and Appointing".

## 9. Funding decision

- 9.1 The funding decision will be taken, and results of the call will be announced, by the end of November 2024.
- 9.2 The results of the call are announced by way of a decision of the NCN Director.
- 9.3 In the event of a breach of the call procedure or other formal infringements related to actions performed by the NCN, the Polish applicant may lodge an appeal against the decision of the NCN Director with the Committee of Appeals of the NCN Council within 14 days of the date the decision is served. Lithuanian applicants may lodge their appeal against actions performed by the RCL according to the rules of the RCL.
- 9.4 The Committee of Appeals of the NCN Council decides on the appeal within 3 months of the date on which the appeal was lodged.
- 9.5 If the appeal is deemed legitimate by the Committee of Appeals of the NCN Council, the funding decision concerning the research project carried out by the Polish research team is issued provided that the RCL awards funds for the research project carried out by the Lithuanian research team.
- 9.6 The funding decision referred to in Point 9 (5) has no legal or financial consequences to the other applicants whose proposals have been recommended for funding in the call, even if the amount of funds available for the call has already been used.
- 9.7 Under DAINA 3, funds for the Polish research teams are awarded by way of a decision of the NCN Director only for those research projects in the case of which the RCL will award funding to the Lithuanian research teams.

## 10. Call budget

The NCN Council has decided to award **PLN 16,000,000** for research tasks to be carried out by the Polish research teams under the Polish-Lithuanian research projects in DAINA 3.

Prof. Dr hab. Robert Hasterok  
President of the Council  
of the National Science Centre