

**Order No 16/2022
of 8 March 2022
by the Director of the National Science Centre
on the detailed procedure for merit-based evaluation of pre-proposals in the
international calls for research projects launched as multilateral collaboration
UNISONO under the M-ERA.NET 3 programme**

Pursuant to Article 30 (3) of the Act on the National Science Centre of 30 April 2010 (Journal of Laws of 2019, item 1384) and pursuant to § 2 (3) of the Organisational Regulations of the National Science Centre's Office and according to the tasks of the Scientific Coordinators of the National Science Centre laid down in Order No 82/2020, it is hereby decided as follows:

§ 1.

The detailed procedure for merit-based evaluation of pre-proposals by the Expert Team in the calls launched under the M-ERA.NET 3 programme is hereby laid down and attached hereto as Annex 1.

§ 2.

The work of the Expert Team established to evaluate proposals submitted to the calls launched under the M-ERA.NET 3 Programme is organised pursuant hereto.

§ 3.

The Order shall come into force on the date of signing.

Director of the National Science Centre

Annex 1 to
Order No 16/2022
of 8 March 2022
by the Director
of the National Science Centre
on the detailed procedure for
merit-based evaluation of pre-
proposals submitted to the calls
launched under the M-ERA.NET 3
Programme

The Order lays down the detailed procedure for evaluation of proposals by the Expert Teams in the calls launched under the M-ERA.NET 3 programme for international research projects in the area of material science and material engineering.

§ 1.

Whenever this Order refers to:

1. Council, it shall mean the Council of the National Science Centre;
2. Director, it shall mean the Director of the National Science Centre;
3. Coordinator, it shall mean a Scientific Coordinator employed by the National Science Centre;
4. Expert, it shall mean an expert team member;
5. Pre-proposal, it shall mean a proposal drafted by a Polish research team(s) jointly with foreign research team(s) and submitted via the M-ERA.NET Proposal Submission Platform available to the National Science Centre;
6. Recommendations for NCN pre-proposals, they shall mean Experts' recommendations for pre-proposals submitted to the calls launched under the M-ERA.NET 3 programme jointly with the Polish research teams, whether or not to allow the submission of full proposals;
7. Merit-based evaluation (national level), it shall mean an evaluation of pre-proposals by an agency awarding funding for research tasks to be carried out by an entity applying for funding from an agency participating in the M-ERA.NET 3 consortium. The evaluation procedure (national level) shall be laid down in accordance with the terms of the respective agency;
8. Full proposal, it shall mean a proposal drafted by a Polish research team(s) jointly with foreign research team(s) and submitted via the M-ERA.NET Proposal Submission Platform following positive recommendation as a result of evaluation on national level and positive recommendation of the entire M-ERA-NET consortium;
9. Evaluation of full proposals, it shall mean a merit-based evaluation performed by the international expert team pursuant to the rules laid down in the Guide for Proposers applicable to a given edition of the M-ERA.NET 3 call;
10. M-ERA.NET 3, it shall mean a network of public European and associated organisations established to fund and support research covered by the subjects of the M-ERA.NET 3 calls for proposals.
11. Call secretariat, it shall mean the M-ERA.NET 3 Secretariat, i.e. Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG), with its registered office at 1090 Wien, Sensengasse 1, Austria.

§ 2. Coordinators

The duties of the Coordinators shall include:

1. running eligibility checks on pre-proposals and full proposals;
2. naming Experts to draft individual merit-based evaluations of pre-proposals;

3. referring pre-proposals for merit-based evaluation;
4. assessing the accuracy and impartiality of individual reviews drafted by the Experts;
5. providing the Call secretariat with Experts' recommendations;
6. providing the Director with recommendations on the ranking lists of full proposals recommended for funding, issued by the M-ERA.NET 3.

§ 3. Experts

The duties of the Experts shall include drafting individual merit-based evaluations of pre-proposals assigned by the Coordinator.

§ 4. Evaluation of proposals

1. Under M-ERA.NET 3 calls, proposals shall be submitted in a two-step procedure by the international consortium leader. As the first step, international research teams shall submit a pre-proposal. As the second step, they are requested by the Call secretariat to submit full proposals. Both pre-proposals and full proposals shall be subject to an eligibility check and merit-based evaluation.
2. An eligibility check of pre-proposals and full proposals shall be carried out by the Call secretariat and at the national level.
3. An eligibility check of pre-proposals and full proposals (national level) shall be carried out by the Coordinators.
4. The research funding agencies participating in a given edition of the M-ERA.NET 3 call shall be in charge of merit-based evaluation of pre-proposals (national level).
5. As the second step, only proposals recommended by the entire M-ERA.NET 3 consortium based on the evaluation of pre-proposals shall be submitted.
6. Full proposals shall be subject to a merit-based evaluation of the international expert team established by the research funding agencies participating in a given edition of the call.

§5. Merit-based evaluation (national level) of pre-proposals

1. A merit-based evaluation (national level) of pre-proposals at the National Science Centre shall be conducted by the Experts assigned by the Coordinators in charge of the M-ERA.NET 3 programme.
2. A merit-based evaluation (national level) of the National Science Centre shall be open only to pre-proposals approved as eligible by the Coordinators.
3. A merit-based evaluation (national level) of pre-proposals at the National Science Centre shall consist of individual reviews made by three Experts independently, based on the evaluation criteria laid down by the M-ERA.NET 3 consortium. The evaluation form of pre-proposals is annexed to the call text.
4. The Experts shall evaluate the compliance with the basic research criterion applicable to the tasks of the Polish part of the project.
5. The merit-based evaluation (national level) at the National Science Centre shall be performed based on the information provided in the pre-proposal submitted via the M-ERA.NET Proposal Submission Platform.
6. The Experts may reject the proposal as ineligible in the course of evaluation (national level).
7. If a proposal has been given the score of "no" by at least two Experts in the following criterion of the evaluation form: "Does the project meet the criteria of a scientific proposal?", it shall not be recommended for the second stage of the call, i.e. submission of the full proposal.
8. A proposal shall be recommended for the second stage of the call if it meets all of the following conditions:

- 1) it has been given the score of “yes” by at least two Experts evaluating the proposal in the following criterion of the evaluation form: “Does the research carried out by a person designated for the research activity meet the criterion of basic research?”;
- 2) it has been given at least two of the following final grades by the Experts: A+ (excellent), A (very good) or B (good);
- 3) it has been given positive recommendations by all agencies providing funding for the foreign research teams submitting joint pre-proposals;
- 4) the international consortium leader has received a positive recommendation from the research funding agency.

§6. Recommendations for NCN pre-proposals

1. The Coordinators shall submit their recommendations for pre-proposals to the Call secretariat.
2. The final decision on the invitation to submit a full proposal in the second stage of the call shall be taken by the M-ERA.NET 3 consortium based on the recommendations and budgets of all partner countries.