

ANNOUNCEMENT OF A CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAMME

No. 27/2023 of October 24, 2023

I. SCOPE OF THE CALL

Pursuant to Article 19 section 1 of the Act on the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange of July 7, 2017, the Director of the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange announces a call for applications for participation in the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange **Strategic Partnerships** Programme (hereinafter referred to as the "Programme").

II. PROGRAMMEME DESCRIPTION

2.1 Purpose of the Programme

The main objective of the Programme is to support higher education and science institutions in developing lasting solutions in the field of teaching, research and implementation cooperation implemented within the framework of strategic international partnerships.

The project results should constitute the basis for the development of long-term cooperation of the entities creating the Partnership. Projects implemented under the Programme must be consistent with the long-term development policy of the applicant entity.

Specific goals include:

- 1) implementation of cooperation between the Applicant and foreign Partners to develop and improve long-term, systemic relations with respect to internationalization;
- 2) building the Applicant's potential internationally by promoting innovative solutions and best practices that are the subject of the Project.

2.2 Deadline and other conditions for submitting the application

Application submission deadline	Applications will be accepted until January 31, 2024 at 3:00:00 p.m. local time (Warsaw)
How to submit an application	In electronic form in the Agency's IT system only <u>FILL OUT THE APPLICATION</u>
Language in which the application must be submitted	The application must be prepared in Polish
The maximum number of	Maximum of 3 applications

<p>applications that an Applicant may submit</p>	<p>If a larger number of applications are submitted, the applications submitted last will be submitted for assessment according to the time of submission in the Agency's ICT System.</p>
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2.3 Thematic scope of activities implemented under the Programme

As part of the project, the applicant is obliged to plan activities related to teaching, research or research application in practice. The activities indicated in the application for financing should be aimed at establishing international institutional cooperation. It is possible to implement individual activities separately with each of the strategic partners.

The proposed activities must be highly adapted to the development and internationalisation strategy of the Applicant and the objectives of the partnership concluded between the institutions.

Project activities may address the following issues:

1. organization of exchanges/lectures/study visits/industrial internships of students, doctoral students and institutional staff - at the headquarters of Partners or entrepreneurs, including access of persons involved in the implementation of scientific research and development work to the research and development centers of enterprises/Partners;
2. development or preparation of new and innovative educational tools and methods by the Applicant and Partners;
3. development of modern teaching materials that will be used in the activities of the Applicant and Partners;
4. creation and implementation of high-quality joint studies leading to a joint or double diploma;
5. conducting joint scientific research, research and R&D work on an international scale by the Applicant and Partners (cooperation with enterprises cannot be conducted in order to generate profit) and presentation and publication of the results of the activities;
6. development and implementation of a strategy for disseminating the results of research conducted by the Applicant and Partners;
7. development of a quality management system in partner institutions to improve the education quality;
8. establishing cooperation with foreign entrepreneurs in order to adapt the Applicant's educational offer to market needs.

In the submitted application for financing, the Applicant is obliged to describe in detail the key area of cooperation that will be undertaken and implemented in the Project with each of the Strategic Partners. It is possible to implement activities that go beyond the scope indicated above, but it is necessary to provide a detailed justification for the proposed activities and costs. All of the above activities will be possible to implement both on-site, hybrid and remotely.

2.4 Eligible Applicants

The applicant may be an entity providing education in Poland, i.e.:

1. a university referred to in the Law on higher education and science;
2. the Polish Academy of Sciences within the meaning of the Act on the Academy;

3. the scientific institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences within the meaning of the Act on the Academy;
4. a research institute within the meaning of the Act on research institutes;
5. an international scientific institute established on the basis of separate regulations, operating in the territory of the Republic of Poland;
6. Łukasiewicz Center, operating under the Act of February 21, 2019 on the Łukasiewicz Research Network;
7. institutes operating within the Łukasiewicz Research Network, referred to in Art. 7 section 1 point 6b of the Law on higher education and science
8. federations of entities of the higher education and science system referred to in Art. 165 Law on higher education and science

2.5 Possibility of implementing the project in a partnership formula

The Programme requires the implementation of the project in partnership with at least one strategic partner.

The strategic partners in the project must be universities or research units located and registered abroad, not financed from Polish budget funds and which have signed a letter of intent with the Applicant.

The number of strategic partners in the project may range from 1 to 6 institutions.

The supporting partner may be entities from Poland belonging to the category of eligible Applicants - the maximum number of supporting partners is 2.

2.6 Time frame for the implementation of the Project

Start date and length of the Project	Implementation of a single project may take from 12 to 24 months^[1] , from 1 st of September 2024 to 31 st of August 2026.
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[1] Length of support is determined by multiples of months

2.7 Procedure for assessing and selecting applications for financing

General assumptions	Applications are subject to formal and substantive assessment.
Formal assessment	The purpose of the formal assessment is to verify applications in terms of meeting the formal criteria indicated in the Announcement and in the Regulations of the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange Programmes for institutions.
Substantive assessment	The purpose of the substantive assessment is to verify applications in terms of meeting the quality criteria indicated in this Announcement. Substantive assessment scheme A, in accordance with the Regulations of the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange Programmes for institutions.

Substantive assessment of applications under the Programme is performed by external experts based on the following criteria:			
	Description of the criterion	Reviewers	Assessment Team
1.	Analysis of the needs/problems of the Applicant and target groups to be addressed by the implementation of the Project	0-15	0-15
2.	Project goals and their compliance with the Applicant's goals and strategy in the field of internationalization and the Programme goals, including the selection of target groups to which the Project is addressed	0-20	0-20
3.	Project activities with justification and project results and their impact	0-28	0-28
4.	Project feasibility resulting from the Applicant's potential and experience and the method of Project management, monitoring and evaluation	0-15	0-15
5.	Justification of costs related to the implementation of planned activities	0-22	0-22
Total:		0-100	0-100
Assessment weight:		0.4	0.6
Maximum points:		100 points	

2.8 Project budget

The amount of financing allocated for the implementation of a single Project is the maximum of **PLN 2,000,000**.

Eligible costs

1. **Salary costs of people directly involved in the implementation of activities in the Project:**
 - 1) costs of employment contracts, task allowances or other remuneration components;
 - 2) costs of civil law contracts (including contracts with the Applicant's employees or external experts and collaborators).

Note: the total amount of salary costs cannot exceed 30% of the Project value.

2. Travel and subsistence costs – incurred in connection with the implementation of the Project:

- 1) travel and subsistence costs of the Applicant's employees incurred in connection with domestic or foreign trips necessary to implement the Project;
- 2) travel and subsistence costs of people co-implementing the Project (e.g. students, experts, speakers) incurred in connection with domestic or foreign trips/arrivals necessary to implement the Project;
- 3) travel costs include in particular the costs of travel from the place of residence to the destination, visa costs, health insurance costs, third party liability insurance, accident insurance;
- 4) subsistence costs include in particular the costs of accommodation and meals.

3. Costs of organizing or participating in meetings, conferences, fairs and other events in Poland or abroad:

- 1) costs of renting rooms, equipment and sound systems;
- 2) hotel services (e.g. accommodation of experts, speakers);
- 3) catering services;
- 4) preparation of conference materials (including costs of duplicating materials, purchase of office and consumables for the needs of the organized event);
- 5) costs of disseminating information about the planned event (e.g. advertising on the Internet);
- 6) other costs directly related to the organization of the event.

4. Costs of purchasing other goods and services necessary for the implementation of the Project:

- 1) designing, editing, typesetting and printing information materials and publications (e.g. research results, guides, manuals);
- 2) translation costs;
- 3) purchase of international teaching aids;
- 4) cost of publishing articles and other studies in international journals;
- 5) purchase of consumables for the preparation of research (e.g. necessary reagents, small research materials, etc.);
- 6) other costs directly related to the implementation of the Project and necessary to achieve its objectives.

If costs that fall into the category of unauthorized costs are included in the project budget, such budget items will constitute ineligible costs and will not be recognized at the Project settlement stage.

The Agency notes that it has developed recommendations regarding including costs incurred by project partners in the Beneficiaries' financial and accounting records and the rules for recording the Agency's advances/payments by the Beneficiaries as part of the implemented projects. The recommendations are available on the Agency's website:

<https://nawa.gov.pl/komunikaty/komunikat-w-sprawie-rekomendacji-wypracowanych-przez-bieglego-rewidenta-dotyczacych-sposobu-uwzgledniania-w-ewidencji-finansowo-ksiegowej-beneficjentow-kosztow-ponoszonych-przez-partnerow-projektow-oraz-zasad-ksiegowania-przez-beneficjentow-zaliczek-wplat-agencji-w-ramach-realizowanych-projektow>

2.9 Amount of funds available in the Call

The total allocation for the call is **PLN 20,000,000.00**, and the Agency reserves the right to change the allocation of funds.

2.10 Additional information

Payment and reporting Scheme C, in accordance with the Regulations of the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange Programmes for Institutions

2.11 Planned date of announcing results of the Call

The call results will be announced by June 30, 2024.

2.12 Source of financing for the Programme

The Programme is financed from the state budget.

English version of the CALL and APPENDICES

III. APPENDICES

- 1) Regulations of the Programmes of the National Agency for Academic Exchange - Programmes for Institutions;
- 2) Model Application Form;
- 3) Model Agreement;
- 4) Model Power of Attorney;
- 5) Beneficiary Manual;
- 6) Model Letter of Intent;

IV. CONTACT WITH THE AGENCY

For additional information, please contact us (working days, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.):

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