

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

No 26/ 2021 of 13 October 2021

### I. SCOPE OF THE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

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

### II. PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

#### 2.1 Programme objective

The **main objective** of the Programme is to support higher education and scientific institutions in developing sustainable solutions concerning cooperation in the areas of teaching, research, and implementation in the form of strategic international partnerships.

The projects should result in long-lasting cooperation of the partners. The projects carried out under the Programme have to be part of the Applicant's long-term development policy.

The **specific objectives** are:

- 1) to implement cooperation between the Applicant and its foreign Partners in order to engage in and develop long-term, systemic relations in the area of internationalisation;
- 2) to build the Applicant's capacity in the international community through promoting innovative solutions and best practices subject to the Project.

#### 2.2 Deadline for submitting applications and other requirements

Deadline for submitting applications	The call for applications will be open until <b>13 January 2022, 3:00 pm</b> local time (Warsaw)
Manner of submitting applications	Exclusively in electronic form via NAWA's ICT system FILL IN THE APPLICATION
Language of the application	The application has to be made in Polish
Maximum number of applications from one Applicant	Maximum 3 applications Where more than three applications are submitted by one institution, the last three – taking into account the time of submission in the Agency's ICT system – will be submitted for evaluation.

#### 2.3 Thematic areas of activities carried out under the Programme

In their project, the Applicant is obliged to include activities involving teaching, research, or implementation. The activities listed in the application for funding should entail taking up international cooperation between institutions. It is possible to carry out individual activities separately with each of the Strategic Partners.

The proposed activities have to be very well suited to the Applicant's development strategy and internationalisation strategy as well as the objectives of the partnership entered into by the institutions.

Project activities may concern the following areas:

1. organising exchange/lectures/study visits/industrial traineeships for the institution's students, doctoral candidates, and staff – at the premises of the Partners or businesses, including access of persons involved in the implementation of scientific research and development works to R&D centres of businesses/Partners;
2. improvement or development of new and innovative tools and methods of education at the Applicant and Partner institutions;
3. development of modern teaching materials that will be employed in the Applicant's and Partners' activity;
4. development and implementation of high-quality joint programmes ending with a joint or a double degree;
5. joint research and development work on an international scale carried out by the Applicant and its Partners (cooperation with businesses must not aim to generate profit) and presentation and publication of results;
6. development and implementation of a strategy for dissemination of the results of research carried out by the Applicant and its Partners;
7. development of a quality management system in partner institutions aiming to improve the quality of education;
8. taking up cooperation with foreign businesses aiming to adapt the Applicant's offer to the market needs.

In the submission, the Applicant has to specify in detail the key area of cooperation that will be taken up and carried out under the Project with each of the Strategic Partners. Activities beyond the scope specified above may be carried out, yet it is necessary to present a detailed explanation of the proposed activities and expenses.

## 2.4 Eligible Applicants

Applications may be submitted by an entity which provides education in Poland, i.e.:

- 1) a higher educational institution referred to in the Act on Higher Education and Science;
- 2) the Polish Academy of Sciences referred to in the Act on the Polish Academy of Sciences;
- 3) a scientific institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences within the meaning of the Act on the Polish Academy of Sciences;
- 4) a research institute within the meaning of the Act on research institutes;
- 5) an international scientific institute established on the basis of separate provisions, operating on the territory of the Republic of Poland;
- 6) institutes associated in the Łukasiewicz Research Network referred to in Article 7(1)(6b) of the Act on Higher Education and Science.
- 7) federations of higher education and science institutions referred to in Article 165 of the Act on Higher Education and Science.

## 2.5 Possibility to carry out a project in the form of a partnership

The Programme requires that projects be carried out in the form of a partnership with at least one Strategic Partner.

Strategic Partners in a project have to be universities or scientific institutions located or registered abroad that are not funded from the Polish budget and that have signed a letter of intent with the Applicant.

A project can involve from one to six Strategic Partners.

A supporting partner can be a Polish entity classified as an eligible Applicant, and the maximum number of supporting partners is two.

## 2.6 Time frame for Project implementation

Project start date and duration	<b>The implementation of a single Project may cover the period from 12 to 24 months,<sup>1</sup> i.e. between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2024.</b>
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## 2.7 Procedure of evaluation and selection of applications for financing

General principles	Applications are subject to formal and merit-based evaluation.
Formal evaluation	The purpose of formal evaluation is to verify the applications to ensure that they meet the formal criteria specified in this Call for Applications and in the Regulations of NAWA Programmes for Institutions.
Merit-based evaluation	The purpose of merit-based evaluation is to verify the applications to ensure that they meet the qualitative criteria specified in this Call for Applications. Merit-based evaluation scheme A, pursuant to the Regulations of NAWA Programmes for Institutions.

<sup>1</sup> The length of support is determined by a multiple of months.

The merit-based evaluation of applications under the Programme is carried out by the External Experts based on the following criteria:			
	Description of the criterion	Reviewers	Evaluation Panel
1.	Analysis of the needs/problems of the Applicant and the target groups that the Project intends to answer	0-15	0-15
2.	The Project's objectives and their compatibility with the Applicant's objectives and strategy with regard to internationalisation and with the objectives of the Programme, including the selection of the Project's target groups	0-20	0-20
3.	Activities under the Project together with explanation and the Project's results and their impact	0-28	0-28
4.	The Project's feasibility resulting from the Applicant's potential and experience and the manner of managing, supervising and evaluating the Project	0-15	0-15
5.	Justification of the costs related to carrying out the planned activities	0-22	0-22
<b>In total:</b>		0-100	0-100
<b>Score weight:</b>		0.4	0.6
<b>Maximum number of points:</b>		<b>100 points</b>	

## 2.8 Project budget

The amount of funding allocated for the implementation of a single Project is a maximum of **PLN 2,000,000.00**.

### Eligible costs

1. The cost of remuneration of persons directly involved in the implementation of activities under the Project:
  - 1) the costs of employment contracts, performance bonuses, or other remuneration components;
  - 2) the costs of civil law contracts (including with the Applicant's staff or external experts and co-workers).Important: the total cost of remuneration may not exceed 30% of the Project's value.
2. Travel and subsistence expenses – incurred in connection with the Project:
  - 1) travel and subsistence expenses of the Applicant's staff members incurred in connection with travels in Poland or abroad necessary for the implementation of the Project;
  - 2) travel and subsistence expenses of persons involved in the implementation of the Project (e.g. students, experts, speakers) incurred in connection with inbound or outbound travels in Poland or abroad necessary for the implementation of the Project;
  - 3) travel expenses include, in particular, the costs of travel from the place of residence to the place of destination, the costs of visas, health insurance, civil liability insurance and accident insurance;
  - 4) subsistence costs include, in particular, accommodation and daily allowance.
3. Costs of organising or participating in meetings, conferences, fairs and other events in Poland or abroad:
  - 1) costs of renting rooms, equipment, or sound equipment;
  - 2) hotel (e.g. accommodation of experts and speakers) and catering (coffee breaks, lunches) services;
  - 3) preparation of conference materials (including the costs of duplication of the materials and purchase of office supplies and consumables for the event);
  - 4) costs of promoting the planned event (e.g. advertisements online);
  - 5) other costs directly related to the organisation of the event.
4. Costs of purchase of other goods and services necessary to implement the Project:
  - 1) designing, editing, setting, and printing information materials and publications (e.g. research findings, manuals, textbooks);
  - 2) translation costs;
  - 3) purchase of teaching aids with an international reach;
  - 4) cost of publication of articles and other works in international journals;
  - 5) purchase of consumables for the purpose of preparing research (e.g. necessary reagents, minor research supplies etc.);

- 6) other costs directly related to the implementation of the Project and necessary to achieve its objectives.

### 2.9 Amount of funding allocated for the Call

The total amount of funds allocated for the call is **PLN 25,000,000.00**. The Agency reserves the right to increase the amount of funds allocated for the call.

### 2.10 Additional information

Payment scheme – C, pursuant to the Regulations of NAWA Programmes for Institutions. For Projects lasting up to 15 months.

Payment scheme – D, pursuant to the Regulations of NAWA Programmes for Institutions. For Projects lasting between 15 and 24 months.

Reporting Scheme – C, pursuant to the Regulations of NAWA Programmes for Institutions.

### 2.11 Planned date of announcement of the results

The results of the Call will be announced by 30 June 2022.

### 2.12 Source of the Programme funding

The Programme is financed from the state budget.

## III. APPENDICES

- 1) Regulations of the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange – Programmes for Institutions;
- 2) Model Application Form;
- 3) Model Contract;
- 4) Model Power of Attorney;
- 5) Model Letter of Intent;
- 6) Beneficiary's Manual with appendices.

## IV. CONTACT WITH THE AGENCY

If you need more information, feel free to contact us (working days from 9 am to 4 pm):

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