Iceland Liechtenstein Norway grants

NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE POLAND

Call for proposals

Coordination and Capacity Kick- off

1.2

Basic Research Programme
EEA Grants 2021-2028 Poland

The purpose of this call

The Coordination and Capacity Kick-off call will serve as a preparatory measure and enable the development of robust applications for the upcoming LANGSPIL Interdisciplinary Call. The Kick-off grants will support the establishment of bilateral consortia between Polish research organizations and partners from Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein, capable of interdisciplinary basic research and promote collaboration with non-academic stakeholders. The call welcomes applications from Polish researchers, particularly those at the early stages of career. Capacity building for beneficiaries of the call will include tailored workshops and assistance in the development of interdisciplinary project proposals.

Basic information

Programme Operator	**National Science Centre**
Announcement of call	**17 June 2026**
Start date for submission of applications	17 June 2026, 14:00, UTC+02:00 (CEST)
Deadline for submission of applications	1 September 2026, 14:00, UTC+02:00 (CEST)
Eligible applicants	The eligible Applicant is a Polish research organization, which must employ the Principal Investigator (holding at least a PhD degree) at the time of proposal submission. Eligible Applicants include entities specified in Article 27 (1)(1) and Article 27 (3)-(7a) of the Act on the National Science Centre of 30 April 2010, provided they are established as legal persons in Poland. The Applicant shall also meet the criteria of research organizations defined by Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty.

Eligible partners	No consortia are eligible to apply under this call. All awarded funds must be managed and disbursed exclusively by the Applicant. Partners are not eligible to receive or manage any portion of the grant.		
Total amount available	**EUR 150 000 (PLN 636 390)**		
Minimum grant amount	EUR 2 800 (PLN 11 879)		
Maximum grant amount	EUR 2 800 (PLN 11 879)		
Maximum grant rate	Public sector 100 %	Non-governmental 100%	Private entities 100%
Minimum co-financing requirement	Public sector 0%	Non-governmental 0%	Private entities 0%
Grant duration	Minimum **3 months**	Maximum **3 months**	

Specific objectives and expected results

Objective of the EEA Grants

The EEA Grants contribute to reducing economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area and to strengthening bilateral relations between Poland and Donor States (Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein).

The EEA Grants are based on the common values and principles of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. The implementation is guided by the core values of transparency, accountability, and cost efficiency, alongside good governance, strong partnerships, multi-level governance, sustainable development, gender equality, and non-discrimination.

Objective of the programme

The main objective of the programme is to enhance excellence in research and research-based innovation, thereby strengthening the foundations for the green and digital transitions, democracy, the rule of law, human rights, social inclusion, and resilience in Poland, in line with the objectives of the EEA Grants.

Objective and focus of this call

The purpose of this call is to develop capacity for interdisciplinary research and involvement of non-academic partners.

The Kick-off grants shall support Polish researchers in:

- forming international, interdisciplinary teams comprising researchers from Poland and at least one Donor State, capable of addressing complex research challenges and engaging non-academic actors.
- developing conceptual frameworks for interdisciplinary projects that could be submitted as proposals under the LANGSPIL call;

This will be achieved primarily by financing bilateral on-site working visits. These will enable the partners to develop project ideas, discuss collaborative pathways, and exchange expertise directly through in-person cooperation.

Furthermore, the information collected from Principal Investigators through the application process will allow the Programme Operator (NCN) to carry out an assessment of obstacles and challenges related to interdisciplinarity and engagement of the non-academic sector. Based on this information, NCN will determine the modalities of support - ranging from tailored workshops to expert facilitation – which shall be offered to the Principal Investigators. Whenever

possible, these capacity building measures will be made available to all interested participants and potential applicants to the LANGSPIL Call.

LANGSPIL Interdisciplinary Call

The LANGSPIL Call, to be launched in December 2026 with a submission deadline in early 2027, will focus on interdisciplinary basic research. With a total budget of 12 000 000 EUR, the call aims to fund 3-year projects that integrate multiple disciplines, particularly drawing on the distinctive approaches of the social sciences and humanities. Individual project grants will range from a minimum of 800 000 EUR to a maximum of 1 500 000 EUR. Meaningful collaboration and knowledge exchange with non-academic partners will be encouraged. The interdisciplinary research projects shall address complex challenges in three key areas: the European green transition; democracy, rule of law, and human rights; and social inclusion and resilience.

Eligible applicants for LANGSPIL will be international consortia led by Polish research organizations, involving at least one research organization from Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein.

Expected results

Expected results are:

1. establishment of cooperative relationships between Polish researchers and Donor State(s) partners;
2. high quality project concepts relevant to the LANGSPIL call.

While this initiative will support the preparation of consortia and concepts for applications, the submission of applications in the subsequent LANGSPIL Call will remain optional.

Eligible activities

Thematic scope of activities

This call supports networking and development of project consortia and concepts relevant to the interdisciplinary LANGSPIL Call.

Geographic scope of activities

Poland and the Donor States (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein)

Activities eligible for support

Networking activities essential for conducting joint conceptual work with partners from the Donor State(s).

Eligible expenditure and forms of grant

Start and final dates of eligibility of expenditure

The first and final dates for eligibility of expenditures will be specified in the grant contract.

Eligible expenditure

Principal Investigator's travel and subsistence costs for on-site visits to the Donor State(s). In justified cases the Applicant may also cover the travel and subsistence costs for a researcher from a Donor State visiting Poland to meet with the Principal Investigator.

Limits on certain categories of expenditure

Category of expenditure	Limits
Travel and subsistence costs	2 800 EUR (11 879 PLN)

Non-eligible expenditure	Any other costs.
Forms of grant	The grant shall take the form of a simplified cost option – **lump sum of 2800 EUR** that covers all the expenses. The lump sum will be considered eligible and settled upon the submission of a following Proof of Condition: - at least one Expression of Interest, demonstrating that a meeting with a Donor State entity has occurred and that potential cooperation towards a LANGSPIL project proposal has been discussed. The **Expression of Interest** must be signed by a representative of an entity from Norway, Iceland, or Liechtenstein. Separate documents may be submitted for each additional partner contacted during the implementation of the Kick-off grant. Each Expression of Interest must confirm the creation of the cooperation and a commitment to jointly prepare a project concept relevant to the LANGSPIL call. The Expression of Interest must include a formal statement confirming that the project concept was advanced through at least one on-site meeting between the Principal Investigator and partner(s). For the convenience of applicants, a standardized template for the Expression of Interest is provided as Annex 4. This document is for administrative purposes related to the Kick-off grant only and does not constitute a legally binding partnership agreement. **Please note** that the failure to submit the Expression of Interest will render the lump sum ineligible and result in an obligation to return all the funds received.

Financing conditions and reporting

Forms of payment	Payment of the grant shall take the form of advance payment. The advance payment will be made following the signature of the grant contract.
Reporting	The outcomes of the Kick-off grant shall be documented and reported to the Programme Operator through the following deliverables: - Expression of Interest: A document confirming that a meeting with a Donor State entity took place and that potential cooperation on a LANGSPIL project proposal was discussed. The Expression of Interest must follow the template provided in Annex 4. The lump sum will be considered eligible and settled upon the formal submission of this document. - Interdisciplinary Project Concept: A research concept developed in active collaboration with the Donor State partner(s). The Concept must be submitted using the template provided in Annex 5. Its preparation shall be carried out within the framework of the Principal Investigator's existing employment contract with the Applicant. The specific reporting procedures and deadlines shall be detailed in the grant contract.

	% of grant	Condition of payment	Deadline for payment
Advance payment	100 %	Signature of grant contract	15 days
Interim payments	N/A		
Final payment	N/A		

State aid

State aid regime applied for the call	State aid is not eligible under this call. Applications in which grant funding will constitute state aid will not be considered. For detailed information, please refer to the NCN regulations on state aid.

Submission of applications

Form and content of project applications	Annex 1 serves as the application form. Applicants shall complete it in accordance with the instructions provided therein and submit it electronically.
Method of submission	Grant applications shall be submitted electronically to: • the electronic delivery address (EDA) of the National Science Centre: AE:PL-30168-16398-EHSIE-12 (for all Applicants) or • the electronic delivery box of the National Science Centre (/ncn/SkrytkaESP) (for Applicants that are public entities specified in Article 2 of the Act on the Electronic Delivery of Documents of 18 November 2020). The completed and signed applications must be submitted before the deadline specified under the Basic Information section of this call. Depending on the method of submission, proposals will be considered effectively served on the receipt of the Official Confirmation of Submission (*Urzędowe Poświadczenie Przedłożenia*, "UPP") or confirmation of receipt (*dowód otrzymania*).
Limitations on the submission of applications	Each Applicant may submit a maximum of one grant application per Principal Investigator under this call. Each application shall name a specific Principal Investigator. In cases where more than one application is submitted for the same Principal Investigator, only the first application registered as submitted will be considered. All subsequent applications will be rejected.

Selection procedure

General information	The Programme Operator shall be responsible for the selection process and the award of grants.
Administrative and eligibility checks	The Programme Operator shall review all submitted applications against the defined administrative and eligibility criteria, including any exclusion criteria (see Annex 3).
Assessment	Applications that meet all administrative and eligibility requirements shall be recommended for funding. Should the call budget be insufficient to finance all eligible applications, priority will be given to proposals based on the Principal Investigator's documented track record in the following areas: • Cooperation with non-academic sector: Proven experience in research-based cooperation beyond the academic sphere, involving stakeholders such as NGOs, policymakers, industry, or local authorities; • International research experience: A history of managing or participating in international research projects; • Domestic research experience: A history of managing or participating in national research projects;

The Principal Investigator's track record shall be assessed relative to their career stage. Should the criteria above not lead to a selection, preference will be given to applications led by early-career researchers and representatives of underrepresented genders within their respective research fields. A definition of an early-career researcher valid in this call is provided in Council Recommendation of 18 December 2023 on a Framework to attract and retain research, innovation and entrepreneurial talents in Europe. Should the aforementioned criteria not result in a final selection, preference will be given to ensuring as balanced a success rate as possible across the three thematic priorities indicated in the Application form. **The assessment will be carried out by NCN Coordinators, defined in Article 2 of NCN Act.** Detailed rules for assessment are specified in Annex 3.

Grant award decision

The Programme Operator shall determine which applications are awarded funding based on the criteria specified above. In reaching its final decision, the Programme Operator will consult the Cooperation Committee and consider its recommendations.

The call results will be communicated to the Applicant in the form of the National Science Centre Director's decision by November 2026. In the event of a breach of the call procedure or other formal infringements, the applicant may appeal against the decision of the NCN Director with the Committee of Appeals of the NCN Council within 14 days of the effective delivery of the decision.

Grant contracts

Based on the grant award decision, the Programme Operator shall conclude a contract with the Applicant setting out the terms and conditions of the grant and the roles and responsibilities of the parties. A template of the grant contract shall be provided no later than the day of the grant award decision.

Provisional timeline

Deadline for submission of applications	1 September 2026
Administrative and eligibility checks	September 2026
Assessment of applications	October 2026
Decision on the award of grants	October 2026
Signature of grant contracts	November 2026
Deadline for the completion of grants	March 2027

Further information, contacts for queries and the complaint mechanism

Further information

For further information please consult the following documents:

Regulation on the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028

Guideline for Research and Innovation Programme

Programme Agreement

Contact for queries

Any queries concerning the call may be directed to the following contacts no later than 7 working days before the deadline for the submission of applications. A written response shall be sent within 7 working days of the receipt of the query.

Frequently asked questions and answers will be published on the website of the call.

Institution	National Science Centre
Name	Michał Olejnik
E-mail	Michal.Olejnik@ncn.gov.pl
Telephone	+48 501 346 706

Contact to file a complaint

To file a complaint please address it to the following e-mail: biuro@ncn.gov.pl

Annexes to the call for proposals

Annex 1	Application form
Annex 2	Call summary
Annex 3	Criteria for administrative and eligibility assessment
Annex 4	Expression of Interest template
Annex 5	Concept of an interdisciplinary project proposal template