17 June 2026

Coordination & Capacity Kick-off

The National Science Centre (NCN) announces Coordination & Capacity Kick-off call financed from the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021 – 2028. The initiative is part of the Basic Research Programme operated by the National Science Centre under the EEA and Norway Grants, and is prepared in cooperation with the Research Council of Norway (RCN) and the Icelandic Centre for Research (Rannis).

The Coordination and Capacity Kick-off call is a preparatory initiative intended to support the development of project concepts for the upcoming LANGSPIL Interdisciplinary Call. The Kick-off grants shall support Polish researchers in forming international partnerships with collaborators from the EEA countries, while developing conceptual frameworks for an interdisciplinary research project. This will be achieved through funding of bilateral on-site working visits for direct, in-person cooperation. Furthermore, data collected from Principal Investigators during the application process will allow NCN to assess obstacles related to interdisciplinarity and non-academic engagement. Based on these insights, NCN will design targeted capacity building support for Coordination & Capacity Kick-off beneficiaries.

The call budget is 150,000 EUR.

Funding is available for Polish research organisations, which must employ the Principal Investigator (holding at least a PhD degree) at the time of proposal submission. The call is open to all research fields and topics, however concepts developed within its framework must address one of the **three priority areas**:

- the European green transition,
- democracy, the rule of law, and human rights,
- social inclusion and resilience.

Proposals must 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).

Purpose and objectives

The Coordination and Capacity Kick-off Call is a preparatory initiative intended to support the development of project concepts for the upcoming LANGSPIL Interdisciplinary Call. The Kick-off grants support Polish research teams, particularly those led by early-career researchers, in:

- Forming international partnerships with collaborators from the EEA countries to address complex research challenges.
- Developing interdisciplinary projects concepts with potential to be submitted as proposals under the LANGSPIL call.

This will be achieved through:

- **Bilateral Working Visits**: Funding is directed toward on-site visits, enabling partners to refine project ideas and exchange expertise through in-person cooperation.
- **Tailored Capacity Building**: Based on the obstacles identified in the application process, the National Science Centre (NCN) will provide beneficiaries with targeted support, including workshops and expert facilitation. Where feasible, these measures will be extended to all potential LANGSPIL applicants. The scope and format of these activities will be decided once the submission period has ended.

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

The LANGSPIL call, scheduled for launch in November 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 will support 3-year projects that integrate multiple disciplines, with a particular emphasis on the methodologies and approaches of the social sciences and humanities. Projects will be implemented through bilateral collaboration between Poland and the Donor States, addressing complex challenges in at least one of the following priority areas: the European green transition; democracy, rule of law, and human rights; or social inclusion and resilience. Furthermore, meaningful collaboration and knowledge exchange with non-academic partners will be highly encouraged.

Eligible Applicants

The eligible Applicant is a research organisation 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 and established as a legal person in Poland. The Article 27 section 1 of the Act on the National Science Centre of 30 April 2010 indicates the eligible entities' catalogue, which may apply in the calls launched by NCN. In Coordination & Capacity Kick-off these are:

1. University
2. Federation of science and HE entities
3. Research institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences
4. Research institute

5. International research institute
   5a. Łukasiewicz Centre
   5b. Institute operating within the Łukasiewicz Research Network
   5c. Centre of Postgraduate Medical Education
6. Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences
7. Entity involved in research independently on a continuous basis (not listed in sections 1-6)
8. -
9. Scientific and industrial centre
10. Research centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences
11. Scientific library
12. Company operating as R&D centre
13. Legal entity established with registered office in Poland
    13 a. President of the Central Office of Measures

The Principal Investigator (holder of at least a PhD degree) must be employed by the Applicant at the time of proposal submission.

What are the subjects covered by the call?

Applications may be submitted to the call in any of 26 NCN panels comprising three groups:

- HS –Humanities, Social Sciences and Art Sciences;
- NZ – Life Sciences;
- ST – Physical Sciences and Engineering.

Furthermore, concept developed during realization of the Coordination & Capacity Kick-off grant must address challenges within **one of the three priority areas**:

- the European green transition,
- democracy, the rule of law, and human rights,
- social inclusion and resilience.

Application form

Annex 1 to the call text serves as the application form. All mandatory fields, text boxes, and tables within the form must be fully completed, and character limits must be respected. Applicants must strictly adhere to the quantitative limits specified for the Principal Investigator's track record (Part C of the form), where a maximum of 3 publications and a maximum of 3 completed or ongoing research projects may be listed.

The application form also serves as a questionnaire to evaluate the needs of potential beneficiaries regarding capacity building activities. Based on the information gathered in Part D of the form, NCN will determine the format of the support provided. The details will be communicated to beneficiaries once the call results are announced.

Eligible expenditures

The Cooperation & Capacity Kick-off grant is awarded as a **lump sum of 2,800 EUR,** intended to cover travel and subsistence costs for the Principal Investigator's on-site visits to the EEA countries or, in justified cases, for a researcher from the EEA country visiting Poland. **All other expenses are considered ineligible**.

The exchange rate valid for this call is: **EUR 1 = PLN 4.2426.**

The lump sum will be settled upon the submission of at least one **Expression of Interest** (template provided in Annex 4 to the Call text), which must be signed by a representative of an entity from Norway, Iceland, or Liechtenstein. This document must confirm that the interdisciplinary project concept was advanced through at least one on-site meeting. Failure to submit the Expression of Interest will render the lump sum ineligible, requiring a full return of awarded funds.

Additionally, beneficiaries must submit an **Interdisciplinary Project Concept** (template provided in Annex 5 to the Call text), developed in active collaboration with the partner(s) from the EEA countries within the framework of the Principal Investigator's existing employment contract.

Can proposals in this call include application for state aid?

No, 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 proposals

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*).

The application deadline is September 1, 2026, at 14:00, UTC+02:00 (CEST).

Any corrections or revision of proposals after this deadline will not be possible.

Are there any restrictions on submitting proposals for research projects under NCN calls?

Each Applicant may submit a maximum of one grant application per Principal Investigator. 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 of applications

Applications undergo an administrative and eligibility check by NCN Coordinators. Proposals meeting all requirements are recommended for funding. In the event of budget limitations, priority is assigned based on the Principal Investigator's track record (assessed relative to their career stage) in the management and/or participation in:

1. Non-academic cooperation (NGOs, industry, policy).
2. International research projects.
3. Domestic research projects.

If further differentiation is required, preference will be given to:

- Early-career researchers and representatives of underrepresented genders.
- Ensuring a balanced success rate across the three thematic priorities.

Detailed assessment rules are specified in Annex 3 to the Call text. The call results will be announced in October 2026, with the signing of grant contracts scheduled for November 2026.

Announcement of call results

The Coordination & Capacity Kick-off call results shall be announced on the NCN website in October 2027 at the latest.

The call results will be communicated to the applicants by an electronically delivered decision of the NCN Director.

The Applicant (Project Promoter/Project Investigator) should get acquainted with the rules for delivering the NCN Director's decisions.

Appeals

The decisions of the NCN Director may be appealed against to the Appeal Committee of the Council of the National Science Centre, in the event of a breach of the call procedure or other formal infringements. The appeal shall be lodged by the Applicant within 14 days of the effective delivery of the decision.

More information on appeal procedure can be found here.

Timeline of COORDINATION & CAPACITY KICK-OFF call

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

Partner matchmaking tool

To facilitate the formation of international partnerships, NCN has launched a dedicated **EEA & Norway Grants Partner Matchmaking Tool,** available here. We hihgly encourage all interested to register in the database to maximize the chances of finding a potential partner for Coordination & Capacity Kick-off and other calls within the Basic Research Programme framework.

Further Infromation

NCN will host **a webinar on the Coordination & Capacity Kick-off followed by a Q&A session on 8 July 2026 at 10AM CEST.** The webinar will be held via the ClickMeeting platform, interested participants can register in advance using the following **registration link**. Please note that the number of participants is limited to 500.

For any further inquiries or questions regarding the upcoming calls, please feel free to contact us at Norway.Grants@ncn.gov.pl.

Call documentation

The documents listed below have been approved by the Basic Research Programme Cooperation Committee and must be followed by the applicants to meet the eligibility criteria of the Coordination & Capacity Kick-off call.

1. Call text
2. Call text in Polish (for informational purposes only; the official English version is legally binding call text)
3. Application form – call text annex 1
4. Call summary – call text annex 2
5. Criteria for administrative and eligibility assessment – call text annex 3
6. Expression of Interest template – call text annex 4
7. Concept of an interdisciplinary project proposal template – call text annex 5

Further documents necessary for the applicants in the Coordination & Capacity Kick-off call are listed below.

8. Resolution of the NCN Council on the terms of the Coordination and Capacity Kick-of call
9. NCN panels
10. State aid
11. Service of decisions of the NCN Director
12. Appealing against the NCN Director's decisions

Documents to be read before commencing NCN projects:

13. Agreement template – will be provided before the call results announcement
14. NCN Council Resolution on collaboration with the Russian Federation within the framework of NCN-funded grants

The call documentation has been developed on the basis of the:

15. Regulation on the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028
16. Guideline for Research and Innovation Programme
17. Programme Agreement