

Assessment criteria for the TEAM-NET programme of the Foundation for Polish Science

ACCESS CRITERIA

No.	Criterion name	Criterion description	Assessment
1.	The project is implemented in the field of research included in the current document – the National Smart Specialisations list	<p>It shall be verified whether the research issues are consistent with the strategic document entitled <i>The National Smart Specialisation</i> (hereinafter: NSS), as attached to the Enterprise Development Programme adopted by the Council of Ministers on 8 April 2014. NSS is an open-ended document which shall be subject to continual verification and updates, based on the monitoring system and the ongoing socio-economic changes. Considering the above, the document version binding for a given competition shall be indicated in the respective competition documentation (also published on the FNP's website).</p>	YES/NO
2.	Applicant's eligibility under the measure	<p>The applicant is an entity, or a group of entities, continually conducting research or development work complying with the definition of a research unit, as defined in the Act on the Principles of Financing Science of 30 April 2010 (Journal of Laws No. 96, item 615, under Journal of Laws of 2014, item 1620, of 2015, item 249). Applicants shall be legal entities operating as research units, or within which such units operate.</p> <p>Applications shall be submitted by at least three, but no more than six, research units. In the case of applications submitted by a group of 3-5 units, at least one of them must have category "A", and in the case of applications submitted by 6 units, at least two of them must have category "A". The applying units must represent jointly at least two scientific domains (in compliance with an appendix to the Regulation of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of 8 August 2011 on areas of knowledge, fields of science and arts and scientific and artistic disciplines).</p> <p>Management team. The Project Leader must have at least 10 years of experience in conducting R&D work and project management, and his/her principal role shall be to coordinate the activities of research teams. Along with the Project Leader, the management team must comprise one representative with at least 5 years of experience in</p>	YES/NO

		<p>conducting R&D work, of each legal entity listed in the application. From among those persons, one person (other than the Project Leader) shall be indicated, having at least 5 years of experience in introducing the results of research work into economic practice, or in rendering research services, who will be in charge of developing cooperation within the project between scientific units and entrepreneurs.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Project's conformity with the competition's assumptions</p>	<p>The project envisages the establishing of 3-6 research teams in total, within the research units listed in the application. Research team leaders shall be appointed and approved by the project's Scientific and Economic Committee (SEC). At least half of the research teams shall be managed by the leaders elected in a competition (supervised by the SEC in terms of compliance with the project conditions), who for the last 2 years have not been employed within any of the legal entities acting as applicants.</p> <p>At least three persons (young team members) who are students, PhD students or junior postdoctoral researchers (for whom no more than 9 years have passed since obtaining the scientific title, in relation to the year of team recruitment) are planned to be involved in each of the research teams. As regards PhD students and junior postdoctoral researchers, the recruitment shall take place through a competition announced at least on the EURAXESS portal.</p> <p>Moreover, the team may include technical workers or no more than two persons with scientific titles, necessary for conducting R&D work or supervising young team members (appointed by the Project Leader and approved by the SEC and the IA).</p> <p>The Scientific and Economic Committee shall comprise at least 5-9 members, at least 1/2 of whom must be employed outside the entities acting as applicants, and at least 1/3 of whom should represent entrepreneurs operating in the area covered by the application (e.g. representatives of a chamber of commerce, a scientific and technical association, or a cluster).</p> <p>The project duration has been determined as 3 to 4 years.</p>	

		<p>Project indicators have been defined in compliance with the competition requirements, and their base and target values are adequate for the project scope and objectives.</p> <p>Grant applications may be corrected in terms of the project indicators (values and justifications).</p>	
4.	The project covers R&D work	<p>As part of this criterion, it shall be verified whether the project is a research project which provides for implementing both industrial research and development work, or development work alone.</p> <p>Industrial research and development work shall be understood as the industrial research and development work referred to in Article 2 (85) and (86) of Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘industrial research’ means the planned research or critical investigation aimed at the acquisition of new knowledge and skills for developing new products, processes or services or for bringing about a significant improvement in existing products, processes or services. It comprises the creation of component parts of complex systems, and may include the construction of prototypes in a laboratory environment or in an environment with interfaces simulating existing systems as well as of pilot lines, when necessary for the industrial research and notably for generic technology validation; • ‘experimental development work’ means acquiring, combining, shaping and using existing scientific, technological, business and other relevant knowledge and skills with the aim of developing new or improved products, processes or services. This may also include, for example, activities aiming at the conceptual definition, planning and documentation of new products, processes or services; Experimental development work may comprise prototyping, demonstrating, piloting, testing and validation of new or improved products, processes or services in environments representative of real life operating conditions where the primary objective is to 	YES/NO

		<p>make further technical improvements on products, processes or services that are not substantially set. This may include the development of a commercially usable prototype or pilot which is necessarily the final commercial product and which is too expensive to produce for it to be used only for demonstration and validation purposes. Experimental development work does not include routine or periodic changes made to existing products, production lines, manufacturing processes, services and other operations in progress, even if those changes may represent improvements.</p> <p>Grant applications may be corrected in terms of the information verified under the given criterion.</p>	
5.	Eligibility and adequacy of project expenses	<p>As part of this criterion, it shall be verified whether the project expenses are eligible and adequate to the planned R&D work. Verification shall in particular cover the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the project budget allows the financing of work of at least 3 research teams and does not exceed PLN 3.5 million per team, for 3 years, with all the project tasks being financed as part of the planned budget. • the eligibility of individual budget items, in line with the catalogue included in the Cost Eligibility Guide, as part of the Smart Growth Operational Programme, as attached to the Competition Regulations; • the allocation of eligible costs to the relevant research or work categories; • the allocation of eligible costs (under individual budget items) to the relevant categories of costs; • the adequacy of the planned expenses, i.e. whether they match the scope of individual R&D work and work results; the following aspects shall be verified: 	YES/NO

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ whether the expenses are indispensable and directly related to the conduction of the R&D work envisaged in the project; ○ whether their level is adequate and each cost item has been sufficiently justified; ○ whether the expenses are adequate to the expected results. <p>Grant applications may be corrected in terms of the information verified under the given criterion.</p>	
6.	Project's conformity with the principle of equal opportunities	<p>It shall be verified whether the project complies with the horizontal principle referred to in Article 7 of Regulation No. 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council (EU), i.e. <i>Promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination</i>. In line with the reference principle, the project implementation cannot contribute to unequal treatment of individuals based on gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. In particular, accessibility of the project products for persons with disabilities shall be taken into account.</p> <p>The fulfilment of this principle must be compliant with <i>Guidelines for the implementation of the principle of equal chances and non-discrimination, including accessibility for persons with disabilities and the principle of equal opportunities for women and men within the EU funds for 2014-2020</i>. This criterion shall be considered fulfilled if the project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) has a positive impact on the implementation of the principle of equal opportunities for women and men and non-discrimination. In exceptional cases, the project may be considered neutral in respect to this principle on condition that the applicant provides a detailed justification as to why the project cannot include any measures in this scope, and the justification so provided is accepted by FNP; 2) guarantees accessibility of the project products for people with disabilities. <p>The assessment is based on the applicant's statement and justification.</p> <p>Grant applications may be corrected in terms of the information verified under the given criterion.</p>	YES/NO

7.	The project has a positive impact on the implementation of the principle of sustainable development.	<p>Sustainable growth is defined as socio-economic growth which involves the integration of measures aimed at economic development with social measures, by preserving the natural balance and sustainability of basic natural processes, with a view to ensuring the possibility to satisfy the needs of individual communities and citizens, living both now and in the future. The applicant should ensure a positive impact of the project on the implementation of the principle of sustainable growth (including climate) by employing the adequate project planning and implementation solutions. Considering the above, funding may be granted to projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) whose implementation methods ensure the choice of solutions/equipment operation modes/R&D implementation methods having a positive impact on environmental protection, mainly through the purchase of supplies and services necessary for the project implementation based on the selection of those supplies and services that are the most beneficial in economic terms, and the most favourable in terms of their environmental impact (lower energy or water consumption, the use of recycled materials), or 2) which result in solutions (products/technologies/services) having a positive impact on environmental protection, which mainly concerns projects focused on the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cleaner processes, materials and products, • the production of cleaner energy • the use of waste in the production process, • the closing of water and waste water circuits as part of the project, etc. <p>which lead to developing a solution resulting in particular in reduced material consumption for production purposes, reduced energy consumption for production</p> 	YES/NO
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		<p>purposes, lower pollutant emissions, higher re-use of materials or waste, increased share of renewable energy sources in the energy balance.</p> <p>To obtain a positive assessment under this criterion, it shall be sufficient to prove in the grant application that at least one of the requirements described above will be satisfied.</p> <p>Moreover, for this criterion to be considered fulfilled, it is necessary to outline indicators confirming a positive impact on the implementation of the principle of sustainable growth.</p> <p>Grant applications may be corrected in terms of the project indicators (formulation, values and justifications), confirming a positive impact on the implementation of the principle of sustainable growth.</p>	
GRADED CRITERIA:			
No.	Criterion name	Criterion description	Assessment
1.	Innovative character and originality of the R&D work proposed by the project	<p>As part of this criterion, the following aspects shall be assessed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the innovation level of the proposed R&D work in relation to the activities currently conducted by the applicant/applicants; • the originality of the problem solution proposed by the project, taking into account the latest achievements in the domain/domains concerned by the project, and a chance to make a break-through in the project field; • whether the planned work is adequate (i.e. necessary, sufficient and justified) for achieving the project objective/the presented problem solution; whether the planned work has been divided into clearly-defined stages which form a coherent whole; and whether the milestones of each stage have been defined. <p>Grant applications may be corrected in terms of the information verified under the third bullet point within this criterion.</p>	0-5
<u>2.</u>	The economic potential of the Project and evaluation of the plan of utilising its results	<p>As part of this criterion, it shall be verified whether the project assumptions are realistic, and the resources and operational strategies make the success of the subsequent project results implementation probable, taking into account the relevant time frame;</p> <p>The following thematic aspects of the project shall be verified:</p>	0-5

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whether the technological/scientific potential of the project (technologies or products) has been correctly identified and precisely determined; • whether the market potential of the solution proposed by the project (developed through R&D work) has been correctly identified and precisely determined; • whether the target market (potential clients/recipients and their requirements/preferences, dimension, development directions and pace, expected market share) has been correctly defined; • whether the knowledge transfer has been effectively planned (including a description of envisaged commercialisation mechanisms, the methods of eliminating the most common process difficulties and the market entry time frame). <p>Grant applications may be corrected in terms of the information verified under all bullet points within this criterion.</p>	
3.	The plan of the utilisation of technical facilities and their complementarity with the implementation of the R&D work planned in the project	<p>As part of this criterion, the complementary character of the available resources, in relation to the project's subject, shall be assessed.</p> <p>As part of this criterion, it shall be verified to what extent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the applicant holds the necessary technical resources, including infrastructure (facilities, scientific and research apparatus and other equipment necessary for the implementation of the R&D work envisaged by the project); • the available technical resources are complementary in relation to the substantive scope of the project; • the applicant intends to provide other entities (including entrepreneurs) with access to its specialised apparatus/infrastructure on market principles, or to render services resulting from the project on market principles (including a description of the underlying principles of access to the apparatus or specialised services) 	0-5

		Grant applications may be corrected in terms of the information verified under the third bullet point.	
4.	The plan of using and increasing R&D human resources	<p>As part of this criterion, the strategy of establishing research teams and acquiring technical support staff shall be assessed.</p> <p>As part of this criterion, it shall be verified whether:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the scientific and technical human resources have been correctly identified in terms of the type and scope of work planned at the subsequent project stages; • the applicant is able to use the available human resources as regards the competences necessary for project implementation (to the extent allowed in the project); • the applicant has envisaged the efficient methods of acquiring human resources for project implementation in respect of scientific or technical positions (including team leaders, students, PhD students and junior postdoctoral researchers). <p>Grant applications may be corrected in terms of the information verified under the first and third bullet point.</p>	0-5
5.	The Scientific and Economic Committee (SEC) is adequate for the implementation of project objectives	<p>As part of this criterion, the adequacy of the SEC competences to act as an advisory and consulting body for the beneficiary shall be assessed. The SEC must contribute to developing new competences by the project implementation units and to gaining the competitive edge in the project field. The SEC shall monitor the scientific and economic quality of the project, and its management. It shall also intervene by introducing the necessary project modifications, mainly as regards the mid-term project assessment report.</p> <p>The assessment under this criterion shall involve verifying in particular whether:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the knowledge and experience of all SEC members are justified in light of the subject-matter proposed by the project; 	0-5

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the SEC members (at least two) have experience in restructuring scientific units in the country or abroad (the restructuring scale and results shall be assessed); • the SEC members include employees of the globally leading scientific units in the project field; • at least 1/2 of the SEC members are experienced in transferring research results to economy (positive commercialisation results shall be assessed) <p>The assessment shall be based on a description prepared by the applicant and letters of intent/declarations submitted by the SEC members.</p> <p>Grant applications may be corrected in terms of the information verified under all bullet points within this criterion.</p>	
6.	The manner of project management assures its highest quality and complete implementation	<p>As part of this criterion, the project management strategy and the risk-response method, as applied in the course of the project implementation, shall be assessed.</p> <p>As part of this criterion, the following aspects shall be assessed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge and experience of individual management team members, corresponding to project needs and adequate for project objectives; • knowledge and experience of the person in charge of developing cooperation between scientific units taking part in the project and entrepreneurs • roles and tasks division in the project management team • the project implementation-related risk analysis (with all the major technological and organisational/HR risks being identified and accurately described). <p>Grant applications may be corrected in terms of the information verified under the second, third and fourth bullet point.</p>	0-5
7.	The Project is of a supraregional nature	<p>This criterion is aimed at promoting the supra-regional character of the project.</p> <p>The positive assessment shall depend on fulfilling at least one of the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The project is implemented by a consortium involving at least one entity from a different province; or 	0 or 1

		<p>2. The project is implemented within more than one province. As regards the former, the applicant shall indicate the entity operating in a different province, with which the project covered by the grant application shall be implemented within a consortium. As regards the latter, the applicant shall declare that the project implementation area covers more than one province. The number of points to be achieved under the given criterion: 0 or 1 point, where 0 does not entirely disqualify the project. This criterion is preferential for supra-regional projects.</p>	
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For graded criteria 0-5: the number of awarded points indicates that the project satisfies a given criterion to the following extent: 5 – excellent; 4 – very good; 3 – good; 2 – moderate; 1 – low; 0 – insufficient. The required number of points, corresponding to a positive project assessment, shall be no fewer than 3 points for the entire criterion, or no fewer than 2 points for particular bullet points.

For graded criterion 7: there is no minimum threshold determining a positive project assessment.