

Appendix No. 2 1. Project selection criteria under Priority Axis 4: INCREASING THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH POTENTIAL

Measure 4.3: International Research Agendas, IRA PLUS module

Formal Criteria for Measure 4.3 – International Research Agendas - IRA PLUS module

Satisfaction of all the following formal criteria is necessary for the application to enter the next evaluation phase.

Formal Criteria – the Application:

- The application is submitted to the competent institution.
- The application is submitted through the electronic system specified in the call for proposals.
- The application is submitted within the time limit specified in the call for proposals.
- The application is complete.

Formal Criteria – the Applicant:

- The applicant satisfies the formal requirements set out in the call for proposals.
- The Applicant is not subject to the grant application exclusion under Article 207 of the Public Finance Act of 27 August 2009.

Formal Criteria – the Project:

- The Project will be implemented within the territory of the Republic of Poland.
- The duration of the Project does not exceed the time limit for the SG OP.
- The grant amount applied for is determined in line with the rules laid down in the call for proposals.
- The Project complies with the horizontal policies referred to in Articles 7 and 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council.
- The scope of the Project does not include any types of activities which are subject to the grant application exclusion under the relevant SG OP measure.
- The Project will be implemented in cooperation with a foreign partner institution.

Content-Based Criteria for Measure 4.3 – International Research Agendas - IRA PLUS module

I. SCIENTIFIC AND ECONOMIC EVALUATION:

Content-Based Access Criteria (YES/NO):

- The Project will be implemented in a field of the research falling within the scope of the latest version of the “National Smart Specializations” document.

Satisfaction of the aforesaid criterion is necessary for the application to enter the next evaluation stage.

Scored Content-Based Criteria:

- The Project meets the objectives of the programme in terms of the proposed legal form and the IRA unit management assumptions (*a range from 0 to 5*).
- The Project meets the objectives of the programme in terms of the required international partnership and the partners’ role (*a range from 0 to 5*).
- The Project meets the objectives of the programme in terms of IRA’s importance for the socio-economic development of Poland and its effect on increasing the "transfer of the results scientific research into commercial products (*a range from 0 to 5*).
- The Applicant guarantees that the objectives of the programme will be met (*a range from 0 to 5*).

Each criterion is evaluated by all the experts participating in this evaluation stage.

The experts use the scoring system presented below. The scores given by experts at this evaluation stage signify that the Application satisfies the relevant criterion to the following degree:

5 – highest

4 – very good

3 – good

2 – moderate

1 – low

0 – insufficient

A criterion is considered satisfied if the arithmetic mean of the scores given by all the experts is at least 2. Satisfaction of the content-based criteria is not equivalent to the application entering the next evaluation stage.

As a result of the panel's work a ranking of applications is prepared based on the arithmetic mean of the scores given by each expert for each criterion.

Additionally, members of the Scientific and Economic Panel discuss and compare all the applications subject to evaluation by the panel and formulate recommendations for each Application, using A, B or C symbols which mean:

A – positive recommendation – the Application should enter the next competition stage;

B – conditional recommendation – the application may enter the next competition stage if the number of Applications with recommendation A is lower than 50% of the total number of the Applications satisfying the content-based criteria of Stage I;

C – no recommendation – the Application should not enter the next competition stage.

Satisfaction of all the criteria and receipt of recommendation A or B is a necessary condition for the Application to enter the next evaluation stage.

As a result of the SEP's work, at least 50% of the Applications satisfying the content-based criteria of Stage I will enter the next evaluation phase.

II. EVALUATION BY REVIEWERS:

Scored Content-Based Criteria:

- Evaluation of the competitiveness of the proposed research agenda at the international level (*on a scale from 0 to 10*).
- Evaluation of the Applicant's skills (*on a scale from 0 to 10*).
- Evaluation of the partner unit's capabilities and involvement (*on a scale from 0 to 10*).

Each criterion is evaluated independently by at least 2 experts. Each of them gives scores for each criterion using the following scoring system. The scores signify that the Application satisfies the relevant criterion to the following degree:

(10-9) – highest

(8-7) – very good

(6-5) – good

(4-3) – moderate

(2-1) – low

0 – insufficient

The final score for each criterion is the arithmetic mean of the scores given by the experts.

A criterion is considered met if the final score given to the Application is at least 3. Satisfaction of the content-based criteria is not equivalent to the application entering the next evaluation stage.

A ranking of applications is prepared based on the arithmetic mean of the scores given by each expert for each criterion.

Additionally, each reviewer formulates recommendations on a scale from 1 to 5, where:

- *5 – means an outstanding Application which should definitely receive a grant;*
- *4 – means a very good Application which should receive a grant;*
- *3 – means a good Application which may receive a grant if there are sufficient funds;*
- *2 – means a mediocre Application which should not receive a grant;*
- *1 – means a poor Application which should not receive a grant.*

Satisfaction of all the criteria and an average minimum recommendation of 3 is a necessary condition for the Application to enter the next evaluation stage.

III. CONTENT-BASED EVALUATION BY THE INTERDISCIPLINARY PANEL OF EXPERTS:

Content-Based Criteria:

- *The Project can be implemented in the unit specified in the Application (on a scale from 0 to 3).*
- *The planned deliverable and result indicators ensure that the objectives of the programme will be met (on a scale from 0 to 3).*
- *The Project will have a considerable effect on the understanding of the role of science in the socio-economic development of Poland (on a scale from 0 to 3).*
- *Implementation of the Project will have a positive effect on building high standards of science management and commercialization of research results in Poland (on a scale from 0 to 3).*
- *The recruitment strategy for specific specialists, team leaders and young scientists to work at the IRA is appropriate (on a scale from 0 to 3).*
- *The Project will ensure sustainability of the proposed IRA unit also beyond the Project sustainability period (on a scale from 0 to 3).*

Each criterion is evaluated by all the experts participating in this evaluation stage.

The experts use the scoring system presented below. The scores given by experts at this evaluation stage signify that the Application satisfies the relevant criterion to the following degree:

3 – highest
2 – moderate
1 – low
0 – insufficient

As a result of the panel work a ranking of applications is prepared based on the arithmetic mean of the scores given by each expert for each criterion. The experts may recommend changes to the Application.

Additional Criterion – preference with regard to projects which have a positive effect on sustainable development, in particular on environmental protection (a range from 0 to 1)

- The Project has a positive effect on sustainable development, in particular on environmental protection (*on a scale from 0 to 1*).

This criterion will apply where two Applications have the same rank, making it is necessary to decide which Application should receive the funding.

IV. Additional criteria applied to the evaluation of candidates for IRA Unit Manager selected during implementation of the first part of the project, and of their proposed research agenda

- Evaluation of the competitiveness of the proposed research agenda at the international level (on a scale of 0 to 10).
- Evaluation of the Applicant’s capabilities (on a scale of 0 to 10).

The final score for criteria 1) and 2) is the arithmetic mean of the scores given by the experts. A criterion is considered met if the final score given to the candidate is at least 3.

Description of Project selection criteria under Priority Axis 4: INCREASING THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH POTENTIAL

Measure 4.3 – International Research Agendas – IRAP PLUS module

FORMAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

All formal evaluation criteria are access criteria – a failure to satisfy any of the criteria results in the Application being rejected.

No.	Criterion	Description	Score
Formal Criteria – the Application:			
1.	The Application is submitted with the competent institution.	The Application is submitted with the institution specified in the call for proposals.	YES/NO
2.	The Application is submitted through the electronic system specified in the call for proposals.	The Application is submitted in the form required for the competition and in the right format.	YES/NO
3.	The Application is submitted within the time limit specified in the call for proposals.	The Application is submitted no later than at the end date of application submission period – as specified in the call for proposals.	YES/NO
4.	The Application is complete.	The Application satisfies the following requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it includes all the required attachments; • all the fields necessary for evaluation are completed; • the Application has been signed by the Applicant – pertains to the document required in paper form. 	YES/NO
Formal Criteria – the Applicant:			
1.	The Applicant satisfies the formal requirements set out in the call for proposals.	The Applicants are defined in the call for proposals. The Application is submitted by one scientist with an academic degree or by two scientists with an academic degree.	YES/NO
2.	The Applicant is not subject to the grant application exclusion under Article 207 of the Public Finance Act of 27 August 2009.	The situation described in Article 207 of the Public Finance Act of 27 August 2009 (Journal of Laws of 2013, item 885, as amended) or Article 12.1.1 of the Act on the Effects of Assigning Work to Foreigners Unlawfully Present in the Territory of the Republic of Poland of 15 June 2012 (Journal of Laws of 2012, item 769) which would rule out the possibility for the Applicant to obtain amounts allocated to the	YES/NO

		implementation of programmes financed by the European Union or under the Act on the Responsibility of Collective Entities for Punishable Offences of 28 October 2002 (Journal of Laws of 2012, item 786, consolidated text, as amended) is not the case for the Applicant. Satisfaction of this criterion will be verified on the basis of the Applicant's declaration attached to the Application.	
Formal Criteria – the Project:			
1.	The Project will be implemented within the territory of the Republic of Poland.	The site of Project implementation, as specified in the Application, is within the territory of the Republic of Poland. Where the services of third parties are used, in particular where research is performed by a foreign contractor, including a research unit, at the request of the Applicant, the aforesaid criterion is considered to be satisfied. The criterion is also regarded as satisfied if tasks which are typically fulfilled internationally in scientific activity are performed outside the territory of Poland, in particular training, conference attendance or tasks relating to cooperation with a foreign scientific partner.	YES/NO
2.	The term of the Project does not exceed the time limit for the SG OP.	The Project implementation schedule (performance of research and development) does not exceed the end date of the expenditure eligibility period (that is 31 December 2023).	YES/NO
3.	The grant amount applied for is determined in line with the rules laid down in the call for proposals.	The grant amount applied for has correctly been determined by the Applicant in line with the rules laid down in the call for proposals for each category of eligible expenditure and the maximum grant value for each budget category. Any changes may be introduced at the phase of negotiation of the grant agreement with the grantee.	YES/NO
4.	The Project complies with the horizontal policies referred to in Articles 7 and 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council.	The Applicant has declared that the Project complies with the horizontal policies referred to in Articles 7 and 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council.	YES/NO
5.	The scope of the Project does not include any types of activities which are subject to grant application exclusion under the relevant SG OP measure.	The following issue is evaluated: whether the scope of the Project may be supported by the relevant SG OP instrument, that is whether or not it includes any types of activities which are subject to the grant application exclusion under the regulations governing state aid for R&D (in particular, the activities referred to in Article 1 of 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 under Article 3.1 of Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 of the European Parliament and of	YES/NO

		<p>the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Regional Development Fund and on specific provisions concerning the Investment for growth and jobs goal and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006). Under the aforesaid regulations, grants may not be awarded in particular for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) investment to achieve the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from activities listed in Annex I to Directive 2003/87/EC; 2) enterprises in difficulty, as defined under Union State aid rules; 3) investment in airport infrastructure unless related to environmental protection or accompanied by investment necessary to mitigate or reduce its negative environmental impact; 4) activities directly linked to the quantities exported, to the establishment and operation of a distribution network or to other current costs linked to the export activity. 	
6.	The Project is implemented in cooperation with a foreign partner institution.	The Applicant has provided information concerning the foreign partner unit which will participate in the implementation of the Project, in addition to enclosing the partner unit's letter of intent regarding its participation in the implementation of the Project.	YES/NO

CONTENT-BASED EVALUATION CRITERIA

I. CONTENT-BASED EVALUATION – SCIENTIFIC AND ECONOMIC PANEL – EXPERTS (ENTREPRENEURS/SCIENTISTS)

ACCESS CRITERIA

No.	Criterion	Description	Score
1.	The Project will be implemented in a field of the research falling within the scope of the latest version of the “National Smart Specializations” document.	The research topic proposed in the Application is in line with the selected National Smart Specializations as specified in the latest version of the “National Smart Specializations” document approved by the National Smart Specializations Steering Committee and published on the website of the Ministry of Economy.	YES/NO

SCORED CRITERIA

No.	Criterion	Description	Score
1.	The Project meets the objectives of the programme in terms of the proposed legal form and the IRA unit management assumptions.	<p>The objective of the programme is to implement IRAs in specialized, autonomous units which have to satisfy requirements concerning management and the legal and organizational structure, as set out in the call for proposals. Based on a declaration concerning the legal form selected for the IRA unit, as submitted by the Applicant, and legal expert opinions provided by the Foundation for Polish Science, the panel members will determine whether the proposed legal form will enable implementation of the Project in compliance with the conditions set out in the call for proposals.</p> <p>The second part of the criterion concerns the unit’s management assumptions, that is whether the proposed method of IRA unit management ensures it will play a leading international role among scientific institutions working in the field as the IRA. The experts will consider such aspects as research staff work organization and whether the site selected for the implementation of the Project is conducive to the creation of a critical mass of outstanding scientists in a selected field.</p> <p>The experts will analyse whether the ownership structure of the proposed unit will ensure the achievement of the project’s objectives. Additionally, a vision for the recruitment of skilled administrative staff should be one of the management assumptions.</p>	0-5

2.	The Project meets the objectives of the programme in terms of the required international partnership and the partners' role.	<p>The Project is implemented in cooperation with at least one institutional partner from a recognized foreign unit.</p> <p>The evaluation focuses on a letter signed by a person duly authorized to make binding decisions on behalf of the institution, in particular how the institution or international organization will partner with the IRA unit in terms of the ability to ensure the achievement of the objectives of the programme (operation of an international research agenda in Poland), the partners' respective contributions to the development of the unit in Poland and conducting groundbreaking research. The partner should contribute to the unit's management, IRA development and recruitment of the most suitable and experienced candidates to work at the IRA, in addition to participating in the assessment of their research and achievement of Project objectives.</p>	0-5
3.	The Project meets the objectives of the programme in terms of the IRA's importance for the socio-economic development of Poland and its effect on increasing the transfer of the results of scientific research into commercial products.	<p>The objective of the programme is to equalize opportunities between Polish units and those working in similar fields abroad and to gain a competitive advantage over such foreign units.</p> <p>Based on the description of the economic or socio-economic importance and the likely application of the results of the project, as submitted by the Applicant, the effect of the Project on increasing the transfer of the results of scientific research into commercial products, with preference with regard to their implementation on the Polish market as part of the National Smart Specializations, will be evaluated. The experts will evaluate whether the results of the implementation of the proposed research agenda can be competitive to those obtained by other units which focus on similar issues globally.</p> <p>The attached description of the economic or socio-economic importance and the likely application of the results of the project provides information concerning the planned cooperation of the IRA unit with entrepreneurs.</p>	0-5
4.	The Applicant guarantees that the objectives of the programme will be met.	<p>Applicants in the IRA programme assume responsibility for the establishment of the IRA unit, securing cooperation of a foreign partner and proposing a legal and organizational structure that will be the ultimate beneficiary implementing the project.</p> <p>Applicants in the IRA programme should be an international authority in their field, which is necessary to make employment at the IRA unit attractive to very good candidates from Poland and abroad. The degree of the candidate's engagement in the Project is also taken into consideration as a measure of the likelihood of the project's success. Will he/she dedicate enough time to the Project</p>	0-5

		<p>and will he/she not have other obligations that will potentially make it more difficult to manage the unit?</p> <p>The scope of the evaluation includes mainly the skills and experience of the Applicant, specifically on the basis of the uniqueness of his/her academic achievements and their successful implementations in addition to experience in managing international institutional cooperation, research management and cross-sector collaboration.</p> <p>Considering the objective of the programme, which is to equalize chances between the IRA units in Poland and those of other units working in similar fields abroad and to gain a competitive advantage over such foreign units, while evaluating this criterion, the experts should consider whether the applicants shall ensure the establishment of an autonomous unit and the adoption of its internal rules which will help to attract outstanding researchers from all over the world to Poland.</p> <p>As the IRA grant programme is complementary to the <i>Teaming for Excellence</i> competition in the Horizon 2020, which has been launched for Member States with a low share of ERC grants in research funding, the applicants should provide researchers working at the IRA Unit with the appropriate conditions to promote the submission of applications in the ERC Advanced Grant competition.</p>	
II. CONTENT-BASED EVALUATION – EVALUATION BY REVIEWERS			
SCORED CRITERIA:			
No.	Criterion	Description	Score
1.	Evaluation of the competitiveness of the proposed research agenda at the international level.	The evaluation will focus on the Outline of the International Research Agenda attached to the application, including a description of the field in which the IRA Unit will operate, a description of the research challenge which will provide the basis for designing the research agenda and an R&D work project intended as preparation for the implementation of the research agenda or leading to the development of measurement and research methods which will be applied in the implementation of the complete research agenda, e.g. enabling the use of equipment provided by a Polish strategic partner unit.	0-10

		<p>The IRA has to be competitive on a global scale, be innovative enough for the unit to secure a place among the leading global research institutes in a given field and recognizability of Polish science around the globe.</p> <p>Experts will evaluate whether the selected theme or problem to be addressed by the IRA Unit constitutes a current research challenge, and whether the research conducted in Poland might significantly increase competitiveness as compared to other entities in this field.</p> <p>Moreover, the experts will evaluate whether the preparatory R&D work described in the application to be implemented in the first part of the project may contribute to the development of the discipline covered by the IRA.</p>	
2.	Evaluation of the Applicant's skills.	<p>The experts will evaluate the previous scientific accomplishments of the first applicant – the future President of the International Scientific Committee – in the context of global scientific state-of-the-art and his or her experience with the implementation of research projects and science management.</p> <p>In addition, the experts will evaluate the previous experience and accomplishments of the second applicant – the future Scientific Affairs Director – with the implementation of research projects and science management.</p>	0-10
3.	Evaluation of the partner unit's capabilities and involvement.	The experts will evaluate the scientific appropriateness of the foreign partner unit in the IRA's field and the degree of its involvement in the IRA, both at the organizational and scientific level.	0-10

III. CONTENT-BASED EVALUATION – INTERDISCIPLINARY PANEL OF EXPERTS – ENTREPRENEURS/FOREIGN AND POLISH SCIENTISTS

SCORED CRITERIA:

No.	Criterion	Description	Score
1.	The Project can be implemented by the unit specified in the Application.	<p>This criterion can be evaluated by the panel both in the course of the interview with the Applicant or at the Project implementation site.</p> <p>The scope of the evaluation includes the legal and organizational environment, access to laboratory facilities, the form of cooperation (or employment) of the Project Manager in the unit, working conditions, access to human resources, equipment, proper infrastructure and the local environment and cooperation at the national level with respect to the implementation of the Project in Poland.</p> <p>Any declarations made by the Applicant in the course of the interview with the Panel can be verified during the on-site visit to the project implementation site by the representatives of the FPS and such experts as may be appointed by the FPS.</p>	0-3
2.	The planned deliverable and result indicators ensure that the objectives of the programme will be met.	<p>When specifying the indicators, the Applicant has to identify the data used for purposes of their construction and the underlying assumptions. It is required that the indicators reflect the nature of the project and its results. The proposed indicator values must be realistic and appropriate for the Project assumptions. Additionally, their sustainability has to be guaranteed.</p> <p>The panel experts can make modifications if they conclude that the indicator values proposed by the Applicant are over- or underestimated.</p>	0-3
3.	The Project will have a considerable effect on the understanding of the role of science in the socio-economic development of Poland.	As part of his/her project, each ultimate beneficiary of the program, implementing the IRA, must specify how his/her achievements and expertise will be shared with society, especially younger generations of scientists and the public, with an emphasis on the key role of science in the social and economic development.	0-3
4.	Implementation of the Project will have a positive effect on building high science	<p>Implementation of the Project should enable the unit to play a key role in building science management standards and commercialization of the results of research in Poland.</p> <p>Commercialization of the results of research means the entire process from obtaining a scientific</p>	0-3

	management standards and commercialization of the results of research in Poland.	result with application potential through securing adequate legal protection, the entire intellectual property management process to licensing or another form of commercialization.	
5.	The strategy for recruitment of appropriate specialists, team leaders and young scientists to work at the IRA is appropriate.	The experts will evaluate the framework for building a strong research unit based on international competitions, recruitment by an international scientific committee as well as application of appropriate procedures, methods and an information strategy. It is important to present a strategy for gaining access to appropriate candidates and securing a partner to ensure that PhD students, junior post-doctoral researchers etc. will participate in the Project.	0-3
6.	The Project will ensure sustainability of the proposed IRA unit also beyond the Project sustainability period.	The scope of the evaluation will include the correctness of the assumptions concerning Project sustainability of the research unit implementing the IRA and its strategy to secure funds sufficient for further development, beyond the SG OP financing period and beyond the Project sustainability period. In their Applications, the Applicants will provide all key information in this regard. Competitive intellectual property and know-how developed by the research unit implementing the IRA should be its primary source of income (no state aid to entrepreneurs is provided under the programme).	0-3
Criterion concerning preference with regard to projects which have a positive effect on sustainable development, in particular on environmental protection (on a scale from 0 to 1)			
7.	The Project has a positive effect on sustainable development, in particular on environmental protection.	The evaluation focuses on the Applicant's declaration made in the Application form, concerning the positive effect of the Project implementation method on environmental protection and, based on the Research Agenda submitted with the Application and describing the planned R&D work in respect of the natural environment or ecology, the effects of the implementation of the project on the development of solutions (products, technologies or services) which will have a positive effect on the natural environment and on the dissemination of research results, such as patents, publications or information, in the media in the field of eco-innovation.	0-1

Criteria applied during implementation of the part 1 of the project for the evaluation of candidates for IRA Unit Manager and their proposed research agendas

IV. CONTENT-BASED EVALUATION – EXPERTS AND REVIEWERS APPOINTED TO EVALUATE CANDIDATES FOR IRA UNIT MANAGER			
SCORED CRITERIA:			
No.	Criterion	Description	Score
1.	Evaluation of the competitiveness of the proposed research agenda at the international level.	The evaluation focuses on the proposed IRA, which includes the overall approach to the resolution of a clearly defined issue of crucial importance from the economic or social point of view or of breakthrough scientific importance. The IRA has to be competitive on a global scale, be innovative enough for the unit to secure a place among the leading global research institutes in a given field and recognizability of Polish science around the globe.	0-10
2.	Evaluation of the Applicant’s skills.	The experts will evaluate the previous scientific achievements of the Applicant relative to international science. The experts will answer the following questions: What was the evaluated Applicant’s contribution to the development of a given field of science? What general questions did he/she manage to find answers to? Do his/her publications concern hypotheses developed by him/herself or by other researchers? Do his/her works put forward hypotheses that are important for a given field of science or, possibly, other fields? Are the Applicant’s scientific discoveries protected by appropriate patents?	0-10