INFO DAY
International Research Agendas

Warsaw, 17 May 2018
About the Foundation
For Polish Science

Prof. Maciej Żylicz
President of the Foundation for Polish Science
27 years of activity
Scientific excellence – the most important criterion
Peer-review approach
HR Excellence in Research
2014: San Francisco declaration
The Organizational Challenges and Benefits of Implementing Research Agendas

Michał Pietras
Director of the Programme Division, FNP
General information on the IRAP programme

- Teaming for Excellence Horizon2020 – synergic approach
- 126 mln EUR in EU Structural Funds for Poland
- Funding for ca. 15 new centers
- Timeframe 2015 - 2023
Programme goals

(Smart Growth Operational Programme, Measure 4.3)

The grant should lead to the creation of **highly specialized, world-class research centers which apply the best international practices** with regards to:

- Identification of research programmes and topics,
- HR policy and R&D works management,
- Commercialisation of the results of R&D works.
Detailed programme goals

- Improvement of the visibility of Polish science in the world
- Institutional international cooperation
- Employment of very good scientists
- Internationalisation of Polish Universities (encouraging students from abroad to take up PhD studies in Poland)
- Improvement of the rank of the Polish scientific centres
- Use of existing research infrastructure
- Strengthening a culture of quality improvement
Expected benefits

- Increased share of **highly cited publications** in all publications where at least one of the authors has an affiliation in Poland
- Increased number of **top scientific universities** and **public research organizations** in Poland per capita
- Growth in **patent applications** per capita
- Higher total value of **ERC grants** received divided by public R&D funds in the higher education and government sectors

In line with the objectives of Teaming for Excellence - for member countries, which in the CIRE ranking (the Composite Indicator on Research Excellence) achieved less than 70% of the EU27 average.
How to achieve the goals?

- Take into account the potential we have (HR and labs)
- Address the drawbacks of Polish management practices
  - *So far the science sector underwent minor changes in terms of management practice when compared to other sectors in Poland – low impact on economic growth, poor quality of results, position among the EU27 lagging behind (in 2013-2015 we only outperformed LT)*
- Implement best practices from leading institutes in the world
- Use Polish legal framework
IRAP unit general overview

- Strong leader
- Strategic partner institution
- The research agenda
- International Scientific Committee
- Local host institution
- Industrial connectivity
Gathered under one roof

- High quality infrastructure
- The director of the centre chosen in multistep competition
- **Critical mass of PIs** (selected through international competitions)
- PhD students affiliated in a PhD school
- **Focus on a chosen scientific agenda** (profile of the centre)
- International Scientific Committee (with competences to select and evaluate PIs)
- **New culture of management**
Specialised, autonomous, world leading centres...

Any organizational structure able to put forward internal regulations allowing for:

- an International Scientific Committee
- international competitions and
- periodic evaluation of team leaders

To establish new kind of research units.
- Independent of existing scientific institutions, e.g.
  - Foundations
  - Limited liability companies

- Part of an existing scientific unit, e.g.
  - Inter-institutional unit or joint unit (Art. 31a, Law on Higher Education)
  - International institutes (Art. 58, Law on the Polish Academy of Sciences)

- Other legal forms that meet the requirements of the Competition Documentation

Legal expert opinion available at FNP website
Different legal acts and documentation needed depending on the selected legal form

(!) The IRAP unit does not need to have legal identity
Opportunities and challenges

- PLN 35 mln for **4.5 years**
- Extension of funding until the end of 2023
- Attract the best researchers from the country and abroad
- Outperform similar centres in Poland
- Compete with similar centres in the world
- Create a unique research environment and culture
- Cooperate with similar centres funded by FNP
- Develop a new vision of stability and impact
How to properly implement the International Research Agendas programme?

Formal requirements vs. the ideal unit

Kinga Słomińska
Head of the International Research Agendas Section, FNP
Application may be submitted by one or two researchers.

**FIRST APPLICANT**

– future director of the IRAP implementing unit - **IRAP Project Manager**

*Outstanding scientist, authority in a given field, with experience in the administration and management of large projects, profile comparable with the managers of other similar centers of excellence in the world, profile of ERC Advanced grant holder.*

**SECOND APPLICANT** – future **Research Group Leader** or **Scientific Affairs Director.**

**MINIMAL INVOLVEMENT: 0.5 FTE**
The International Research Agenda is a research plan that defines a challenge (problem) of a scientific or socio-economic nature as well as the working method and approach to dealing with the challenge.

- Contained within the National Smart Specialisations framework
- An innovative and competitive approach
- Cooperation of 5-7 research teams
- Cooperation with entrepreneurs (interest from the market)
- Visibility in the world – international recognition
International Scientific Committee (ISC)

• Outstanding scientists
• Entrepreneurs (experienced in R&D work and commercialisation of research results) - optional

**FORMAL REQUIREMENTS:**
- At least 9 members
- At least half of the ISC members are scientists
- At least half of the ISC members are employed at foreign research units
- Term of office, term limits

**IMPORTANT ROLE:**
- Competitions for research group leaders
- Regular review of the Agenda
- Introduction of changes if necessary
- Evaluation
- Giving opinions
The strategic foreign partner of the project is:

- a foreign research centre (public or private)
- conducts scientific research at a world-class level
- has vast experience in applied research
- meets top professional and organizational standards

The partnership primarily involves the following:

- joint implementation of good practice on work organization, commercialization of research work results and conduct of research
- delegating representatives to the IRAP International Scientific Committee

Note: research cooperation is a complementary, but not the primary, role of the partner
Local partners – provide access to infrastructure and equipment as well as access to students or academic cooperation
Industrial connectivity

- Impact on economic growth
- By the end of the project, at least half of the research teams should be collaborating with entrepreneurs
- Cooperation based on an agreement or a contract

<table>
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<tr>
<th>cooperation of at least two research groups</th>
<th>cooperation of at least half of the research groups</th>
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<tr>
<td>project duration</td>
<td>project duration</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>4.5 years</td>
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(!) The IRAP implementing unit may not provide state aid to entrepreneurs
• Between FNP and the new IRAP center
• Before the signing of the agreement the new IRAP center needs to be established and all documents confirming its legal status need to be submitted to the FNP, in particular:
  - the statute;
  - the agreement between IRA center and foreign and / local partner institution – *if applicable*
Implementation of the IRAP project

- **Reporting and evaluation:**
  - Periodic merit and financial reports to the FNP
  - Mid-term evaluations - at least:
    - 12 months from the start of the project
    - 36 months from the start of the project
    - Positive evaluation may allow for increase of the funding and extension of the project
QUESTIONS?
The programme is implemented in three different modules

- **IRAP Standard**

- **IRAP PWM** - module for applicants intending to implement their projects outside the Mazowieckie Province (outside the capital district - in less developed regions)

- **IRAP PLUS** - module for applicants who are applying also for the funding in the second stage of the Teaming competition (European Commission, Horizon 2020)
Competition nr. 10/2018 (IRAP Standard)

Applications submission:
1\textsuperscript{st} part - till June 29\textsuperscript{th} 2018
2\textsuperscript{nd} part - till August 10\textsuperscript{th} 2018
3\textsuperscript{rd} part - till November 14\textsuperscript{th} 2018

Evaluation time:
Approx. 6 months from the deadline for the submission of part 1.

Projects implementation:
The start of the project can take place no sooner than January 1\textsuperscript{st} 2019 and no later than June 1\textsuperscript{st} 2019.
- English ONLY
- Electronic application ONLY
  - (upload signed form and „submit application“)
- Please follow detailed instructions
- Use forms where provided
A multi-step evaluation system

**FORMAL EVALUATION**
- FNP (internal evaluation)

**MERIT-BASED EVALUATION**
- SEP – Scientific and economic panel
- Written reviews
- IPE – Interview with the Interdisciplinary Panel of Experts
- on-site visits (only after positive decision of the IPE)
| **1st STAGE** | 1. Documents on the applicant  
2. Overview of the international research agenda  
3. Description of the economic and socio-economic impact and likely applications  
4. Letter of intent from a strategic partner unit  
5. The brief description of the IRAP implementing unit structure  
6. Description of the place of IRAP implementation  
7. *Optional letters of intent* |
| 2nd STAGE | 1. Full International Research Agenda  
2. Description of the competence of the foreign partner unit(s) |
| **3rd STAGE** | 1. Documents establishing the framework for the work of the IRAP implementing unit  
2. Description of operating methods adopted  
3. Budget  
4. Project implementation schedule  
5. Development plan  
6. Indicators  
7. Description of the project's impact on sustainable growth, in particular environmental protection |
The Scientific and Economic Panel is composed of experts who possess an adequate scientific background or experience in the implementation of innovative solutions in the R&D sector.

The panel assess (among other issues) the importance of research agenda for the socio-economic development of Poland and the contribution to the increase of research commercialization.
External reviewers are international experts in the same field as proposed research agenda.

The scientific assessment of the application regarding:

- the competitiveness of the proposed agenda on the international level
- the applicant's competences
- the competences and involvement of the partner unit(s)
The Interdisciplinary Panel of Experts is composed of experts representing various fields of science and experienced in science management.

- Evaluation of the project based on adopted criteria
- Discussion with the applicants concerning the comments of the reviewers
- Decision whether the second applicant is competent to become a group leader
- Suggestions for changes in the application
- On-site visits (optional (!))
On-site visits

- an on-site visit will take place only if a project is recommended for funding by the panel.
- An external expert - experienced scientist in the field of IRAP proposal.

Funding can only be approved after the results of the on-site visit confirm the statements made in the application or interview and panel recommendations are fulfilled.
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<th>Access criterion</th>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>The Project meets the objectives of the programme in terms of the proposed legal form and the IRA unit management assumptions.</td>
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<td>The Project meets the objectives of the programme in terms of the required international partnership and the partners’ role.</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>The Applicant guarantees that the objectives of the programme will be met.</td>
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<td>Scored criteria</td>
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<td>Evaluation of the competitiveness of the proposed research agenda at the international level.</td>
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<td>Evaluation of the Applicant’s skills.</td>
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<td>Evaluation of the partner unit’s capabilities and involvement.</td>
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<td>The Project can be implemented by the unit specified in the Application.</td>
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<td>The planned deliverable and result indicators ensure that the objectives of the programme will be met.</td>
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<td>The Project will have a considerable effect on the understanding of the role of science in the socio-economic development of Poland.</td>
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<td>Implementation of the Project will have a positive effect on building high science management standards and commercialization of the results of research in Poland.</td>
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<td>The strategy for recruitment of appropriate specialists, team leaders and young scientists to work at the IRA is appropriate.</td>
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<td>The Project will ensure sustainability of the proposed IRA unit also beyond the Project sustainability period.</td>
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<td><strong>Adititional criterion concerning preference with regard to projects which have a positive effect on sustainable development, in particular on environmental protection</strong></td>
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Thank you for your attention