

International Research Agendas Programme – workshop for applicants

Introduction



International Research Agendas Programme



Strong
leader



Strategic
partner
institution



The
research
agenda



International
Scientific
Committee



Local host
institution



Industrial
connectivity

International Research Agendas Programme

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:

1. HR policy,
2. R&D management,
3. Commercialisation of R&D results.

Programme features

- Competition for **the first director** of the new research centre – (application by an individual scientist)
- the candidate should be compared to similar candidate for any such **prominent position** in the world
- The centre focuses on an idea, a problem, **a global challenge**
- Research Agenda – a proposal **to tackle this challenge**
- **International scientific committee** of the new center
- Use of **existing infrastructure**
- Impact on **economic growth**

Partners in the project

- **Foreign partner unit** – outstanding representatives of the research field or entrepreneurs as a role model for good practices in organisation and leading scientific research as well as the evaluation of work and research
- **Local partners** – provide access to infrastructure and equipment as well as access to students or academic cooperation

The idea and mission of the IRAP unit

- **Enhancing the culture of quality**
- Creation of a research unit competitive in the specific field at an international level (in **5-10 years perspective**)
- Clear competitive advantage (to outperform its competitors)
- Employment for the best scientists

The IRAP implementing unit

*Research units **defined in the Act on the Principles of Financing Science of 30 April 2010** (Journal of Laws No. 96, item 615, pursuant to Journal of Laws of 2014, item 1620, and of 2015, item 249), conducting scientific research or development work on a continuous basis and **meeting the requirements of the Competition Documentation**.*

Appropriate proportion of resource commitment :

- At least **80%** of the resources dedicated to the research
- Maximum **20%** of the resources dedicated to economic activities

The IRAP implementing unit legal form

- Foundation (independent of existing units)
- Joint unit of a Polish and a foreign higher education institution (Art. 31a, the act of Law on Higher Education)
- Other (e.g. company)

An existing unit as an IRAP implementing unit

- Transformation into a IRAP implementing unit (e.g. a joint unit)
- Evaluation of employees by ISC in 12 months
(I mid-term evaluation)
- Termination of cooperation (within 3 years) with employees who have not received a positive evaluation from the ISC
- From the end of third year of the project onwards new research groups should make up at least 50% of the research teams in the institution
(II mid-term evaluation)
- Employees previously employed in the unit may apply for re-employment no sooner than after min. 3 years

Project durability

The period of project funding

- At least 35 million PLN for 5 years,
- The possibility of extending the project to the end of 2023 and to increase funding.

After the period of project funding

- independent functioning, developed on the basis of the strategic partnership, legal options, and good practice,
- raise funds for further development

I part of the application

Key remarks

- Forms,
- Page limitations
- 10-year period limitation (2007–2017)
- Language

Documents about the applicant(s)

- brief CV,
- no more than 10 key research and/or implementation achievements of the applicant from the last 10 years,
- description of unique features of the applicant's achievements referred to above,
- list of key projects for which the applicant was granted funding in the years 2007-2017,
- list of key lectures or conference speeches delivered by the applicant in the years 2007-2017 at the invitation of the organizers,
- description of research management experience ,
- description of experience in research-industry cooperation and of successful implementations,
- *a cover letter describing the role the applicant would play in the MAB unit and his/her vision of the to unit (only in the case the second applicant applying for the position of scientific coordinator).*

Overview of the international research agenda

- Description of the research challenge (topic, problem)
- Description of a unique approach to that challenge,
- A brief justification of the need for the IRA
implementing unit to research that challenge

Description of the economic and socio-economic impact and likely applications of the results of the IRA project implementation.

- The description should indicate how the results of the project will translate into economic growth (e.g. implementations, spin-off companies, *etc.*)

Letter of intent from a strategic partner unit

The letter of intent should contain at least:

- the exact name of the partner unit,
- a declaration that the partner unit will perform the role of foreign strategic partner unit at least throughout the IRAP funding period,
- a declaration that the partner unit understands and accepts the terms of the competition and requirements for the IRAP project implementation, in particular the requirements to be met by the IRAP project implementation unit and the foreign strategic partner,
- a description of the method of involvement and substantive contribution of the partner unit in the establishment and management of the IRAP project implementation unit,
- a description of the partner unit's contribution to the acquisition of the most appropriate and experienced candidates to work for the IRAP,
- a description of the partner unit's contribution to the evaluation of the research and achievement of the project's objectives,
- details of two persons that the partner unit proposes as future members of the International Scientific Committee for its first term of office,
- **Signature!**

A brief description of the IRAP implementing unit structure

- At least indication of the legal form and principles of managing the IRAP implementing unit
- Close cooperation with the strategic partner
- Information on research groups and their organisation
- Additional structures (e.g. commercialisation)

A description of the place of IRA implementation

- information about laboratory space acquired, equipment rental, etc.

Optional letters of intent

- A letter of intent from an economic partner in Poland or a foreign partner
- A letter of intent from a scientific partner institution from Poland

II part of the application

Full International Research Agenda

- Stand alone document
- Consistent with the overview of International Research Agenda (I part of application)

A description of the competence of the foreign partner unit(s)

- research and implementation achievements,
- institutional culture,
- good practices of organizing and conducting scientific research and evaluation of research groups' work

III part of the application and project selection

Documents establishing the framework for the work of the IRAP implementing unit

1. the statute of the IRAP implementing unit

and

the statute of the Polish institution establishing the IRAP implementing unit affects its method of operation also the statute of the institution establishing the IRAP implementing unit

2. the text of the international agreement

A description of operating methods adopted for the IRAP implementing unit, covering primarily

1. project risk assessment (SWOT analysis),
2. the strategy for acquiring researchers, including education plans for junior researchers and doctoral students,
3. the policy on commercialization and management of intellectual property,
4. information and promotion policy for the unit, including for actions to promote awareness of the role of science in Poland's socio-economic development,
5. the unit's development plan and a plan for fundraising from non-IRAP sources during the IRAP project funding period,
6. list of confirmed International Scientific Committee members (no less than 9 people, at least half of whom are affiliated abroad).

Budget

Presents required costs of the research, administration costs and other operating costs of the IRAP. The budget should be indicated in the format provided in the electronic application form

1. General budget of IRAP unit
2. Budget of research groups – payment after selecting the research group leaders
3. Indirect costs

A project implementation schedule for the project cost eligibility period during the first 5 years of project implementation:

1. organization and administration activities,
2. Recruitment procedure,
3. information and promotion activities,
4. research-related activities (launch of subsequent R&D activities),
5. an evaluation of research group leaders,
6. fundraising for statutory activities.

A development plan for the IRAP implementing unit after the funding period for the IRAP project

1. development of the research agenda,
2. cooperation with the economic sector,
3. cooperation with the foreign unit,
4. fundraising from non-IRAP sources.

Indicators – including justification

1. Number of implemented R&D activities
2. Number of supported research units implementing R&D activities
3. Number of collaborating foreign research units
4. Number of people conducting R&D activities as part of the project
5. Number of new scientists in the supported units
6. Number of foreign scientists in the supported projects
7. Number of international scientific publications - indexed in JRC list (Journal Citation Reports), Thomson Reuters
8. Number of filed patent applications

A description of the project's impact on sustainable growth, in particular environmental protection

The description should include details about the R&D work planned with respect to environmental protection or nature conservation, number of patents, publications or media releases on environmental innovation.

Programme peer review system

A three-step application evaluation:

- I. Scientific and Economic Panel of Experts
- II. External peer reviewer
- III. Interview with Interdisciplinary Panel of Experts

Deadlines

Applications submission:

1 part from April 28th till June 30th 2017

2 part till August 16th 2017

3 part till November 10th 2017

Applications evaluation:

IPE November 30th – December 1st 2017

Onsite visit December 11-15th 2017

Projects implementation:

The launching of the project no sooner than January 1st 2018

Deadlines

Webinar for applicants (in english):

March 31th 2017



International Research Agendas

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