

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AGENDAS

Criteria for the Project Selection

under

European Funds for a Smart Economy Programme 2021-2027

Priority 2: Innovation-Friendly Environment

Measure: 2.1 International Research Agendas

MEASURE DESCRIPTION:

IRAP projects support the establishment or development of specialised, world-leading research groups and organisations in which scientific excellence and international competitiveness of research can be achieved.

The aim of the support is to implement the world's best practices in Poland as regards: carrying out world-class, top-level scientific research; identifying research programmes and topics; HR policies; managing R&D work; and commercialising R&D results. In addition, this measure may provide complementary support for projects selected in the Horizon Europe "Widening Participation – Teaming for Excellence (ToE)" competitions and possibly for selected projects awarded the Seal of Excellence under the ToE programme.

The project review takes place in three stages:

- Stage I – Formal review
- Stage II – Substantive review
- Stage III – Substantive review

Separate sets of criteria are provided for each stage.

Project selection criteria are divided into:

- Mandatory YES/NO criteria: a project failing to meet these criteria will be rejected; mandatory criteria are applied at each stage of the Project review.
- Ranking criteria: a project failing to attain the minimum number of points indicated in each criterion will be rejected; ranking criteria occur at the substantive stages of the review.

General principles for the Project review:

- In order to meet a given criterion, a project must receive a "YES" in the mandatory criteria as well as the minimum number of points indicated for the ranking criteria.
- Projects which meet all criteria at each stage of the review and whose total number of points under all ranking criteria (at Stages II and III) is equal to or exceeds the minimum point threshold defined for each stage of the project review will be recommended for the next stage of the review or for funding. Projects which receive a total of at least 23 points from Stages II and III will be recommended for funding.
- The sum of the points obtained under the relevant criteria at a given stage translates into a place on the ranking list of projects recommended for the next stage of the review or for funding.

PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA:

Stage I

Mandatory criteria [YES/NO]

1. The application has been submitted in accordance with the requirements

We will verify the compliance of the submission of the application for funding with the Regulations for Project Selection in terms of the completeness of the application and the manner of submission.

The information that we verify in this criterion can be corrected in the application during the review, according to the procedure specified in the Regulations for Project Selection.

1.a Eligibility of the Applicant [only applicable to the competition for units that have received funding or a Seal of Excellence in Teaming - Horizon Europe]

We will verify if the application is accompanied by confirmation that the Applicant is the coordinator of a consortium that has received funding or Seal of Excellence in the Teaming programme under Horizon Europe (Work Programme 2021-2022 and further) and whether the Applicant was to become a centre of excellence under the Teaming programme or that a centre of excellence was to be established within the Applicant's structure.

The information that we verify in this criterion can be corrected in the application during the review, according to the procedure specified in the Regulations for Project Selection.

RULES FOR QUALIFYING A PROJECT TO STAGE II OF THE SUBSTANTIVE EVALUATION:

Only projects which have met all the mandatory criteria at Stage I of the formal review will be recommended for the stage II of the review.

Stage II

Mandatory criteria [YES/NO]:

1. The project will be implemented on the territory of the Republic of Poland

The place of implementation of the project indicated in the application is on the territory of the Republic of Poland.

This condition is deemed to have been met if the Applicant outsources the performance of services, in particular research activities, to a foreign researcher, including a research unit. This condition is also deemed to have been fulfilled if activities usually performed internationally in scientific activities, particularly training, participation in conferences or related to cooperation with a scientific partner from abroad, are performed outside provided that said activities are proven to be necessary for attaining the Project's objectives. The information we verify in this criterion may be corrected in the application during the review, according to the procedure specified in the Regulations for Project Selection.

2. The Applicant meets the requirements for its legal personality

We will verify that:

1. The applicant is a single entity with legal personality as defined in Article 7 par. 1 of the Act of 20 July 2018 Law on Higher Education and Science and fitting the definition of an organisation conducting research and disseminating knowledge as referred to in Article 2 point 83 of the Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014.
2. The applicant has identified the unit that will implement the IRAP project (IRAP unit). The IRAP unit may be a separate part of the Applicant (e.g., a centre within the university structure) or the entire Applicant entity may be indicated in the application as an IRAP unit.

The information we verify in this criterion can be corrected in the application during the review, according to the procedure specified in the Regulations for Project Selection.

3. Compatibility with National Smart Specialisations

We will verify whether the scope of R&D work described in the Research Agenda attached to the application falls within the fields indicated in the list of National Smart Specialisations. The list of NSS is an Appendix to the Regulations for Project Selection.

Information that we verify in this criterion can be corrected in the application during the review, according to the procedure specified in the Regulations for Project Selection.

4. Technology Readiness Level of planned research work

We will assess whether the research planned in the research agenda includes industrial research or experimental development.

Fundamental research is excluded from support.

The information we verify in this criterion can be corrected in the application during the review, according to the procedure specified in the Regulations for Project Selection.

5. The project does not concern an activity excluded from funding

We will verify whether the project does not concern activities excluded under Article 7 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund (OJ L 231, 30.06.2021, p. 159 and OJ L 261, 22.07.2021, p. 58).

The information we verify in this criterion can be corrected in the application during the review, according to the procedure specified in the Regulations for Project Selection.

6. The Applicant has correctly identified the Research Group Leaders, including the Head Researcher of the Project

We will verify that:

1. The Applicant has indicated in the application at least two and no more than four persons, including the Head Researcher of the Project, who will have Research Group Leader roles in the IRAP unit. These persons shall hold at least a doctoral degree.
2. The Head Researcher of the Project will be employed at the IRAP unit at least 0.75 FTE*.
3. In addition to the principal investigator, Research Group Leaders will be employed by the IRAP unit at a rate of 1 FTE*.

** An exception may apply to a person pursuing a European Research Council grant during the implementation of the IRAP project. In this case, it is acceptable to work 0.5 FTE in the IRAP unit.*

Answering 'YES' to all questions means that the criterion has been met.

The information we verify in this criterion can be corrected in the application during the review, according to the procedure specified in the Regulations for Project Selection.

7. Co-operation with at least one foreign research unit.

We will verify whether the project will be implemented in co-operation with at least one partner research unit from abroad, hereafter referred to as a partner unit. A foreign partner unit is an entire institution, with legal personality or autonomy to enter into a foreign co-operation agreement, which meets the definition of a research and knowledge dissemination organisation, as defined in Article 2(83) of Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Article 107 and 108 of the Treaty.

We will also verify whether the Applicant has indicated in the application the details of the partner unit from abroad, that will be involved in the implementation of the Project and has attached its Letter of Intent, containing the elements mentioned below, and is signed by a person authorised to represent the foreign organisation or by another person authorised

to represent the foreign organisation on the basis of a certificate of authorisation attached to the application.

The letter of intent from the partner unit from abroad indicated in the application should include at least:

1. the exact name of the partner entity, and
2. a declaration:
 - that the partner entity is aware of and accepts the conditions of the competition and the requirements for the implementation of the IRAP project, in particular the requirements for the IRAP implementing entity and the foreign partner to designate two persons to the International Scientific Committee and,
 - how the partner entity will share with the IRAP unit the experience of setting up a centre of excellence, introducing good practice in research methodology, recruitment of staff, management of intellectual property and selection of relevant research topics.

Answering 'YES' to all questions means that the criterion has been met.

The information we verify in this criterion can be corrected in the application during the review, according to the procedure specified in the Regulations for Project Selection.

8. Project budget

We will assess whether the amount of funding and expenditure requested is in line with the limits stipulated in the Regulations for Project Selection, i.e.

1. whether the amount requested for the project is:
 - up to EUR 8 million¹ for units that have received funding under Teaming in Horizon Europe (Work Programme 2021-2022 and further) *,
 - up to PLN 30 million for other entities, including those awarded a Seal of Excellence under the Teaming in Horizon Europe programme *.
2. whether the amount has been properly calculated according to the rules stipulated in the Regulations for Project Selection,
3. whether the expenditure declared in the application is reasonable,
4. whether the expenditure declared in the application is allocated to the appropriate categories in accordance with the Regulations for Project Selection.

The information we verify in this criterion can be corrected in the application during the review, according to the procedure specified in the Regulations for Project Selection.

** This applies only to calls 1/2023 and 3/2024 for ToE programme winners and units that have been awarded Seal of Excellence under ToE.*

¹ In order to calculate the amount expressed in PLN, the exchange rate applicable to the competition, as indicated in the Regulations for Project Selection, will be used.

9. Project schedule

We will verify whether the project schedule is realistic and adequate for the scope of work and enables the intended results to be achieved.

The information we verify in this criterion can be corrected in the application during the review, according to the procedure specified in the Regulations for Project Selection.

10. The project meets the horizontal principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination

We will assess whether the project complies with the requirements arising from the horizontal principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination, including accessibility for people with disabilities and gender equality, in accordance with Article 9(2)-(3) of Regulation 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

The evaluation of the project's compliance with the above-mentioned horizontal principles will be carried out on the basis of the provisions of the Guidelines for the Implementation of Equality Principles under the EU Funds for 2021-2027 and Appendix No. 2 to the above-mentioned Guidelines.

The review will be carried out separately for each of the two principles mentioned above: the principle of equal opportunities and non-discrimination and the principle of equality between women and men, on the basis of the information included in the application for funding:

Principle of equal opportunities and non-discrimination:

We will verify whether the Applicant has demonstrated in the application that the project meets the horizontal principle of equal opportunities and non-discrimination, i.e., whether:

- the application shows that the project has a positive impact on the principle of equal opportunities and non-discrimination on the grounds of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation,
- the applicant has demonstrated in the application that all products of the project will be accessible to persons with disabilities in accordance with the accessibility standards appropriate to the scope of the project to be implemented (including the concept of universal design), which are annexed to the Guidelines for the implementation of equality principles within the framework of EU funds for the years 2021-2027 or, in justified cases described in the application, has demonstrated the neutrality of the project product/service in view of these Guidelines, including genuine inability to meet all accessibility standards.

For products and services under the principle of equal opportunities and non-discrimination, including accessibility for persons with disabilities, the applicant shall justify their positive or neutral impact.

The principle of equality between men and women:

We will evaluate whether the Applicant has demonstrated in the application that the project complies with the horizontal principle of equality between women and men, i.e., whether the application shows that the project complies with the principle of equality between

women and men or is neutral with respect to this principle in justified cases described in the application within the meaning of the Guidelines for the Implementation of Equality Principles under the EU Funds 2021-2027.

The information that we verify in this criterion can be corrected in the application during the review, according to the procedure specified in the Regulations for Project Selection.

11. The project complies with the Charter of Fundamental Rights (CFR).

We will evaluate whether the project complies with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union of 26 October 2012 as far as it relates to the manner of implementation and scope of the project.

Compliance with this criterion will be evaluated by reference to Articles 1, 3-8, 10, 15, 20-23, 25-28, 30-33 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights. The Applicant should provide information in the application on how, within the limits of its own possibilities and the scope of the implementation and impact of the project, it will ensure compliance with, or neutrality towards, the listed articles of the Charter of Fundamental Rights. At the same time, the applicant must ensure that its project is neutral with regard to the other articles of the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

The information that we verify in this criterion can be corrected in the application during the review, according to the procedure specified in the Regulations for Project Selection.

12. The project complies with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

We will evaluate whether the project complies with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of 13 December 2006 in the way it is implemented and the scope of the project. Compliance with this criterion will be evaluated by reference to Articles 2-7, 9 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The applicant should provide information in the application on how, within its own capabilities and the scope of implementation and impact of the project, the project will ensure compliance with the listed articles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities or neutrality with regard to the listed articles.

For the other articles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Applicant must ensure that its project is neutral with respect to these articles.

The information that we verify this criterion can be corrected in the application during the review, according to the procedure specified in the Regulations for Project Selection.

13. The project complies with the principle of sustainable development

We will verify whether the project complies with the principle of sustainable development as set out in Article 9(4) of Regulation (EC) No 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council (The objectives of the Funds shall be pursued in accordance with the objective of promoting sustainable development as specified in Article 11 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, taking into account the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement and the principle of “doing no serious harm”). The objectives

of the Funds shall be pursued in full respect of the environmental acquis of the Union), i.e. to verify that:

- the project will be implemented in accordance with the relevant environmental legislation relating to the implementation of the project in question;
- the project will adhere to at least two of the principles from the 6Rs, i.e., refuse, reduce, reuse, recover, recycle, rethink or the applicant has demonstrated a positive impact on other environmental aspects of the project (not covered by the 6Rs);
- the application of the principles of the 6Rs or the positive impact on other environmental aspects of the project is reflected in the indicators which can be chosen by the Applicant from the List of Key Indicators or be defined by the Applicant himself or herself;
- in case of a positive impact on other environmental aspects, the indicators will improve by at least 10% compared to the indicators before the project implementation;
- environmental indicators are coherent, measurable, correctly defined, objectively verifiable and achievable for the support requested within the framework of the project concerned;
- in the application for funding, the Applicant has justified the fulfillment of the sustainable development principle throughout the whole project.

The information that we verify in this criterion can be corrected in the application during the review, according to the procedure specified in the Regulations for Project Selection.

14. Managing conflicts of interest between Group Leaders

This criterion verifies that there are no conflicts of interest, personal or capital, between Group Leaders with enterprises operating in the area of scientific activity of the project and that mechanisms are in place to prevent the occurrence of the above-mentioned conflicts within the project.

We will verify whether:

1. all links of the research Group Leaders (including the Head Researcher of the Project) with companies active in the field of scientific activities of the project are demonstrated in the application;
2. the method of managing conflicts of interest proposed by the Applicant will ensure that:
 - the access of the associated business name to the results of the project will not take place other than on market terms within the meaning of Chapter 2.2 of the Commission Communication: Framework for State Aid for Research, Development and Innovation (2014/C 198/01);
 - the applicant will have up-to-date knowledge of the scientific activities of the IRAP Project and all their results and of the economic activities of related enterprises.

A "YES" answer to all questions means that the criterion has been met.

The evaluation of this criterion will be based on the information provided in the application and in the available databases.

In order to determine whether there is a link between a given enterprise within the meaning of this criterion and the person of the Principal Investigator of the Project or any other Project Leader, rules analogous to the definition of a link from the Guidelines on Eligibility of Expenditure for the period 2021-2027, section 3.2.2, items 8 a-c, for procurement procedures have been adopted. Thus, personal or capital links of group leaders with enterprises should be understood as links consisting in:

1. participation in a company as a partner in a civil law partnership or a partnership, holding at least 10% of shares or stocks, holding the position of a member of the advisory, supervisory or management body, attorney-in-fact, proxy;
2. living with the entrepreneur: in a marriage, in a relationship of affinity or affinity in a direct line, in a relationship of affinity or affinity in a collateral line up to the second degree, or in a relationship of adoption, custody or guardianship, or living with the entrepreneur, his legal representative or members of the management or supervisory bodies of companies operating in a field similar or tangential to the R&D work of the project.;
3. remain in such a legal or factual relationship with an undertaking as to give rise to reasonable doubts as to their impartiality or independence in granting access to the results of the Project.

The information that we verify in this criterion can be corrected in the application during the review, according to the procedure specified in the Regulations for Project Selection.

Ranking criteria:

1. The Head Researcher of the Project has the scientific achievements and experience necessary to implement the project by establishing a world-class centre of scientific excellence

The Head Researcher of the Project is responsible for achieving the project's objective of creating a centre of scientific excellence in Poland with the best practice in: top-level research; identifying research programmes and topics; HR policy; R&D management and commercialization of R&D results.

We will evaluate the competence of the Applicant, particularly in terms of:

1. the scientific excellence of the candidates's 5 most important scientific achievements over the last 10 years in the field in which the research is to be carried out in the project in comparison with the achievements in this field in the world's best scientific centres ;
2. the candidate's recognition as an authority in his or her scientific field in the international scientific community and any awards or research grants received, e.g., ERC;

3. the candidate's success in leading research units or in being a leader of research groups carrying out projects funded by various research funding agencies or participating in advisory bodies, i.e. scientific councils, of prestigious scientific institutions in the world;
4. the candidate's success in mentoring junior scientists (PhD students, post-docs, others);
5. the candidate's success in commercialising research results and promoting science.

RULES FOR SCORING:

We will evaluate the whole criterion on a scale of 0 - 5 taking into account all the aspects indicated above.

Points shall mean:

- 5 - criterion met at an excellent level;
- 4 - criterion met at a very good level;
- 3 - criterion met sufficiently;
- 0 - 2 - criterion not met.

The threshold score required for the project to pass is no less than 3 points.

The information that we verify in this criterion can be corrected in the application under the evaluation, according to the procedure specified in the Regulations for Project Selection. The person indicated in the application as the Head Researcher of the Project cannot be changed.

2. The research agenda ensures that the objectives of the IRAP are met

We will verify the following features of the reported agenda (All of the following features of the agenda should be fulfilled for the criterion to be applied at the appropriate level):

1. the importance of the proposed research problem for the advancement of science worldwide, whether the proposed research has the potential to make a breakthrough or open up new avenues in science. The evaluation will be based on a submitted IRAP that takes a holistic approach to solving a well-defined problem of high scientific relevance and that allows for increased transfer of research results to the economy;
2. originality of the approach of the planned research to the scientific problem set in the agenda, taking into account the state of research in the given field carried out in the best scientific centres in the world. The IRAP must be globally competitive, be an innovative proposal that will enable the unit to secure its place among the world's leading scientific institutions in the given field and increase the amount of recognition for Polish science worldwide.;
3. the feasibility of the research agenda, in terms of the resources available for the project and the time needed to achieve initial results;

4. planned collaboration between research groups. The research agenda should be implemented in research groups and by other R&D personnel, e.g., visiting scientists, independent post-doctoral researchers and technicians. The project should be performed by at least two research groups. At the same time, the research groups should have a common research objective.

RULES FOR SCORING:

We will evaluate the criterion on a scale of 0 - 5 taking into account all the aspects indicated above.

Points shall mean:

- 5 - criterion met at an excellent level;
- 4 - criterion met at a very good level;
- 3 - criterion met sufficiently;
- 0 - 2 - criterion not met.

The threshold score required for the project to pass is no less than 3 points.

The information that we verify in this criterion will be able to be corrected in the application during the review, according to the procedure specified in the Regulations for Project Selection.

3. The implementation of the IRAP Intelligent Development Operational Programme indicates the competence of the Head Researcher of the Project to perform the IRAP project in the FENG (if applicable).

The criterion is considered only if the person indicated by the Applicant as the future Head Researcher of the Project has previously managed an IRAP centre financed from the funds of Measure 4.3 of the Smart Growth Operational Programme. We will check if the previous evaluation of the IRAP SG OP project implementation indicates sufficient competences to manage a centre of excellence.

The evaluation is made on the basis of the results of the mid-term evaluations carried out so far by the Foundation for Polish Science and on the basis of the Appendix to the application *Response of the IRAP Smart Growth Operational Programme project manager to the mid-term evaluation summary letters*.

RULES FOR SCORING:

We will evaluate the criterion on a scale of 0 - 5 taking into account all the aspects indicated above.

Points shall mean:

- 5 - criterion met at an excellent level;
- 4 - criterion met at a very good level;
- 3 - criterion met sufficiently;



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0 - 2 - criterion not met.

The threshold score required for the project to pass is no less than 3 points.

The application for funding **may not be supplemented** or corrected in the part concerning fulfilment of the criterion.

RULES FOR QUALIFYING A PROJECT TO THE STAGE III OF SUBSTANTIVE EVALUATION:

Only projects which, at Stage II of substantive review, have met all mandatory and ranking criteria and have received a total of at least 7 points under ranking criteria 1 and 2 will be recommended for progress to Stage III.

Additionally, if the Head Researcher of the Project indicated has previously managed an IRAP Centre financed within Measure 4.3. of the IRAP Smart Growth Operational Programme, ranking criterion no. 3 must also be met at the minimum required point level (3 points). Therefore, at Stage II the project must receive 10 points.

Stage III

Mandatory criterion [YES/NO]:

1. The planned values of product and result indicators are adequate for project implementation

We will verify that the Applicant, when providing indicators, has indicated on what basis they have been constructed and under what assumptions. We will also check whether the indicators reflect the specificity of the project and its results, and whether the proposed values of the indicators are realistic and adequate to the assumed objectives of the Project. The values specified by the Applicant for the following indicators will be verified:

1. number of scientists working in supported research units;
2. nominal value of equipment for research and innovation;
3. number of entrepreneurs cooperating with research organisations;
4. number of patent applications filed;
5. number of publications from supported projects;
6. number of implemented R&D projects implemented.

The information we verify under this criterion may be corrected in the application during the review, according to the procedure specified in the Regulations for Project Selection, provided that the number of pages of the application does not change from the original version.

Ranking criteria:

1. Research Group Leaders (excluding the designated Head Researcher of the Project) are competent to conduct research for the Project

We review information on the track record and experience of each of the identified Principal Investigators separately. In the second stage of the evaluation, we evaluate the competence of the Head Researcher of the Project to implement the project under ranking criterion 1.

We will primarily evaluate the competence and experience of the persons nominated as Research Group Leaders, in particular on the basis of the originality of their scientific outputs and implementation achievements, and their potential or experience to lead world-class research groups:

1. the value and originality of up to 3 of the applicant's scientific achievements (obtained in the last 10 years) in the field in which the research is to be carried out in the project in comparison with achievements in this field in the best scientific centres in the world,
2. the candidate's's experience in leading a research group or their leadership potential,
3. the candidate's's experience in the implementation of grant projects (as a Project Leader or Researcher),

4. the candidate's's experience in commercialisation of research results and co-operation with the economy.
5. the candidate's's participation in the implementation of the diploma thesis as a supervisor or assistant supervisor of the dissertation.

RULES FOR SCORING:

Each of the identified Research Group Leader's is scored individually on a 0 - 5-point scale, taking into account all the aspects indicated above.

Points shall mean:

- 5 - excellent leader's achievements and experience;
- 4 - very good leader's achievements and experience;
- 3 - insufficient leader's achievements and experience;
- 0 - 2 insufficient leader's achievements and experience.

If any of the Group Leaders is individually scored 2 points or less the whole criterion is scored 0 points.

The arithmetic average of the individual Leaders' scores will then be calculated. This average will represent the total score under this criterion.

Points shall mean:

- 5 - criterion met at an excellent level;
- 4 or above - criterion met at the very good level;
- 3 or above - criterion met sufficiently;
- 0 - below 3 - criterion not met.

The threshold score required for the project to pass is no less than 3 points.

The information that we verify in this criterion can be corrected in the application during the review, according to the procedure specified in the Regulations for Project Selection. The correction cannot involve changing the persons mentioned in the application.

2. Establishing a system for commercialisation of research results

The Applicant provides a plan for the commercialization of the research results in the application.

We will evaluate the following:

1. whether the area of research possibly leading to the creation of intellectual property with potential implementation value is properly defined;

2. the adequacy and feasibility of the planned strategy for commercialization of research results;
3. the plan concerning the co-operation with entrepreneurs within the framework of the project, including, in particular, whether it is ensured that the co-operation is carried out in accordance with the Framework for State Aid for Research, Development and Innovation (2022/C 7388);
4. *if the Applicant was previously an entity implementing the IRAP (SG OP) project, the effectiveness of the system existing in the entity for the implementation of the research results into the economy is additionally evaluated. The review will be carried out on the basis of the description of the system of implementing research results into the economy, enclosed to the application.*

RULES FOR SCORING:

We will evaluate the criterion on a scale of 0 - 5, taking into account points from 1 to 3. If the applicant was an entity implementing IRAP projects under Measure 4.3 of the Smart Growth Operational Programme, all the above points will be taken into account.

Points shall mean:

- 5 - criterion met at an excellent level;
- 4 - criterion met at a very good level;
- 3 - criterion met sufficiently;
- 0 - 2 - criterion not met.

The threshold score required for the project to pass is no less than 3 points.

The information that we verify in this criterion will be able to be corrected in the application under the evaluation, in accordance with the procedure set out in the Regulations for Project Selection, with the proviso that the number of pages of the application may not be changed from the original version.

3. The management of the IRAP unit will ensure that the objectives of the project can be achieved

We will evaluate whether the way in which the IRAP unit is managed as presented ensures that the IRAP unit becomes a globally recognisable centre of scientific excellence that is able to effectively commercialise its research results.

In particular, we will take into account whether:

1. the unit will be given autonomy to decide primarily on substantive matters (including the selection of relevant research topics), the selection of the best R&D staff, the way it raises funds for its activities and whether the approach presented is adequate for the purposes of the IRAP programme;

2. it is planned that the IRAP Unit will monitor good practices used in the best centres of excellence in the world and apply modern ways of managing a scientific unit and commercialising research;
3. the role of the International Scientific Committee (a mandatory body) is planned, which makes recommendations on the selection of Research Group Leaders and research topics performed within the IRAP unit and carries out an interim evaluation of the Head Researcher of the Project and Research Group Leaders and possibly the role of other advisory bodies and whether the approach presented is adequate for the objective of the IRAP programme;
4. the unit has presented the way in which it will co-operate with others, e.g., with a foreign partner unit, business partner or other research unit, to achieve the objectives specified in the Research Agenda and whether the approach presented is relevant to the objective of the IRAP programme;
5. the unit has outlined how the applicant supports the IRAP unit, including in terms of providing the appropriate legal conditions to enable the project to be implemented and the appropriate conditions for scientific work, and whether the approach outlined is appropriate for the purposes of the IRAP programme;
6. the Applicant has described the administrative structure of the IRAP unit providing appropriate support during project implementation, with particular reference to personnel responsible for the effective transfer of the results generated by the project into the economy.

RULES FOR SCORING:

We will evaluate the criterion on a scale of 0 - 5 taking into account all the aspects indicated above.

Points shall mean:

- 5 - criterion met at an excellent level;
- 4 - criterion met at a very good level;
- 3 - criterion met sufficiently;
- 0 - 2 - criterion not met.

The threshold score required for the project to pass is no less than 3 points.

The information that we verify in this criterion will be amendable in the application during the review, according to the procedure specified in the Regulations for Project Selection, provided that the number of pages of the application may not be changed from the original version.

- 4. The laboratory space and equipment made available will enable the Project to be implemented effectively**

We will assess whether and to what extent the laboratory space and equipment indicated by the Applicant for the implementation of the project are adequate for the work planned in the project and attaining the programme objective of creating a centre of scientific excellence in Poland.

When verifying this criterion, we will verify whether:

1. the IRAP unit is to be located in one place so that R&D staff have the opportunity to exchange experience on an ongoing basis. At the same time, it is possible to finance the work of IRAP unit employees performing tasks outside the basic space occupied by the IRAP unit, if necessary. For example, if the project requires the use of equipment which, due to its characteristics and value, cannot be owned by the Applicant (e.g., a particle accelerator, a detector on the International Space Station or a supercomputer);
2. the laboratory equipment declared by the Applicant will enable the research agenda to be fulfilled and ensure the development of the IRAP unit (and, if so, to what extent);
3. the conditions under which the Applicant will ensure access to the space and equipment, i.e., whether they will be available free of charge, at cost or for a fee in connection with e.g., rent will ensure that the IRAP unit will be able to effectively implement the research agenda. The way in which the applicant will ensure the access to necessary equipment that is not owned by the applicant, if the access to this equipment is necessary for the implementation of R&D works in the project, will also be evaluated.

RULES FOR SCORING:

We will evaluate the criterion on a scale of 0 - 4 taking into account all the aspects indicated above.

Points shall mean:

- 5 - criterion met at an excellent level;
- 4 - criterion met at a very good level;
- 3 - criterion met sufficiently;
- 0 - 2 - criterion not met.

The threshold score required for the project to pass is no less than 2 points.

The information that we verify in this criterion can be corrected in the application during the review, according to the procedure specified in the Regulations for Project Selection, provided that the number of pages of the application may not be changed from the original version.

RULES FOR RECOMMENDING A PROJECT FOR FINANCING AFTER STAGE III OF THE EVALUATION:



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Only projects meeting all the mandatory and ranking criteria and scoring at least **16 points** in total at Stage III of the review (the second stage of the substantive review) will be recommended for funding.

Determining criteria

If several projects receive the same total number of points and there are insufficient funds to be allocated, following a given call, to all of them, the ranking list and funding will be determined by the number of points received in the determining criteria, in the following order:

1. Criterion: Establishment of a system for commercialization of research results;
2. Criterion: Management of the IRAP unit;
3. Criterion: Research Group Leaders.