

PRIME PROJECT PARTNER CALL ANNOUNCEMENT OF 22.07.2025

In accordance with the applicable requirements set by the Managing Authority, the Foundation for Polish Science (hereinafter also referred to as the "Foundation") announces an open call for the selection of a Project Partner, ensuring the principles of transparency and equal treatment, for the joint implementation of the ongoing Project implemented within the European Funds for Modern Economy 2021-2027 Programme, Measure FENG.02.06 PRIME.

I. PROJECT OBJECTIVE AND CHARACTERISTICS

The PRIME Project functions as an accelerator scheme. This call responds to the provision of the necessary activities for the implementation of an accelerator project for the commercialisation process of scientific research results from research organisations.

The main objective of the Project is to support effective commercialisation of research and development (R&D) outcomes conducted in Polish research organisations. The Project enables the Grantee Teams to choose an optimal commercialisation pathway for a given invention, including by establishing and scaling up spin-offs, as well as licensing or selling the rights to the invention. Teams intending to set up and develop a company can additionally benefit from *de minimis* aid. The Project is being implemented in editions scheduled to run from 2024 to 2029.

Participation in the Project is based on an open, transparent competition launched within specific deadlines. Competition documentation for a given call, including eligibility and assessment criteria, model grant agreement and the programme regulations, is published in advance on the Foundation's website. Entities eligible to apply to Phase I and II are Polish research organisations represented by interdisciplinary Teams composed of: Scientific Leader - SL (the main executor, responsible for product development and market fit), Business Leader - BL (responsible for engaging with market stakeholders, identifying potential customers, and designing and implementing the business model) and Technology Transfer Support - TTS (responsible for the process of transferring research results from the research organisation to the market, including, in particular, the drafting of technology transfer agreements, intellectual property management and protection and acting as a liaison between the Team and the host research organisation). Interested research organisations submit their applications in the Foundation's electronic system and assessed by external experts in accordance with publicly available, equal criteria. Only Teams that meet the conditions defined in the Call Documentation are eligible to participate. Between Phase I and II, a selection process is conducted based on published criteria, which are evaluated by Project's internal experts. Phase III is also subject to a competitive selection procedure, however, the only eligible applicants are spin-off companies established as a direct outcome of

participation in the previous two phases. During the implementation of the awarded Grants, the Foundation carries out continuous substantive monitoring of Project activities, ensuring ongoing support for the Teams and the supported entities, while also enabling early detection of any issues or irregularities.

In support of the grantees selected in the call, the Project is implemented in three phases (Phase I-III), during which development and selection activities are carried out to identify the most promising ventures and prepare them for commercialisation.

Phase I (6 months) focuses on building and integrating the Team and strengthening its business, communication and commercialisation skills. Teams participate in training and workshops, including an intensive bootcamp event. Each Team is paired with an experienced business mentor and engages in initial discussions with market stakeholders to assess market needs and solution fit. The phase concludes with a formal selection process.

Phase II (from 3 to 18 months, the implementation period is determined by each Team) is open to Teams selected in Phase I that demonstrate further potential for product development and market entry. This phase continues the mentoring and expert advisory support, and provides access to individually tailored specialist training, a study visit to a prestigious European academic start-up ecosystem and contact with commercialisation support institutions. The Teams' activities focus on in-depth analysis of market needs and tailoring of the offer. Work is guided by a previously developed commercialisation strategy and supported by experts and advisors throughout.

Phase III (from 12 to 18 months) is dedicated to supporting the newly created spin-off selected through a competition, which may be entered only by participants of Phase II. These companies receive support for the Team and product development, enhancing market readiness, preparing for customer acquisition and/or investor engagement, and may also benefit from *de minimis* aid.

Within the framework of the whole Project, it is planned to carry out 3-5 editions composed of the 3 Phases described above. Each edition may support approximately:

- a) 20 to 45 three-member Teams in Phase I,
- b) 15 to 35 Teams in Phase II and
- c) 5 to 10 spin-offs in Phase III.

Each subsequent edition will be launched approximately six months after the previous one, resulting in overlapping implementation periods across editions. The Project is open to researchers from the international community and the language of the Project activities is English.

II. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE PARTNERSHIP

The purpose of the partnership is the joint implementation of the Project from 2025 to 2029, while ensuring the required durability period (in accordance with Article 65 of the Common Provisions Regulation¹) and its systematic evaluation, with particular focus on activities supporting the development of business competencies of scientific Teams involved in the commercialisation of research results. The Partner shall be responsible for the implementation of the following tasks:

1. participation in the preparation of a detailed implementation plan of the Project for the next editions;
2. jointly conducting periodic evaluation of the Project - in cooperation with the Foundation and a selected external company;
3. co-implementation of information and promotion activities according to the programme guidelines;
4. supporting the Foundation in searching for external experts from outside Poland to assess grant applications and the work progress of the Teams;
5. participation of the Partner's experts in the assessment and selection of the Teams and their projects within the calls;
6. organisation and delivery of workshops during bootcamp, within thematic areas agreed upon with the Foundation;
7. Comprehensive implementation of the mentoring programme, including in particular:
 - 1) building a pool of experienced business mentors with competencies in commercialisation of research results, setting up, running, scaling start-ups,
 - 2) designing the the mentoring programme in close alignment with the training and workshop programme,
 - 3) coordination and substantive management of the mentoring process;
8. Designing and delivering tailored knowledge and competence development programmes for Scientific and Business Leaders, within a scope agreed with the Foundation;
9. Designing and delivering a training programme preparing Technology Transfer Supports to obtain RTTP certification (or an equivalent credential);
10. Providing ongoing expert support to the Teams during implementation of their tasks, and participating in the evaluation of their substantive progress;
11. Facilitating access to business environment networks essential for conducting market interviews and initiating cooperation by the Teams;
12. Designing, organising and coordinating substantive aspects of study visits to renowned institutions supporting academic entrepreneurship and technology transfer outside of Poland, including planning meetings and networking activities.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/PL/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R1060>

III. GENERAL CONDITIONS OF THE PARTNERSHIP

A. Terms of Cooperation

1. The Foundation for Polish Science acts as a Lead Partner and is responsible, inter alia, for Project management, management, organisation of calls for grant recipients, signing grant agreements, disbursement and settlement of grants, concluding arrangements, reporting on the Project, and liaising with the Managing Authority. The cooperation between the Parties constitutes a project partnership, not a subcontracting relationship. Accordingly, the Partner shall remain fully responsible for the performance of its tasks as an independent entity, including substantive oversight of implementation and full accountability for results;
2. The Partner is obliged to ensure the possibility of controls and audits by authorised institutions, including the Foundation;
3. The Partner is obliged to store documentation related to the Project implementation for the period resulting from legal regulations and programme guidelines.
4. Detailed conditions of the cooperation will be defined in an agreement, the Objectives of which constitute Annex No. 2 to this Announcement.

B. Financial Terms of the Partnership

1. Financing of costs incurred by the Partner shall cover exclusively personnel costs of personnel employed solely on the basis of an employment contract and involved in the Project implementation, together with a 15% flat rate for indirect costs charged on eligible direct personnel costs. Partner expenses shall be reimbursed on the basis of periodic reports approved by the Foundation;
2. Personnel costs shall be calculated on the basis of an hourly unit rate. The unit rate shall be determined in accordance with Article 55(2-5) of the Common Provisions Regulation and based on the actual historical costs of the Partner's personnel performing tasks comparable to those defined in the Project. The calculation and reimbursement of the unit rate shall comply with the Guidelines on the Eligibility of Expenditure for 2021–2027²(Subsection 3.8 – Project Personnel);
3. The unit rate established in accordance with Article 55(2-5) of the Common Provisions Regulation must be confirmed at the expense of the candidate Partner prior to conclusion of the agreement with the Foundation by an independent auditor indicated by the Foundation;
4. The unit rate shall cover only the costs of substantive staff; administrative and management tasks shall be treated as indirect costs of the Project;
5. The Partner shall bear all costs related to the implementation of the assigned tasks;

² <https://www.funduszeuropejskie.gov.pl/strony/o-funduszach/dokumenty/wytyczne-dotyczace-kwalifikowalnosci-2021-2027/>

6. The partnership shall not entail any form of state aid to the Partner, nor shall it generate profit on the Partner's side.

C. Non-competition Clause

1. The Partner shall refrain from undertaking any activities of a competitive nature in relation to the Project throughout the entire period of its implementation.
2. The Partner, including members of its personnel, shall not, either directly or through affiliated entities, establish independent business relationships with Project participants or grant recipients (e.g. spin-off companies). This prohibition includes, in particular: commercial advisory services, acquisition of shares in the supported spin-offs, employment of members of Teams or hiring of Partner personnel by grant recipients, as well as the use of results developed under the Project for the benefit of the Partner or affiliated entities. This restriction applies throughout the period of support provided to the Teams, and for a further period of 12 months following the end of that support.

IV. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PARTNER

1. The Project will be implemented in partnership with one entity, selected through this procedure. The Partner must demonstrate institutional experience in providing practical support for the commercialisation of research results, the establishment, development, and scaling of academic start-ups, as well as collaboration with scientific, business, and investment communities.
2. The Partner shall contribute to the Project human resources (including personnel involved in Project delivery and its contact networks), organisational resources (including know-how), and technical capacity. The Partner shall also engage jointly with the Lead Partner in the planning, implementation and ongoing evaluation of Project activities.
3. The candidate Partner must have the institutional, technical and economic capacity to ensure the stable execution of its assigned tasks, as well as sufficient organisational and human resources to carry out those tasks properly.
4. The final and detailed description of the tasks and responsibilities will be the subject of the Partnership Agreement.
5. The Partner's team must remain available throughout the preparation and implementation periods of the Project, as well as during any necessary post-implementation activities related to Project settlement and reporting.
6. Partner may be a Polish legal entity or a legal entity coming from outside the borders of the Republic of Poland.
7. An entity shall not be eligible as a Partner if it is excluded from receiving public funding under applicable legislation, including the exclusion set out in Article 207(4) of the Public Finance Act of 27 August 2009 (consolidated text: Journal of Laws 2024, item 1530, as amended).

A. Partner Selection Rules

1. In selecting the Partner, the Foundation shall apply criteria that ensure the alignment of the candidate's activities with the objectives of the planned partnership, the declared contribution to achieving those objectives, and experience in implementing similar projects. The selection process is conducted pursuant to Article 39(2)(2) of the Act of 28 April 2022 on the Principles for Implementing Tasks Financed by EU Funds for the 2021-2027 Financial Perspective (Journal of Laws 2022, item 1079, as amended), hereinafter also as: Implementation Act.
2. Rules for offers assessment:
 - 1) The assessment of the submitted offers will be conducted in accordance with the requirements contained in Article 39 of the Implementation Act, i.e. in compliance with the principle of transparency and equal treatment of entities.
 - 2) In the selection of the Partner, particular emphasis shall be placed on the institutional potential of the candidate in relation to the objectives of the partnership and the assumptions of the Project.
 - 3) The following aspects shall be especially considered: the alignment of the candidate's activities with the objectives of the partnership, the proposed contribution (resources) to achieving the partnership's goals, the concept for implementing the tasks assigned under the Project, the declared scope of cooperation during the preparation and implementation of subsequent Project cycles, and experience in implementing projects of a similar nature.

The assessment process shall be conducted in two stages, i.e. the offer shall be evaluated in terms of meeting the mandatory conditions for participation in the call specified in Section IV.B. of this Announcement, and only offers meeting (assessed as: Met) all the obligatory conditions for participation in the call shall be qualified for the next stage of assessment (scoring criteria). Offers which do not meet all the mandatory participation conditions will be rejected.

- 4) In the course of assessing the offers, the Foundation expects to conduct interviews with Partner candidates who meet the mandatory conditions for participation in the recruitment process specified in section IV.B. of this Announcement and reserves the right to request additional explanations, information or documents from Partner candidates.

B. Mandatory Conditions for Participation in the Call

1. Only candidates who meet all of the following conditions shall be eligible for selection as a Partner for the implementation of the Project:

- a) the scope of the Partner candidate's operations is aligned with the objectives of the partnership, the objectives of the Project and the scope of tasks to be performed in the Project, i.e. the candidate has institutional and practical experience in: designing and implementing accelerator programmes of commercialisation of scientific research results for scientific teams and/or research organisations, designing and conducting training schemes, workshops, mentoring, support in setting up and running academic startups at an early stage of development;
 - b) the activity of the Partner candidate has an international character, i.e. the conducted activities/initiatives have also been conducted outside the Partner's country and for foreign entities;
 - c) the Partner candidate has the human resources potential and personnel (minimum 5 people) enabling the design and implementation of training courses and workshops in the scope necessary to conduct commercialisation support, in particular in the following areas:
 - i. the development of soft skills in team building and commercialisation processes,
 - ii. knowledge of knowledge transfer strategies and processes for commercialisation of research results,
 - iii. management of intellectual property and development of intellectual property transfer agreements,
 - iv. conducting market matching and market research processes,
 - v. communication of research results, including the pitching process,
 - vi. building business models,
 - vii. setting up and managing spin-offs;
 - d) the Partner candidate has the human resource potential and practical experience to design and conduct business mentoring processes for academic teams and academic startups at an early stage of development with the participation of experienced mentors from Poland and abroad (minimum 40);
 - e) the Partner candidate's personnel are proficient in English and communicate confidently and easily in that language, in particular the team of trainers and mentors.
2. Fulfilment of the mandatory conditions for participation in the call will be assessed on a Met/ Unmet basis.
 3. The fulfilment of the conditions will be assessed on the basis of the information contained in the Application form for candidate Partner (Annex 1 to the Announcement).
 4. As part of the assessment of the offer, the Foundation reserves the right to request the candidate Partner to present additional documentation confirming the fulfilment of the mandatory conditions for participation in call. Failure to present the requested documentation by the date specified by the Foundation in the notification sent to the candidate Partner by e-mail shall be interpreted as failure to meet the respective conditions. The Foundation reserves the right to verify the submitted documents directly with their issuers.

5. Only proposals that meet all mandatory conditions specified in Section IV.B of this Announcement shall proceed to the scored assessment stage.

C. Scoring criteria

The submitted offers, after verification of fulfilment of the obligatory conditions for participation in the call, specified in Section IV.B. of the PRIME Project Partner Call for Proposals, will be assessed on the basis of four criteria, with each criterion being assigned a weighting reflecting its importance for the achievement of the partnership objectives.

Within each criterion, three sub-criteria have been identified along with an indication of the key aspects that will be assessed.

CRITERION I - DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A COMMERCIALIZATION SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR RESEARCH RESULTS

Criterion weight: 40%

Sub-criterion 1: The institutional experience of the candidate Partner in designing and delivering commercialisation support programmes will be assessed in terms of:

- a) The number and type of the implemented programmes (e.g. national, international, dedicated to research institutions, academic start-ups),
- b) thematic alignment of the programmes with the Project's objectives (i.e. commercialisation of research results, academic entrepreneurship, science-business collaboration),
- c) sources and types of funding used (e.g. EU-funded projects, national programmes, public funding),
- d) documented effects of implemented programmes (e.g. number of companies created, implementations of solutions to the market, intellectual property commercialisation processes, secured investments).

SUB-CRITERION 2: Comprehensiveness and consistency of the accelerator programme proposed for the Project will be assessed in terms of:

- a) the structure and logic of the commercialisation acceleration stages conducted by the Teams (pre-acceleration, validation, commercialisation and/or startup establishment and development),
- b) dedicated pathways for the different roles in the Team: SL/ BL/ TTS,
- c) support tailored to the level of project development and readiness of the Team, with the programme being proactive and responsive to participants' needs and commercialisation phases,

- d) integration of mentoring, training programme, expert advice, contact with the market and investors, with flexible skills development pathways using international best practices (e.g. EIT, MIT, I-CORPS, Y Combinator),
- e) the monitoring and evaluation system for tracking Team progress and the quality of programme outcomes.

SUB-CRITERION 3: Experience in working with scientists and representatives of research units will be assessed in terms of:

- a) number and type of implemented projects/initiatives in cooperation with the scientific sector (in particular research organisations, technology transfer centres, scientific associations) in the area of commercialisation support,
- b) awareness of the systemic realities and challenges of working with the scientific sector (e.g. IP protection, institutional constraints, academic culture) as demonstrated through commercialisation-oriented projects,
- c) effects of active cooperation, in particular instances of leading to the creation of spin-off companies, commencement of commercialisation, implementation of know-how or another form of intellectual property in business practice.

CRITERION II - MENTORING

Criterion weight: 35%

SUBCRITERION 1: The institutional experience of the candidate Partner in designing, conducting, and monitoring mentoring processes will be assessed in terms of:

- a) number and type of mentoring programmes/initiatives (e.g. national, international, targeting research institutions, scientific teams, academic start-ups), based on a maximum of 10 selected initiatives,
- b) effects of conducted mentoring activities supported by measurable evidence (e.g. number of mentor-mentee pairs, impact of collaboration).

SUBCRITERION 2: Proposed structure of the mentoring process in the Project will be assessed in terms of:

- a) consistency of the mentoring concept with the structure and objectives of the Project, including proposed methodology and evaluation of quality and outcomes of the mentoring process,
- b) method for selecting and matching mentors with Teams,
- c) diversity of mentoring types (e.g. business, technological, strategic) along with description of the process and supporting tools (e.g. logbooks, goal-setting, monitoring),
- d) the existence of a dedicated system or/and coordinator responsible for managing mentor-mentee relations,

- e) readiness to conduct the mentoring process online and in a hybrid format,
- f) availability of a reporting platform, tracking tools, or evaluation system.

SUB-CRITERION 3: The quality and diversity of the mentor pool will be assessed in terms of:

- a) the number of available mentors (min. 40) and their diversity in terms of industry and sectors relevant to technologies from at least four fields: natural sciences, medical and health sciences, engineering and technical sciences, and information and computer sciences,
- b) experience of mentors in working with scientists, academic start-ups,
- c) practical experience of mentors in particular in commercialisation of research results, founding and running a startup, raising funding, investments, previous mentoring experience,
- d) proportion of mentors coming from Poland and abroad (min. 75% of the pool of mentors from outside Poland).

CRITERION III - TRAINING/WORKSHOPS

Criterion weight: 15%

SUB-CRITERION 1: The institutional experience of the candidate Partner as an organiser of knowledge and skills development programmes, including trainings, workshops, will be assessed with respect to:

- a) designing, conducting and monitoring the results of training schemes dedicated to scientific teams, research organisations and academic start-ups,
- b) experience in delivering training in the following thematic areas, including at least:
 - i. development of soft skills in team building and commercialisation processes,
 - ii. knowledge & technology transfer strategies and processes for commercialisation of research results,
 - iii. management of intellectual property and development of IP transfer agreements,
 - iv. market fit validation and conducting market interviews,
 - v. communication of research results, including pitching techniques,
 - vi. building business models,
 - vii. formation and management of spin-offs,

demonstrated through examples of up to 15 selected training programmes/initiatives.

SUB-CRITERION 2: The quality and diversity of the proposed training programme for the Project will be assessed in terms of:

- a) the thematic layout and structure of the training modules and the approach to online delivery,
- b) use of active learning methods (workshops, simulations, case studies),
- c) thematic consistency with the objectives of the Project (e.g. alignment with Project phases, Team development stage, technology readiness level, spin-off model),
- d) the approach to designing personalised learning pathways for the three Team roles (SL, BL, TTS), using differentiated modules based on area of specialisation,
- e) the possibility for Project participants to obtain RTTP (or equivalent) certification as part of selected modules.

SUB-CRITERION 3: The team proposed by the candidate Partner to deliver the training and workshops will be assessed in terms of:

- a) the number of qualified persons (minimum 5 persons) with documented experience in delivering training on the topics listed above (sub-criterion 1) or in other areas relevant to the Project's objectives and the expected scope of support for participants,
- b) proven practical experience of members of the training team in translating academic innovations into business applications,
- c) relevant certifications of the trainers and instructors aligned with the goals of the Project (e.g. RTTP, CLP, I-Corps Mentor, ISPIM, Lean Launchpad Instructor, or equivalent),
- d) the experience of at least one team member in planning training programmes and monitoring their results.

CRITERION IV (SUPPLEMENTARY) - EXPERT SUPPORT

Criterion weight: 10%

SUBCRITERION 1: The scope and quality of the proposed ongoing expert support provided by the Partner's personnel to the Project participants will be assessed in terms of:

- a) the structure of the support scheme aligned with the individual phases of the Project and the specific roles of Team members, including a clear description of the delivery method (e.g. one-to-one consultations, short expert interventions),
- b) diversification of the scope of support within the proposed topics (e.g. IP valuation, technological due diligence, assessment of market potential of research results, development of commercialisation strategies, preparation for discussions with market stakeholders).

SUBCRITERION 2: The team of experts indicated by the candidate Partner to provide ongoing support to the Project participants will be evaluated in terms of:

- a) the number of available experts (minimum of 3; these may include individuals also indicated in the training and mentoring teams), along with documented knowledge and competencies in the relevant areas of support;
- b) experience of the expert team in working with scientific teams, academic start-ups, and technology transfer offices.

SUB-CRITERION 3: The experience of the proposed personnel of the Partner candidate in the evaluation of project applications will be assessed in the scope of:

- a) the number of proposal evaluation processes for scientific projects, commercialisation projects with implementation potential or early-stage scientific start-ups (e.g. scientific grants, implementation projects, start-ups) in which the indicated staff members of the Partner candidate participated, together with an indication of the degree of involvement (e.g. participation in panels, juries, expert committees),
- b) number of calls/competitions for grant, accelerator, proof-of-concept or other support schemes aligned with the objectives of the PRIME Project, in which the proposed personnel have taken part.

V. FORMAL PROVISIONS

A. Scoring Methodology

1. Each offer will be assessed through a points-based scoring system.
2. Points will not be awarded and calculated for offers that have not fulfilled all the obligatory conditions for participation in the call, as specified in Section IV.B. of this Announcement.
3. Points will be awarded under each of the sub-criteria in each criterion.
4. For **Criteria I–III**, each sub-criterion will be scored on a scale from 1 to 5 points. Fractional scores will not be awarded.
5. For **Criterion IV**, each sub-criterion will be scored on a scale from 0 to 5 points. Fractional scores will not be awarded.
6. The scoring scale for each sub-criterion under **Criteria I–III** is as follows:
 - 1 - very low level of fulfilment of the objectives and requirements for a given sub-criterion, only mandatory conditions have been met, or slightly above minimum threshold;
 - 2 - low level of fulfilment of the objectives and requirements for a given sub-criterion;
 - 3 - moderate level of fulfilment of the objectives and requirements for a given sub-criterion;
 - 4 - high level of fulfilment of the objectives and requirements for a given sub-criterion;
 - 5 - very high level of fulfilment of the objectives and requirements for a given sub-criterion with added value enhancing the Project's potential or attractiveness for participants.
7. The scoring scale for each sub-criterion under **Criterion IV** is as follows:
 - 0 - no proposal submitted, no team, no proven experience;

- 1 - proposal submitted, team or experience of low quality;
 - 2 - proposal submitted, team or experience of average quality;
 - 3 - proposal submitted team or experience of good quality;
 - 4 - proposal submitted team or experience of high quality;
 - 5 - proposal submitted team or experience of high quality with added value enhancing the Project's potential or attractiveness for participants.
8. The score for a given criterion will be the sum of the scores obtained in the individual sub-criteria within a given criterion multiplied by the weight assigned to that criterion. As a result of the weighting, final scores for each criterion may include decimal values.
 9. An integral part of the assessment process is an interview with the candidate Partner, during which the submitted offer will be discussed. The final score for each criterion will be based on both the content of the submitted offer and the explanations provided during the interview.
 10. The possible scores for each criterion are as follows:
 - a) Criterion I:
Minimum score: $3 \text{ points} \times 0.4 = 1.2 \text{ points}$;
Maximum score: $15 \text{ points} \times 0.4 = 6 \text{ points}$;
 - b) Criterion II:
Minimum evaluation: $3 \text{ pts} \times 0.35 = 1.05 \text{ points}$;
Maximum mark: $15 \times 0.35 = 5.25 \text{ points}$;
 - c) Criterion III:
Minimum evaluation: $3 \text{ pts.} \times 0.15 = 0.45 \text{ points}$;
Maximum evaluation: $15 \text{ pts} \times 0.15 = 2.25 \text{ points}$;
 - d) Criterion IV:
Minimum evaluation: $0 \text{ pts} \times 0.1 = 0 \text{ points}$;
Maximum evaluation: $15 \text{ points} \times 0.1 = 1.5 \text{ points}$;
 11. The final score for each proposal = score for Criterion I + score for Criterion II + score for Criterion III + score for Criterion IV.
 12. The minimum number of points an offer may receive is 2,7 points.
 13. The maximum number of points an offer may receive is 15 points.
 14. The offer with the highest number of points will be considered the most advantageous.
 15. An offer that receives a score lower than 3 in any of the sub-criteria under Criteria I to III will be considered as not meeting the minimum quality requirements and will not be recommended for selection.
 16. If it is not possible to select the most advantageous offer because two or more offers have received the same final number of points, the Foundation will select from among these offers the one that receives the highest score in the criterion with the highest weight. If the offers receive the same score in the criterion with the highest weight, the Foundation will select from among these offers the offer that receives the highest score in the criterion with the second highest weight.

B. Conclusion of the Agreement - Grounds for Exclusion

1. An entity excluded from receiving funding may not be a party to a partnership agreement. Therefore, the following candidates for Partner are excluded from entering into a partnership agreement:
 - 1) an entity excluded on the basis of Article 207 of the Act of 27 August 2009 on public finance (Journal of Laws No. 157, item 1240, as amended);
 - 2) an entity in respect of which the conditions specified in the following provisions are met:
 - a) in Article 12 Section 1 Point 1 of the Act of 15 June 2012 on the consequences of entrusting work to foreigners staying illegally in the territory of the Republic of Poland (Journal of Laws of 2021, item 1745),
 - b) in Article 9 Section 1 Points 2 and 2a of the Act of 28 October 2002 on the liability of collective entities for acts prohibited under penalty (Journal of Laws of 2020, item 358, as amended);
 - 3) an entity subject to an obligation to repay aid because the European Commission has found the aid to be unlawful and incompatible with the internal market;
 - 4) an entity being in difficulty as referred to in Article 2(18) of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014;
 - 5) an entity which is in arrears with its public law obligations and social security and health insurance contributions;
 - 6) an entity in respect of which the conditions specified in the following provisions are met:
 - a) in Article 2 of Council Regulation (EC) No 765/2006, which would result in a prohibition on making funds or economic resources available;
 - b) in Articles 2 and 9 of Council Regulations (EU) No 269/2014, (EU) No 208/2014 or Article 2 of Council Decision 2014/145/CFSP, which would result in a prohibition on making funds or economic resources available;
 - c) in Articles 2 and 3 of the Act on specific solutions for counteracting support for aggression against Ukraine, which would result in a prohibition on making financial resources, funds or economic resources available;
 - d) in Article 51 of Council Regulation (EU) No 833/2014, which would result in a prohibition on providing direct or indirect support, including financing and financial aid or granting any other benefits under a national programme;
 - 7) an entity which will allocate the funds received to:
 - a) activities prohibited under EU legal acts adopted or amended in connection with Russia's aggression against Ukraine, i.e. Council Regulations (EU) No 2022/2639, (EU) No 833/2014, (EU) No 692/2014 or (EC) No 765/2006, Council Decision: (CFSP) 2022/26611, 2014/512/CFSP, 2014/145/CFSP or 2012/642/CFSP

- b) to satisfy the claims referred to in Article 11 of Council Regulations (EU) No 833/2014, (EU) No 269/2014, (EU) No 208/2014, Article 10 of Council Regulation (EU) No 2022/263, Article 6 of Council Regulation (EU) No 692/2014, Article 8d of Council Regulation (EC) No 765/2006, Article 7 of Council Decision 2014/512/CFSP or Article 2n of Council Decision 2012/642/CFSP16;
- 8) an entity which has been convicted by a final judgment of a criminal offence (or of a corresponding offence under foreign law):
 - a) of participation in an organised criminal group or association aimed at committing a crime or a fiscal offence (Article 258 of the Criminal Code (i.e. Journal of Laws of 2025, item 383), human trafficking (Article 189a of the Criminal Code), bribery (Article 228 of the Criminal Code), corruption (Article 229 of the Criminal Code), paid protection (Articles 230 and 230a of the Criminal Code), incitement to vote (Article 250a of the Criminal Code), financing terrorist offences (Article 165a of the Criminal Code), money laundering (Article 299 of the Criminal Code), of a terrorist nature (Article 115 § 20 of the Criminal Code), or aimed at committing this offence, against economic turnover (Article 296 - 307 of the Criminal Code), fraud (Article 286 of the Criminal Code), offences against the authenticity of documents (Articles 270 – 277d of the Criminal Code), or fiscal offences;
 - b) under Articles 46 - 48 of the Act of 25 June 2010 on sport (i.e. Journal of Laws of 2024, item 1488, as amended);
 - c) under Article 54(1-4) of the Act of 12 May 2011 on the reimbursement of medicines, foodstuffs intended for particular nutritional uses and medical devices (i.e. Journal of Laws of 2025, item 907);
 - d) of entrusting work to foreigners staying without a valid document entitling them to stay in the territory of the Republic of Poland (Article 9 of the Act of 15 June 2012 on the consequences of entrusting work to foreigners staying illegally in the territory of the Republic of Poland (consolidated text: Journal of Laws of 2021, item 1745, as amended);
- 2. The candidate Partner whose offer receives the highest score in the assessment process shall, prior to signing the Partnership Agreement, be required to submit a written declaration confirming that none of the exclusion grounds listed above apply.
- 3. Failure to submit such a declaration, or submission of a declaration indicating that the candidate Partner falls under any of the above exclusion grounds, shall result in the Foundation refraining from concluding a Partnership Agreement with that candidate.

C. Prohibition of Conflict of Interest

1. In order to avoid conflicts of interest, an entity with personal or capital ties to the Foundation may not be selected as a Partner.

2. Therefore activities related to the preparation and conduct of the selection process on the part of the Foundation shall be carried out exclusively by individuals who ensure impartiality and objectivity. These individuals shall submit a declaration confirming the absence of any personal or capital connections with the candidate Partners, or confirming that such connections do not affect the impartiality of the selection procedure.
3. Personal or capital ties are understood as ties between persons involved in the preparation or conduct of the Partner selection process, consisting of:
 - 1) participation in the same company as a shareholder in a civil or commercial partnership, holding at least 10% of shares or stock, or serving as a member of a supervisory or management body, proxy, or authorised representative;
 - 2) being related to a candidate Partner through marriage, direct kinship or affinity, or collateral kinship or affinity up to the second degree, or through legal ties such as adoption, guardianship or custody, or cohabitation with the candidate Partner, their legal representative, or members of their management or supervisory bodies;
 - 3) being in any legal or factual relationship with the candidate Partner that may reasonably raise doubts regarding the impartiality or independence of the selection procedure for the PRIME Project Partner.

D. Deadline, Place and Method of Submitting the Offers

1. Each candidate Partner may submit only one proposal under this call.
2. The offer must be submitted as a complete offer, i.e. covering all tasks assigned to the Partner. Partial or variant offers will not be accepted.
3. The offer, together with all required annexes and supporting documentation, must be prepared in **Polish or English**, using the *Application form for candidate Partner* (Annex No. 1 to this Announcement).
4. The offer should be submitted in a digital form signed with an electronic signature or a scanned paper version with a handwritten signature, ensuring the identification of the person authorised to represent the entity, according to the template attached to this Announcement (Annex 1), in a .pdf file format.
5. The offer should contain all necessary information in accordance with the requirements for a candidate Partner and the scope of the offer specified in this Announcement, including all documents that may be relevant for the assessment of the fulfilment of the mandatory conditions for participation in the call, specified in Section IV.B.
6. The offer and all declarations submitted as part of this call must be signed by the person(s) authorised to represent the entity. If the person signing is not named in the official company register as a representative, a valid power of attorney must be attached.
7. Submission deadline: 30 days from the date of publication of this announcement, i.e. by **21.08.2025 (24:00, GMT+2)**. Offers received after the deadline will not be considered.
8. The complete offer with attachments should be sent to fnp@fnp.org.pl with the subject line: "Offer in the call for the selection of PRIME Project Partner".

9. It is not possible to change the offer or withdraw it in order to resubmit the offer before the deadline for submission of offers.
10. Binding period: Candidates shall be bound by their offer for a period of 90 days from the submission deadline.
11. Foundation for Polish Science will appoint a Selection Committee which will assess submitted offers and select the most advantageous one, i.e. the one that meets all formal and mandatory conditions, obtains the highest number of points in the offer assessment criteria and meets the conditions guaranteeing proper and qualitative implementation of the Project.
12. For the purpose of conducting interviews as part of the offer assessment, the Foundation will contact the candidate Partner via e-mail address given in the offer and will agree with the candidate Partner the date of the meeting, but no later than 30 days from the date of the deadline for submitting the offers.
13. The Foundation will propose the selected entity to conclude a partnership agreement, consistent with the *Objectives for the partnership agreement* constituting the Annex No. 2 to this Announcement and supplemented with detailed provisions agreed upon by both Parties.
14. If the selected Partner does not agree to conclude a contract under the terms specified by the Foundation, the Foundation reserves the right to select a Partner from among the remaining eligible candidates whose offers met the required conditions and received the next highest scores or to withdraw from the partnership.
15. The results of the selection procedure will be made public on the website of the Foundation for Polish Science.

E. List of Required Documents:

1. Completed and signed *Application Form for candidate Partner* constituting Annex No. 1 to the Announcement.
2. A current extract from the relevant register(s) or records of companies, where such registration is required by separate regulations, issued no earlier than three months prior to the deadline for submission of proposals - provided that such registers or records exist in the candidate Partner's country and the document can be obtained within the offer submission period. If obtaining such a document within the submission period is not possible, the candidate Partner shall be required to submit it prior to the conclusion of the Partnership Agreement.
3. Power(s) of attorney for the person(s) signing the offer and representing the candidate Partner, if the power of this (these) person(s) to make declarations of will on behalf of the candidate Partner does not arise from the registration documents of the entity.
4. Any documents that may be relevant to the assessment of the fulfilment of the mandatory conditions for participation in the call and scoring criteria.

F. Contact Information on the Call

1. The contact person for matters concerning this Announcement is: **Michał Pietras**, e-mail: pietras@fnp.org.pl, tel. +48 502 398 331.
2. In their offer, the candidate Partner must indicate a person responsible for handling the entire call process and provide contact details of this person (or their designated substitute). The Foundation will coordinate all procedural matters related to the call with this contact person.

G. Grounds for Rejection of the Offer

The Foundation for Polish Science will reject an offer if:

- 1) its content or manner of submission does not comply with the requirements of this Announcement;
- 2) it is submitted after the deadline;
- 3) it is legally invalid under separate provisions;
- 4) was submitted under circumstances constituting an act of unfair competition within the meaning of the Act of 16 April 1993 on Unfair Competition Suppression Act;
- 5) the candidate Partner refuses to extend the binding period of the offer or to allow the selection of their offer after the expiry of the binding period.
- 6) The candidate chosen during the selection process won't submit a non-exclusion statement, as mentioned in Section V.B.1 of this Announcement, before signing the partnership agreement.

H. Personal Data

1. Pursuant to Article 13(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation, hereinafter "GDPR"; OJ EU L 119 of 04.05.2016, p. 1), the following information is provided (applies to candidates for Partner who are natural persons):
 - 1) The controller of your personal data is the Foundation for Polish Science, with its registered office at ul. I. Krasickiego 20/22, 02-611 Warsaw, Poland;
 - 2) The Foundation for Polish Science has appointed a Data Protection Officer (DPO). For all matters related to the processing of personal data and to exercise your data protection rights, please contact the DPO at: iodo@fnp.org.pl;
 - 3) Your personal data will be processed pursuant to Article 6(1)(b) or (c) of the GDPR for purposes related to the selection procedure for the Project Partner and, where applicable, the execution and performance of the partnership agreement;

- 4) The recipients of your personal data will be persons or entities to whom access to the selection procedure documentation is granted under the provisions on access to public information;
- 5) Your personal data will be retained for the period and under the conditions specified in Article 140 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 (OJ EU L 347 of 20.12.2013, p. 320), and in the case of a successful candidate with whom a partnership agreement is concluded - for the duration of the agreement and for the period necessary to complete its settlement;
- 6) The provision of your personal data is a requirement laid down in the applicable Guidelines, related to participation in the Partner selection procedure;
- 7) No automated decision-making will be carried out with respect to your personal data within the meaning of Article 22 of the GDPR, and your data will not be subject to profiling;
- 8) You have the following rights with respect to your personal data:
 - a) Under Article 15 of the GDPR, the right of access to your personal data. However, if the fulfilment of the obligations referred to in Article 15(1)-(3) GDPR would require disproportionate effort on the part of the Foundation, Foundation may request that you provide additional information to better specify your request - e.g. the name or date of the relevant Partner selection procedure. This applies also to concluded procedures and personal data contained in the official records and annexes;
 - b) Under Article 16 of the GDPR, the right to rectification of your personal data (the exercise of this right must not result in a change in the outcome of the selection procedure or in the terms of the agreement where such change would be contrary to applicable laws, nor may it violate the integrity of the protocol and its annexes);
 - c) Under Article 18 of the GDPR, the right to request restriction of data processing, except for cases set out in Article 18(2) GDPR. A request for restriction shall not affect the processing of data until the Partner selection procedure has been completed;
 - d) Under Article 17(1) and (2) of the GDPR, the right to request erasure of your data, unless one of the exceptions in Article 17(3)(b), (d), or (e) applies;
 - e) The right to lodge a complaint with the President of the Personal Data Protection Office (UODO) if you believe that the processing of your personal data violates the provisions of the GDPR;
 - f) You do not have the following rights:
 - i. the right to data portability under Article 20 of the GDPR;
 - ii. the right to object to data processing under Article 21 of the GDPR, as the legal basis for processing your personal data is Article 6(1)(b) or (c) GDPR.

I. Other Information

1. The Act of 11 September 2019 - Public Procurement Law (consolidated text: Journal of Laws 2024, item 1320, as amended) does not apply to the present Partner selection procedure.
2. The principle of competition does not apply to the present Partner selection procedure.
3. This call for proposals is conducted pursuant to the procedure set out in Article 39 of the Implementation Act and follows the principles of transparency and equal treatment.
4. This Announcement constitutes an open invitation, which has been properly publicised, by posting it on the main website of the Foundation for Polish Science (<https://www.fnp.org.pl/en/>).
5. A candidate Partner may request the Foundation to clarify the content of the Announcement. The Foundation may clarify the content of the Announcement or leave such request unprocessed.
6. The results of the Partner selection process are final and cannot be appealed.
7. The Foundation reserves the right to request further clarification/details of the submitted offers on an informal basis (e.g. by electronic communication).
8. The Foundation reserves the right to negotiate the terms of implementation of the partnership, not to select any of the candidates Partners, or to cancel the selection procedure at any time without providing justification.
9. The candidate Partner shall bear all costs related to the preparation and submission of the offer.
10. The candidate Partner shall not be entitled to make any claims against the Foundation in connection with this Announcement and the selection process, including reimbursement of incurred costs or compensation for any damages, in particular in the event of cancellation of the procedure or selection of another candidate.
11. This announcement does not constitute an offer within the meaning of Article 66 of the Civil Code, nor is it an announcement within the meaning of the Act of 29 January 2004 Public Procurement Law and does not constitute a commitment of the Foundation for Polish Science to accept any of the offers.

J) Annexes

Annex No. 1 - Application form for candidate Partner

Annex No. 2 - Objectives for the partnership agreement;

Annex No. 3 - Any supporting documents relevant for verifying compliance with the mandatory participation conditions and scoring criteria;

Annex No. 4 - Current extract from the relevant register/registers or the register of companies, if separate regulations require entry in the register/registers or the register of companies;



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Annex No. 5 – Power(s) of attorney for the person(s) signing the offer, if the power of that person(s) to make declarations of will on behalf of the candidate Partner does not derive from the entity's registration documents.