

FIRST TEAM

Project selection criteria

under

the European Funds for Smart Economy Programme 2021-2027

Priority 2: Environment that fosters innovation

Measure FENG.02.02 First Team

Project evaluation consists of three stages:

- Formal evaluation stage
- Stage I of substantive evaluation
- Stage II of substantive evaluation

Separate sets of criteria are provided for each stage.

The project selection criteria are divided into:

- Mandatory YES/NO criteria – a project that does not meet these criteria will be assessed negatively;
- Ranking criteria – a project that does not achieve the minimum number of points specified in a given criterion will be assessed negatively.

General rules for project review:

- In order to meet the criterion, the project must obtain a "YES" in the mandatory criteria and the minimum number of points indicated for each ranking criterion.
- Projects that meet all the criteria for each stage of the review and whose total number of points obtained for all ranking criteria (applies to the substantive evaluation stage) is equal to or exceeds the minimum threshold specified for each stage of the project assessment will be recommended for the next stage of evaluation or for funding.
- The total number of points obtained in the criteria in stages I and II of the substantive evaluation determines the place on the ranking list of projects recommended for funding, taking into account the tie-breaking criteria.

PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA:**Stage I – formal evaluation**

Mandatory criteria YES/NO – a project that does not meet these criteria will be evaluated negatively

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

As part of this criterion, we will check whether:

- a) The Application is complete, i.e. whether all the required fields have been filled out in accordance with the requirements specified in the Regulations for Project Selection;
- b) The Application contains all the required and completed annexes in accordance with the Instructions for filling out the Application and the Regulations for Project Selection;
- c) The Application has been signed on the final and closed-for-editing version of the form by a person authorised by the Applicant's organisation (in accordance with the rules described in the RPS).

EVALUATION RULES: A score of YES for this criterion is only possible if all the conditions described in the criterion are met.

The information verified in this criterion in points a) and b) can be corrected in the Application during the evaluation, in accordance with the procedure specified in the Regulations for Project Selection.

2. Project eligibility

We will check whether:

- a) The Research Organisation indicated in the Application is based in the territory of the Republic of Poland and the project will be implemented in the territory of the Republic of Poland,¹;
- b) **The Applicant** is an entity specified in Article 7(1) of the Act of 20 July 2018 on Higher Education and Science and meets the definition of an organisation conducting research and disseminating knowledge – in accordance with the definition set out in Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 Declaring Certain Categories of Aid Compatible with the Internal Market in Application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (Article 2, point 83);
- c) **The leader of the research team** (Principal Investigator) is a scientist with at least a doctoral degree (regardless of nationality) who defended their doctoral thesis no later than 2 and no earlier than 9 years prior to the deadline for submission of Applications²;
- d) **The leader of the research team** (Principal Investigator) referred to in point (c) shall be involved in the implementation of the project for at least 0.5 full-time equivalent throughout the entire duration of the project and shall also be the main author of the concept presented in the Application.

EVALUATION RULES: A score of YES for this criterion is only possible if all the conditions contained in the criterion description are met.

The information verified in this criterion can be corrected in the Application during the evaluation, in accordance with the procedure set out in the Regulations for Project Selection.

3. Eligibility of expenditure planned in the project

We will check whether:

¹ In the case of commissioning services, in particular research work, by the Applicant to a foreign contractor, including a research unit, the condition is considered to be met. This condition is also considered to be met if activities are carried out outside Poland which are usually performed internationally in scientific work, in particular training, participation in conferences or cooperation with a foreign scientific partner, provided that it can be demonstrated that such activities are necessary to achieve the objectives of the project.

² The 9-year period may be extended by all documented periods of interruption in scientific work occurring after the date of obtaining the degree, with interruptions lasting at least 6 months being taken into account. Documented breaks in work include unpaid leave, parental leave, breaks due to long-term illness, work in the R&D sector without participation in scientific research, work in other sectors of the economy, etc. For women who have given birth or persons who have adopted a child, the 9-year period is extended by 1 year for each child, regardless of the date of birth or adoption of the child, even if the period of documented leave or breaks in work related to this was shorter.

- a) the eligibility period for project expenditure does not exceed 31 December 2029, as the final date of eligibility for expenditure under the European Funds for Smart Economy 2021-2027 programme;
- b) the amounts requested comply with the percentage limits for individual categories of expenditure specified in the Regulations for Project Selection;
- c) the requested amount of funding complies with the Regulations for Project Selection.

EVALUATION RULES: A score of YES for this criterion is only possible if all the conditions contained in the criterion description are met.

The information verified in this criterion can be corrected in the Application during the evaluation, in accordance with the procedure specified in the Regulations for Project Selection.

RULES FOR QUALIFYING A PROJECT FOR THE FIRST STAGE OF SUBSTANTIVE EVALUATION:

Only projects that have received a positive "YES" rating in all criteria during the formal evaluation stage will be recommended for the first stage of substantive evaluation.

Stage I of substantive evaluation

RANKING CRITERIA:

1. The leader of the research team (Principal Investigator) has the scientific achievements and experience necessary to carry out the project

The leader of the research team (Principal Investigator) is responsible for achieving the project's objective of establishing a research team in Poland to conduct scientific research at the highest level, develop international scientific cooperation and establish cooperation with economic entity(ies) operating in Poland.

We will assess the competence of the research team leader (Principal Investigator) taking into account:

- a) scientific excellence in the candidate's 5 most important scientific achievements (publications, patent applications, patents, prototypes, etc.);
- b) the contribution of the candidate's above-mentioned scientific achievements to the development of a given scientific field (whether the published works concern hypotheses put forward by the candidate themselves or by other researchers, whether the works put forward new hypotheses important for a given field of science or possibly other fields);
- c) experience gained during the research internship;
- d) experience in project implementation or in supervising students or doctoral students.

EVALUATION RULES:

We will assess the entire criterion on a scale of 0–5, taking into account all the aspects indicated above, whereby:

- 5 – criterion met to an excellent degree;
- 4 – criterion met to a very good degree;
- 3 – criterion met to a sufficient degree;
- 0–2 – criterion not met.

The required threshold for a positive evaluation of the Application in this criterion is at least 3 points. The final evaluation in this criterion is the arithmetic mean of the scores obtained in each sub-criterion, whereby failure to meet any of the sub-criteria at least to a sufficient degree, regardless of the arithmetic mean result, will mean that the criterion has not been met.

It is **not permitted** to supplement or correct the Application with regard to the information verified in this criterion.

2. Novelty and originality of the proposed R&D work in the project

We will evaluate the following aspects of the proposed research:

- a) the level of novelty of the proposed R&D work in relation to the current state of knowledge (in addition to the description of the proposed research, the Applicant shall indicate up to 5 items from the scientific literature or up to 5 items from publicly available international patent databases presenting the current state of knowledge concerning the proposed R&D work);
- b) originality of the solution to the problem posed in the project, taking into account the latest achievements in the field(s) related to the project;
- c) the innovative nature of the project in relation to the doctoral project and the candidate's research internship.

EVALUATION RULES:

We will evaluate the entire criterion on a scale of 0–5, taking into account all the aspects indicated above, whereby:

- 5 – criterion met to an excellent degree;
- 4 – criterion met to a very good degree;
- 3 – criterion met to a sufficient degree;
- 0–2 – criterion not met.

The required threshold for a positive evaluation of the Application in this criterion is no less than 3 points. The final assessment in the criterion is the arithmetic mean of the scores obtained in each sub-criterion, whereby failure to meet any of the sub-criteria at least to a sufficient degree, regardless of the arithmetic mean result, will mean that the criterion has not been met.

It is **not permitted** to supplement or correct the Application with regard to the information verified under this criterion.

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF POINTS IN STAGE I OF THE SUBSTANTIVE EVALUATION IS: 10**RULES FOR QUALIFYING A PROJECT TO STAGE II OF THE SUBSTANTIVE EVALUATION:**

Applications that have met all the ranking criteria in the first stage of the substantive evaluation and have obtained a total of at least 8 points in ranking criteria 1 and 2 will be recommended for the stage II of the substantive evaluation.

Stage II of substantive evaluation**Mandatory criteria [YES/NO]****1. The project will be implemented in defined areas and types of research**

We will check whether:

- a) the project does not concern types of activities excluded on the basis of 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 the Cohesion Fund (OJ EU L 231 of 30.06.2021, p. 159 and OJ EU L 261 of 22 July 2021, p. 58);
- b) the scope of R&D work described in the Application for Funding is in line with the document entitled "National Smart Specialisations" in force on the date of the call for proposals;
- c) the research planned in the project includes industrial research or experimental development work. Basic research is excluded from support.

EVALUATION RULES: A Score of YES for this criterion is only possible if all the conditions contained in the criterion description are met.

The information verified in this criterion can be corrected in the Application during the evaluation in accordance with the procedure specified in the Regulations for Project Selection.

2. Cooperation within the project

We will assess whether the project will be implemented in cooperation with at least one foreign scientific partner and at least one domestic economic partner (enterprise) and we will check whether:

- a) the foreign scientific partner has relevant experience in the subject area of the project, and its participation will bring significant added value to the project;
- b) the activities of the domestic economic partner indicated in the Application are related to the subject matter of the project, and its participation will bring significant added value.

EVALUATION RULES: A score of YES for this criterion is only possible if all the conditions set out in the criterion description are met.

The information verified in this criterion may be corrected in the Application during the evaluation, in accordance with the procedure set out in the Regulations for Project Selection.

3. Eligibility of expenditure planned in the project in relation to the subject and scope of the project.

We will check whether:

- a) the planned costs of involving project team members are reasonable and justified;
- b) the planned expenditure for the implementation of individual tasks in the project is adequate to the scope of the project and justified;
- c) the planned expenditure is properly assigned to the appropriate expenditure categories and comply with the cost eligibility rules set out in the Guidelines on Eligibility for 2021-2027 in force on the date of the call for proposals and in the Catalogue of eligible expenditure attached to the Regulations for Project Selection;
- d) the scientific and research equipment planned for purchase is necessary for the proper implementation of the project and falls within the cost limits of the category. If the equipment requested for purchase is not unique in Poland, we will verify the substantive and economic justification for its purchase within the project. The purchase of the requested equipment will be approved provided that objective conditions (organisational or technical) resulting from the nature of the planned experiments do not allow the use of such equipment existing at the Applicant's premises or at any other research organisations.

During the evaluation, if it is found that the project expenditure has been overestimated, the Project Evaluation Committee may decide to reduce the project budget, providing justification.

EVALUATION RULES: A score of YES for this criterion is only possible if all the conditions contained in the criterion description are met.

The information verified in this criterion may be corrected in the Application during the evaluation, in accordance with the procedure set out in the Regulations for Project Selection. However, corrections may not result in an increase in the amount of project funding requested in relation to that indicated in the Application before the correction.

4. Output and result indicators

Environmental indicators are not evaluated in this criterion – they are assessed in the criterion "The project complies with the principle of sustainable development".

We will assess whether:

- the scope of the planned project tasks and expenditure is defined by means of output and result indicators;

- the output and result indicators available in the Application form are adequately indicated for the requested support;
- the indicators are consistent, measurable, correctly defined, objectively verifiable and realistic to achieve;
- the Applicant has specified the method of calculating the baseline value and the final target value for output and result indicators and has presented the method of verifying the achievement of the planned indicator values.

EVALUATION RULES: A score of YES for this criterion is only possible if all the conditions contained in the criterion description are met.

The information verified in this criterion can be corrected in the Application during the evaluation, in accordance with the procedure set out in the Regulations for Project Selection.

5. The project complies with the horizontal principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination

We will assess whether the project meets the requirements of the horizontal principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination, including accessibility for persons with disabilities and equality between women and men, in accordance with Article 9(2)-(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council. The assessment of the project's compliance with the above horizontal principles is based on the provisions of the Guidelines on the implementation of equality principles in EU funds for 2021-2027 and Annex 2 to the above Guidelines.

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

Principle of equal opportunities and non-discrimination:

We will assess whether the Applicant has demonstrated in the Application that the project complies with 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 grounds of sex, race or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation,
- the Applicant has demonstrated in the Application that all project products/services will be accessible to persons with disabilities in accordance with accessibility standards appropriate to the scope of the project (including the concept of universal design), constituting an annex to the Guidelines on the implementation of equality principles in the framework of EU funds for 2021-2027, or in justified and described cases in the Application, demonstrated the neutrality of the project product/service within the meaning of these Guidelines, including the inability to meet all accessibility standards.

In the case of 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.

Principle of equality between women and men:

We will assess 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 in relation to this principle in justified and described cases within the meaning of the Guidelines on the implementation of equality principles in EU funds for the period 2021-2027.

EVALUATION RULES: A score of YES for this criterion is only possible if all the conditions contained in the description of the criterion are met.

The information verified in this criterion may be corrected in the Application during the evaluation in accordance with the procedure set out in the Rules for the selection of projects.

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

We will assess whether the project complies with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union of 26 October 2012 in terms of the manner of implementation and scope of the project.

Compliance with this criterion will be assessed in relation to Articles 1, 3-8, 10, 15, 20-23, 25-28 and 30-33 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights. The Applicant should provide information in the Application on how, within the scope of their capabilities and the scope of implementation and impact of the project and the Applicant, the project's compliance with the aforementioned articles of the Charter of Fundamental Rights or neutrality with regard to the aforementioned articles will be ensured. If the scope of implementation and impact of the project may affect the rights and freedoms specified in articles of the Charter of Fundamental Rights other than those indicated above, the Applicant should also indicate them in the Application. At the same time, the Applicant ensures that their project is neutral with regard to those articles of the Charter of Fundamental Rights that do not apply to the project.

EVALUATION RULES: A Score of YES for this criterion is only possible if all the conditions contained in the description of the criterion are met.

The information verified in this criterion may be corrected in the Application during the evaluation in accordance with the procedure set out in the Rules for the selection of projects.

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

We will assess whether the project complies with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of 13 December 2006 in terms of the manner of implementation and scope of the project. Compliance with this criterion will be assessed in relation to Articles 2-7, 9 and 27 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Applicant should provide information in the

Application on how, within the scope of their capabilities and the scope of implementation and impact of the project and the Applicant, the project's compliance with the aforementioned articles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities or neutrality with regard to the aforementioned articles will be ensured. If the scope of implementation and impact of the project may affect the rights and freedoms specified in articles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities other than those indicated above, the Applicant should also indicate them in the Application. At the same time, the Applicant ensures that their project is neutral with regard to those articles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that do not apply to the project.

EVALUATION RULES: A score of YES in this criterion is only possible if all the conditions contained in the criterion description are met.

The information verified in this criterion may be corrected in the Application during the assessment in accordance with the procedure set out in the Regulations for Project Selection.

8. The project complies with the principle of sustainable development

The evaluation will determine whether the project complies with the principle of sustainable development referred to in Article 9(4) of Regulation (EU) 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 set out in Article 11 TFEU, taking into account the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement and the principle of "do no significant harm". The objectives of the Funds shall be pursued in full compliance with the Union's environmental acquis), i.e. whether:

1. The project will be implemented in accordance with the relevant environmental protection legislation related to the implementation of the project.
2. The project will be implemented in accordance with one of the options (a) to (d), i.e. in accordance with:
 - a) at least two of the 6R principles, i.e. refuse; reduce; reuse; recover; recycle; rethink, or
 - b) at least one of the 6R principles, or
 - c) a positive impact on other environmental aspects of the project (other than the 6R principles) or
 - d) at least one of the 6R principles and in accordance with the positive impact on other environmental aspects within the project (other than the 6R principles).
3. The Applicant has provided adequate environmental indicators depending on the selected option a)-d):
 - a) Where compliance with at least two of the 6R principles was demonstrated, at least one relevant indicator was presented for each principle indicated;

- b) in the case of compliance with one of the 6R principles, at least two relevant indicators were presented;
- c) in the case of a positive impact on other environmental aspects (other than the 6R principles), at least two relevant indicators have been presented, with one of them improving by at least 10% compared to the indicator value before the project implementation;
- d) in the case of compliance with one of the 6R principles and compliance with another environmental aspect (other than the 6R principles), at least two relevant indicators have been presented – at least one for the 6R principle and at least one for another environmental aspect (other than the 6R principles), with the value of the indicator for the other environmental aspect (other than the 6R principles) improving by at least 10% compared to the value of the indicator before the project implementation.

4. Environmental indicators:

- ✓ relate to the project being implemented;
- ✓ are consistent, measurable, correctly defined, objectively verifiable and achievable;
- ✓ have baseline and target values specified by the Applicant, as well as the method of calculating the target values of the indicators and the method of verifying the achievement of the target values of the indicators;
- ✓ are selected from the List of Key Indicators or defined independently by the Applicant.

5. Compliance with the principle of sustainable development applies to the entire project.

EVALUATION RULES: We will award a "YES" rating if the requirements specified in the criterion description are met. We will give a "NO" rating if the project does not meet the principle of sustainable development, including if it has a socially negative nature or impact.

The information verified in this criterion can be corrected in the Application during the evaluation process in accordance with the Regulations for Project Selection.

9. Management of conflicts of interest of the Principal Investigator

As part of this criterion, we will check whether:

- 1) all personal or capital links between the Principal Investigator of the project and companies operating in the area of scientific activity of the project have been disclosed in the Application.
- 2) the method of conflict of interest management proposed by the Applicant includes regular reporting to the Applicant's authorities on the results of research carried out under the project and on the intention to grant related entities access to these results;

When assessing this criterion, we will rely on the information provided in the Application and available in the publicly accessible KRS database.

In order to define personal or capital links within the meaning of this criterion, rules analogous to the definition of a link relationship in the Guidelines on the eligibility of expenditure for 2021-2027,

Section 3.2.2, points 8(a)-(c) for procurement procedures have been adopted. Personal or capital links between Principal Investigator and enterprises should therefore be understood as links consisting of:

- ✓ participation in a company as a partner in a civil law partnership or a partnership, holding at least 10% of shares or stocks, performing the function of a member of an advisory, supervisory or management body, a proxy, or an attorney-in-fact;
- ✓ being related to the entrepreneur: by marriage, by direct kinship or affinity, by collateral kinship or affinity up to the second degree, or by adoption, guardianship or custody, or cohabiting with the entrepreneur, their legal representative or members of the management or supervisory bodies of enterprises operating in an area similar or related to the R&D work of the Project;
- ✓ being in such a legal or factual relationship with the entrepreneur that there is reasonable doubt as to their impartiality or independence in connection with granting access to the results of the Project.

EVALUATION RULES: The criterion will be assessed as "YES" if all the requirements specified in its description are met.

The information verified in this criterion may be corrected in the Application during the evaluation or clarified in accordance with the procedure set out in the Regulations for Project Selection.

RANKING CRITERIA:

1. Potential for project implementation

As part of the evaluation, we will check whether:

- a) the Applicant has demonstrated that the planned work is adequate (i.e. necessary, justified and sufficient) to achieve the project objective/solve the problem, and the implementation schedule is clearly defined and realistic, the stages are necessary and form a logical whole, and measurable milestones for each stage have been defined;
- b) the Applicant has demonstrated that the technical and human resources available and obtainable within the project are sufficient for its implementation;

- c) the project plans **to involve young scientists**³ and **students**⁴ (the team conducting R&D work on the project within 6 months of its commencement will consist of at least 3 people, including the Principal Investigator);
- d) the Applicant has identified key risks, including scientific or technological risks, associated with the implementation of the project stages and milestones, and has provided for measures to mitigate the identified risks.

EVALUATION RULES:

We will assess the entire criterion on a scale of 0–5, where:

- 5 – criterion met to an excellent degree;
- 4 – criterion met to a very good degree;
- 3 – criterion met to a sufficient degree;
- 0–2 – criterion not met.

The required threshold required for a positive evaluation of the Application in this criterion is not less than 3 points. The final assessment in the criterion is the arithmetic mean of the scores obtained in each sub-criterion, whereby failure to meet any of the sub-criteria to at least a sufficient degree, regardless of the arithmetic mean result, will mean that the criterion has not been met.

The information verified in this criterion can be corrected in the Application during the evaluation, in accordance with the procedure set out in the Regulations for Project Selection.

2. Plan for the use of project results

We will assess whether the Applicant:

- a) has identified an area of research that could lead to the creation of intellectual property with potential implementation value and has described the significance of the proposed solution in the context of solving economic or socio-economic problems;
- b) has identified markets or recipients potentially interested in the project results and presented a planned strategy for commercialising the research results.

³ Pursuant to Article 360(2) of the Act of 20 July 2018 – *Law on Higher Education and Science*, **a young scientist** is a person conducting scientific activity who: 1) is a doctoral student or academic teacher – and does not hold a doctoral degree, or 1a) is preparing a doctoral dissertation on an external basis and does not hold a doctoral degree – if no more than 4 years have elapsed since the date of appointment of the supervisor or supervisors or the supervisor and assistant supervisor in accordance with Article 217, or 2) holds a doctoral degree, which was obtained no more than 7 years ago, and is employed by an entity referred to in Article 7(1).

⁴ First-cycle, second-cycle and long-cycle Master's programmes or equivalent.

EVALUATION RULES:

We will evaluate the entire criterion on a scale of 0 to 5, taking into account all the aspects indicated above, whereby:

- 5 – criterion met to an excellent degree;
- 4 – criterion met to a very good degree;
- 3 – criterion met to a sufficient degree;
- 0–2 – criterion not met.

The required threshold for a positive evaluation of the Application in this criterion is no less than 3 points. The final assessment in the criterion is the arithmetic mean of the scores obtained in each sub-criterion, whereby failure to meet any of the sub-criteria to at least a sufficient degree, regardless of the arithmetic mean result, will mean that the criterion has not been met.

The information verified in this criterion may be corrected in the Application during the evaluation, in accordance with the procedure set out in the Regulations for Project Selection.

3. Competitive advantage of the proposed project in relation to other scientific research conducted in the field covered by the Application

As part of the evaluation, we will check whether the Applicant has identified an opportunity for a breakthrough in the area covered by the project and whether they have demonstrated that the proposed work will contribute to the development of solutions that are competitive with other research conducted in the subject area of the project.

EVALUATION RULES:

We will evaluate the entire criterion on a scale of 0 to 5, taking into account all the aspects indicated above, whereby:

- 5 – criterion met to an excellent degree;
- 4 – criterion met to a very good degree;
- 3 – criterion met to a sufficient degree;
- 0–2 – criterion not met

The required threshold for a positive evaluation of the Application in this criterion is no less than 3 points.

The information verified in this criterion cannot be corrected in the Application during the evaluation.

MAXIMUM POSSIBLE TOTAL POINTS IN THE STAGE II OF THE SUBSTANTIVE EVALUATION: 15

RULES FOR RECOMMENDING A PROJECT FOR FUNDING AFTER STAGE II OF THE SUBSTANTIVE EVALUATION:

Only projects that have met all the mandatory criteria and obtained a total of at least 20 points in the first and second stages of the substantive evaluation will be recommended for funding within the available allocation.

Decisive criterion

The total number of points obtained in the criteria determines the position of the Application on the ranking list of projects recommended for funding. If several projects receive the same total number of points, and the allocation for a given call is not sufficient to finance all of them, the order on the ranking list and the co-financing will be determined by the number of points obtained in the decisive criteria, in the following order:

1. Novelty and originality of the proposed R&D work in the project.
2. The leader of the research team (Principal Investigator) has the scientific achievements and experience necessary to carry out the project.
3. Plan for the use of project results.
4. The team leader is a woman (if the above criteria are not sufficient to determine the order of projects on the ranking list, the order of projects with the same number of points is determined by the involvement of a woman as the leader/Principal Investigator in the project (projects involving women as Project Leaders/Principal Investigators are rewarded).