

About the Programme

The Applied Research and Innovation Programme is one of the initiatives funded under the EEA Grants 2021–2028 (4th edition). With a total budget of EUR 94 million the Programme aims to reduce economic and social disparities within the European Economic Area (EEA), while also strengthening cooperation between Poland and the Donor States: Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

The Programme is operated by the National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR), in close cooperation with the Donor Programme Partners – the Research Council of Norway (RCN) and the Icelandic Centre for Research (RANNIS).

The Programme focuses on applied research and practical innovation. It supports projects that lead to the development of new or significantly improved products, processes and services. The idea is not only to improve the quality of research in Poland, but also to ensure that research results are translated into real, tangible benefits for society and the economy.

Projects supported under the Programme should contribute both to scientific excellence and to practical applications. They also need to align with the key priorities of the EEA Grants, which include:

- the European green transition,
- democracy and the rule of law,
- social inclusion and resilience.

The Programme is delivered through three complementary calls for proposals, all contributing to improving the overall quality of research and innovation in Poland.

Calls for proposals:

Call 1 (POLNORIS)

Supports bilateral research and innovation projects carried out in cooperation with partners from the Donor States. These projects focus on applied research and experimental development, encourage interdisciplinary approaches and knowledge transfer, and promote the involvement of early-stage researchers in leadership roles.
Budget: EUR 70 million

Call 2

Targets female early-stage researchers in engineering and technology, helping them develop their careers, build independence and take on leadership roles in applied research.

Budget: EUR 15 million

Call 3

Supports coordination and capacity-building initiatives, especially those aimed at improving knowledge transfer, research management and collaboration between

different sectors of the innovation ecosystem.

Budget: approximately EUR 3.1 million

Together, these three calls create a balanced approach that combines research excellence, support for researchers, and long-term system development.

POLNORIS call – focus and scope

POLNORIS is the main funding instrument within the Programme for supporting bilateral applied research and innovation projects. It is designed to strengthen cooperation between Poland and the Donor States.

The call supports joint projects that combine strong scientific quality with clear innovation and application potential.

All projects must be carried out by international consortia, including at least one Polish entity and one research organisation from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

We encourage submission of projects that include:

- interdisciplinarity
- active involvement of early-career researchers
- participation of non-academic actors
- valorisation of results and the societal impact of research and innovation

Although the call is open in terms of topics, each proposal must address at least one of the EEA Grants priorities. Interdisciplinary and cross-sector collaboration is strongly encouraged to ensure that project results are both relevant and usable.

Programme Operator

The Programme is managed by the National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR), a government agency responsible for implementing programmes that support applied research, development and innovation in Poland.

Since its establishment in 2007, NCBR has played a key role in shaping the Polish research and innovation landscape. It has allocated around PLN 80 billion (over EUR 18 billion) to projects carried out by companies, universities and research institutes.

Today, NCBR is the largest funding agency of its kind in Central and Eastern Europe, managing programmes with annual budgets ranging from EUR 1 to 1.3 billion. These programmes cover the full innovation cycle — from industrial research to experimental development and early-stage implementation.

An essential component of NCBR's activity is international cooperation. The Centre is involved in a wide range of partnerships, including EEA and Norway Grants, Horizon

Europe initiatives, and collaborations with countries such as Germany, Israel, South Korea and Taiwan.

NCBR also has solid experience from previous editions of the EEA and Norway Grants (2014–2021), including the POLNOR programme. These initiatives enabled Polish organisations to work closely with Norwegian partners and build long-lasting collaborations.

Building on this experience, NCBR continues to act as the Programme Operator. It is responsible for organising calls for proposals, evaluating and selecting projects, managing grant agreements, monitoring implementation, and supporting cooperation between partners from Poland and the Donor States.

More information

<https://eeagrants.org/en/poland/programmes/applied-research-and-innovation>

<https://www.gov.pl/web/ncbr-en/iv-edition-of-eea-grants>