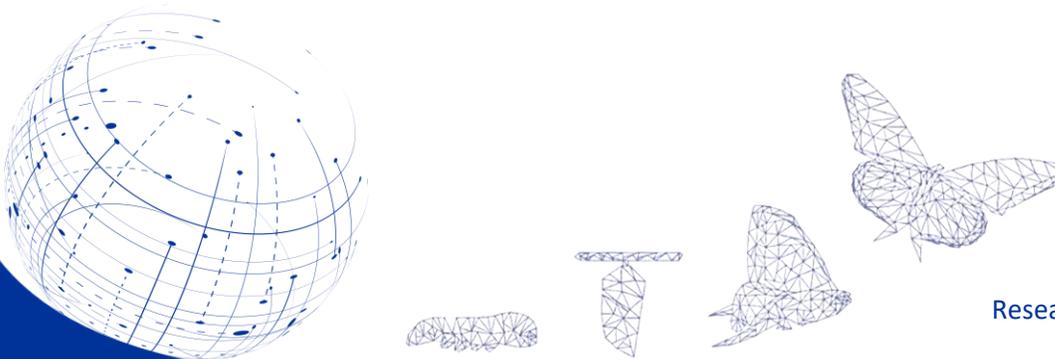




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LUKE Joint Call:
Terms of Reference



Research and innovation cooperation
with added value



PROJECT INFORMATION

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Acronym | LUKE |
| Title | Linking Ukraine to the European Research Area – Joint Funding and Capacity Building Platform for Enhanced Research and Innovation Cooperation |
| Call Identifier | HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01 |
| Grant Agreement No | 101188315 |
| Project start date | 1 January 2025 |
| Duration | 48 months |

DISCLAIMER

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IMPORTANT HINTS BEFORE YOU START PREPARING YOUR PROJECT:

- Please study these ToR carefully to avoid problems with eligibility of your project!
 - In particular read in detail Annex A on National Funding rules, which apply to you and your project partners (starting on page 35).
 - Note – not all funding organisations support all topics in this call! Check first in the national funding rules, whether your topic is supported by your national funding agency.
 - Please contact your National Contact Point before preparing and submitting the proposal to ensure eligibility of the project!
-



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|------|------------------------------------|
| AC | Associated Countries |
| CA | Consortium Agreement |
| CP | Contact Point |
| CSC | Call Steering Committee |
| EC | European Commission |
| EU | European Union |
| FP | Funding Party |
| GDPR | General Data Protection Regulation |
| GFP | Group of Funding Parties |
| IA | Implementation Agreement |
| IPR | Intellectual Property Rights |
| JCS | Joint Call Secretariat |
| MS | Member States |
| R&I | Research & Innovation |
| SEC | Scientific Evaluation Committee |
| SSH | Social Sciences and Humanities |
| ToR | Terms of Reference |



GLOSSARY

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Call Steering Committee (CSC) | The highest decision-making body involved in the implementation of the LUKE Joint Call responsible for controlling and decision-making processes in line with the overall work plan, comprising representatives from each Funding Party. |
| Contact Point (CP) | One or more contact person(s) defined in each National Rules of Funding Parties (Annex to the ToR) responsible for advising national applicants prior to the preparation and submission of their proposals. |
| Core Consortium | The group of the LUKE project's beneficiaries that are responsible for the facilitation of the preparation process of the LUKE Joint Call and assist the operational management of its implementation. |
| External reviewers | A scholar in the relevant field of science who has skills and knowledge appropriate to the scientific and technological fields in which they are asked to evaluate the LUKE Joint Call proposal, which is personally responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the evaluation results, as well as for the validity of recommendations based of this evaluation. |
| Funding Parties (FPs) | Funding institutions contributing to the LUKE Joint Call during all its stages, specified in the ToR, and which finance the research projects as a result of the LUKE Joint Call. |
| Group of Funding Parties (GFP) | The group of diverse organisations - LUKE Funding Parties, that has been established for the implementation of the LUKE Joint Call, responsible for the launch the LUKE Joint Call and for making funding decision. |
| Implementation Agreement (IA) | The document that establishes the general information on the purpose, budget, topics, management and selection principles of the LUKE Joint Call. All FPs and other LUKE project beneficiaries taking part in the LUKE Joint Call sign the IA. |
| LUKE Joint Call | The call for research, development and/or innovation projects organised within the LUKE project by the Group of Funding Parties. |
| Joint Call Secretariat (JCS) | The body involved in the implementation of the LUKE Joint Call responsible for the operational management of the LUKE Joint Call. |



| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| National Rules of Funding Parties | Annex to the Terms of Reference that specifies conditions for funding by the individual Funding Party. |
| Partner leader | Designated representative of project consortium partner who is responsible for expressing consent to proposal via the PT-Outline, fulfilling obligations for project's implementation on behalf of the project consortium partner and interaction with other project consortium partners. |
| Project consortium partner | A legal entity (institution/organization/enterprise) that expresses a desire to participate in the LUKE Joint Call, and has jointly submitted the proposal and documents required for participation in the LUKE Joint Call with other partners, who agree to conduct research on their own premises. |
| Project coordinator | One of the partner leaders that was designated to act on behalf of the project consortium. |
| Research team | Authors and implementers of the project defined in the proposal per project consortium partner. |
| PT-Outline | Web-based online tool for the submission and evaluation of proposals owned by the Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V. (German Aerospace Center - Project Management Agency) (DLR) - LUKE project coordinator. |
| Scientific Evaluation Committee (SEC) | The body involved in the implementation of the LUKE Joint Call responsible for the consolidation of the results of the proposals evaluation and preparing a ranking list that will serve as the basis for the final funding decision. |
| Terms of Reference (ToR) | The Annex to the Implementation Agreement that specifies the scope, thematic focus, funding scheme and the detailed rules and procedures for the submission, assessment and selection of the proposals. |



1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Multilateral project funding initiatives according to the model of the **former ERA.Net PLUS actions**, comprise the joint implementation of a transnational call, from the preparation and the publication of the call to the evaluation, selection and funding of proposals as well as the project monitoring and follow-up. They require funding parties from different EU Member States (MS) and / or Associated Countries (AC) to the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation to implement a **Joint Call** focusing on research, development and/or innovation projects (hereinafter 'R&I projects'). The financial commitments from the participating national R&I funding organisations are the basis of any joint call.

On the basis of mutual interest of funding parties in Ukraine, EU Member States and Associated Countries, a **Group of Funding Parties (GFP)** has been established for the implementation of the Joint Call.

A **Call Steering Committee (CSC)** comprising representatives from each Funding Party (FP), will be responsible for defining the principles of the Joint Call as well as for the steering, decision making and monitoring of its implementation. The members of the CSC are to be nominated directly by their FP – no more than three members per FP. The CSC will oversee the preparation and implementation of the Joint Call. An important right is the nomination of experts for the **Scientific Evaluation Committee (SEC)**, the scientific advisory body responsible for the evaluation process of the proposals to be submitted.

The **LUKE project** is implemented by a group of eight dedicated Ukrainian and European institutions. Four of these partner institutions are from Ukraine, the others represent Austria, Denmark, Germany, and Lithuania. These institutions are called the **Core Consortium**. The members of the GFP will be supported by this Core Consortium. The Core Consortium will facilitate the preparation process of the Joint Call and assist the operational management of its implementation. Members of the Core Consortium are:

- DLR Project Management Agency, European and International Cooperation, DLR, Germany (Coordinator)
- National Research Foundation of Ukraine (NRFU)
- Center for Social Innovation, Austria (ZSI)
- Ukrainian Institute of Scientific and Technical Expertise and Information (UISTEI)
- Institute for Economics and Forecasting of the Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences (IEF)
- Democracy x (Denmark)



- UAB CIVITTA (Lithuania)
- CIVITTA (UA), Ukraine

DLR acts as coordinator for LUKE and for the Call. The role of the coordinator is to manage administrative, financial and communication issues related to the LUKE project and the Joint Call. The Core Consortium will provide administrative services for supporting the whole call process starting with preparing and launching the competitive call for proposals for collaborative R&I projects and lasting till the final selection of projects. Those projects have to be jointly selected by the GFP, to be followed by the monitoring of national contract negotiations with the beneficiaries and the proceeding funding period of the collaborative projects. Partners ZSI, CIVITTA (UA), NRFU and UISTEI will take care of monitoring and impact assessment of the call (together with further partners from the team of the LUKE project). Details of the implementation of the Joint Call for R&I projects have been agreed upon by all GFP members in the **Implementation Agreement (IA)** with these Terms of Reference (ToR) being an integral part thereof.

The GFP will be assisted by a **Joint Call Secretariat (JCS)** consisting of three of the Core Consortium partners (DLR, NRFU, ZSI). The mandate of the JCS is defined by the GFP through the Implementation Agreement (IA). The GFP will launch the Joint Call for R&I projects **no later than 28.02.2026** to be closed strictly within 90 days after the launch of the Joint Call. The Call will follow a one-step submission and evaluation procedure.

With this Joint Call for R&I projects interested project consortia including partners from the participating countries will be invited to submit R&I projects.

Funding parties (FPs)

The following **funding parties** have signed the Implementation Agreement for the Joint Call on R&I projects. They have thus confirmed their readiness to pledge financial contributions for funding the projects selected through the Joint Call:

1. Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft mbH, FFG (Austria)
2. Austrian Science Fund, FWF (Austria)
3. Technology Agency of the Czech Republic, TA CR (Czech Republic)
4. Estonian Research Council, ETAG (Estonia)
5. Research Council of Finland, RCF (formerly Academy of Finland, AKA) (Finland)
6. Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space, BMFTR (Germany)
7. Latvian Council of Science, LZP (Latvia)



8. National Agency for Research and Development, NARD (Republic of Moldova)
9. National Science Centre, NCN (Poland)
10. The Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation, UEFISCDI (Romania)
11. The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye, TÜBİTAK (Türkiye)
12. National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, NASU (Ukraine)
13. The National Research Foundation of Ukraine, NRFU (Ukraine)



2. JOINT CALL

2.1 Call Topics and Scope

Research proposals regarding the following R&I topics and – in one case – subtopics that have been identified by the LUKE project can be submitted:

1. Energy: Sustainable and renewable energy and energy security
2. Cybersecurity: Cyber resilience of critical infrastructures and adaptive cybersecurity systems
3. Medical and health research: Telemedicine, biomedical research
 - 3.1 Sub-topic 1: Adoption of telemedicine for remote healthcare solutions
 - 3.2 Sub-topic 2: Innovative research on cellular signaling pathways for biomedical applications
4. Social sciences and humanities: Social reconciliation, sustainable social development, and human capital restoration

Specific topic descriptions are given in Annex B.

By R&I projects are meant joint research (basic and/or applied), development and/or innovation projects undertaken by a partnership of institutions designed to produce new knowledge through fundamental, experimental and/or theoretical scientific research, whereby each partner of the project consortium actively pursues specific objectives with a view to pooling the results to contribute to common, well-defined objectives. Projects need to comply with national rules regarding critical aspects (e.g. IPR issues, sensitive and classified information, etc.).

The goal of the call is to create long-term research collaboration in the fields of research and innovation between EU MS/AC and Ukraine as central partner country.

2.2 Call Budget and Call Modalities

Related information as regards the indicative financial contribution to the call budget by each of the Funding Parties can be found in the following table:

| FUNDING PARTY ¹ | Indicative Contribution ² (EUR) | 1. Energy research | 2. Cybersecurity | 3. Medical and health research | 4. Social Sciences and Humanities |
|--|--|--------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft mbH, FFG (Austria) | € 600,000 | x | x | x | x |
| 2. Austrian Science Fund, FWF (Austria) | € 900,000 | x | x | x | x |
| 3. Technology Agency of the Czech Republic, TA CR (Czech Republic) | € 1,000,000 | x | x | x | x |
| 4. Estonian Research Council, ETAG (Estonia) | € 450,000 | x | x | x | x |
| 5. Research Council of Finland, RCF (formerly Academy of Finland, AKA) (Finland) | € 500,000 | x | x | x | x |
| 6. Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space, BMFTR (Germany) | € 2,400,000 | x | x | x | x |
| 7. Latvian Council of Science, LZP (Latvia) | € 600,000 | x | x | x | x |
| 8. National Agency for Research and Development, NARD (Republic of Moldova) | € 100,000 | x | x | x | x |
| 9. National Science Centre, NCN (Poland) | € 750,000 | x | x | x | x |
| 10. The Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding – UEFISCDI (Romania) | € 500,000 | x | x | x | x |
| 11. The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye, TÜBİTAK (Türkiye) | € 450,000 | x | x | x | x |
| 12. National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, NASU (Ukraine) | € 400 000 | x | x | | |
| 13. National Research Foundation of Ukraine, NRFU (Ukraine) ³ | € 2,000,000 (UAH 100,000,000) | x | x | x | x |

The Joint Call on R&I will be implemented through a **coordinated funding scheme** whereby each FP will fund its own teams within a multilateral project. This procedure is supposed to ensure the harmonisation of the funding contributions in order to guarantee the funding of as many as possible of the projects selected through a peer-review process.

The funding of projects will depend on the nature of the proposed activities and must be justified in terms of the resources needed to achieve the objectives of the project. The funding requested should

¹ “x” indicates if the topic in question will be funded by the Funding Party in question

² The indicative financial contribution of each of the Funding Parties listed is confirmed by signing this Implementation Agreement.

³ May be granted in case appropriate budgetary allocations are received.



therefore be realistically adjusted to the actual needs of the project, taking into account any other funds available. Each FP may adjust a project's budget if deemed necessary.

2.3 Eligible Applicants and Project Consortium

Applicants must be eligible for funding by their respective national FP. Unless it contradicts the respective National Rules of Funding Parties (Annex A), they can represent:

- Research and higher education institutions established according to respective national legislation
- Research performing small and medium enterprises
- Other entities eligible for funding according to respective national legislation.

Details and definitions can be found in the **National Rules of Funding Parties** (Annex A).

A **project consortium** must comprise project partners eligible for funding from at least three different countries, of which at least one partner is from Ukraine (on the basis of principle that one Ukrainian Funding Party supports one project partner per project). Each project partner will be represented by a partner leader. One of the partner leaders must be designated as “project coordinator”. In case the project is selected for funding, the project coordinator will be the main contact for the JCS (e.g. regarding project monitoring, cf. chapter 8 below).

In case a project partner cannot receive funding from its national Funding Party in a selected project, this specific project will not be retained for funding. There must be at least one Ukrainian partner in each consortium. Ukrainian partners will be funded by Ukrainian Funding Parties. However, alternative sources of funding (from within or outside the GFP) for the Ukrainian project consortium partners may also be used.

2.4 Project Duration

The duration of a project needs to be realistically aligned with the activities to be implemented by the project consortium.



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The **duration of a project is up to 24 months** (it might be shorter and should be defined in the proposal according to the features of the respective FP's side listed in the National Rules of Funding Parties (Annex A)).



3. ELIGIBILITY OF PROPOSALS

In order to be eligible, proposals must:

- 1) Comply with all general formal eligibility criteria as set out below:
 - be in the scope and in the thematic focus of the call (as described in Section 2.1)
 - be submitted by at least three applicants from three different countries (of which at least one is from Ukraine) which are eligible to receive funding from their national members of the GFP (as specified in Section 2.3)
 - comply with the allowed duration (as specified in Section 2.4)
 - comply with the terms of the submission procedure (as specified in Section 5)
 - be submitted in English language only. Additional documentation required to be provided along with the proposal by respective FP according to the National Rules of Funding Parties (Annex A) might be written in another language depending on the respective national rules
 - be submitted through the online submission system PT-Outline (<https://ptoutline.eu/app/LUKE>)
 - meet the submission deadline (as specified in section 5)
 - participation of any researcher of this proposal in any other proposal in this Joint Call is not possible
- 2) Comply with the national eligibility criteria as stated in the respective National Rules of Funding Parties (Annex A).

Only proposals meeting all eligibility criteria are processed by the Joint Call Secretariat. Non-eligible proposals will be rejected by the Joint Call Secretariat.

The JCS carries out a “Pre-Eligibility Check” of submitted proposals and ensures that they meet all general formal eligibility criteria as set out above.

The JCS will ask the Funding Parties to check and confirm the eligibility of applicants participating in a project consortium that has met all general formal eligibility criteria according to their national regulations listed in the respective National Rules of Funding Parties (Annex A).

In this respect, the “**National Rules of all Funding Parties**” will be available in **Annex A**, and must be read and observed carefully. Applicants shall add all of the required documents, listed in the respective National Rules of Funding Parties, to their proposal.



Contact Points: In order to ensure a smooth implementation of the Joint Call, each FP has appointed one or more contact person(s) acting as Contact Point (CP). **Applicants are strongly advised to contact their CP in due time before proposal submission in order to check their eligibility on the national level.**

Contact details are listed in Annex A.



4. ALLOWABLE PROJECT COSTS

Allowable project costs may be grouped in categories as described below. They might differ for individual partners in a given project consortium depending on the respective National Rules of Funding Parties (Annex A).

- **Labour costs (remunerations)**

Participating individual partners may claim for labour costs (remunerations) (including overheads).

- **Operational costs**

Travel and Subsistence

- National and international travel at the most economic fare available.
- Visa and social security or other insurance costs relating to the travel period.
- Accommodation and other subsistence costs (including daily allowance).

Research equipment

- Any participating partner may purchase research equipment respecting national procurement rules and procedures.
- All research equipment costs financed by the grant must be relevant to equipment purchased or manufactured after the commencement date of the project contract.
- Costs for infrastructure, operation, transportation of the research equipment, etc. required for the project.

Consumables

- Costs of materials, consumables and goods, necessary for the implementation of the project.

Other costs, indirect costs

- Costs for publication, dissemination and patenting etc. which cannot be classified under the previous cost items but are required for the project implementation.
- Management, organisational and subcontracting costs required to run the project.

All expenses must be reasonable and necessary for the project implementation, and comply with the respective national funding regulations as stated in the respective National Rules of Funding Parties (Annex A). Expenses of project consortium partners declared in the application that belong to the list above, but do not comply with the respective National Rules of Funding Parties (Annex A) will be rejected.



5. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

5.1 Submission process

5.1.1 General Information

The process of submitting, evaluating and selecting projects will be done in a **1-step procedure**.

Applicants are advised to consult their national Contact Point in order to find out if a parallel submission to the national Funding Party is required.

(After the first step, each project consortium partner of shortlisted applications will have to turn to the relevant national Contact Point to submit additional documentation if needed.)

Applicants are invited to submit a **proposal**. All proposals must be written **in English only**. Additional documentation required to be provided along with the proposal by respective FP according to the National Rules of Funding Parties (Annex A) might be written in another language depending on the respective national rules.

The applicants will have to include the text of their application directly on the PT-Outline online tool. The respective text boxes will follow the structure as outlined below in section 5.1.2.

5.1.2 Structure of proposal

GENERAL INFORMATION

Proposal Details

- Title and acronym: Give the title and acronym of your project.
- Topic and sub-topic of the call to which the submitted proposal refers.
- Classification of the proposed project as 'basic sciences' (Technology Readiness Level below 2) or 'applied science' (TRL 2-7).
- Keywords: Identify the keywords selected from the keyword list.
- Free words: Supply additional free words to further specify your scientific subject.
- Duration (in months): up to 24.
- Total costs: Estimated overall budget of the project (in EUR) and estimated budget of each project partner (in EUR and additionally in the respective national currency according to the actual currency exchange rate as of the time of the submission if applicable).
- Identification for each project partner of the relevant Funding Party (see table in section 2.2).



Summary

Summarise the objectives, give a short description of the research activities (including the roles of the involved project partners), of the expected results of the project and, if relevant, market and economic impact as well as societal impact.

PROJECT TEAM INFORMATION

- Information about partners (institutions/organisations/enterprises) and members of each research team (authors of the project).
- Identify the project coordinator and the partner leaders (project PIs).
- Contact details of the project coordinator and each partner leader.

For each project partner, the following information should be provided:

- Partner details:
 - Give the total number of partner members. The size of each partner should be limited to those people actually needed for performing the tasks (taking into account the respective National Rules of Funding Parties).
 - Describe the background and particular expertise of the partner against the tasks to be performed. Describe how the partners complement each other in the performance of the project.
 - If relevant, list a maximum of five references to relevant, recent scientific publications, patents which best show the capability of the research team to perform the work proposed. Indicate for each the name of the authors, the title of the article, the journal or other publication, the date and place of issue. If a publication exists on a website, give its web-address.
 - Describe the relevant instrumentation and infrastructure available at the partner institution in view of the tasks assigned to the partner.

BREAKDOWN OF COSTS

- For each partner, give the cost breakdown and a justification for all allowable costs.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Give an overall description of the research project. Give a detailed justification of the objectives of the project against the state-of-the-art in the scientific area of the project



1. Scientific and/or technological objectives

- Describe as precisely as possible the scientific and research objectives of the project.
- Justify the methodology chosen to reach the objectives, highlighting the particular advantages of the methodology.
- Explain the relevance and importance of the research project proposed.
- If relevant, highlight the multidisciplinary character of the project, whereby the activities in the project will tend to draw on a range of scientific disciplines and explain how this interdisciplinarity is going to be exploited.
- Explain the gain in competitiveness and/or the added value resulting from the cooperation between the partners of the consortium.

2. Background and state-of-the-art in this field

- Give the scientific and technological basis for your project and describe the present state-of-the-art concerning the specific R&I topics of your project.

3. Novelty of the project

- Identify important gaps to be filled in the current knowledge/know-how.
- Explain the novel character of the research proposed. Show how the objectives of the project aim at significant advances in the state-of-the-art through extending the current knowledge and/or filling the gaps identified.

4. Science and innovation communication

- Define a communication concept to make project outcomes accessible and visible to both academic and non-academic target groups.
- Describe communication activities relevant to the international state of art in the field of science and innovation communication (e.g., interactive public lectures, civil dialogue, scientific performance, scientific image exhibition, science communication events, European Researchers' Night, media engagement, online tools, popular science articles, innovation fairs, exhibitions, matchmaking, technology days).
- Describe selection and integration of the target group with regard to the communication concept and expected impact on target groups.

5. Impact of the project

- Describe the expected results of your project and the utilisation potential.



- Describe the expected relevance of the project regarding scientific / engineering / technological / societal / economic challenges (depending on the thematic focus of the proposal).
- In the case of proposals in ‘applied science’: Outline the expected impact of the project results in terms of market, economical and societal needs of Ukraine and the EU.
- If relevant, describe potential legal aspects as well as ethical implications of the research project results for society.
- If intellectual property is generated during the project, describe how to use and protect it if possible.
- Sketch out a result exploitation plan which explains:
 - how the new knowledge generated through the project and other deliverables of the project such as data bases, problem solving concepts, computer codes, technical solutions etc. will be exploited;
 - if relevant: how innovative technologies/concepts will be further exploited through an implementation plan for the projects’ results;
 - if relevant: how results will be transferred to market and commercial users.

6. Project management and team information

- Describe how the overall coordination, communication and monitoring of the project will be implemented. Indicate the decision schemes foreseen in the project (decision boards, coordination meetings).
- If appropriate set up a detailed diagram (e.g. Gantt-Chart) showing the work plan of the project: the time schedule of the tasks and mark their interrelations; milestones and/or decisions on further approach will have to be made; indicate a critical path marking those events which directly influence the overall time schedule in case of delays.
- Risk management: Indicate where there are risks of not achieving the objectives and fall back positions, if applicable.
- Describe how ethical considerations connected to the project will be addressed (if relevant).
- Explain which part of the R&I activities will be subcontracted to R&I institutions or companies (if relevant).

5.2. How to use the online submission system “PT-Outline”

5.2.1 Registration in the On-line Submission System

In order to submit a proposal, the project coordinator should access the online submission system through the link: <https://ptoutline.eu/app/LUKE>



Only submissions through the online submission system “PT-Outline” will be accepted. Proposals sent by post, e-mail, telex or facsimile will be rejected without notice.

Please note that some Funding Parties might request an **additional mandatory** submission on their own national/regional platform.

When accessing the online submission system for the first time, the project coordinator will be requested to enter her/his e-mail address. In return s/he will receive a **user ID** and a **password** by e-mail. Her/his account will be activated after receiving the password.

5.2.2 Access to the online submission system

By using the **password** all project partners are able to execute their own part of the project proposal submission and to replace the proposal partly or fully with an updated version.

Through a dedicated section on PT-Outline (tick-box), the partner leaders need to indicate their consent to the proposal.

Proposal submission just before the deadline should be avoided. High internet traffic during the last days before the submission deadline of the Call may make the access difficult. Inability to submit a proposal due to overload of the PT-Outline system should not be considered as a reason for later submission or submission via email etc.

5.2.3 Acknowledgement of receipt and registration number

After final submission of the proposal, the project coordinator will automatically receive an acknowledgement of receipt with the proposal’s registration number by e-mail.

5.2.4 Submission Deadline

The deadline for submission of a proposal will be 15 May 2026, 23:59 CEST (21:59 UTC)

All proposals must be submitted by the project coordinators before the submission deadline. As access to the online submission system will be automatically closed after the deadline, no proposal submission will be possible hereafter. It is thus the sole responsibility of a project coordinator to ensure that the proposal is submitted before the deadline.



6. EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF PROPOSALS

Proposals submitted under the LUKE Joint Call will be evaluated as follows:

6.1. Fundamental principles

The fundamental principles governing the evaluation of project proposals are:

- **Transparency.** The process for reaching funding decisions will be clearly described and available to any interested party with the exception of external reviewers' personal data.
- **Equality of treatment.** All proposals will be treated alike, irrespective of where they originate or the identity of the applicants.
- **Ethical considerations.** Any proposal that contravenes fundamental ethical principles may be excluded from being evaluated and selected at any time.

6.2. The Scientific Evaluation Committee and the External Reviewers

The evaluation of proposals will be done as follows:

Each proposal will be evaluated by **external reviewers** selected by the JCS in cooperation with the **Scientific Evaluation Committee (SEC)** and the GFP. The external reviewers will anonymously assess the merits of the submitted proposals.

The SEC, consisting of high-level scientific experts, will be appointed by the CSC for all issues related to the evaluation procedure, especially to ensure the quality of the outcome of the external peer review. The SEC will review the outcome of the reviews of the external reviewers and decide upon a preliminary ranking list that will be provided to the GFP and the CSC.

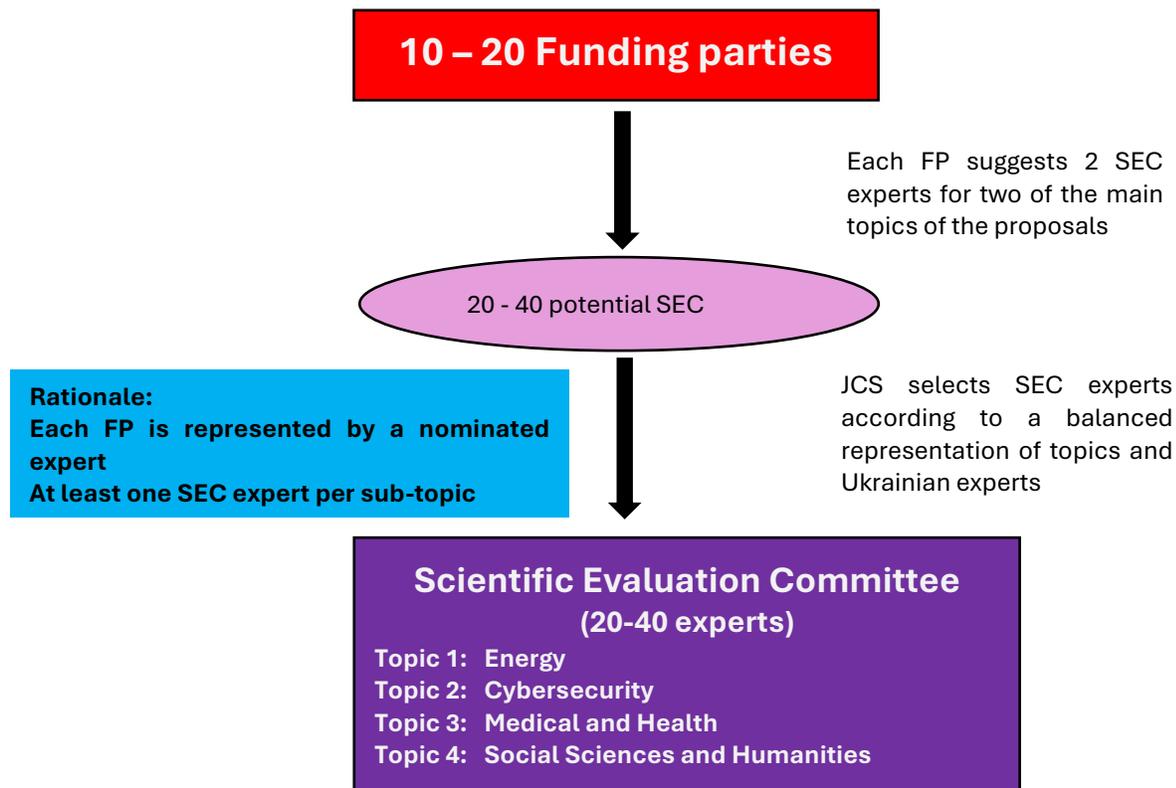
6.2.1 The Scientific Evaluation Committee (SEC)

The SEC will consist of about 20 to 40 experts, depending on the number of FP participating. Each FP will be represented in the SEC by at least one expert.

Each funding party is invited to nominate two experts to the SEC each one with competences relevant to one specific call topic. The Joint Call Secretariat will pre-select the experts from the group of potential SEC-experts, suggested by the FPs for the SEC panels, according to the following rationale:

- Each FP will be represented by at least 1 nominated expert⁴
- Each sub-topic will be represented by at least 1 SEC expert
- A fair representation of Ukrainian experts will be ensured

⁴ A targeted extension of the SEC, e.g. on the basis of representation in sub-topics might be envisaged and decided upon by the GFP at a later stage after the proposals have been submitted.



The JCS will present the list of nominated experts to the CSC for their final approval based on the described rationale for the selection as closely as possible. However, some flexibility should be allowed if necessary.

6.2.2 Tasks of the Scientific Evaluation Committee (SEC)

The JCS will invite the SEC (and also the GFP) in due time to propose external reviewers, and invite the SEC members to review and give their opinion on the list of external reviewers.

The JCS will allocate the proposals to three potential external reviewers. The SEC will check the matching of proposals to external reviewers and propose different external reviewers if found necessary. The JCS moderates and technically manages the evaluation process with the approved external reviewers in contact with the GFP and the SEC.

On the basis of the outcomes of the external reviews, **a SEC meeting will be gathered to discuss and establish the ranking lists for the projects eligible for funding.** Each SEC member will act as a key-reader for several proposals. The SEC will jointly decide on unclear cases due to discrepancies between



evaluation results and will present their joint decision (one ranking list per topic) to the CSC. The final decision on the selected projects eligible for funding will be taken by the CSC.

6.2.3 Appointment of external reviewers

The external reviewers will be selected on the basis of their competence, irrespective of their citizenship, age and affiliation. There will be no involvement of external reviewers affiliated to institutions or organizations in the Russian Federation, the Republic of Belarus, and the ones operating on the territories of Ukraine temporarily occupied by Russia. The JCS will propose external reviewers in close cooperation with the SEC, GFP and CSC. The funding parties are highly encouraged to review the list of external reviewers and to propose additional external reviewers.

In general, the external reviewers need to have skills and knowledge appropriate to the relevant scientific and technological fields in which they are asked to assist.

The external reviewers must also have the appropriate language skills required for the proposals to be evaluated. In case an external reviewer finds his/her competences to be irrelevant to the project he/she has been selected to evaluate, he/she must inform the JCS so that the project is allocated to another reviewer.

For each proposal, three independent external reviewers of which at least one from Ukraine and one from an EU-MS or another AC are to be selected by the JCS in close cooperation with the SEC, with a view to achieve maximum competence for the evaluation. The SEC will check the relevance of the allocation of proposals to external evaluators by the JCS and eventually reconsider the proposal by nominating an appropriate expert.

6.2.4 Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality

The LUKE Consortium relies on the integrity of external reviewers to base their opinion with strict impartiality exclusively on the basis of the information given in the proposal and against the established evaluation criteria.

When choosing an external reviewer, the JCS and the SEC take all reasonable steps to ensure that she/he is not faced with a conflict of interest in relation to the proposals, which she/he is requested to assess. The external reviewers will commit themselves to inform the JCS whenever a conflict of interest arises in the course of their duties. When so informed, the JCS takes all necessary actions to remove the conflict of interest. The following situations will automatically be considered as conflict of interest:



- Being involved in (the preparation of) any pre- and/or full proposal under the call;
- Having submitted a proposal as a principal investigator or another project team member under the call;
- Being director, trustee or partner or in any way involved in the management of the consortium partner;
- Being employed or contracted by one of the consortium partners;
- Having close professional proximity, e.g. being a member of the same scientific institution with a hierarchical or department relation or impending change of the reviewer to the institution of the team member in a position with a hierarchical or department relation or vice versa;
- Having close family ties (spouse, domestic or non-domestic partner, child, sibling, parent etc.) or other close personal relationship with the team member of the proposal;
- Having (or having had during the last five years) a close scientific collaboration with the team member of the proposal;
- Having (or having had) a relationship of scientific rivalry or professional hostility with the team member of the proposal;
- Having (or having had), a mentor/mentee relationship with the principal investigator or another team member of the proposal;
- Having a current or prior (past 5 years) activity in advisory bodies of the consortium partner, e.g. scientific advisory boards;
- Having direct or indirect benefit if any proposal submitted is accepted or rejected;
- Having personal economic interests in the funding decision.

The external reviewers are committed to maintain confidentiality of the information contained within the proposals they evaluate and of the evaluation process and its outcome.

The JCS, the CSC and the SEC are committed to maintain the anonymity of the external reviewers. The members of the SEC as well as the external reviewers evaluating the proposals, will sign a confidentiality declaration. The members of JCS and CSC are bound to confidentiality through their status as partners in the LUKE project.

All parties must comply with EU data protection regulations, in particular the GDPR, when implementing the project.



6.3 Evaluation and Selection Procedure

6.3.1 Evaluation of proposals

The evaluation of the **proposals** is performed online, using the **online submission and evaluation system PT-Outline**. As a rule, each proposal will be evaluated by three external reviewers. The external reviewers receive access to the proposal and submit online the results of their evaluation. The access to proposals is protected by user names and passwords.

In close cooperation with the SEC, the JCS will allocate each of the proposals to three potential external reviewers. The SEC will check the matching of proposals to external reviewers and will propose alternative experts, if deemed necessary.

The individual external reviewers are not informed on the other external reviewers evaluating the same proposal. Each external reviewer therefore assesses each proposal independently without exchanging views with other external reviewers.

Each external reviewer fills in an individual evaluation form whereby she/he gives a score to each evaluation item, resulting in an overall score for the proposal. The external reviewer also checks the compliance of the proposal with the thematic focus of the call.

6.3.2 Evaluation criteria

The set of criteria includes the following:

- I. Quality of the research planned; scientific relevance and originality of the project
- II. Quality of the consortium, research track record of project team
- III. Quality and feasibility of the proposed project implementation plan
- IV. Alignment with call topics and potential impact of the project on further development of science / engineering / technologies / society

Evaluation scores will be awarded for each of these four criteria, and not for the sub-criteria. The sub-criteria are issues which the external reviewers should consider in the assessment of that criterion. The reviewers are requested to award each criterion with a maximum of 5.0 points (half points can be given e.g. 3.5) per criterion. For criteria I to IV the threshold is 3 points out of 5 per criterion (scoring table below).



The evaluation of the proposals should address the following four criteria:

- I. Quality of the research planned; scientific relevance and originality of the project (threshold: 3/5)**
 - Sound concept, quality of objectives
 - Progress beyond the state-of-the-art
 - Quality and effectiveness of the scientific and / or technological methodology and associated work plan
 - Relevance and novelty of the research ideas (including from the standpoint of interdisciplinarity if the research is multidisciplinary in nature)

- II. Quality of the consortium, research track record of project team (threshold: 3/5)**
 - Complementarity of qualifications and relevant experience of the coordinator (PI) and the individual participants/participating research teams
 - Complementarity of the consortium members in achieving the goals and tasks of the project
 - Fair distribution of efforts

- III. Quality and feasibility of the proposed project implementation plan (threshold: 3/5)**
 - Appropriateness of the management structure and procedures
 - Appropriate allocation and justification of the resources to be committed (budget, staff, equipment)
 - Validity of the work plan, compliance of the project timeframe with the project goals and tasks

- IV. Alignment with call topics and potential impact of the project on further development of science / engineering / technologies / society / economy (threshold: 3/5)**
 - Alignment of the proposal with one (or several) of the call topics
 - Relevance of the project regarding scientific / engineering / technological / societal / economic challenges (depending on the thematic focus of the proposal)
 - Quality and appropriateness of measures for the dissemination and/or exploitation of the transnational project results, and management of intellectual property
 - Added value by the cooperation within the multilateral project consortium

The total score of a proposal is the weighted average of the individual scores given to each criterion, rated from 0.0 to 5.0 (half points can be given e.g. 3.5). The table below summarizes the scores and the weight coefficients per criterion, for the evaluation of proposals:



| | Criteria | Score | Weight |
|------|---|-------|--------|
| I. | Quality of the research planned; scientific relevance and originality of the project | 0-5 | 30% |
| II. | Quality of the consortium, research track record of project team | 0-5 | 30% |
| III. | Quality and feasibility of the proposed project implementation plan | 0-5 | 20% |
| IV. | Alignment with call topics and potential impact of the project on further development of science / engineering / technologies / society / economy | 0-5 | 20% |
| | TOTAL | 0-5 | 100% |

6.3.3 Ranking list and decision making

Based on the external evaluations, the JCS will prepare four separate preliminary ranking lists (one per call topic). From the total scores x_i given by each evaluator the **average score** of each proposal, as well as the **standard deviation** is calculated and retained to establish the ranking. The average score will be rounded to the second decimal.

The SEC will hold a meeting for the review of the proposals within thematic panels. Within this meeting, the SEC will discuss critical cases, (e.g. proposals that received contradictory evaluations) and all cases with a standard deviation of more than 20 %. In these cases, all SEC members evaluate the scoring given by each external evaluator of the proposals in question. The SEC will present four lists of proposals recommended for funding together with their tentative budgets (one list per call topic) to the CSC . Additionally, all external evaluation reports will be made available to the CSC without reference to the external reviewers.

Given specific internal regulations, some FPs will confirm their commitment only after approval of the decision of the CSC meeting by their dedicated decision bodies.

The final outcome of the evaluation of proposals, including the detailed scores per criteria and the corresponding remarks made by the external reviewers and the SEC, will be made available to the project coordinators after the final funding decision of the CSC has been taken.



The total score of a proposal is the weighted average of the individual scores given to each criterion, rated from 0.0 to 5.0. Half marks can be given (for example 3.5).

| Score | Justification |
|-----------------|---|
| 5: EXCELLENT | The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor. |
| 4: VERY GOOD | The proposal addresses the criterion very well, although certain improvements are still possible. |
| 3: GOOD | The proposal addresses the criterion well, although certain improvements would be necessary. |
| 2: FAIR | While the proposal broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses that would need correcting. |
| 1: POOR | The criterion is addressed in an inadequate manner, or there are serious inherent weaknesses. |
| 0: NOT RELEVANT | The proposal fails to address the criterion under examination or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information. |



7. DECISION MAKING BY THE GROUP OF FUNDING PARTIES

The members of the CSC will consensually take the decision on the proposals, based on the recommendations of the SEC. A concluding CSC meeting will be convened and supported by the JCS.

In preparation of the concluding meeting of the CSC, the ranking lists prepared by the SEC will be presented to the FPs. The JCS will ask the FPs to check and confirm the availability of funds.

The decisions will take into account the indicative budgets of the FPs. For those **cases in which the national financial contributions are exhausted**, the respective FPs should follow the following steps to bridge the gaps due to the lack of funds:

- The respective FPs will explore a budget increase;
- In case of lacking budget for Ukrainian project participants, additional sources of funding may be taken into account

The minutes of the final CSC meeting will be prepared by the JCS and finally adopted by the CSC.

The final list of projects to be funded will be approved by written procedure by all FPs.

The JCS will inform the applicants by standard letter about the result of the evaluation process and successful applicants about the next steps in order to start the projects.



8. PROJECT CONTRACTS AND MONITORING

Following the final decision taken by the GFP, for each project approved for funding, a **National Contract** will be negotiated and signed between and by each project consortium partner and its corresponding FP. Overall consistency between all contracts/agreements will be ensured by the FPs.

The FPs will regulate the transfer of funds to national beneficiaries based on national regulations. They will establish the legal ground for project funding at national level according to the rules and regulations of the respective Funding Party.

8.1 Overall monitoring of the R&I projects

The JCS will be responsible for the overall administration and monitoring of the projects building on standardized intermediate and final reports to be submitted by the project consortia (via the project coordinator). The reports will be available for further use by the FPs.

The overall monitoring includes the following items:

- Synchronisation of national contracts by the JCS: FPs start in parallel individual contracting procedures between the Funding Party and the respective project partner for each individual LUKE project according to the national regulation. The JCS and project consortium partners try ensuring a synchronised start of all projects.
- Follow-up of signing a Consortium Agreement (CA) between project consortium partners including provisions on cooperation amongst consortium partners and management of IPR to be signed between all partners of a project consortium before the project start. The purpose of these IPR provisions is to protect against unauthorized imitation, copying or deceptive usage of identifying marks, but also to define in what manner intellectual property will be shared in case of patentable innovations.

8.2 Reporting duties of the project consortia vis-à-vis the LUKE Joint Call Secretariat

Reporting duties of the project consortia towards the JCS include the following:

- 12 months after project start: Submission of a report describing the projects' pre-liminary results, project status regarding the work plan or non-scientific obstacles (if any).
- One month before the project end: Submission of a final report describing the achievements and main project results. The final report is also mandatory if the project is terminated



prematurely. The JCS will use parts of the reported data to compile brochures and websites on the results of the LUKE project.

Any change concerning a project (i.e. changes of consortium partners, substantial deviations from the work program, premature end of the project or any other issues that might have significant impact on the implementation of the project) has to be reported by the project coordinator to the JCS. The JCS will inform all FPs accordingly and arrange a consultation and decision taking on possible corrective measures by all FPs.

The project coordinator of a consortium is responsible for organizing the tasks among all project partners and represents the consortium vis-à-vis the LUKE Joint Call Secretariat.

The mentioned reporting duties vis-à-vis the LUKE Joint Call Secretariat do not replace any reporting duties vis-à-vis the relevant FPs on the basis of the national rules and regulations. Reports on the use of funds must be submitted by the project consortium partners directly to their respective FPs.

8.3 Termination of a project by the CSC via the Joint Call Secretariat

The CSC may terminate a project of a given consortium for good cause at any time in writing and with immediate effect.

In particular, good cause may exist if

- a) The consortium fails to fulfil one or several obligations mentioned in section 8.2.
- b) The intended purpose of the project cannot be reached with the allotted funds at all, or not within the anticipated timeframe.
- d) The conclusion of the agreement was based on statements of the consortium that proved to be untrue or incomplete in essential parts.
- e) The consortium fails to comply with the information and/or reporting obligations.
- f) At least one consortium partners' funding is cancelled due to a respective FP's decision.
- g) One or several consortium partners fail to fulfil their project-related tasks according to the submitted proposal.

In case of a premature termination, the LUKE Joint Call Secretariat will contact the respective Funding Parties and recommend the cancellation of the project funding.



ANNEX A: NATIONAL RULES OF FUNDING PARTIES

AUSTRIA

Austrian Research Promotion Agency, FFG

Applicants are strongly advised to read national regulations carefully and to check with the respective national Contact Point the eligibility as to who may apply and what costs are eligible before a consortium submits the complete application. If any problems are revealed, please contact your National Contact Point.

Call topics of the LUKE Joint Call that are supported by FFG:

1. Call topic: Sustainable and renewable energy & energy security
2. Call topic: Cybersecurity - cyber resilience of critical infrastructure & adaptive cybersecurity systems
3. Call topic: Medical & health research: Telemedicine, biomedical research
4. Call topic: Social sciences and humanities: Social reconciliation, sustainable social development, and human capital restoration

Applicants are strongly advised to read national regulations carefully. If any problems are revealed, please contact your National Contact Point.

Who can apply?

In order to be eligible for LUKE funding, the Austrian project partner has to comply with the following terms and conditions:

- In general, universities, research institutes, SMEs and large companies, cities, municipalities and NGOs (legal entities) are eligible for funding. The complete eligibility criteria and definitions can be found in the national guidelines (<https://www.ffg.at/LUKE/Call2026>)
- For Austrian proposers applying to FFG, the guidelines for cooperative R&D projects for transnational calls (<https://t1p.de/e8ah4>, version 4.2) apply, with the following exception:
 - Differing from the regulation in the guideline document, the transnational consortium does not necessarily have to include a company, in order for Austrian participant(s) to be eligible for funding by FFG. Austrian companies are nevertheless encouraged to apply.
- All Austrian partners applying for funding by FFG must select the same research category (industrial research or experimental development) within a project.



What types of costs are eligible for funding?

- Personnel costs, Overhead costs (flat rate), Use of R&D infrastructure, Costs of materials, Third-party costs, Travel costs. For detailed information, see the national cost guidelines (<https://t1p.de/7k0qz>, version 3.2)
- Costs must be allocated directly to the project, incurred during the funding period in addition to normal operating expenses, correspond to the funding contract and can be proven.

Additional national eligibility criteria for the proposal beyond the general criteria in the Terms of Reference of the Single LUKE Joint Call

- To be eligible for funding by FFG, applications must be within the research category of Industrial Research (TRL 2-4) or Experimental Development (TRL 5-8).
- In parallel to the submission of the joint proposal to the PT-Outline tool, Austrian partners applying for funding by FFG must submit the same joint proposal (as a pdf attachment) to FFG. The proposal must be submitted via the FFG electronic submission system eCall (<https://www.ffg.at/eCall>).
- Austrian applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the FFG before submitting a proposal.
- For projects awarded funding by FFG, a scientific and financial reporting via eCall on an annual basis is mandatory.
- Submission deadline for the national proposal at FFG: 19 May, 2026, 12:00 CEST

Upper funding limit and project duration

Upper funding limit: **600,000 EUR/project**

Project duration is up to **24 months**.

Further information relevant to applicants:

For the full Institution regulations on research projects, see: <http://www.ffg.at/LUKE/Call2026>



Funded by
the European Union



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AUSTRIA

FWF – Austrian Science Fund

Applicants are strongly advised to read national regulations carefully and to check with the respective national Contact Point the eligibility as to who may apply and what costs are eligible before a consortium submits the complete application. If any problems are revealed, please contact your National Contact Point.

Call topics of the LUKE Joint Call that are supported by FWF:

1. Energy: Sustainable and renewable energy and energy security
2. Cybersecurity: Cyber resilience of critical infrastructures and adaptive cybersecurity systems
3. Medical and health research: Telemedicine, biomedical research
 - 3.1: Adoption of telemedicine for remote healthcare solutions
 - 3.2: Innovative research on cellular signaling pathways for biomedical applications
4. Social sciences and humanities: Social reconciliation, sustainable social development, and human capital restoration

Who can apply?

In order to be eligible for LUKE funding, the researcher has to comply with the terms and conditions presented in Institution project regulations.

- For FWF-funded project parts, the eligibility criteria of FWF “**Principal Investigator Projects**” apply. For details, cf.:
https://www.fwf.ac.at/fileadmin/Website/Dokumente/Foerdern/Portfolio/Einzelprojekte/fwf_pat_application_guidelines.pdf

What types of costs are eligible for funding?

- Costs must be calculated on the basis of the FWF application guidelines for “Principal Investigator Projects”. For details, cf:
https://www.fwf.ac.at/fileadmin/Website/Dokumente/Foerdern/Portfolio/Einzelprojekte/fwf_pat_application_guidelines.pdf

Additional national eligibility criteria for the proposal beyond the general criteria in the Terms of Reference of the Single LUKE Joint Call:



- Applicants at FWF must submit the following documents via the FWF elane submission portal, using the funding category “**KIN – International – Multilateral Initiatives**” (<https://www.elane.fwf.ac.at>) by **18 May 2025, 14.00 hrs (CEST)**.
 - Copy of the **joint proposal**
 - Proof of the **publication output** of the FWF PI (according to FWF guidelines)
 - **CV** of the FWF PI (according to FWF guidelines)
 - **budget justification** for the FWF-funded project part (following the template in Annex A of the FWF application guidelines for “Principal Investigator Projects”)
 - A **statement (max. 1 page)** explaining the extent to which the proposed project constitutes **basic research** (to be uploaded in the section “user-defined attachment”).
- Please note that projects in the area of **applied research** must be submitted to the other Austrian research funding organisation participating in LUKE, the **FFG**.

Upper funding limit and project duration

Upper funding limit: The FWF generally does not have any minimum or maximum limits but, given the limited nature of the financial commitment of the FWF to this Call, we do expect Austrian participations not to exceed the average range of an FWF stand-alone Project (typically around € 300.000 for a two-year project).

Project duration is up to **24 months**.

Further information relevant to applicants:

For the full Institution regulations on research projects, see:

<https://www.fwf.ac.at/en/funding/portfolio/collaborations/international-multilateral-initiatives>

Contact Point:

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CZECH REPUBLIC

Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (TA CR)

Applicants are strongly advised to read national regulations carefully and to check with the respective national Contact Point the eligibility as to who may apply and what costs are eligible before a consortium submits the complete application. If any problems are revealed, please contact your National Contact Point.

Call topics of the LUKE Joint Call that are supported by TA CR:

1. Energy: Sustainable and renewable energy and energy security
2. Cybersecurity: Cyber resilience of critical infrastructures and adaptive cybersecurity systems
3. Medical and health research: Telemedicine, biomedical research
 - 3.1: Adoption of telemedicine for remote healthcare solutions
 - 3.2: Innovative research on cellular signaling pathways for biomedical applications
4. Social sciences and humanities: Social reconciliation, sustainable social development, and human capital restoration

Who can apply?

- Research organisations (according to Article 2 paragraph 83 of the [Regulation](#))
- Enterprises (according to Annex 1 of the [Regulation](#)) and Enterprises who act as natural persons according to Annex 1 of the Regulation engaged in an economic activity pursuant to Act no. 455/1991 coll. on Trades (Trade Act).

Aforementioned actors are eligible, both as main Czech applicants and additional Czech members of the project-consortium. However, the main applicant may be only an entity that has its registered office, establishment or branch in the Czech Republic.

TA CR excludes the disbursement of individual aid to an enterprise:

- against which a recovery order has been issued which is unpaid
- meeting the definition of an “undertaking in difficulty”
- which has not met the obligation to publish the financial statements for the years 2022, 2023, 2024 in the respective register - the so-called “[Veřejný rejstřík](#)”
- which has not disclosed its ownership structure in the so-called “[Evidence skutečných majitelů](#)”

Funding rates: The aid intensity for each Czech candidate in the project is determined based on the type of entity and type of research according to the [Regulation](#) (see table below) and at the same time must not exceed the maximum permissible aid intensity for the Czech part of the project, which is **80 % of eligible costs**.

| Applicant | Industrial Research | Industrial research with a bonus for effective collaboration | Experimental development | Experimental development with a bonus for effective collaboration |
|--------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|
| Small enterprise* | 70 % | 80 % | 45 % | 60 % |
| Medium-sized enterprise* | 60 % | 75 % | 35 % | 50 % |
| Large enterprise | 50 % | 65 % | 25 % | 40 % |
| Research Organisations** | 100 %*** | 100 %*** | 100 %*** | 100 %*** |

*A SME is defined in Annex 1 of the Regulation

**Research organisations must satisfy the definition in the Act and the Framework

***While respecting the maximum permissible aid intensity of 80 % per project (Czech part).

Type of supported research: Applied research (i.e. industrial research / experimental development). For definitions of applied research see the [Framework](#) and the [Regulation](#).

Czech applicants must comply with the “[SIGMA - DC4 \(Mezinárodní spolupráce\)](#)” programme rules.

What types of costs are eligible for funding?

- personnel costs (including scholarships)
- subcontracting costs (max. 20% of total eligible costs throughout the whole project period)
- other direct costs
- indirect costs (overheads) - full cost/flat rate.

Specific categories of eligible costs are defined under Article 18 of the [General Terms & Conditions](#).

Additional national eligibility criteria for the proposal beyond the general criteria in the Terms of Reference of the Single LUKE Joint Call



Eligible projects for TA CR:

- the project meets the definition of applied research
- the research results correspond to the national rules and are applicable / exploitable (the project proposal has to include a clear description of the exploitation plan and results.)
- the aim of the project has to be relevant to the overall aim of the funding programme SIGMA
- the declared share of industrial research and experimental development corresponds to the activities of the Czech partner described in the project proposal
- the requested funding meets the national regulations for aid intensity
- **The Czech applicants submitted all mandatory documents to TA CR within set deadline**

Upper funding limit and project duration

Upper funding limit: **not specified (around 200 000 EUR/project is expected)**
Project duration is up to **24 months**.

Further information relevant to applicants:

For the full TA CR regulations on research projects, see: <https://tacr.gov.cz/mezinarodni-spoluprace/>

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ESTONIA

Estonian Research Council (ETAG)

Applicants are strongly advised to read national regulations carefully and to check with the respective national Contact Point the eligibility as to who may apply and what costs are eligible before a consortium submits the complete application. If any problems are revealed, please contact your National Contact Point.

Call topics of the LUKE Joint Call that are supported by ETAG:

1. Energy: Sustainable and renewable energy and energy security
2. Cybersecurity: Cyber resilience of critical infrastructures and adaptive cybersecurity systems
3. Medical and health research: Telemedicine, biomedical research
 - 3.1: Adoption of telemedicine for remote healthcare solutions
 - 3.2: Innovative research on cellular signaling pathways for biomedical applications
4. Social sciences and humanities: Social reconciliation, sustainable social development, and human capital restoration

Who can apply?

The Host Institution may be any legal entity that is registered and located in Estonia and has an Estonian bank account. If the Host Institution is a for-profit institution, the State aid and de minimis aid regulations must be taken into account. ETAG can not fund innovation.

In order to be eligible for LUKE funding, the researcher has to comply with the terms and conditions presented in ETAG national eligibility criteria, which can be found here:

- [National Eligibility Criteria for grant applications in partnership calls for transnational research projects \(valid from 14.03.2025\)](#)

What types of costs are eligible for funding?

- Eligible direct costs: personnel, travel, subcontracting (up to 15% of total budget), and other direct costs
- Eligible indirect cost: up to 15% of personnel costs

Additional national eligibility criteria for the proposal beyond the general criteria in the Terms of Reference of the Single LUKE Joint Call



Eligibility criteria for the Principal Investigator of Estonian Host Institution:

- Must have an updated public profile in ETIS
- Must hold a doctoral degree or equivalent (foreign degrees must be recognised by ENIC-NARIC or the Host Institution)
- Within the last 5 years, must have published:
 - at least 3 articles (ETIS 1.1) or
 - at least 5 articles (ETIS 1.1, 1.2, 2.1 or 3.1)
- One patent equals one ETIS 1.1 publication
- One monograph (up to 3 authors) equals 3 ETIS 1.1 publications
- Possible extension of the publication period in exceptional cases (e.g. parental leave, military service, illness)
- If several Estonian institutions participate, each must have a PI meeting the requirements

Upper funding limit and project duration

Upper funding limit:

150,000 EUR/project for a regular partner

300,000 EUR/project for a lead partner (project coordinator)

Project duration is up to **24 months**.

Further information relevant to applicants:

For the full Institution regulations on research projects, see <https://etag.ee/en/funding/partnership-funding/partnership-funding-ukraine/>

Contact Point:

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FINLAND

Research Council of Finland (RCF)

Applicants are strongly advised to read national regulations carefully and to check with the respective national Contact Point the eligibility as to who may apply and what costs are eligible before a consortium submits the complete application. If any problems are revealed, please contact your National Contact Point.

Call topics of the LUKE Joint Call that are supported by RCF:

1. Energy: Sustainable and renewable energy and energy security
2. Cybersecurity: Cyber resilience of critical infrastructures and adaptive cybersecurity systems
3. Medical and health research: Telemedicine, biomedical research
 - 3.1: Adoption of telemedicine for remote healthcare solutions
 - 3.2: Innovative research on cellular signaling pathways for biomedical applications
4. Social sciences and humanities: Social reconciliation, sustainable social development, and human capital restoration

Who can apply?

In order to be eligible for LUKE funding, the researcher has to comply with the Research Council of Finland's annually updated document concerning the funding terms and conditions: <https://www.aka.fi/en/research-funding/apply-for-funding/how-to-use-funding/>

- The Principal Investigator (PI) must hold a doctoral degree and have significant scientific merits, typically at the level of professor or docent.
- A PI requesting funding from the Research Council of Finland may not participate in more than one proposal.
- The applicant must have a close connection with Finland to support the implementation of a multi-year project.
- Research funding is granted to Finnish entities, primarily universities or research institutes.

What types of costs are eligible for funding?

- Eligible costs include both direct (e.g. salaries) and indirect costs (e.g. premises).
- Funding may be used for hiring research staff, equipment and supplies, travel, collaboration and mobility, international project preparation, and publishing. Open access publishing costs are included in the overheads. The PI's salary share must remain modest. For example, a two-year project may include no more than 3 months of the PI's effective working time.



- Funding is provided under the full cost model, covering up to 70% of total project costs.

Additional national eligibility criteria for the proposal beyond the general criteria in the Terms of Reference of the Single LUKE Joint Call

- Finnish partners of projects selected for funding will be invited to submit national applications via the Research Council of Finland's online services. Applications must include a research security risk assessment and risk management plan: <https://www.aka.fi/en/research-funding/apply-for-funding/how-to-apply-for-funding/az-index-of-application-guidelines/research-security/>
- Research Council funding cannot be used for economic activity. Economic activity is defined as all activity where goods or services are offered on an open market regardless of whether profits are pursued or generated. When an organisation is also engaged in economic activities, separate accounts must be kept of the funding and costs of and the revenue generated by such activities.

Upper funding limit and project duration

Upper funding limit: **250,000 EUR/project** from the RCF (70%)

Project duration is up to **24 months**. The RCF's formal funding period may be longer, allowing for a flexible start date for the use of the funding.

Further information relevant to applicants:

For the full RCF regulations on research projects, see: <http://www.aka.fi/en/research-funding/apply-for-funding/az-index-of-application-guidelines/>

- **Open Access Policy:**
 - Scientific publications resulting from funded projects must be openly accessible.
 - Research data produced must be made widely available, with justified variation in openness (from fully open to strictly confidential).
 - More information is provided here: <https://www.aka.fi/en/research-funding/apply-for-funding/how-to-apply-for-funding/az-index-of-application-guidelines/open-science/>
 - Open access publishing costs are included in the overheads.
- Project partners must agree in writing on the ownership and use of research results, materials and data at the start of the project.



Funded by
the European Union



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[HelpDesk](#): “Application guidance, international calls”



GERMANY

Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR)

Applicants are strongly advised to read national regulations carefully and to check with the respective national Contact Point the eligibility as to who may apply and what costs are eligible before a consortium submits the complete application. If any problems are revealed, please contact your National Contact Point.

Call topics of the joint call that are supported by BMFTR:

1. Energy: Sustainable and renewable energy and energy security
2. Cybersecurity: Cyber resilience of critical infrastructures and adaptive cybersecurity systems
3. Medical and health research: Telemedicine, biomedical research
 - 3.1: Adoption of telemedicine for remote healthcare solutions
 - 3.2: Innovative research on cellular signaling pathways for biomedical applications
4. Social sciences and humanities: Social reconciliation, sustainable social development, and human capital restoration

Who can apply?

Research proposals may be submitted by German

- universities / higher education institutions
- non-university research institutions
- commercial enterprises, in particular SMEs
- local authorities and other institutions in Germany that provide research contributions

The following applies to the initial grant recipient: At the time of payment of a grant awarded, the existence of a permanent establishment or branch (company) or other institution serving the non-economic activity of the grant recipient (higher education institution, research institution and other institutions providing research contributions) in Germany is required.

Research institutions that receive basic funding from the Federal Government and/or the Federal States (Bundesländer) can, in addition to their institutional funding, receive project funding for their additional project-related expenses or costs under certain conditions only.

What types of costs are eligible for funding?

I. Direct costs

- a. Costs of personnel

Funds for personnel required for the project can be funded.



b. Costs of durable equipment

Funding for equipment can be provided. However, this only includes equipment that does not form part of an institution's basic equipment (i.e. no laptops, notebooks or equipment which is regularly used by the applicants).

c. Consumables and supplies

Any consumables necessary for the project implementation may be considered as direct costs. Consumables are only eligible costs if bought after the start date of the project. Consumables belonging to the basic facilities of an applicant are not eligible.

d. Subcontracting

The general rule should be that applicants shall implement the project and shall have the necessary resources to that end. However, parts that are not “core” parts of the project may be subcontracted. Examples for minor services to be subcontracted are rent of locations, translation costs, costs for technical equipment in the context of the organization of events or printing services etc.

e. Science communication

Eligible expenses/costs also include expenses/costs that, during the funding period, serve to make the planned research process or the results accessible to the general public and – in doing so – to enter into an exchange with society. Science communication by definition is the dialogue-oriented communication and mediation of research and scientific content in layman’s terms to target groups outside the science community.

f. Other costs

Events: With regard to workshops in Germany and partner countries, grants can be provided towards expenses such as hotel costs for the workshop, printing of workshop materials or catering and rental of the venue. The amount of the grant depends on the size of the workshop and the number of guests.

g. Travel and subsistence costs

The travel costs/expenses to and from the destination, including the necessary visas (for airline tickets: economy class), as well as the accommodation costs/expenses will be covered in accordance with the applicable regulations of the institution or company. This also includes travel within Germany or other countries.

h. Travel costs for international cooperation:

Travel costs for international cooperation, e.g. international conferences in Germany or abroad with a clear connection to the project topic, can be covered if a valid justification is provided.

CO₂-Compensation payments for business trips may be recognised as eligible expenses or costs in accordance with the 'Guidelines for Grant Applications on an Expenditure Basis



(AZA/AZAP/AZAV)' or the 'Guidelines for Grant Applications on a Cost Basis by Commercial Enterprises (AZK)'.

II. Indirect Costs: Overheads

Overhead costs are eligible depending on the type of institution as well as on the respective accounting system.

Universities and other Higher Education Institutions (public/non-public) and university hospitals (regardless of their legal status) can apply for a lump sum of 20% ('Projektpauschale') of the requested funding for research projects.

Additional national eligibility criteria for the proposal beyond the general criteria in the Terms of Reference of the LUKE Joint Call

Grants for universities, research and science institutions and similar establishments will be calculated on the basis of the eligible, additional project-related expenditures (grants for Helmholtz centers and the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft (FhG): eligible, additional project-related costs), up to 100% of which can be covered on an individual basis.

Grants for commercial enterprises and research institutions that fall within the scope of economic activities are the eligible, additional project-related costs. These can be partially financed, taking into account the requirements of state aid law. According to BMFTR principles, a potential grantee must be prepared to make an appropriate financial contribution to the eligible costs incurred.

The European Commission's General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER) must be taken into account when calculating the respective funding ratio.

Upper funding limit

Upper funding limit: **200,000 EUR per project** plus a lump sum of 20% ('Projektpauschale') if applicable. This limit applies to the whole German project, even if it is comprised of several German partners. Project duration is up to **24 months**.

Applicants whose proposals have been evaluated positively will be invited to submit - in coordination with the designated project coordinator - a formal application for funding on which a decision will be taken after a final evaluation. To draft formal applications for funding, applicants must use the BMFTR's electronic application system "easy".



This information is preliminary. A binding funding announcement will be published by BMFTR which will define the formal funding regulations.

Further information relevant to applicants:

Contact Point:

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LATVIA

Latvian Council of Science (LZP)

Applicants are strongly advised to read national regulations carefully and to check with the respective national Contact Point the eligibility as to who may apply and what costs are eligible before a consortium submits the complete application. If any problems are revealed, please contact your National Contact Point.

Call topics of the joint call that are supported by LZP:

1. Energy: Sustainable and renewable energy and energy security
2. Cybersecurity: Cyber resilience of critical infrastructures and adaptive cybersecurity systems
3. Medical and health research: Telemedicine, biomedical research
 - 3.1: Adoption of telemedicine for remote healthcare solutions
 - 3.2: Innovative research on cellular signaling pathways for biomedical applications
4. Social sciences and humanities: Social reconciliation, sustainable social development, and human capital restoration

Who can apply?

In order to be eligible for LUKE funding, the researcher has to comply with the terms and conditions presented in the relevant regulations of LZP.

- R&D institutions (research institutes, universities, higher education establishments, universities, research centres;
- Private entities (companies, SMEs, large enterprises)

What types of costs are eligible for funding?

- Direct costs: personal costs incl. taxes; travels; subcontracts (up to 25% of direct costs); equipment (only depreciation costs); consumables (reagents, materials, etc.); other costs;
- Indirect costs: (up to 25% of direct costs excluding subcontracting).

Additional national eligibility criteria for the proposal beyond the general criteria in the Terms of Reference of the Single LUKE Joint Call

- No more than two partners from Latvia may participate in the project.



- The funding of RTD activities is provided pursuant in accordance with the Regulation of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia No 259 on the procedure for providing support for participation in international cooperation programs for research and technology (adopted on 26 June 2015 and provisions of Commission Regulation (EC) No651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the common market in application Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty.

Upper funding limit and project duration

Upper funding limit: **100,000 EUR/project year/project partner**

Project duration is up to **24 months**.

Further information relevant to applicants:

For the full LZP regulations on research projects, see: <http://www.lzp.gov.lv>

Contact Point:

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Head of Unit

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REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

National Agency for Research and Development (NARD)

Applicants are strongly advised to read national regulations carefully and to check with the respective national Contact Point the eligibility as to who may apply and what costs are eligible before a consortium submits the complete application. If any problems are revealed, please contact your National Contact Point.

Call topics of the LUKE Joint Call that are supported by NARD:

1. Energy: Sustainable and renewable energy and energy security
2. Cybersecurity: Cyber resilience of critical infrastructures and adaptive cybersecurity systems
3. Medical and health research: Telemedicine, biomedical research
 - 3.1: Adoption of telemedicine for remote healthcare solutions
 - 3.2: Innovative research on cellular signaling pathways for biomedical applications
4. Social sciences and humanities: Social reconciliation, sustainable social development, and human capital restoration

Who can apply?

In order to be eligible for LUKE funding, the researcher has to comply with the terms and conditions presented in the **National Agency for Research and Development** project regulations.

- The beneficiaries are public law organizations in the fields of research and innovation, in accordance with art. 14-19, 95, 96 of the Code on Science and Innovation of the Republic of Moldova no. 259/2004; point 2 paragraph 3), points 3, 6, 19 of Government Decision no. 382/2019 on the approval of the Methodology for financing projects in the fields of research and innovation.

What types of costs are eligible for funding?

- Costs for employees, travels, publishing, scientific events participation, purchase of consumables, purchase of software/patents, and indirect costs.
- Research team salaries should not exceed 80% of the budget.
- Expenses for the salary of administrative personnel will not exceed 3% of the project fund intended for the remuneration of the work of project team members.
- A research team that spends less than its allocated share of the budget will be funded solely on the basis of actual, duly justified and reimbursable costs.



Additional national eligibility criteria for the proposal beyond the general criteria in the Terms of Reference of the Single LUKE Joint Call

The project is ought to be prepared in the form of a standard application in accordance with [Government Decision no. 382/2019](#).

Upper funding limit and project duration

Upper funding limit: **100 000 EUR/project**
Project duration is up to **24 months**.

Further information relevant to applicants:

For the full national regulations on research projects, see:

[Government Decision no. 382/2019](#)

Contact Point:

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POLAND

National Science Centre

Applicants are strongly advised to read national regulations carefully and to check with the respective national Contact Point the eligibility as to who may apply and what costs are eligible before a consortium submits the complete application. If any problems are revealed, please contact your National Contact Point.

Call topics of the LUKE Joint Call that are supported by Institution:

5. Energy: Sustainable and renewable energy and energy security
6. Cybersecurity: Cyber resilience of critical infrastructures and adaptive cybersecurity systems
7. Call topic: Medical and health research: Telemedicine, biomedical research
 - 3.1: Adoption of telemedicine for remote healthcare solutions
 - 3.2: Innovative research on cellular signaling pathways for biomedical applications
8. Social sciences and humanities: Social reconciliation, sustainable social development, and human capital restoration

In order to be eligible for LUKE funding, the researcher has to comply with the terms and conditions presented in Institution project regulations.

Who can apply?

The Principal Investigator in the Polish research team must be at least a PhD holder when submitting a proposal. Additional restrictions are described in Chapter IV, §13-20 of the Terms and regulations on awarding funding for research tasks funded or co-funded under international calls launched by the National Science Centre and carried out as multilateral collaboration UNISONO, annexed to [NCN Council Resolution No 74/2025 of 11 September 2025](#).

Proposals may be submitted by the entities specified in Article 27 (1) of the Act on the National Science Centre ([NCN Act](#)).

All national eligibility requirements for applicants requesting NCN funding are provided in the Annex to the National Science Centre (NCN) Council's Resolution No. 74/2025 on the terms and regulations on awarding funding for research tasks funded or co-funded under international calls launched by the National Science Centre and carried out as multilateral collaboration UNISONO (hereinafter: UNISONO): [version in EN](#); [version in PLs](#).



What types of costs are eligible for funding?

Applicants can apply for funding for all costs relevant, necessary and directly connected to the proposed research project including:

- **Personnel costs (salaries):**
 - Full time remuneration: funds for full-time employment of the principal investigator or post-doc(s); Please note, if the principal investigator is also the coordinator of an international consortium submitting a joint proposal a full-time remuneration of PI can be increased.
 - Additional remuneration for members of the research team. Please note: if the principal investigator is also the coordinator of an international consortium submitting a joint proposal a budget for additional remuneration can be increased.
 - Salaries and scholarships for students and PhD students. Please note: if the principal investigator is also the coordinator of an international consortium submitting a joint proposal the budget for salaries and scholarships for students and PhD students can be increased.
- **Purchase or manufacturing of research equipment, devices and software** (the cost of an individual item of equipment must not exceed PLN 500,000.00).
- **Other costs such as:**
 - Purchase of material and small equipment,
 - Outsourcing (costs of services rendered by third parties),
 - Business trips (travel and subsistence costs),
 - Compensation for collective investigators,
 - Other costs crucial to the research project which comply with the Annex to NCN Council's Resolution on awarding funding for research tasks funded or co-funded under international calls launched by the NCN and carried out as multilateral collaboration UNISONO.
- **Indirect costs** must not exceed a maximum of 20% of the total eligible costs and may not be increased during the course of a research project. Additionally, indirect costs of up to 2% of direct costs may be spent on Open Access to publications and research data. Administrative personnel costs and costs of organisation of conferences have to be covered from overheads.

We strongly encourage all applicants to read information on eligible costs included in the Annex to NCN Council's Resolution on awarding funding for research tasks funded or co-funded under international calls launched by the National Science Centre and carried out as multilateral collaboration [UNISONO](#).

EURO exchange rate: 1 EUR = 4,3463 PLN

Additional national eligibility criteria for the proposal beyond the general criteria in the Terms of Reference of the Single LUKE Joint Call



Only proposals involving basic research (experimental or theoretical endeavours undertaken to gain new knowledge of the foundations of phenomena and observable facts, without any direct commercial use) may be submitted to NCN in response to the LUKE Call for proposals.

Submission of the proposal at the national level

Up to 7 days from the joint proposal submission deadline, Polish applicants must submit their national applications in the OSF submission system. The application will include a budget that should be calculated according to the Annex to NCN Council's Resolution on awarding funding for research tasks funded or co-funded under international calls launched by the National Science Centre and carried out as multilateral collaboration ([UNISONO](#)).

Upper funding limit and project duration

Upper funding limit: **The maximum budget of the Polish research team is not pre-determined, however, the justification of the expenses versus the scope of tasks is assessed by the international expert team.**

Project duration is **24 months**.

Further information relevant to applicants:

The rules for awarding NCN scholarships are laid down in the [Regulations on awarding scholarships](#).

[Personal Data Processing at the NCN](#)

[Open Access Policy at the NCN](#)

[Data Management Plan requirements](#)

For the full Institution regulations on research projects, please refer to the Call Announcement published on the NCN website.

Contact Point:

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ROMANIA

The Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI)

Applicants are strongly advised to read national regulations carefully and to check with the respective national Contact Point the eligibility as to who may apply and what costs are eligible before a consortium submits the complete application. If any problems are revealed, please contact your National Contact Point.

Call topics of the LUKE Joint Call that are supported by UEFISCDI:

1. Energy: Sustainable and renewable energy and energy security
2. Cybersecurity: Cyber resilience of critical infrastructures and adaptive cybersecurity systems
3. Call topic: Medical and health research: Telemedicine, biomedical research
 - 3.1: Adoption of telemedicine for remote healthcare solutions
 - 3.2: Innovative research on cellular signaling pathways for biomedical applications
4. Social sciences and humanities: Social reconciliation, sustainable social development, and human capital restoration

Who can apply?

In order to be eligible for LUKE funding, the researcher has to comply with the terms and conditions presented in UEFISCDI's project regulations.

- Legal entities established in Romania are eligible to get funding, i.e. public and private accredited universities, national R&D institutes, other research organizations, SMEs, large industrial enterprises with R&D activity within their domains. We can fund only Romanian research teams. For universities, public institutions, R&D national institutions funding is 100%, and for SMEs and Large companies, financing is under the permit OMCID no. 21.324/02.11.2023 approving the scheme of State aid for Program 5.8: European and international cooperation.

What types of costs are eligible for funding?

- The following categories of expenses are eligible:
 - A. Staff costs (researchers, technicians and support staff, including all corresponding state and social contributions; these contributions are subject to national regulations in force);
 - B. Consumables (materials, supplies or similar);
 - C. Equipments (in full compliance with state aid regulations), no more than 30% of the total funding from the public budget;



- D. Subcontracting (max. 25% of the total funding from the public budget);
 - E. Travel expenses (in Romania or abroad, only for project teams' members);
 - F. Overheads (calculated as a percentage of direct costs: staff costs, travel expenses and logistics costs - excluding capital costs). Indirect costs will not exceed max. 25% of direct costs, excluding subcontracting. Expenses are eligible if incurred after signature of the contract.
- To EU countries: no
To Non-EU countries: no

Subcontracting special tasks (i.e. IT services, etc): Yes, expenditure on services performed by third parties cannot exceed 25 % of the funding from the public budget. The subcontracted parts should not be core/substantial parts of the project work.

Additional national eligibility criteria for the proposal beyond the general criteria in the Terms of Reference of the Single LUKE Joint Call

- National rules available [here](#).

Upper funding limit and project duration

- The maximum funding for one project from the public budget is 250,000 € if Romania is the coordinator of the transnational project;
- The maximum funding for one project from the public budget is 200,000 € if Romania is partner in the transnational project.

Project duration is up to **24 months**.

Further information relevant to applicants:

For the full UEFISCDI regulations on research projects, see:
<https://uefiscdi.gov.ro/parteneriate-si-misiuni-europene>

Contact Point:

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TÜRKİYE

The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK)

Applicants are strongly advised to read national regulations carefully and to check with the respective national Contact Point the eligibility as to who may apply and what costs are eligible before a consortium submits the complete application. If any problems are revealed, please contact your National Contact Point.

Call topics of the LUKE Joint Call that are supported by TÜBİTAK:

1. Energy: Sustainable and renewable energy and energy security
2. Cybersecurity: Cyber resilience of critical infrastructures and adaptive cybersecurity systems
3. Medical and health research: Telemedicine, biomedical research
 - 3.1: Adoption of telemedicine for remote healthcare solutions
 - 3.2: Innovative research on cellular signaling pathways for biomedical applications
4. Call topic: Social sciences and humanities: Social reconciliation, sustainable social development, and human capital restoration

Who can apply?

- Higher education institutions,
- Training and research hospitals,
- Public institutions and organisations (including city, metropolitan and district municipalities),
- SMEs and large companies established in Türkiye

What types of costs are eligible for funding?

- Personnel, travel, equipment/tool/software, consultancy and service procurement, consumables are eligible for funding.

Additional national eligibility criteria for the proposal beyond the general criteria in the Terms of Reference of the Single LUKE Joint Call:

- **Eligible type of research:** strategic (basic) research, applied research, experimental development
- **TRL:** 1-8



- National "1071 Programme - Support Programme for Increasing Capacity to Benefit from International Research Funds and Participation in International R&D Cooperation" Programme will be implemented.
- Further information will be announced on <https://ufukavrupa.org.tr/>

Upper funding limit and project duration

Upper funding limit: **EUR 190,000** (excluding institutional overhead and PIP) per project.

Per beneficiary: EUR 100,000 (HEIs, training & research hospitals, public bodies) / EUR 190,000 (private entities).

Project duration is up to **24 months**.

Further information relevant to applicants:

- Electronic application is required via: <https://uidb-pbs.tubitak.gov.tr/>
- Further information will be announced on <https://ufukavrupa.org.tr/>

Contact Point:

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UKRAINE

National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (NASU)

Applicants are strongly advised to read national regulations carefully and to check with the respective national Contact Point the eligibility as to who may apply and what costs are eligible before a consortium submits the complete application. If any problems are revealed, please contact your National Contact Point.

Call topics of the LUKE Joint Call are supported by the NASU:

1. Energy: Sustainable and renewable energy and energy security
2. Cybersecurity: Cyber resilience of critical infrastructures and adaptive cybersecurity systems

Who can apply?

In order to be eligible for LUKE funding, the researcher has to comply with the terms and conditions presented in the **National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine** project regulations.

- A research institution of the National Academy of Science of Ukraine or research team of a research institution or research institutions of the National Academy of Science of Ukraine may submit an application for the competition.

What types of costs are eligible for funding?

- Eligible for financing are expenses for employees, purchase of consumables and indirect costs.
- Costs for employees (or equivalent) are eligible if they limited to salaries (including net payments during parental leave), social security contributions, taxes and other costs linked to the remuneration.
- Indirect costs should not exceed 30%.
- A research team that spends less than its allocated share of the budget will be funded in accordance with its actual duly justified eligible costs only.
- A research team that spends more than its allocated share of the budget will be funded only in respect of duly justified eligible costs up to an amount not exceeding that share.

Additional national eligibility criteria for the proposal beyond the general criteria in the Terms of Reference of the Single LUKE Joint Call



The project is ought to be prepared in the form of a request in accordance with Appendix 5 to the “Procedure for Forming Research Topics and Monitoring the Implementation of Scientific Studies at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.” The Academic Council of the institution where the project is planned to be carried out reviews the feasibility of its implementation and must issue an approval decision. The request for the project’s implementation must be signed by the project leader and the director of the institution where the project is planned to be carried out.

Upper funding limit and project duration

Upper funding limit: **100 000 EUR/project**
Project duration is up to **24 months**.

Further information relevant to applicants:

For the full NASU regulations on research projects, see:

<https://www.nas.gov.ua/documents/normativni-akti-nan-ukrayini/normativni-akti-shhodo-formuvannya-naukovoyi-tematiki>

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UKRAINE

National Research Foundation of Ukraine (hereinafter referred to as the NRFU)

Applicants are strongly advised to read national regulations carefully and to check with the respective national Contact Point the eligibility as to who may apply and what costs are eligible before a consortium submits the complete application. If any problems are revealed, please contact your National Contact Point.

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

This National Rules of Funding Parties (hereinafter referred to as the NRFP) as the integral part of the LUKE Implementation Agreement and LUKE Terms of Reference is altogether the basis for the NRFU's competitive selection of projects (as part of LUKE competitive selection) while setting forth the more specific and operational procedures. The provisions hereof apply to the NRFU's competitive selection procedure directly and to the Ukrainian partners only.

Call topics and sub-topics of the LUKE Joint Call that can be supported by the NRFU:

1. Energy: Sustainable and renewable energy and energy security
2. Cybersecurity: Cyber resilience of critical infrastructures and adaptive cybersecurity systems
3. Medical and health research: Telemedicine, biomedical research
 - 3.1: Adoption of telemedicine for remote healthcare solutions
 - 3.2: Innovative research on cellular signaling pathways for biomedical applications
4. Social sciences and humanities: Social reconciliation, sustainable social development, and human capital restoration

Projects to be carried out with the support of the NRFU may be basic/applied research (developments) projects only.

Duration of the projects to be selected based on the results of the LUKE Joint Call:

The projects to be funded by the NRFU are expected to be implemented in 2027-2028 (*subject to the availability of appropriate budget allocations**).

Project implementation involves two stages:

- the first stage of project implementation (tentatively 9 months, March-November 2027);



- the second stage of project implementation (tentatively 9 months, March-November 2028).

The end of each stage correlates with the end of the respective budget year. Implementation of projects in 2027-2028 will be carried out taking into account and in accordance with budget allocations to the NRFU in the respective year.

**Planning the duration of the project implementation stages shall be guided by the deadlines for processing the reporting documentation provided by the grantee to confirm the completion of each stage of the project (14 calendar days from the date of completion of each stage of project implementation). The duration of the project implementation stages planned in the proposal may be adjusted at the time of the conclusion of the National Contract (Grant Agreement), taking into account and in accordance with budget revenues in the respective year).*

II. REQUIREMENTS TO APPLICANTS*

*The requirements are formulated in accordance with the [Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment](#)

Ukrainian Applicants shall follow this NRFP in order to verify the researchers' eligibility, thus avoiding the ineligibility of a consortium as a whole.

Who can apply?

Each project consortium may include no more than one Ukrainian **legal entity (project consortium partner, hereinafter referred to as partner)** to be funded by the NRFU.

In order to be eligible for funding under the LUKE Joint Call, a partner shall comply with the terms and conditions presented in the NRFU project regulations such as listed below.

- A partner (legal entity) may be an institution of higher education (in accordance with the meaning of the Law of Ukraine 'On higher education') or a research institution (in accordance with the meaning of the Law of Ukraine 'On scientific and scientific-technical activities') of any legal form and form of ownership registered and functioning in Ukraine according to the national legislation. The institution of higher education or a research institution shall meet the terms and conditions of this Joint Call, and that has expressed a desire to participate in the LUKE Joint Call, and has jointly submitted the proposal and documents required for participation in the LUKE Joint Call with other partners, who agree to conduct research on their own premises, as well as to approve the related research results.



- Legal entities of any legal form and form of ownership whose founders, beneficial owners and participants are citizens of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus, as well as legal entities operating in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, may not enter the LUKE Joint Call. The restriction on entry into this Joint Call also applies to legal entities subject to restrictive measures (sanctions) imposed by the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine.

In order to be eligible for funding under the LUKE Joint Call, a **Ukrainian researcher (author of the project, member of the Ukrainian research team)** shall comply with the terms and conditions presented in the NRFU project regulations such as listed below.

- The PI (leader of the Ukrainian research team) shall have a research degree obtained (at least 5 years before the date of the proposal submission) or recognized in Ukraine (obtained at least 5 years before the date of the proposal submission) and work **at the main place of work** in the institution (organization, enterprise) which is a partner to the project consortium. The PI shall also have scientific publications in periodicals, in particular those indexed by Scopus or WoS, and/or scientific monographs/monograph chapters in the relevant field of knowledge. Other Ukrainian researchers may work/study as postgraduate in the same or different institutions (organizations, enterprises). In the latter case, the Ukrainian researcher shall be involved in the project implementation on the contractual basis with the institution (organization, enterprise). It is allowed to involve support staff (up to 2 persons), including (but not limited to) higher education students, engineers, laboratory assistants in the project implementation.
- Other Ukrainian researchers (members of the Ukrainian research team) shall have a research degree (except for the ones who are early-career researchers enjoying the status of a postgraduate student) obtained or recognized in Ukraine, scientific publications in the field related to the project topic (except for the ones who are postgraduate students).
- Ukrainian researchers may not be employees of the NRFU's Directorate, members of the Scientific Council of the NRFU, members of the Supervisory Board of the NRFU, members of the NRFU LUKE project team, or reviewers involved in the scientific and technical review of projects under this Joint Call.
- The number of Ukrainian researchers allowed to participate in the LUKE Joint Call on behalf of the Ukrainian partner – from 3 to 5 persons including at least one early-career researcher (necessarily possessing a research degree obtained or recognized in Ukraine or enjoying the status of a postgraduate student) and at least 2 researchers possessing a research degree obtained (at least 5 years before the date of the proposal submission) or recognized in Ukraine (obtained at least 5 years before the date of the proposal submission).



- Ukrainian researcher under valid restrictive measures applied to him/her, as defined by the provisions of the Restrictive Measures that may be applied to project authors and/or project implementers whose grant support was terminated by the decision of the Scientific Council of the National Research Foundation of Ukraine due to improper implementation of the research and developments agreement and/or based on the results of the quality assessment of project implementation and publication/dissemination of the results may not enter the LUKE Joint Call.
- When submitting a proposal for the LUKE Joint Call, all Ukrainian researchers shall comply with the Regulations on compliance with the principles of scientific ethics and prevention of conflicts of interest during competitive selection, scientific and scientific and technical expertise of projects and consideration of applications for grant support submitted to the National Research Foundation of Ukraine in the areas of grant support of the National Research Foundation of Ukraine which include a section on the prevention of cooperation with representatives of the aggressor country and temporarily occupied territories.
- One individual cannot be represented in more than one proposal submitted to the LUKE Joint Call. The PI and other members of the Ukrainian research team may be implementers of another successful project under another call of the NRFU, the funding of which is ongoing or has not started due to the incomplete procedure for concluding an agreement with the grantee. At the same time, the PI cannot be presented in the proposal for this Joint Call if he or she is already the PI of a project that was successful in another call of the NRFU, the funding of which is ongoing or has not been started due to the incomplete procedure for concluding an agreement with the grantee.
- The restriction on entry into this Joint Call also applies to persons (researchers) subject to restrictive measures (sanctions) imposed by the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine.

III. PROJECT FUNDING

This section of the NRFP applies only to the Ukrainian part of the project's budget. The NRFU funds only the Ukrainian part of the project's budget when the other national partners' budgets are funded by and according to the regulations of the other respective Funding Parties.

The total amount of funding for the Ukrainian partners under the LUKE Joint Call is up to UAH 100 mln, namely:

- up to UAH 50 mln in 2027, and
- up to UAH 50 mln in 2028.



The sums above are calculated subject to the availability of appropriate budgetary allocations and may be adjusted by the Scientific Council of the NRFU, taking into account the risk of possible redistribution of budgetary funds and the risks associated with the martial law in Ukraine.

The maximum total amount of funding a Ukrainian partner for one project is up to UAH 4 mln (up to UAH 2 mln in either of the two stages of project implementation).

The terms and procedure for funding projects depend on the amount of budget allocations provided in the state budget for the respective year to finance the activities of the NRFU.

Projects are funded by the NRFU's gradual transfer of funds from its registration account to the grantee's account in accordance with the National Contract (Grant Agreement) concluded between the NRFU and the successful partner (grantee), in accordance with the Calendar Plan and the Schedule of Financing the research project, within the limits of the funding actually received by the NRFU.

Unused and/or saved funds during the relevant intermediate stage of the project implementation shall be refunded to the NRFU registration account within seven working days after the completion of the respective intermediate stage of the project.

All costs for each stage of project implementation must be incurred before the completion of the respective intermediate stage of project implementation.

What costs are ineligible for funding?

Grant funds cannot cover:

- payment for intermediary services;
- preparation of a project proposal for the LUKE Joint Call;
- purchase of goods, performance of works, provision of services not related to the implementation of projects;
- payment for goods, works, and services that have been or will be financed from other sources, before or after the signing of the National Contract (Grant Agreement);
- expenditures for the maintenance of the institution (organization, enterprise) participating in the project that exceed the ceiling for Indirect Costs (15% of Direct Costs within each stage of project implementation and the project as a whole);
- payment for activities that go beyond the planned tasks and objectives of the project or grant budget;



- purchase of stationery, office equipment and supplies, office computers, multimedia and copying equipment, cartridges, drives, etc.;
- purchase, modernization, upgrading, and maintenance of personal computers, laptops, printers, scanners, other office equipment, furniture, as well as office equipment and devices, etc.;
- purchase of equipment and facilities manufactured or supplied by an enterprise/organization included in the sanctions lists in accordance with the decision of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine;
- insurance, operating lease of premises and of other non-current assets for common operational purposes;
- expenses related to exchange rate fluctuations, as well as any fines, penalties, compensation for losses (penalties, court costs incurred as a result of breaches of contractual obligations, etc.);
- interest or other payments on debt obligations;
- VAT and other taxes that may be compensated by the state;
- payment for mobile communications, internet, and telephony;
- commercialization of research results and launch of mass production;
- currency risk insurance;
- remuneration and accruals for the personnel, in particular, employees of scientific and organization services, financial services, legal services, HR services, procurement department, etc. who will be involved in servicing the Grant Agreement, exceeding 5% of the “Direct Costs” item within each stage of the project and the project as a whole;
- reserves to cover potential losses or future liabilities;
- expenses financed by investments and/or government assistance and/or funds from other programs;
- other monetary obligations that arose prior to receiving the grant;
- expenses for the production of advertising materials used to promote goods, services, ideas, or companies.

What types of costs are eligible for funding?

Under this Joint Call the NRFU grant funds may be allocated to the following cost items:

- Direct costs:
 - labor remuneration;
 - payroll accruals;
 - materials required for the performance of works, except for equipment and facilities (if required);



- minor equipment and facilities (up to UAH 200,000 in total per a project) if required;
- business trip expenses (if required).

- Indirect costs
The total amount of indirect costs (costs that are not directly related to project's implementation, but are necessary to ensure the full implementation of the project) cannot exceed 15% of Direct Costs within each stage of project implementation. Among others, such costs may include remuneration and accruals for the personnel, in particular, employees of scientific and organization services, financial services, legal services, HR services, procurement department, etc. who will be involved in servicing the Grant Agreement. Such expenses may not exceed 5% of the total amount of the 'Direct costs' item within each stage of project implementation and the project as a whole;
- Other costs – costs that are not reflected in the above-mentioned cost items, but are necessary for project implementation, in particular, costs of services. This cost item may include costs for:
 - publications;
 - obtaining patents;
 - access to research equipment for research and scientific and technical (experimental) developments;
 - purchase of software;
 - organizational fees for participation in scientific conferences and other scientific events;
 - access to databases, libraries, etc.

When forming the project budget, Ukrainian partners shall follow the 'Methodological recommendations for Planning the Estimated Cost of the Project for the Implementation of Research (Developments) at the Expense of the Grant Support of the NRFU' (which is an annex hereto).

Expenses under all items must be justified.

The project budget estimate shall indicate the employment (in months) of the PI and each project implementer.

IV. Specific national rules for the proposal and project implementation beyond the general rules in the Terms of Reference of the LUKE Joint Call



- Projects must be carried out in priority areas of science and technology development defined as such by Ukrainian law at the time of the competitive selection of relevant projects.
- During the implementation of the project, the PI and project implementers shall be expected to be based and working in Ukraine. They may work in foreign institutions with monetary remuneration (compensation) for no more than three months in total per year and during this time cannot receive remuneration or other payments from the NRFU's grant funds. In the event of such circumstances, the PI shall inform the NRFU of the terms and conditions of such work.
- When implementing the project, all Ukrainian researchers shall comply with the Regulations on compliance with the principles of scientific ethics and prevention of conflicts of interest during competitive selection, scientific and scientific and technical expertise of projects and consideration of applications for grant support submitted to the National Research Foundation of Ukraine in the areas of grant support of the National Research Foundation of Ukraine which include a section on the prevention of cooperation with representatives of the aggressor country and temporarily occupied territories.
- Intellectual property rights created in the course of research at the expense of grant support from the NRFU belong to the grantee and/or project implementers, except for the cases provided for in part two of Article 11 of the Law of Ukraine 'On State Regulation of Activities in the Sphere of Technology Transfer'.
- Grantees must take all available measures to promote the project to the general public and the results obtained during its implementation.
- The fact that the Ukrainian part of the joint project selected under the LUKE Joint Call is funded by the NRFU at the expense of the state budget, the project ID and its title **shall be indicated** in all publications, official announcements, media coverage, social media, other open sources, and in presentations speeches of research results at scientific events.
- Project implementers cannot work in a foreign institution at their main place of work.
- A project submitted for participation in this Joint Call cannot be simultaneously submitted for participation in another call to be funded. Nor may a project be submitted for participation in this Joint Call that is or has been funded from any other source.
- The PI is responsible for the accuracy of the information contained in the proposal and the documents attached to it.
- The consequence of providing false information is the withdrawal of the proposal from consideration in the course of the entire competitive selection period.
- Proposals which contain information that constitutes a state secret (in accordance with the Law of Ukraine 'On State Secret') shall not be accepted for consideration at the LUKE Joint Call.



The fact of the absence of information constituting a state secret in the proposal materials shall be indicated in the consent of the partner, signed by its head (which is annex hereto). The head of the partner is responsible for the inclusion of information constituting a state secret in the proposal materials.

Documents for participation in the LUKE Joint Call

Documents to be submitted by a Ukrainian partner together with the proposal (the method of submitting a proposal and its mandatory components are specified in the LUKE Terms of Reference) for the NRFU's eligibility check:

- Consent of the project authors to its implementation (in Ukrainian in accordance with the approved form, which is an annex hereto));
- Consent of the partner to the implementation of the project signed by the head of the institution (organization, enterprise) (fact of the absence of information constituting a state secret in the proposal materials must be indicated in this consent) (in Ukrainian in accordance with the approved form, which is an annex hereto);
- Certificate from the place of work of the PI (partner leader) with a **mandatory** indication that he/she works at the main place of work in the partner institution (organization, enterprise) in Ukrainian in accordance with the recommended form, which is an annex hereto. NOTE: the certificate must contain the phrase '**AT THE MAIN PLACE OF WORK**';
- Statement signed by the head of the partner institution (organization, enterprise) regarding the participant's compliance with paragraph 5 of the criteria for assessing the admissibility of state aid to business entities for research, technical developments and innovation activities, approved by the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 118 of February 7, 2018 (in Ukrainian in accordance with the approved form, which is an annex hereto);
- Every researcher's CV in English in accordance with the approved form, which is an annex hereto;
- Terms of Reference for the research (in Ukrainian in accordance with the approved form, which is an annex hereto);
- Calendar Plan (in Ukrainian in accordance with the approved form, which is an annex hereto);
- Amount of funding for individual cost items with economic justification of the estimated cost of the project (in Ukrainian in accordance with the approved form, which is an annex hereto).

Documents to be submitted in paper (originals, verified by signatures and seals) to the NRFU together with the signed National Contract (Grant Agreement) by the successful Ukrainian partner:



- Consent of the project authors to its implementation (in Ukrainian in accordance with the approved form, which is an annex hereto);
- Consent of the support staff (if applicable) to implement the project (in Ukrainian in accordance with the approved form, which is an annex hereto);
- Consent of the partner to the implementation of the project signed by the head of the institution (organization, enterprise) (fact of the absence of information constituting a state secret in the proposal materials must be indicated in this consent) (in Ukrainian in accordance with the approved form, which is an annex hereto);
- Certificate from the place of work of the PI (partner leader) with a **mandatory** indication that he/she works at the main place of work in the partner institution (organization, enterprise) in Ukrainian in accordance with the recommended form, which is an annex hereto. NOTE: the certificate must contain the phrase '**AT THE MAIN PLACE OF WORK**';
- Statement signed by the head of the partner institution (organization, enterprise) regarding the participant's compliance with paragraph 5 of the criteria for assessing the admissibility of state aid to business entities for research, technical developments and innovation activities, approved by the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 118 of February 7, 2018 (in Ukrainian in accordance with the approved form, which is an annex hereto);
- Every researcher's CV in English in accordance with the approved form, which is an annex hereto;
- Terms of Reference for the research (in Ukrainian in accordance with the approved form, which is an annex hereto);
- Calendar Plan (in Ukrainian in accordance with the approved form, which is an annex hereto);
- Amount of funding for individual cost items with economic justification of the estimated cost of the project (in Ukrainian in accordance with the approved form, which is an annex hereto).

V. ELIGIBILITY CHECK (NATIONAL CHECK FOR COMPLIANCE WITH FORMAL REQUIREMENTS)

The eligibility check (national check for compliance with formal requirements) of proposals is carried out in two stages: preliminary and final. The preliminary check is carried out within 10 working days from the moment the proposal and the documents are received by the NRFU from the JCS.

If, during the preliminary check, it is established that the documents submitted by the applicant do not contain the information specified in this NRFP as an integral part of ToR for the LUKE Joint Call, the NRFU shall notify the applicant by electronic means of communication of the need to submit the clarified information within three working days from the date of notification.



After the deadline for submitting clarified information, the NRFU shall, within 10 working days, conduct a final check of the documents submitted by the applicant for compliance with formal requirements, taking into account such information.

Within five working days after the deadline for the final check of proposals for compliance with formal requirements, the NRFU shall notify the JCS in electronic form of the proposals that have been found eligible and ineligible.

Eligible proposals shall be forwarded to external reviewers for scientific and technical assessment. The number of external reviewers conducting the scientific and technical assessment, as well as criteria for the evaluation of projects, deadlines for submission and review of proposals, conducting scientific and technical assessment and summarising the results of the LUKE Joint Call are specified in the LUKE Terms of Reference.

Grounds for non-eligibility of proposals based on the results of the NRFU's check for compliance with formal requirements:

- absence of partner's documents listed in this NRFP;
- absence or incomplete provision of information in the documents submitted by the partner in accordance with this NRFP;
- inconsistency of the information provided in the proposal (and documents submitted together with it) with the requirements to the qualification and status of the PI and other project authors set forth in this NRFP, including the fact that the researchers (except for postgraduate students in case the confirmation of the researcher being a postgraduate student is provided) have a research degree obtained or recognized in Ukraine;
- inconsistency of the research group with the requirements to its composition;
- the Project PI and/or other researchers is/are included in more than one proposal submitted to the LUKE Joint Call;
- the Project PI is already a PI of a winning project in another call of the NRFU, the funding of which is ongoing or has not started due to the pending procedure of concluding a grant agreement with a grantee;
- the Project PI and other researchers (except the support staff) are the implementers of more than one successful project in another call of the NRFU, the funding of which is ongoing or has not started due to the pending procedure for concluding a grant agreement with a grantee;
- execution of documents submitted for participation in the LUKE Joint Call in non-compliance with the procedure or form established by this NRFP or the requirements for execution of documents established by law;



- exceeding the maximum amount of funding specified in this NRFP for one project as a whole and for each stage separately;
- exceeding the ratio of indirect costs to total direct costs, as set by the terms of the NRFP, both overall and for each stage separately, from the permissible limit (which is 15% of direct costs);
- exceeding the recommended maximum level of remuneration for project implementers and support staff established by the NRFP, as specified in the Methodological Recommendations for Planning the Estimated Cost of a Project for Scientific Research (Development) Funded by a Grant from the Foundation for the LUKE Joint Call;
- exceeding the maximum ratio of personnel remuneration, in particular, for employees of research and organizational, financial, legal, human resources departments, procurement departments, etc. who will be involved in servicing the contract, to the total amount of direct costs and for each stage separately and a project as a whole, which is 5% of direct costs, as established by the NRFP;
- planning project work beyond the duration of the project provided for in this NRFP;
- violation of the requirements for restrictions on the participation in this Joint Call of persons and/or legal entities subject to restrictive measures (sanctions) of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine;
- the validity of restrictive measures applied to the PI and/or other researchers, as defined by the provisions of the Restrictive Measures that may be applied to project authors and/or project implementers whose grant support was terminated by the decision of the Scientific Council of the National Research Foundation of Ukraine due to improper implementation of the research and developments agreement and/or based on the results of the quality assessment of project implementation and publication/dissemination of the results;
- detection of false information in the proposal and documents submitted by the partner;
- inconsistency of the submitted project with the Regulations on compliance with the principles of scientific ethics and prevention of conflicts of interest during competitive selection, scientific and scientific and technical expertise of projects and consideration of applications for grant support submitted to the National Research Foundation of Ukraine in the areas of grant support of the National Research Foundation of Ukraine.

Since the list of projects to be funded as a result of the LUKE Joint Call will be approved by written procedure by all Funding Parties, the Scientific Council of the NRFU **approves** the list after receiving it from the LUKE Joint Call Secretariat.

After the funding decision in the respective year has been taken the NRFU and the successful Ukrainian partner conclude **a National Contract (Grant Agreement)** which defines all the necessary terms and conditions for the implementation of the project, including the grantee's liability and the application of



penalties for failure to fulfill or delayed fulfillment of its obligations. The National Contract (Grant Agreement) shall be concluded in accordance with the indicative form which is an annex hereto.

VI. REPORTING

After completion of each intermediate stage (besides the final one) of project implementation specified in the Grant Agreement, the grantee submits to the NRFU in electronic form and in one paper exemplar such documents in accordance with the structure and form approved by the Scientific Council of the NRFU: a report on the interim results of the project implementation, a financial report on the use of budget funds, and other documents specified in the National Contract (Grant Agreement). These documents are a prerequisite for making a decision on the continuation or termination of grant support of the Ukrainian partner. When assessing the results of the implementation of tasks of individual stages and overall results, publications that contain references to funding from various budget sources without a clear distribution of such funding according to the results obtained and the authors of the publication will not be taken into consideration. The NRFU monitors the grantee's fulfillment of the obligations specified in the Agreement, analyzes reports on the results of project implementation and the use of the funds allocated for their implementation.

The decision to continue or terminate grant support of the Ukrainian partner is made by the Scientific Council of the NRFU on the proposal of the Scientific Council of the relevant section of the NRFU. Approval of the documents specified in the previous paragraph is the basis for signing the Act on the implementation of the intermediate stage of the project implementation.

The NRFU shall notify the JCS of the Scientific Council's decision on the report — whether approved or not — within three working days, to enable further communication and the adoption of the corresponding decision.

The grounds for terminating the NRFU's grant support may include:

- a reasoned conclusion by the respective Scientific Council of the NRFU's section regarding a violation of the essential terms of the National Contract (Grant Agreement)
- a reasoned conclusion of the respective Scientific Council of the NRFU's section regarding the grantee's inability to implement the project;
- a reasoned conclusion of the respective Scientific Council of the NRFU's section regarding the loss of relevance of the expected results of the project for scientific, technological, or economic reasons;



- a decision by the respective Scientific Council of the NRFU's section regarding the misuse of funds by the grantee, adopted on the basis of a corresponding notification from the state financial control authority following the results of state financial control measures carried out at the grantee's organisation;
- in other cases which in accordance with the LUKE Terms of Reference cause overall impossibility of project implementation including termination of the joint project's part by another member of the project consortium as a result of a decision taken by another LUKE Funding Party.

If the NRFU finds that the grantee has violated the essential terms of the National Contract (Grant Agreement), the NRFU's Scientific Council shall decide to terminate the grant and require the grantee to return the funds, specifying the deadline for repayment in accordance with the terms of the National Contract (Grant Agreement).

If the NRFU detects signs of misuse of funds by the grantee in the course of project implementation, the NRFU Directorate shall inform the state financial control authority thereof so that such information can be taken into account when planning (conducting) state financial control measures.

If the grant recipient is found to have misused funds within the framework of the project, the amount of funds used for purposes other than those intended shall be returned to the NRFU in accordance with the procedure established by law.

In the event of termination of grant support by decision of the Scientific Council of the NRFU, a report on the interim results of the project implementation and a financial report on the use of the grant funds within the stage are posted on the official website of the Foundation within five working days after approval of the reporting documentation.

After the completion of the project, the grantee submits to the NRFU in electronic form and in one paper exemplar such documents in accordance with the structure and form approved by the Scientific Council of the NRFU: a final report on its implementation with a description of the research result obtained, a financial report on the use of budget funds (within the stage), a report on the use of the funds within the framework of the project implementation, and other documents specified in the National Contract (Grant Agreement). Information on the results of the project implementation (a final report and a report on the use of the funds within the framework of the project implementation) are posted on the official website of the Foundation for free access in the form of open data within five working days in accordance with the Law of Ukraine 'On Access to Public Information'. In the structure of the final report, the abstract is submitted in Ukrainian and English.

Approval of the documents specified in the previous paragraph shall constitute grounds for signing the Act on the implementation of the intermediate (final) stage of the project implementation.



The structure and forms of all reports mentioned in this section are established by the Scientific Council of the NRFU.

The authors of the project are personally responsible for the results of its implementation. If it is found that the declared research result does not correspond to the obtained one, the authors of the project may be deprived of participation in the calls of the Foundation for the next 2 years or another period based on the decision of the Scientific Council of the NRFU.

In the event of a breach of the terms of the National Contract (Grant Agreement), measures shall be taken against the grantee in accordance with the legislation.

Based on the results of the assessment of the quality of project implementation and the publication or disclosure of its results/in the case of grant support being terminated by decision of the Scientific Council of the NRFU due to improper fulfillment of the National Contract (Grant Agreement)/in the event of discovery of cooperation with representatives of the aggressor country and temporarily occupied territories - *Restrictive measures, which may be applied to authors of projects and/or implementers of projects whose grant support has been terminated by decision of the Scientific Council of the National Research Foundation of Ukraine due to improper fulfillment of the agreement for the performance of scientific research and development, and/or based on the results of the assessment of the quality of project implementation and publication/disclosure of results* **may be applied to the author of the project and/or its implementer by decision of the Scientific Council of the NRFU.**

In the event of a significant change in circumstances that may lead to non-fulfillment of the terms of the National Contract (Grant Agreement), in order to ensure the implementation of the project, such a contract may be amended prior to the completion of the intermediate stage of the project specified in the National Contract (Grant Agreement) in respect of the necessary conditions for its implementation within the specified estimated cost. The decision to change the necessary conditions for the implementation of the project shall be taken by the Scientific Council of the NRFU at the initiative of the grantee. The grantee shall send the NRFU proposals for amending the National Contract (Grant Agreement) with justification and supporting documents. The NRFU shall consider the proposals and provide the grantee with a response with the decision of the NRFU Scientific Council no later than 20 working days from the date of receipt of the proposals. If the NRFU Scientific Council makes a positive decision, an additional agreement shall be concluded with the grantee regarding changes to the conditions for the implementation of the project.

The NRFU monitors the practical implementation of the results of projects involving applied scientific research and scientific and technical (experimental) developments that have received grant support. Information on the results of monitoring is posted on the NRFU's official website in accordance with the procedure established by the NRFU.

Upper funding limit and project duration

Upper funding limit: **UAH 4,000,000/project**

Project duration is **18 months (9 months in 2027 and 9 months in 2028)**.

Further information relevant to applicants:

For the full NRFU regulations on research projects, see: <https://nrfu.org.ua/>

Contact Point:

Tetiana Beregova

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ANNEXES

1. The form of the consent of the PI to implement the project ([download](#));
2. The form of the consent of the other authors to implement the project ([download](#));
3. The form of the consent of the support staff to implement the project ([download](#));
4. The form of the consent of the partner to the implementation of the project signed by the head of the institution (organization, enterprise) (with statement of the absence of information constituting a state secret in the proposal materials must be indicated in this consent) ([download](#));
5. The recommended form of the certificate from the place of work of the PI (partner leader) with a mandatory indication that he/she works at the main place of work in the partner institution (organization, enterprise) ([download](#));
6. The form of the statement signed by the head of the partner institution (organization, enterprise) regarding the participant's compliance with paragraph 5 of the criteria for assessing the admissibility of state aid to business entities for research, technical developments and innovation activities, approved by the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 118 of February 7, 2018 ([download](#));

7. The form of the researcher's CV ([download](#));
8. The form of the Terms of Reference for the research ([download](#));
9. The form of the Calendar Plan for the research ([download](#));
10. The form of the Amount of funding for individual cost items with economic justification of the estimated cost of the project ([download](#));
11. The indicative form of the National Contract (Grant Agreement) to be concluded between the NRFU and grantee ([download](#));
12. 'Methodological recommendations for Planning the Estimated Cost of the Project for the Implementation of Research (Developments) at the Expense of the Grant Support of the NRFU' (to the terms and conditions of the LUKE Joint Call) ([download](#));



ANNEX B-1: TOPIC DESCRIPTION - SUSTAINABLE AND RENEWABLE ENERGY & ENERGY SECURITY

Background /Challenge description

Energy security has become a top priority for Ukraine as the war exposes significant vulnerabilities in its energy infrastructure, which is frequently targeted by Russian air-strikes. In order to ensure a continuous and reliable energy supply under these challenging conditions, it is necessary to adopt a systemic approach that enhances both resilience and flexibility. The most rational strategy in this context is the transition towards distributed generation, which allows, when required, the isolation of specific areas from the national grid while maintaining their autonomous operation. Such decentralisation strengthens the overall security of supply and reduces the risk of large-scale power disruptions.

However, reliance on fossil fuel-based generation for these distributed systems would not only be economically inefficient but also inconsistent with the broader energy and climate policies pursued by Ukraine and the European Union. Consequently, a transition to renewable and locally available energy resources becomes essential. Technologies such as solar photovoltaics, wind turbines, small-scale hydroelectric systems, and bioenergy, complemented by the emerging use of synthetic fuels and hydrogen, are particularly suited to regional and community-level applications. These solutions enable the formation of flexible, sustainable, and low-carbon energy networks capable of adapting to dynamic operating conditions.

Scope

We invite proposals for enhancing **energy efficiency, generating renewable energy, sustainability, and energy security** through the implementation of innovative energy-saving electrotechnologies and integrated renewable energy systems.

Proposals may focus on the design, modelling, and optimisation of **smart grid technologies** capable of dynamically balancing the production, storage, and consumption of energy from diverse renewable sources — including solar, wind, hydro, and bioenergy – and on the integration of electric vehicle **charging infrastructure** as a flexible element for grid stabilisation and energy storage.



Projects are encouraged to explore the application of **artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning algorithms** for real-time forecasting of energy production and demand, optimisation of energy flows, and reduction of network losses.

Proposals should contribute to the **resilience of energy infrastructure**, whereby the resilience of end-users should be strengthened, and cost-effective solutions should be in focus. Improvements of existing energy systems and resilience of critical infrastructure should be prioritised. This may include the development of **decentralised microgrids** capable of autonomous operation during crises or post-conflict recovery, the development of **containerised solutions** (e.g. for hospitals), **distributed systems**, **small energy hubs**, environmentally safe **storage technologies**, and the implementation of robust **cybersecurity solutions** to protect energy systems.

Application of the solutions, and small scale demonstration in the frame of case studies can be included in projects, as a quick knowledge transfer and deployment are required. Up-scaling should be considered with additional resources beyond the project. Different sectors can be targeted, such as the **public sector** (e.g. hospitals, heating systems), and research addressing **energy-efficient electrotechnological processes in industry and transport** where it leads to measurable reductions in energy intensity and heat losses.

Proposals should include **evaluation and assessment**, such as techno-economic and socio-economic analysis on implementing renewable energy systems, and the application of **Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)** methodologies to enhance the environmental performance of energy systems within the framework of the circular economy. Evaluation and assessment shall give ideas to which actions are most feasible under local and regional conditions and can provide timelines for their implementation. Results can feed then into strategies and holistic approaches for the future energy system of Ukraine.



ANNEX B-2: TOPIC DESCRIPTION - CYBERSECURITY - CYBER RESILIENCE OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE & ADAPTIVE CYBERSECURITY SYSTEMS

Background /Challenge description

This research topic seeks to support Ukraine's digital and scientific integration with the European Research Area by promoting cutting-edge research on cyber-security. Cyber-security is a foundational pillar of modern national resilience, economic stability, and democratic governance. In the face of escalating cyber threats, hybrid warfare, and the rapid evolution of digital technologies, coordinated research and innovation in cyber security is essential.

Scope

This topic aims to strengthen cyber resilience by fostering interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral research that addresses **emerging risks linked to AI spoofing, quantum computing, and digital fraud**. It supports the development of **advanced cybersecurity technologies, including AI-based threat detection, post-quantum cryptography, and blockchain-enabled trust mechanisms**, to ensure the robustness and sovereignty of digital infrastructure.

Proposals should address the **societal aspects of these emerging risks and cybersecurity technologies**. Strengthening cybersecurity requires not only technological advancement but also the establishment of cybersecurity as a collective social practice. This entails enabling the wider population to participate in preventive measures and to recognise and withstand social engineering and manipulation. In parallel, organisations, institutions, and communities bear a crucial responsibility in creating conditions that facilitate secure behaviour, including through appropriate organisational procedures, clear communication, and trustworthy infrastructures. Furthermore, cybersecurity solutions - such as digital identity systems - must be designed to be inclusive and accessible to all social groups, in order to prevent exclusion and reduce vulnerability to digital fraud.

Possible **applications and case studies** could be: cybersecurity for critical infrastructure and key technologies such as drones, aircraft, airports, railway stations and trains, electricity and power stations, and e-health; cybersecurity for environmental monitoring and early warning systems such as for water and flood forecasting. Other cases are also possible.



The expected outcome of this topic is an enhanced capacity to anticipate, prevent, and respond to complex cyber threats, thereby contributing to a secure, trustworthy, and technologically independent digital ecosystem.



ANNEX B-3: TOPIC DESCRIPTION - MEDICAL & HEALTH RESEARCH: TELEMEDICINE, BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

Background /Challenge description

The Ukrainian healthcare sector is confronting unprecedented pressures as it strives to meet immediate wartime demands while addressing long-term public health challenges. Innovations are emerging to support recovery and mitigate the impacts of conflict. The transformation is marked by the growing adoption of telemedicine and remote healthcare solutions, which have expanded access to critical services in underserved areas. Another important research and innovation strand for Ukraine is biomedical research, which is advancing diagnostic capabilities and fostering the development of cutting-edge treatment methods for major diseases.

Scope

1. Adoption of **telemedicine for remote healthcare solutions**

This topic focuses on the development of personalised **AI-powered telediagnostic platforms** for remote decision-making by doctors and patients. It implies the creation of **software and hardware and the use of artificial intelligence algorithms**. Telemedicine shall **expand diagnostic capabilities, improve treatment, predict and prevent possible complications, and ensure individualised rehabilitation** for patients. Telemedicine proposals can cover injuries and functional impairments, and different diseases, such as those affecting the cardiovascular, nervous, and pulmonary systems, women's health issues, the musculoskeletal system, and others. Telemedicine shall facilitate the connection between patients and doctors in remote areas and regions with restricted access to medical services. It should also enable real-time collaboration between Ukrainian and international medical teams to strengthen cooperation in diagnostics, rehabilitation, and knowledge exchange.

A sub-topic that connects both to telemedicine and psychosocial research (see Social Sciences and Humanities - SSH topics), is the application of electroencephalography (EEG) in the diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). AI-driven approaches for EEG signal analysis should be investigated, which will support, enhance, and automate EEG-based decision-making and interpretation on PTSD. We encourage proposals to be submitted by multidisciplinary teams involving specifically groups from SSH.



2. Innovative research on **cellular signaling pathways for biomedical applications.**

Proposals are invited for innovative research on cellular signaling pathways for biomedical applications. Biomedical research under this topic should **advance diagnostic capabilities and treatment methods.** Proposals should focus on analysis of possible ways to address **resistance to antibiotics, or focus on diagnostics and treatment for cancer or neurodegeneration.** Studies of the **molecular basis of alterations in signaling networks in human pathology** will provide valuable novel biomarkers fostering the development of cutting-edge solutions for the diagnosis and therapy of human diseases.



ANNEX B-4: TOPIC DESCRIPTION - SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES (SSH): SOCIAL RECONCILIATION, SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, AND HUMAN CAPITAL RESTORATION

Background /Challenge description

Investing in Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) is vital for Ukraine to understand and navigate its post-conflict recovery, inform evidence-based policymaking, and strengthen the social fabric. This research field integrates analyses of social reconciliation, sustainable social development and human capital restoration, which will ensure that strategies for growth, reintegration of displaced populations, and rebuilding trust in institutions are grounded in rigorous, context specific knowledge.

Scope

Under the topic of **social reconciliation, sustainable social development, and human capital restoration**, proposals are invited, which address one or more of the following issues:

- The first issue concerns **social inclusion and minimising disadvantage** based on ethnicity, gender, age, religious beliefs and physical and mental ability. An important challenge to be investigated here is the **reintegration of people displaced by armed conflict**. Items suggested for research in this context are **intergroup relations and gender dimensions, including policy development**, as well as the relationship between **social inclusion, mental health, and improving access to mental health resources for disadvantaged populations**.
- A second issue concerns sustainable social development, which requires research on strengthening **cultural and digital literacies** among the population, and developing **evidence-based cultures of remembrance**.
- A third issues concerns **studying how communities recover after trauma**, how trust between people, institutions, and the state can be rebuilt, and how psychological stability transforms into a social resource. Equally relevant is the study of **post-traumatic social dynamics** – how war-related trauma, loss, and forced displacement reshape patterns of trust, institutional functioning, and the role of culture and education in recovery.
- A fourth issue concerns the **labour market**, which is marked by challenges around **skills development, demography and ageing, and migration**. Studies of this issue should include an **assessment of the economy's potential need for labour in terms of quantity and quality**, the possibility of meeting this need through the return of military migrants, return migration, and the attraction of immigrants from other countries. An assessment of the state of human capital,



providing skills for migrants, and skill development (e.g. via educational programmes) may be investigated as well. Recommendations for improving policies on human capital restoration should be generated.