

Appendix No. 6 to the Rules

Criteria for the substantive assessment of the application

1. The application, which meets the formal requirements, is evaluated by 3 experts.
2. The experts will assess the merits of the application according to the criteria listed below:

Criterion	Description	The part of the national application (CCI) corresponding in particular to the criterion
1. Compliance with the project with the National Smart Specialisations (NSS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevance of project selection of NSS 	Conditions of Contract: parts A.13, C.28
	The application is assessed for compliance with the solution developed in the project with at least one National Smart Specialisations.	
2. Scientific and technical excellence and originality of the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation of the project • Appropriateness of research approach/methods 	Conditions of Contract: parts C.29, C.29.a, C.29.b, C.30, D
	This criterion assesses the originality of the project, references to the latest professional literature, and novelty regarding the scope of the project and its relevance at the international level. The suitability of the proposed methods to achieve the intended objectives is also assessed. Methods must be coherent, innovative and relevant to the expected results.	
3. Feasibility, quality and effectiveness of the project plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competence and experience of the Applicant • Feasibility and effectiveness of the project plan 	Conditions of Contract: parts A.6, C.29, C.29.A,

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	<p>This criterion evaluates the knowledge and experience of the Polish Applicant in research/technology in the field and the qualifications to manage the project, as well as the strengths of the consortium members (including personnel resources and infrastructure), previous involvement of the Polish Applicant in projects in the field and their results. The team implementing the project will be evaluated on its previous achievements, i.e. whether the team previously implemented the project/s together and with what results. The project schedule and milestones of the project in relation to available human resources, infrastructure and means will also be assessed. The correctness, adequacy and measurability of the milestones formulated for each task implemented by the Polish Applicant will also be assessed.</p>	<p>C.29.B, D.33, E, G1., G.1.1, G.2</p>
<p>4. Project impact, including anticipated economic effects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibility of the practical application of project results • Planned short-term results, e.g. contribution to capacity building and competence scientific/technical competence; • Economic benefits and effects • Market potential of the project results <p>In this criterion, practical use of generated intellectual property, technical innovations, possibilities to commercialise the project results, as well as other practical use of project results by potential beneficiaries, e.g. improvement of the quality of life, environmental and social impact, will be assessed.</p> <p>Short-term effects (e.g. opportunities for scientific development for doctoral and post-doctoral students) will also be assessed.</p> <p>The benefits of using the project results in business practice or other activities should be justified. The market potential of the resulting solution should be analysed - market size, leading actors in the market, comparative demonstration of advantages of the future solution. Estimated economic effects, e.g. estimated revenue from sales of the new/improved product/service/technology or estimated savings resulting from the application of the solution resulting from the project, reduction of waiting time for the service, lower price of the product/service, improved parameters (e.g. durability) of the product, etc.</p>	<p>Conditions of Contract: part C.31</p>

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<p>5. Cooperation between consortium partners and added value of the project in the context of international cooperation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned cooperation in project implementation between Polish and foreign partners • Project added value resulting from planned international cooperation <p>This criterion assesses the planned cooperation between consortium partners from Poland and abroad in project implementation.</p> <p>It is essential to define the Applicant's role in the project/ in an international consortium, the indication of the entity to which intellectual property rights will be transferred and on what terms, information on planned cooperation after completion of the project.</p> <p>The application should clearly demonstrate why the project should be developed jointly by the countries/institutions involved and what added value this cooperation will generate. It is expected that the cooperation developed between Polish and foreign entities will bring significant synergy effects. Furthermore, it will be assessed how the project will affect the long-term cooperation between partners and how the acquired skills and capacities will be used in future international projects/programmes.</p>	<p>Conditions of Contract: parts A.6, C.29, C.29.a, C.29.b, C.32</p>
<p>6. Reasonableness of the planned costs</p>	<p>This criterion assesses the reasonableness of the planned costs in relation to the scope of tasks covered by the project and in relation to the expected results. The project budget should reflect the actual contribution of the Applicants. The eligibility of costs incurred by the Polish Applicant and their compliance with the Guide to Cost Eligibility applicable to the call is also assessed.</p>	<p>Conditions of Contract: part F</p>

3. In **critterion 1**, the application is scored by marking '**YES**' or '**NO**', whereby the score awarded means:
 - YES** - the application falls within at least one National Smart Specialisations,
 - NO** - the application does not fall within any of the National Smart Specialisations.
4. In criterion 1, **the assessment "NO" in at least two out of three reviews** means lack of application compliance with the call assumptions and **automatic lack of recommendation for co-financing**.
5. For **criteria 2 to 5**, the application shall be scored on a scale **from 0 to 5**, as outlined below. Half points may be awarded.

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The number of points awarded indicates the degree to which a criterion has been met:

Scoring	Explanatory notes
5 - excellent	The application meets all the requirements of the relevant criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.
4 - very good	The application meets the requirements essential for this criterion, although some improvements are still possible.
3 - good	The application meets the criterion, but some improvements are necessary.
2 - average	Although the application broadly meets the criterion, there are significant deficiencies.
1 - low	The criterion is not met adequately, and there are glaring deficiencies.
0 - inadequate	The application does not address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.

6. For **criteria 2 to 5**, the application shall be evaluated according to the following evaluation scale, taking into account the thresholds for the respective criterion:

Criterion number	Evaluation scale	Threshold	Weight	Max. number of points
2	0-5 points	3 points	x2	10
3 - 4	0-5 points	3 points	x1	10
5	0-5 points	2.5 points	x1	5
In total:	-	-	-	25

7. The final evaluation of the application is the arithmetic mean of the 3 individual expert assessments.
8. An application may receive a maximum of **25** points in the final evaluation. An application for which the following conditions are met may be recommended for funding:
- 1) have obtained a pass mark, i.e. a minimum score of **15** points and have met the thresholds for the various criteria as indicated in the table above, and
 - 2) there are funds available to finance the project in the call budget.
9. No points are awarded in **criterion 6** – this criterion is descriptive.
10. In the case of experts' reservations **in at least two out of three reviews being the basis for the final substantive assessment of the application**, concerning the legitimacy of

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the project costs and agreeing on the reservations raised (criterion no. 6 of the substantive assessment), in the applications qualified for funding and before the Director of NCRD decides on granting funds, negotiations are conducted with the Applicant, as a result of which the final amount of funding is determined.

11. The content of reviews containing the substantive assessment of the application may be made available to the Applicant (consortium leader) at its request, after the completion of the applications procedure and following the anonymity rule of persons carrying out the substantive assessment.